



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

13th May 2024 @ 1.30p.m.

Buvinda House, Navan, Co Meath

Presiding

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tommy Reilly

Councillors Present:

Councillors, Yemi Adenuga, Tom Behan, Joseph Bonner, Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey, Sean Drew, Edward Fennessy, Brian Fitzgerald, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Wayne Harding, Suzanne Jamal, Geraldine Keogan, Nick Killian, Alan Lawes, Paul McCabe, Elaine McGinty, Paddy Meade, Helen Meyer, Ronan Moore, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Caroline O'Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Amanda Smith, Niamh Souhan, Alan Tobin, Emer Tóibín, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole, Conor Tormey.

Apologies: Councillor Stephen McKee

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Kieran Kehoe

Directors of Service: Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch, Martin Murray, Fiona Fallon, Larry Whelan (SEO)

Meetings Administrator: Elaine Daly

Senior Planner: Pdraig Maguire

Senior Executive Officer, Planning and Economic Development: Majella Farrell

Law Agent: Rory McEntee

The Meetings Administrator advised the Elected Members that in accordance with Standing Order No. 1.2, the meeting was being held in person only and that 21 Members had voted in favour of the proposal to have the meeting held in person only and 4 Members had voted against the proposal.

The Chief Executive welcomed the Elected Members to the meeting and acknowledged the great work undertaken by the current term of Councillors. The Chief Executive also thanked **An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tommy Reilly** for his work and contribution during his term as Cathaoirleach and acknowledged the professional and courteous manner in which he carried out his duties. An Cathaoirleach was presented with an e-album of images of his time in office.

An Cathaoirleach, thanked the Chief Executive for the presentation. He further thanked the **Leas-Chathaoirleach, Councillor Paul McCabe** for his assistance as well as the Elected Members for their support over the previous year.

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There were expressions of gratitude from **Councillors Gerry O'Connor; Nick Killian and Aisling Dempsey** noting the professionalism with which both the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach had carried out their duties over the previous year.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 8th April 2024.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 8th April 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gillian Toole queried what was meant by the term 'interventions' and further queried what matters could be raised under Notices of Question.

A response to queries raised was provided by the Meetings Administrator.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

3.1 Expressions of sympathy were extended to:

The family and friends of the late Elaine O'Reilly, former staff member.

The family and friends of the late Ciarán Finn, Station Officer, Ashbourne Fire Station.

Declan Keating, Water Services on the death of his father, Desmond (Dessie) Keating.

The family and friends of the late Tom Corbett, former employee.

The family and friends of the late Kevin Fitzsimons Snr., former employee.

Elaine Anderson, Motor Tax and Sandra Doherty, Housing on the death of their mother Helen Anderson, former employee.

Claire Cahill, Age Friendly Ireland Shared Services on the death of her sister Helen Kinsella.

Shirley Ward, Library Service on the death of her mother, Anne Ward.

The family and friends of the late James Butler, former employee and Town Clerk, Kells.

The family and friends of the late Patsy Fitzsimons.

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Paul Kelly, Water Services on the death of his brother Donal Kelly.

The family and friends of the late Breed Kelly, Beechdale Drive, Navan, Co. Meath.

The family and friends of the late Paddy Power, Townspark, Navan, Co. Meath.

The family and friends of the late Casimiro Correia, Oaklawns, Clogherboy, Navan, Co. Meath.

3.2 Expressions of congratulations were extended to:

To the organisers of the Dunderry Fair

To the u20 Meath football team for getting to the Leinster Final and putting up a brave fight against Kerry on Saturday, 11th May, and was defeated.

To the Meath Senior Women's GF team who got to the Leinster Final and fought valiantly against Dublin and was defeated.

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

- 4.1 Disposal of 0.01Ha of land at Raynestown, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath, in accordance with Section 211 of Planning & Development Act 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001. The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on March 28, 2024, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

Councillor Michael Gallagher declared a potential conflict of interest due to his position as Chairman of Drumconrath Men's Shed and left the room.

- 4.2 Disposal of 0.2304Ha of land by way of a lease at Drumconrath, Navan, Co. Meath, in accordance with Section 211 of Planning & Development Act 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001. The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on March 27, 2024, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

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Councillor Michael Gallagher returned to the meeting.

