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

7 September 2026 at 1.30 p.m.

Buvinda House, Navan (and online via Zoom)

Presiding: An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sarah Reilly

Councillors Present:

Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Fionnán Blake, Joe Bonner, Mike Bray, Padraig Coffey, Francis Deane, John Duffy, Yvonne Everard, Eddie Fennessy, Brian Fitzgerald, Padraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Wayne Harding, Geraldine Keogan, Carol Lennon, Paddy Meade, Gerry O'Connor, Paul O'Rourke, Alan Tobin, Emer Tóibín.

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Councillors Dave Boyne, Eugene Cassidy, Sean Drew, Suzanne Jamal, Alan Lawes, Stephen McKee, Helen Meyer, Ronan Moore, Maria Murphy, Caroline O'Reilly, Sharon Tolan, Conor Tormey**.**

Apologies:

Councillors Peter Caffrey, Nick Killian, Amanda Smith, Maria White.

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Kieran Kehoe.

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

Acting Director of Service: Sheila Harkin.

Meetings Administrator: Elaine Daly.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 6 July 2026

Councillor Everard noted that she had raised queries in relation to Item 4.1 on the agenda and she asked that the minutes be amended to reflect this.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 6 July 2026 were confirmed, subject to the amendment as outlined, on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons.**

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2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Helen Meyer requested an update regarding the meeting with the NTA. It was noted that plans for the NTA workshop were being finalised for the morning of 5 October 2026.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

3.1 Expressions of sympathy were extended to:

Peter Cranney, Transportation and Conor Grey, Water Services on the death of their mother/grandmother, Mary Cranney.

The family of the late Eamon Cooke, former employee.

Pat Wickham, Transportation Projects and Maria Devaney, Transportation Operations on the death of their mother/mother-in-law, Nancy Wickham.

Peter O'Toole, Ashbourne MD on the death of his sister, Theresa (Terry) Reid.

Jason Meighan, Transportation on the death of his brother, Barry Meighan.

Joan Cunningham, Emergency Services on the death of her brother, Damian Cunningham.

Cllr Padraig Fitzsimons on the death of his mother, Gretta Fitzsimons.

The family of the late TJ McDonnell, Durhamstown, Bohermeen, Navan, Co. Meath.

The Cathaoirleach conveyed her congratulations to Meath County Council on the launch of the "Writers Way" documentary series and the series of festivals organised by the Boyne Valley team during the year.

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 0.0020 ha of land by way of lease at Blackcastle, Navan, County Meath, in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 8 July 2026.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on 8 July 2026 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Eddie Fennessy.**

4.2 To consider the disposal of 0.0103 ha of land by way of transfer of the freehold interest at Bailis, Navan, County Meath, in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 26 June 2026.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on 26 June 2026 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons.**

5.0 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Affairs and Governance

5.1.1 Appointment of Councillor to the Regional Health Forum - Dublin North East following the resignation of Cllr Caroline O'Reilly. (Deferred from July 2026 meeting)

On the proposal of **Councillor Mike Bray** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**, it was agreed to approve the nomination of **Councillor Wayne Harding** to the Regional Health Forum.

5.1.2 Appointment of Councillor to the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) following the resignation of Cllr Nick Killian.

On the proposal of **Councillor Eddie Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Fionnán Blake**, it was agreed to approve the nomination of **Councillor Helen Meyer.**

5.1.3 To approve the nomination of Mr Kieran Clince as the Community and Voluntary Pillar representative to the Meath Local Community Development Committee.

On the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**, it was agreed to approve the nomination of Mr. Kieran Clince.

5.2 Finance

5.2.1 To consider the report of the Chief Executive prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2022

Ms. Sheila Harkin, Acting Director of Finance, provided an overview of the LPT process, an update on the submissions received and key statistics relating to the impact of rate adjustments on the Council's delivery of services.

There were contributions from **Councillors Eddie Fennessy, Paddy Meade, Alan Tobin, Noel French, Gerry O'Connor, Yvonne Everard, Maria Murphy**, **Ronan Moore, Carol Lennon Emer Tóibín**. Matters raised included the current cost of living crisis and the method of calculating Local Property Tax.

On the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**, the Elected Members unanimously agreed not the vary the basic rate.

5.2.2 To note the Half-Year Financial Statement as at 30 June 2026

Ms. Sheila Harkin, Acting Director of Finance, outlined the details the Half-Year Financial Statement. She noted that the Council had sufficient working capital and 59% of the annual budget had been spent to date.

