comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Teach Buvinda, Bóthar Átha Cliath, An Uaimh, Contae na Mí. C15 Y291
Buvinda House, Dublin Rd., Navan, Co.Meath, C15 Y291

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

6th July 2026 @ 1.30p.m.

Buvinda House, Navan (and online via zoom)

Presiding: An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sarah Reilly

Councillors Present:

Councillors Fionnán Blake, Joe Bonner, Peter Caffrey, Eugene Cassidy, Padraig Coffey, Francis Deane, Sean Drew, John Duffy, Yvonne Everard, Brian Fitzgerald, Padraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, Nick Killian, Alan Lawes, Carol Lennon, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Helen Meyer, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Alan Tobin, Emer Tóibín, Sharon Tolan and Maria White.

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Mike Bray, Wayne Harding, Suzanne Jamal, Geraldine Keogan, Caroline O'Reilly, Paul O'Rourke, Amanda Smith and Conor Tormey**.**

Apologies:

Councillors Dave Boyne, Eddie Fennessy, David Gilroy, and Ronan Moore

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Kieran Kehoe.

Directors of Service: Des Foley, Fiona Fallon, Barry Lynch, Gareth McMahon, Martin Murray,

A/Directors of Service: Majella Farrell, Sheila Harkin.

Meetings Administrator: Des Foley.

Apologies: Elaine Daly.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual meeting held on June 8, 2026

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on June 8, 2026, were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin.**

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1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on June 8, 2026

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on June 8, 2026, were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin.**

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor French requested confirmation of a meeting date with Uisce Éireann and was advised that a date had been requested and that the Council was awaiting confirmation.

Councillor Everard thanked the Meetings Administrator for the clarification regarding the mapping request.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

3.1 Expressions of sympathy were extended to:

Sinéad Reinhardt, Local Coordinator with Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme on the death of her mother, Kathleen Moran.

Padraig Maguire, on the death of his father, Tom Maguire.

The family of the late Bryan Doyle, former employee.

The family of the late Dr Martin Naughton.

A note of Congratulations was extended to Councillor Mike Bray on the birth of his daughter.

4.0 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

4.1 To consider the disposal of 0.1729Ha of land by way of transfer of a freehold interest at Lloyd, Kells, in accordance with Statutory Notice dated 27th April 2026

Councillor Yvonne Everard raised concerns about the site's planning history.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on 27th April 2026 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, proposed by **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher,** was agreed by a show of hands vote with 15 members in agreement, 5 members not in agreement and 1 abstention.

4.2 To consider the disposal of 0.0181Ha of land by way of transfer of a freehold interest at Maio, Tierworker, Trohanny, Kells, Co. Meath in accordance with Statutory Notice dated 29th May 2026

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on 29th May 2026 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Peter Caffrey.**

5.0 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services

5.1.1 Appointment of a Councillor to the Regional Health Forum - Dublin Northeast following the resignation of Cllr Caroline O'Reilly

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach it was agreed to defer this matter to the September Council meeting.

5.2 Economic Development

5.2.1 To receive the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000-2023 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2026, on the proposed development which will consist of: Boyne Valley Drive, various locations around Co. Meath. Planning Reference (PT8MH373).

Majella Farrell presented the concept design of the signage scheme which is a joint project with Louth County Council and Fáilte Ireland. Noted by the Members.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Management Report

There were interventions from Councillors Nick Killian, Maria Murphy, Yvonne Everard, Sean Drew, Alan Tobin, Michael Gallagher, Emer Tóibin, Joe Bonner

Matters discussed included:

Planning : Development Contribution, Rural Planning Guidelines and Draft Planning Statement

Housing: HAP Scheme, Energy retrofits

Environment: Dog fouling

Transportation: Re- instatement of roads post works, HIAF projects, Verge trimming

Community : Seafields Sport & Community project.

Economic Development : Shop Front Enhancements

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Corporate Services: Artificial Intelligence policies & governance

On the proposal of **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**, it was unanimously agreed to hold a separate Members workshop on the variation of the County Development Plan.

Responses to queries raised by the Members were provided by Fiona Fallon, Gareth McMahon, Martin Murray, Barry Lynch and Majella Farrell.

6.2 Report from Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator noted that the CPG met on Tuesday, June 30th, 2026, to consider the draft agenda and arrangements for the July Ordinary Council Meeting.

He noted that the draft minutes of the following SPC meeting were noted and uploaded to Decision Time.

- Housing and Integration SPC, 18th June 2026
- Changes to the Corporate Services and Housing Management Senior Structure.

Finally, it was noted that conference and training Schedules were approved.

7.0 Correspondence

Response from the Minister of Finance noted by the Elected Members

8.0 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

"What arrangements have been put in place by Meath County Council to ensure the provision of adequate residential accommodation for adults with intellectual disabilities, and to meet the targets set out in the 2021 Disability Capacity Review?"

Response:

Meath County Council is committed to ensuring the provision of appropriate and sustainable residential accommodation for adults with intellectual disabilities. This commitment is underpinned by the Government's housing policy Delivering Homes, Building Communities, which places a strong emphasis on inclusive housing delivery and the development of homes that meet the diverse needs of all members of the community, including people with disabilities.