- 4.3 Disposal of 0.015Ha by way of transfer of property at Main Street, Drumconrath, Co. Meath, in accordance with Section 211 of Planning & Development Act 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001. The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on April 8, 2024, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

- 4.4 Disposal of 0.0133Ha of land at Glebe, Rathmolyon, Co. Meath, in accordance with Section 211 of Planning & Development Act 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001. The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on March 12, 2024, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Niamh Souhan**.

- 4.5 Disposal of 0.1434Ha of land at Mulphedder, Clonard, Co. Meath, in accordance with Section 211 of Planning & Development Act 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001. The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on March 27, 2024, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Affairs and Governance

- 5.1.1 To approve the schedule of meeting dates for June and July 2024

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Full Council AGM	Friday 21st June 2024	1.30pm	Buvinda House -In person



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Kells MD -AGM	Tuesday 25th June 2024	10.00am	Kells Civic office - in person
Ashbourne MD - AGM	Tuesday 25th June 2024	2.30pm	Ashbourne Civic office- in person
Navan MD - AGM	Wednesday 26th June 2024	10.00am	Navan Civic office- in person
Laytown Bettystown MD - AGM	Wednesday 26th June 2024	2.30pm	Duleek Civic office- in person
Ratoath MD -AGM	Thursday 27th June 2024	2.30pm	Dunshaughlin Civic office- in person
Trim MD -AGM	Friday 28th June 2024	2.30pm	Trim Civic office- in person
CPG Meeting	Friday 5th July 2024	2.00pm	Buvinda House / Hybrid
Full Council Meeting	Monday 8th July 2024	1.30pm	Buvinda House / Hybrid
Ashbourne MD Meeting	Tuesday 9th July 2024	10.00am	Ashourne Civic office / Hybrid
Ratoath MD meeting	Wednesday 10th July 2024	10.00am	Dunshaughlin Civic office / Hybrid
Laytown Bettystown MD meeting	Thursday 11th July 2024	10.00am	Duleek Civic office / Hybrid
Kells MD Meeting	Monday 15th July 2024	2.30pm	Kells Civic office / Hybrid
Navan MD Meeting	Wednesday 17th July 2024	10.00am	Navan Civic office / Hybrid
Trim MD Meeting	Friday 19th July 2024	2.00pm	Trim Civic office / Hybrid

The schedule of meeting dates were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

5.1.2 To adopt the Annual Report 2023.

The Chief Executive introduced the report and noted that it was a reflection of the tremendous amount of work done in accordance with the core objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan. He acknowledged the support of the Councillors, the Management Team and the Staff in the delivery of services.

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There were interventions from **Councillors Gillian Toole** and **Aisling Dempsey**. **Councillor Gillian Toole** raised concerns regarding the volume of paperwork submitted with the agenda. **Councillor Dempsey** acknowledged that sufficient time had been given to peruse the documents.

The Annual Report was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

5.1.3 To note the 2023 MD Allocation Scheme Annual Report.

The report was noted by the Elected Members

5.2 Planning

5.2.1 To consider the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Section 13(4)(a) of the Planning & Development Act, as amended, on submissions to Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027, and to consider making, not making or modifying the Proposed Variation.

The Chief Executive introduced the item noting that the core aims of the Council were to deliver housing in the County and to drive economic development.

There were interventions and queries from **Councillors Nick Killian; David Gilroy; Gillian Toole; Paddy Meade; Gerry O'Connor** and **Joe Bonner**. Queries raised included clarification on the process and requirements to declare conflicts of interest. Responses to queries raised were provided by the Council's Law Agent, Rory McEntee and the Chief Executive. It was noted that it is the responsibility of each Elected Member to declare any potential conflict in accordance with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

Mr Alan Russell, Senior Executive Planner, gave an overview of the details of the proposed Variation No. 1 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027, including legislative requirements under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). He further noted that the purpose of the Chief Executive's Report is to report on the outcome of the consultation process on the proposed variation, set out the Chief Executive's response to the issues raised in the submissions and to make a recommendation on the proposed amendments, as appropriate.