The report was noted by the Elected Members

5.3 Planning

5.3.1 In accordance with Section 68 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended), to resolve to extend the Meath County Development Plan 2021–2027 to 28 February 2030.

On the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin**, seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**, the Elected Members unanimously agreed to extend the Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 to 28 February 2030.

Councillor Brian Fitzgerald acknowledged the work of the planning officials in carrying out the many variations.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Management Report

Noted by the Elected Members.

6.2 Report from Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator noted that the CPG met on Monday, 31st August 2026 to consider the draft agenda and the arrangements for the September Council Meeting. She noted that the members had received and noted the Local Democracy Taskforce Report and Implementation Plan. She further noted that the members received a brief presentation on the CE report on the variation in the basic rate of local property tax for 2027.

She noted that the draft minutes on the Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism, EU Affairs & Rural Regeneration SPC meeting held on 11th June 2026 and the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC meeting held on 7th July 2026 were considered.

Finally, it was noted that the Conference and Training Schedules were approved.

7.0 Correspondence

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.0 Notice of Question

There were none.

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9.0 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Caroline O'Reilly

"That Meath County Council writes to Uisce Éireann requesting that all road reinstatement works carried out following water infrastructure repairs or upgrades are completed to the same standard required by the Council's Transportation Department and in accordance with the relevant road reinstatement specifications. The Council should also request that Uisce Éireann retains responsibility for inspecting, maintaining and repairing these reinstatement works where defects arise, and that any uneven, subsiding or otherwise defective road surfaces are remedied promptly to protect the safety of all road users."

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

Meath County Council manages road reinstatement works associated with Uisce Éireann activities in accordance with the Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads (the "Purple Book"). Reinstatement quality is monitored by the Council's Transportation Department to ensure compliance with the prescribed standards and specifications relating to materials, workmanship, compaction, surface levels, road markings and overall reinstatement quality.

Where defects or breaches of the Purple Book requirements are identified, Uisce Éireann and its contractors are required to undertake the necessary remedial works. If Elected Members become aware of specific concerns relating to road reinstatement works, these should be reported to the relevant Municipal District Engineer, who monitors compliance with the Uisce Éireann road opening licence and can arrange for the matter to be investigated and, where necessary, referred to Uisce Éireann for corrective action.

Councillor Caroline O'Reilly introduced the motion. She noted that further on-site inspections are required, particularly after periods of heavy rainfall. **Councillor Mike Bray** outlined his support for the motion.

The motion, together with the supporting information, was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Caroline O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray.**

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

"To ask Meath County Council to conduct a comprehensive audit of the location and number of disabled public parking bays in each of Meath's Municipal Districts, including an assessment of whether their current locations are appropriately placed to best serve people with mobility impairments and provide convenient access to key

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public facilities and services, to assess the provision of disabled parking spaces against Meath County Council's own development standards, which provide for 5 mobility-impaired parking spaces per 100 parking spaces and to provide an action plan to address identified deficiencies."

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

For public roads, the County Development Plan provision is not applied in the same way as it is for a private development car park.

The 5% requirement appears in Section 11.9 Parking Standards and is directed at developments that are providing off-street parking as part of a planning application. The wording refers to "developments requiring more than 10 car parking spaces" and to spaces being located close to building entrances, which indicates that it is primarily intended for private and public developments subject to planning permission rather than the general public road network.

For parking provided on public roads, the relevant considerations are generally:

- The Road Traffic Acts and Regulations governing disabled parking permits and the designation of disabled parking spaces.
- The National Disability Authority guidance and Building Regulations Part M principles on accessibility.
- Decisions by the local authority's Roads Section when designing or upgrading streets, town centres, public realm schemes, or municipal car parks.

The Development Plan does, however, contain a broader accessibility objective:

"The Council will seek to encourage the implementation of best practice standards with regard to access in both indoor and outdoor environments."

Consideration is given to including disabled parking bays in all new street and public-space schemes. All new Part 8 applications are subject to a statutory public consultation process, and submissions are invited from members of the public and interested parties. Submissions and observations from Disabled Persons' Organisations (DPOs) are considered before a decision is made on the relevant application. Resources are not currently available to carry out a review of all disabled parking spaces in the county; however, particular locations of concern should be raised through Members' Reps.

