



Clár / Meeting Agenda

Ordinary Meeting

10th May 2021, (via Zoom only) @ 1.30p.m.

Remote Meetings – Please Note:

The holding of online meetings is provided for by legislation and the Council's Standing Orders govern how these meetings should be conducted.



Turn on your **camera**



Ensure your **microphone** is on
mute



Use the '**Hand Function**' to ask for
the floor and for voting

For Members:

- If you wish to speak you should use the Hand function – you'll be given the floor by the Cathaoirleach.
- This Hand function will also be used for voting, unless a roll call vote is used.

For All Participants:

- All participants must have their camera on during the meeting and you should have your microphone on mute at all times, unless called upon by the Cathaoirleach to speak
- It is the personal responsibility of all participants to ensure that there are no other persons present who are not entitled to be present for this meeting
- Recording of the meeting or any part thereof is not permitted.

For Members of the Press and Public:

- No member of the public should attempt to speak or interrupt the meeting or interact with members of the Council during the meeting.
- You must observe a direction given by the Cathaoirleach or by a Council official and failure to follow any direction given may result in exclusion from the meeting.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 12th April 2021.



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- 1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Planning meeting held from 16th November 2020 to the 6th March 2021.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

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

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To enter into an agreement with Westmeath County Council pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001, whereby Meath County Council will exercise the statutory powers, functions and duties of Westmeath County Council which are described in the Schedule to the Agreement, in relation to the scheme for the N51 Pavement Repair and Renewal Scheme from Higginstown in the County of Meath to Crowinstown Great in the County Of Westmeath.

5.2 Community

- 5.2.1 To receive details of and approve the allocations under the Carranstown Environmental Projects Grants Scheme 2020, as recommended by the Indaver Community Liaison Committee and endorsed by the Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District Councillors on 15th April 2021.
- 5.2.2 To consider Arts Grants, Bursaries & Awards Spring 2021 recommendations.
- 5.2.3 To receive an update on the Meath Digital Strategy.

5.3 Environment and Climate Action

- 5.3.1 To receive a presentation on the Decarbonization Zones and related matters.



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5.4 Finance

- 5.4.1 To note the Quarterly Financial Statement as at 31st March 2021.

6 Reports

- 6.1 Chief Executive's Report

- 6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

- 6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

- 6.3.1 At its meeting on April 12, 2021, the Protocol Committee agreed the following recommendation:

"To retain the Prayer in its current format but combine it with a Period of Reflection"

- 6.3.2 At its meeting on April 12, 2021, the Protocol Committee agreed the following recommendation:

"That the new road from the intersection of the R153 Kentstown Road and Metges Road to Farganstown, be named: Hodgett Road – Bóthar Hodgett in memory of Thomas Hodgett"

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Circular Letter PL 06/2021 – Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage re. 1. Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 3) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 208 of 2021), 2. Planning and Development (Street Furniture Fees) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 209 of 2021), 3. Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 210 of 2021), 4. Consideration of section 254 licences to better facilitate outdoor dining.

8 Notice of Question

- 8.1 Submitted by Councillor Tom Behan



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"To ask Meath County Council to give a full update as to what progress has been made to address the parking issues in Coastal Meath since our April Council Meeting?"

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor

"Are Meath County Council's casual trading bye laws up to date to maximise the opportunity to support outdoor trading during the summer and to avail of the funding stream provided by Government?"

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

"To ask Meath County Council what measures have been undertaken in Meath to ascertain the viability of pedestrianisation of one or 2 streets in a town in each LEA, to work out cost benefit analysis to businesses operating in the town, to list back up options to car park spaces forfeited and to explain how the Council in tandem with the Chamber of Commerce hopes to encourage additional footfall and increased commercial activity to town centres in the short term and in the long term?"

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly (deferred from April Meeting)

"To call on Meath County Council to permit outdoor dining at all commercial premises until the COVID-19 vaccine programme has administered all second vaccines. This would entail the use of outdoor awnings, canopies, seating and tables on pathways along all commercial hospitality frontage. This motion will greatly assist commercial premises who had to close due to Covid-19 restrictions and can only reopen with limited socially distanced dining indoors."

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith (deferred from April Meeting)

"That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Climate Action to introduce a nationwide local authority led reusable nappy scheme; as a measure to inform, support and encourage households in reducing single-use plastic waste in line with the sustainability objectives of the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy, 2020."

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin (deferred from April Meeting)



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“That Meath County Council asks the Minister for Transport to consider penalty points for road traffic violations as added deterrent to the fines already in place for the following parking offences:

- *In disability space*
- *On a footpath*
- *On a cycle lane*
- *Taxi rank*
- *Loading bay*
- *Within 5m of a road junction*
- *Within 15m of a pedestrian crossing”*

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín (deferred from April Meeting)

“That Meath County Council calls on the Department of Education to halt the withdrawal of SUSI funding from 77 Meath students at this very difficult time during the Covid-19 pandemic and that they request a timely return of the funding to the students affected.”

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

“In light of the enormous numbers of the public participating in sea swimming along the Meath coastline, I call on Meath County Council to immediately begin water quality testing and publishing of results at every beach in Meath, so that the public can make informed decisions regarding their health and safety before they go for a swim.”

9.6 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

“That Meath County Council reviews its pre-planning process and the pre-planning clinic so that applicants for one-off planning permission specifically are fully apprised of the rigours of submitting a planning application”.

9.7 Submitted by Councillor Suzanne Jamal

“That Meath County Council writes to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O' Brien seeking to amend Circular LG 4/2019 "to recognise where a member loses an "immediate relative" should NOT in that instance be subjected to a financial penalty under the 80% attendance of meetings rule".”

If this motion is passed, that it should be forwarded to all other Local Authorities, LAMA and AILG.



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9.8 Submitted by the Technical Group

"This council calls upon the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to make provision in law for elected members of local government to have access to independent legal advice in the discharge of their duties either through the office of the chief state solicitor or otherwise; and in addition to have provision made in law for elected members of local government to have funded access to independent planning consultants to support them in the delivery of better local government."

9.9 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor

"That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Finance and the Government to explore with our European partners, the potential to finance the exceptional Covid 19 expenditure by setting up a reparation fund, similar to those previously set up after major wars, with a fixed interest rate for the duration of the scheme, and which does not affect current National Capital expenditure by excluding the fund from European Fiscal Rules regarding limits on National spend."

9.10 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor

"That Meath County Council call on the Government to explore the German Sparkasse Community Banking model, to provide balance for the Irish Banking system and to avoid potential banking monopolies which could damage availability at reasonable cost, to necessary finance for our citizens."

9.11 Submitted by Councillor Alan Lawes

"Meath County Council calls on the Government to fully comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD), ratified by Ireland in March 2018, and specifically to support, through legislation if necessary, the right to Personal Assistance Service (PAS) for disabled people to have freedom, choice and control over all aspects of their lives to enable them to fully participate in an inclusive society as equals".

9.12 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

"That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Education to reinstate the Modern Languages in Primary Schools Initiative, which ended in 2012, to promote foreign language skills for young children and furthermore, to fully implement the Languages Connect Strategy, launched in 2017, which sets out that Ireland should be among the top ten countries in Europe for the teaching and learning of modern foreign languages."



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9.13 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

“That Meath County Council write to the Chinese Ambassador asking him to request his government to carry out an enquiry into the treatment of Uighur citizens of their country.”

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

10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Transportation

10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Environment

10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Housing

10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Community & Enterprise

11 Any Other Business

NB Please ensure mobile phones are switched off during council meeting.