There were interventions and queries from **Councillors Ronan Moore; Brian Fitzgerald; Elaine McGinty; Maria Murphy; Nick Killian; Gillian Toole; Michael Gallagher; Sean Drew** and **Trevor Golden**. Matters raised included details of housing figures in the Core Strategy, difficulties with census figures, requirement to have social infrastructure in tandem with construction, impacts of previous judicial reviews, implications of proposals to review County Development Plans every ten years, settlement capacity audit, water and waste water capacity in Kells. Responses to queries raised were provided by the Senior Planner, Padraig Maguire and the Chief Executive. It was noted

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that Uisce Eireann had assured the Council that there was sufficient capacity for water and waste water in Kells and that further details would be circulated to the Elected Members.

The Elected Members resolved, on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin**, seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and unanimously agreed by all the Elected Members present, to make Variation No. 1 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027, as recommended by the Chief Executive.

- 5.2.2 To consider the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Section 13(4)(a) of the Planning & Development Act, as amended, on submissions to Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027, and to consider making, not making or modifying the Proposed Variation.

Mr Alan Russell, Senior Executive Planner, gave an overview of the details of the proposed Variation No. 2 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027, including legislative requirements under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). It was noted that the proposed variations had been discussed with the Elected Members at various Council Meetings in October, November and December 2023 and January 2024. It was agreed that each element of the variation would be discussed separately.

- Proposed Amendment (a): Dunshaughlin Land Use Zoning Map

Noted by the Elected Members.

- Proposed Amendment (b): Dunboyne Land Use Zoning Map (Williamstown Stud)

There was a query regarding the background of the houses built on these lands from **Councillor Gillian Toole**. The background and history was noted by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**. There were interventions of support from **Councillors Maria Murphy** and **Joe Fox**.

- Proposed Amendment (c): Longwood Land Use Zoning Map

Noted by the Elected Members.

- Proposed Amendment (d): Trim Land Use Zoning Map

Noted by the Elected Members.

- Proposed Amendment (e): Navan Land Use Zoning Map (Flower Hill)

Noted by the Elected Members.

- Proposed Amendment (f): Dunshaughlin Land Use Zoning Map (Killeen Castle)

There were queries from **Councillors Gillian Toole; Brian Fitzgerald** and **Michael Gallagher**. Queries included capacity for the number of units on the lands and the potential to replicate the



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tourism potential in other parts of the County. Responses to queries raised were provided by Mr. Pdraig Maguire, Senior Planner and Mr. Alan Russell.

- Proposed Amendment (g): Ratoath Land Use Zoning Map (Ratoath Outer Relief Road)

Councillor Nick Killian declared a potential conflict of interest due to his constituency office landlord being the owner of the lands that are subject to the proposed variation. Councillor Killian left the room.

The following Councillors expressed concerns in relation to the proposed amendment:

Councillors Gerry O'Connor; Brian Fitzgerald; Maria Murphy; Joe Bonner and **Gillian Toole**.

There were queries from Councillors **Aisling Dempsey; Alan Tobin; Alan Lawes; Paddy Meade** and **Eugene Cassidy**. Queries raised included the layout of the proposed road, the potential to use the CPO process to acquire the lands, previous planning decisions by An Bord Pleanála and potential effects on other zoned lands. Responses to queries raised were provided by Mr. Pdraig Maguire, Mr. Martin Murray and the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive noted that the use of the CPO to acquire the lands is not the preferred option as the objective, as set out in the County Development Plan, could be achieved by the agreement of the landowners associated with this variation.

Councillor Nick Killian returned to the room.

- Proposed Amendment (h): Ratoath Land Use Zoning Map (Town Centre)

Councillor Nick Killian expressed his support for the proposal. Noted by the Elected Members.

- Proposed Amendment (i): Athboy Land Use Zoning Map

Noted by the Elected Members.

- Proposed Amendment (j): Proposed text amendments to Section 7.0 of Dunboyne, Clonee and Pace Written Statement, Vol. 3 of Meath County Development Plan 2021 - 2027.

Councillor Aisling Dempsey declared a potential conflict of interest due to her employment. Councillor Dempsey left the room.

Noted by the Elected Members.

Councillor Aisling Dempsey returned to the room.

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- Proposed Amendment (k): Map 8.1 Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site map update in Volume 3 of the Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027.

The following Councillors expressed concern regarding the proposed variation: **Councillors Paddy Meade, Joe Bonner, Amanda Smith, and Elaine McGinty**. Further clarification was provided by Mr. Pdraig Maguire.