Councillor Emer Tóibín introduced the motion and acknowledged the executive response. She emphasized the importance of being aware of the availability of disability parking spaces across the County and further outlined the need for a comprehensive audit. **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** suggested that the matter be referred to the Transport SPC for further consideration. **Councillor Paul O'Rourke** sought clarification in relation to the policy for disability parking within the County, with response provided by Mr. Martin Murray. The Chief Executive advised that there were insufficient resources to comply with the request. **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** proposed an amendment as follows:

"That Meath County Council undertakes a comprehensive audit of disabled public parking bays on specific streets, where requested by elected members."

The amendment was seconded by **Councillor Noel French.**

The amended proposal was agreed on a show of hands vote, with 19 Members in favour, six Members against, and there were no abstentions.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

"That Meath County Council, where it has determined that a vacant council house is structurally sound and suitable for occupation, consider allocating that property to a household on the Council's housing waiting list before all non-essential refurbishment and improvement works have been completed."

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

It is the policy of Meath County Council that only essential works, i.e. those required to ensure that a property meets minimum rental standards, are carried out at the void stage. This minimises turnaround times and supports the timely allocation of the property. Any deep-retrofit works may be considered and progressed at a later stage while the tenant is in occupation.

Councillor Emer Tóibín introduced the motion and called on re-let times for social housing to be improved.

The motion, together with the supporting information, was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Emer Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Yvonne Everard.**

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Dave Boyne

"That Meath County Council undertake an audit of all council owned land and buildings and identify which assets are currently vacant, underutilised, or suitable for housing, community, recreational, or economic development, with a report to Members setting out potential uses and barriers to delivery."

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

Meath County Council is committed to ensuring that all Council-owned lands and buildings are utilised to their fullest potential in support of housing delivery, economic development, community infrastructure, recreation and the provision of public services. The Council continuously reviews its asset portfolio and actively manages its landbanks to maximise social, economic and community benefits across the county.

The Council also actively pursues funding opportunities through a range of Government programmes, including the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund, Town and Village Renewal Scheme and other national initiatives. These programmes have enabled the Council to bring vacant and underutilised properties and sites back into productive use and to deliver a range of regeneration, housing and community projects.

The suitability of individual assets for alternative uses is dependent on a range of considerations, including planning policy, infrastructure availability, environmental constraints, funding and overall project viability. The Council will continue to keep its asset portfolio under review and to identify opportunities that support the strategic objectives of the County Development Plan and the sustainable development of Co. Meath.

Councillor Dave Boyne introduced the motion and noted his disappointment with the response. He clarified that his motion was intended to reference vacant social housing. It was agreed that the Housing Section would liaise directly with **Councillor Boyne** to clarify the request. This was agreed by **Councillor Boyne** and the elected members.

10.0 General Interest Motions

10.1 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

"That Meath County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting a further extension of the Temporary Development Contribution Waiver Scheme and the Uisce Éireann Domestic Wastewater Connection Charge Refund Scheme beyond the current deadline of 31 December 2026."

The motion was introduced by **Councillor Noel French,** and he clarified that he was seeking an extension for the completion time for properties included in the waiver scheme.

The motion was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy.**

10.2 Submitted by Councillor Caroline O'Reilly

"That Meath County Council writes to Uisce Éireann requesting improvements to its customer service, communication and responsiveness during planned and unplanned water supply disruptions by:

- *Including the specific location, dates and times in all text alerts.*
- *Including the reason for the disruption.*
- *Providing updates where restoration times change and confirming when supply is restored.*

- *Ensuring customer service staff have access to real-time incident information.*
- *Introducing an immediate acknowledgement system for elected member representations, including a reference number and timely response.*
- *Proactively providing bottled water or water tankers during prolonged outages."*

The motion was introduced by Councillor Caroline O'Reilly. She noted that impact of slow responses by Uisce Eireann, on their role as councillors and the affected communities in general.

The motion was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Caroline O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade.**

10.3 Submitted by Councillor Peter Caffrey

"That Meath County Council write to the Minister for Health and the HSE regarding the severe shortage of local health services and see what can be done to improve the situation at a local level."

As **Councillor Caffrey** was not present at the meeting, the motion fell in accordance with Standing Order number 18.3.

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 Alan Tobin, Paddy Meade, Emer Tóibín, Mike Bray, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Noel French and Caroline O'Reilly.** Matters raised included access to promotional material for Púca, twinning with Cary, Meath hosting World Health

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Congress for Age Friendly, council meeting protocols, briefings of ongoing projects, consultation for Navan Rail, impact of water outages and poor communication from Uisce Eireann.

The meeting concluded at 3.20 p.m.