At a local level, Meath County Council has implemented a number of key measures to support this objective:

- The Council's Disability Action Strategy prioritises the housing needs of people with disabilities and has resulted in allocation outcomes that exceed the national target, with more than 15% of social housing allocations made to households with a disability.

- The preparation of Housing Delivery Action Plans, as required by Government, will further strengthen this approach. These plans will include, for each local authority, clear and measurable targets for the delivery of 1, 2, 3 and 4-bedroom homes, alongside specific provision for age- friendly housing and homes designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

- A structured inter-agency approach is central to delivery. The Council's Disability Housing Action Team plays a key role in coordinating housing responses for individuals with complex needs. This team works closely with the HSE and other service providers to ensure that housing solutions are aligned with the necessary care and support packages.

- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is also progressing an increased provision of community-based housing models, including small-scale community houses where 3–4 individuals with disabilities can live independently within the community, supported by services provided by the HSE. Meath County Council supports and facilitates the delivery of such models at local level and these will also be referenced in the Housing Delivery Action Plan.

- The Council continues to work closely with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) to deliver specialised housing schemes tailored to people with disabilities, including those with intellectual disabilities. This includes schemes providing independent living units and supported housing options delivered in partnership with voluntary and not-for-profit providers.

Through these measures—combining strategic planning, targeted housing delivery, and strong inter- agency collaboration—Meath County Council is actively contributing to the achievement of national targets and ensuring that adults with intellectual disabilities can access appropriate housing within their communities, with the necessary supports in place to enable independent and dignified living.

Noted by the Elected Members.

9.0 Notice of Motion

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9.1 Submitted by Councillor Fionnan Blake

"To call on Meath County Council to liaise with the Department of Housing and look at the viability of making sites available through the Ready To Build Scheme, where possible, in new and existing Local Authority Developments."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

Meath County Council has reviewed several sites to potentially make available under the Ready to Build Scheme, both in private ownership and in its own ownership. A feasibility study was carried out to assess the costs of these sites. In terms of the private sites, the results showed that when costs for servicing the sites was combined with land acquisition costs in Meath, the overall expense make the sites unaffordable, even after applying the current discount available via the scheme.

These findings have been communicated to the Department.

Following this, an extensive review of council-owned lands was undertaken to identify any locations where either land costs or servicing costs have already been absorbed. This approach is the only viable mechanism for providing affordable, ready-to-build sites in County Meath, with the current discount available. Three potential locations have been identified with the capacity to deliver approximately 10 ready to build sites. These locations will undergo further assessment, and if confirmed as suitable and affordable, they will progress in due course.

The motion was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Fionnan Blake** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

"That the Council provide elected members with a detailed annual report outlining the collection and expenditure of development contributions (development fees) per MD, including the amounts collected, the projects and services funded, the location of those projects, and any unallocated balances, so that councillors and the public can clearly see how these funds are being used to support local infrastructure and community development."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

The Council's Capital Investment Programme for the period 2026 – 2028 is €1.24bn and sets out the proposed capital projects to be undertaken throughout the county and the relevant funding sources. The delivery of this plan will require €76.8m funding from Development Contributions.

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Meath County Development Contributions are collected based on "the principle of consolidation of funds" and are applied to projects on a county wide basis. A full list of all projects to be funded from development contributions on hand and future collection is detailed in Meath County Councils Capital Investment Programme 2026-2028 which was presented to the members at the January 2026 council meeting.

https://www.meath.ie/council/your-council/finance-and-procurement/capital-programme

Currently Meath County Council has no unallocated development contribution balances. Based on current collection rates Meath County Council has a shortfall of €23.7m of development contributions which will be managed by appropriate timing and phasing of capital projects.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Helen Meyer and **seconded by Councillor Peter Caffrey. Councillor Gerry O'Connor** dissented.

There were interventions from **Councillors Gerry O'Connor, Joe Fox, Sharon Tolan, Joe Bonner, Eugene Cassidy, Alan Tobin, Brian Fitzgerald, Nick Killian, Padraig Coffey, Padraig Fitzsimons, Sean Drew, Maria White, Maria Murphy, Stephen McKee** and **Emer Tóibín,** The motion was withdrawn.

10.0 General Interest Motions

10.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"Write to the Minister for Energy and Climate, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) to consult with all public Electric vehicle (EV) charging providers to develop one single mobile application to ensure that the public can easily charge their vehicle without having to download separate apps but more crucially to encourage more transparency, choice and competition in the EV charging market."

The motion was unanimously agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Gerry O'Connor.**

10.2 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

"That the Council calls upon the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and the Government to strengthen the independent oversight and accountability of the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) by extending the statutory

powers of the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) to inspect, regulate, investigate, and publicly report on all aspects of Tusla- operated and Tusla-funded child protection, residential care, aftercare, and accommodation services."

The motion was unanimously agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallgher.**

11.0 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For Information Only)

11.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Transportation

Noted by the Elected Members.

11.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment

Noted by the Elected Members.

11.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing

Noted by the Elected Members.

11.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community

Noted by the Elected Members.

12.0 Any Other Business

There were interventions from Councillors Brian Fitzgerald, Alan Lawes and Peter Caffrey. Matters raised included the progression of assessments of lands for the Energy Park, expenditure under the Traveller Accommodation Programme budget, and the proposed date for the County Development Plan planning workshop.

The meeting concluded at 16:02pm