It was proposed by **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons** to make the variation no. 2 as recommended by the Chief Executive. A further proposal to make the variation with a modification to remove proposed amendment (g): Ratoath Land Use Zoning Map (Ratoath Outer Relief Road) was proposed by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**. It was proposed by **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** to make a modification to remove proposed amendment (k): Map 8.1 Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site map update in Volume 3 of the Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027.

The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes.

Following the resumption of the meeting, the Meeting Administrator advised that, in accordance with the standing orders, each proposed modification would be dealt with separately, with the first proposed modification being dealt with first.

Councillors Aisling Dempsey and Nick Killian left the room due to potential conflicts of interest as outlined previously.

The first proposal to make the variation with a modification to remove proposed amendment (g): Ratoath Land Use Zoning Map (Ratoath Outer Relief Road) as proposed by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** was put to a roll call vote with results as follows:

	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
ADENUGA, Yemi	√			
BEHAN, Tom		√		
BONNER, Joseph	√			
BRAY, Mike		√		
CASSIDY, Eugene	√			
DEANE, Francis				√
DEMPSEY, Aisling				√
DREW, Sean		√		
FENNESSY, Edward				√
FITZGERALD, Brian	√			
FITZSIMONS, Pdraig		√		
FOX, Joe	√			



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FRENCH, Noel	✓			
GALLAGHER, Michael	✓			
GERAGHTY-SMITH, Deirdre				✓
GILROY, David	✓			
GOLDEN, Trevor	✓			
HARDING, Wayne		✓		
JAMAL, Suzanne	✓			
KEOGAN, Geraldine	✓			
KILLIAN, Nick				✓
LAWES, Alan	✓			
MC CABE, Paul		✓		
MC GINTY, Elaine	✓			
MC KEE, Stephen				✓
MEADE, Paddy	✓			
MEYER, Helen	✓			
MOORE, Ronan		✓		
MURPHY, Maria	✓			
O'CONNOR, Gerry	✓			
O'REILLY, Caroline		✓		
REILLY, Sarah	✓			
REILLY, Tommy		✓		
SMITH, Amanda	✓			
SOUHAN, Niamh	✓			
TOBIN, Alan	✓			
TÓIBÍN, Emer	✓			
TOLAN, Sharon	✓			
TOOLE, Gillian	✓			
TORMEY, Conor		✓		

Result: For = 24 votes; Against = 10 votes; Abstain = 0; Not Present = 6.

The Meetings Administrator advised the Elected Members that the substantive variation before them would now not include amendment (g): Ratoath Land Use Zoning Map (Ratoath Outer Relief Road) in accordance with the roll call vote above and that the proposal by **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** to make a variation to remove proposed amendment (k): Map 8.1 Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site map update in Volume 3 of the Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 could now be considered in that context and put to a roll call vote. Results as follows:

	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
ADENUGA, Yemi		✓		
BEHAN, Tom		✓		
BONNER, Joseph	✓			
BRAY, Mike		✓		



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CASSIDY, Eugene		√		
DEANE, Francis				√
DEMPSEY, Aisling				√
DREW, Sean		√		
FENNESSY, Edward				√
FITZGERALD, Brian		√		
FITZSIMONS, Pdraig		√		
FOX, Joe		√		
FRENCH, Noel		√		
GALLAGHER, Michael	√			
GERAGHTY-SMITH, Deirdre				√
GILROY, David		√		
GOLDEN, Trevor		√		
HARDING, Wayne	√			
JAMAL, Suzanne		√		
KEOGAN, Geraldine	√			
KILLIAN, Nick				√
LAWES, Alan	√			
MC CABE, Paul		√		
MC GINTY, Elaine	√			
MC KEE, Stephen				√
MEADE, Paddy	√			
MEYER, Helen	√			
MOORE, Ronan		√		
MURPHY, Maria		√		
O'CONNOR, Gerry		√		
O'REILLY, Caroline		√		
REILLY, Sarah			√	
REILLY, Tommy		√		
SMITH, Amanda	√			
SOUHAN, Niamh		√		
TOBIN, Alan		√		
TÓIBÍN, Emer	√			
TOLAN, Sharon		√		
TOOLE, Gillian	√			
TORMEY, Conor		√		

Result: For = 11 votes; Against = 22 votes; Abstain = 1; Not Present = 6.

The Meetings Administrator noted that there were no further modifications to consider. It was noted that the Elected Members had resolved to make Variation No. 2 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027, with a modification to remove proposed amendment (g): Ratoath Land Use Zoning Map (Ratoath Outer Relief Road).



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- 5.2.3 To receive the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Section 37E(4) of the Planning and Development Acts, in relation to a Strategic Infrastructure Development application made to An Bord Pleanála, reference ABP-319448-24, for proposed development of 8 no. wind turbines and associated works at Galboystown, Co. Meath and Clonmellon, Kilrush Upper, Kilrush Lower, Newtown, Ballinlig, Carnybrogan, Cavestown and Rosmead County Westmeath.

An Cathaoirleach Councillor Tommy Reilly left the meeting and the **Leas-Chathaoirleach, Councillor Paul McCabe** presided in his absence.

Ms. Teresa O'Reilly, Executive Planner, provided a broad overview of the proposed strategic infrastructure development application. She outlined details of the application, including the site location, haul route and the key considerations contained in the Chief Executive's Report. The Elected Members were advised that they could raise matters at the Council Meeting and that detailed submissions could be made to the Meetings Administrator by email and these submissions would be included in the CE Report.

There were interventions and queries from the following Elected Members:

Councillor Sarah Reilly noted that she had liaised with local residents in relation to the proposal, and concerns were raised in relation to a lack of public consultation, the location in the River Boyne and Blackwater SAC, protected structures within the proximity of the proposed development and impact on the natural environment.

Councillor Gillian Toole commented on the end of life of turbine blades, compliance with Circular Economy legislation, and compliance with planning conditions.

Councillor Joe Bonner queried details on the duration of the community fund and how the funds would be allocated.

Councillor Michael Gallagher queried who would be responsible for monitoring noise within proximity of the proposed development.

Responses to queries raised were provided by Ms. Teresa O'Reilly.

- 5.2.4 To receive a presentation on the Meath County Council Economic Development Strategic Action Plan.

Mr. Des Foley, Director of Services provided a broad overview of the Strategic Action Plan. He outlined details of the Vision as well as the six overarching actions contained in the Plan. He further outlined the vision and actions for each workstream of the Economic Development Forum.



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There were interventions of support and queries from **Councillors Joe Fox; Ronan Moore; Alan Tobin; Joe Bonner' Sean Drew; Gillian Toole; Sharon Tolan; Maria Murphy; Yemi Adenuga; Emer Tóibín; Pdraig Fitzsimons; Trevor Golden; Brian Fitzgerald** and **Gerry O'Connor**. The Elected Members broadly welcomed the Plan and noted the opportunities available both nationally and internationally to further promote Meath as the Place and Space to Thrive. The Chief Executive thanked the Members for their positive support and further noted the marketing opportunities for Meath in terms of arts, culture and tourism.

5.3 Finance

On a proposal from **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox** it was agreed to take a 15-minute extension to 6.15pm.

5.3.1 To receive the Draft Annual Financial Statement 2023. (separate attachment)

Ms. Sheila Harkin provided an overview of the details of the Draft Annual Financial Statement 2023. She outlined the analysis of revenue income and expenditure and noted a cumulative general reserve surplus of €276,273 at the end of 2023. In addition, the value of the total fixed assets reflected in the balance sheet at 31st Dec 2023 of €3.046bn was noted.

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tommy Reilly returned to the meeting and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

There were interventions from **Councillors Brian Fitzgerald, Gerry O'Connor, Sean Drew** and **Gillian Toole**. The improvements in the Council's finances were noted.

5.3.2 To approve:

- (i) revised expenditure for the financial year ended 31st December 2023 as set out in Table A in accordance with S104 of the Local Government Act 2001

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**, seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

- (ii) transfers to and from Capital as set out in Table B.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Sean Drew**, seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

5.3.3 To note the Meath County Council Capital Investment Programme 2024 to 2027.



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On a proposal from **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor** it was agreed to take a further 15-minute extension to 6.30pm.

Ms. Fiona Lawless gave an update to the Members on the Programme.

5.4 Community

- 5.4.1 To receive details and approve the allocation under the Carranstown Environmental Projects Grants Scheme 2023, as recommended by the Indaver Community Liaison Committee on 13th March and 4th April 2024 and endorsed by the Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District Councillors on 11th April 2024.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Behan**, seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

- 5.4.2 To approve Funding Allocations to Community Groups/Organisations under the Community Amenity Project Scheme as recommended by the Elected Members of the Ashbourne, Kells, Laytown-Bettystown, Navan, Ratoath and Trim Municipal Districts at the April Municipal District Meetings.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox**, seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

- 5.4.3 To approve the allocations under the Community Grants Scheme 2024 as recommended by the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC on April 24 2024.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French**, seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

- 5.4.4 To approve the allocations under the 2024 Regional Festivals and Participative Events – Small Grants Scheme in Co. Meath as recommended by the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC on April 24 2024.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Trevor Golden**, seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

6 Reports

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6.1 Chief Executive's Report

Noted by the Elected Members.

6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator reported that the CPG met on Friday, May 10, 2024, and reviewed the agenda for the April Council meeting. She further noted that the members had discussed the proposed variations 1 and 2 of the County Development Plan, as well as the Capital Works Programme and the Economic Development Strategic Action Plan, all of which have been considered today.

Ms. Daly also advised that the recommendation for the Community Grants and Regional Festival and Participative Events Scheme 2024 from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC held on April 24, 2024, as well as the recommendation for the Meath County Council Economic Development Strategic Action Plan from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC held on May 1, 2024, were noted and agreed.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator reported that the Protocol Committee met on Friday May 10, 2024 and had discussed the arrangements for the May Council Meeting. Ms. Daly further noted that the Conference and Training Schedules were approved and circulated to the Elected Members.

7 Correspondence

Noted by the Elected Members.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Geraldine Keogan

“How many people are currently availing of homeless services in each municipal area?”

Response:

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
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Placements at 29 th of February (Previous Reported Figure)	166 (178 Adults)	66 (116 Adults 106 Children)	232
Placements at 31 st of March	169 (181 Adults)	67 (117 Adults 100 Children)	236

Of the households with children, 58 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention and 9 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.

Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency: Primary reason is family breakdown; relationship breakdown; unable to find property to rent; Notice to Quit; domestic violence; overcrowding; couch surfing; addiction; mental health; house fire; unsuitable accommodation; rough sleeping.

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden

"Can the Housing Authority provide data, redacted as appropriate, in tabular form which details the top 10 HAP Payments by cost? The data should include units provided, number of applicants housed and total cost for the year. This information is sought for each of the last 3 years (2022, 2023 & 2024 YTD)."

Response:

The HAP shared services centre in Limerick City and County is responsible for HAP payments. The information has been requested from Limerick City and County Council and we will circulate the information to the Elected Members when the information is available.

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Yemi Adenuga

"Can Meath County Council provide details of the number of planning applications received in the last 5 years for childcare facilities and the numbers that have been granted, refused or pending. Can this be broken down by MD?"

Response:

Meath County Council's Planning Department does not have data on the number of planning applications for childcare facilities received in the last 5 years or the numbers that have been granted, refused or pending, as this information is not currently extracted from applications for all non-residential development.

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However, in an effort to assist with this question, as part of Forward Planning's ongoing Development Plan Monitoring, the number of childcare facilities that have been granted permission since the coming into effect of the County Development Plan on 6th November 2021 is collated. The Social Infrastructure Tracker shows that 12 childcare facilities have been granted since 6th November 2021. The breakdown per Municipal District is as follows;

Navan – 3
Laytown/Bettystown – 1
Ashbourne – 2
Ratoath – 1
Trim – 2
Kells – 3

The Forward Planning team has also recently commenced Social Infrastructure Audits for Navan, South Drogheda and Maynooth Environs which will detail the total number of childcare facilities in each settlement, capacity available and the future childcare requirements. The Social Infrastructure Audits will inform the Local Area Plan for Navan and the Joint Local Area Plans for Drogheda and Maynooth.

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Elaine McGinty

What policies are in place to ensure that vital community amenities such as creches, playgrounds, retail spaces or shops are included within all applications for Large Scale Residential Developments, as well as any proposed amendments to previously granted Strategic Housing Developments?

Response:

Meath County Council Planning Department, as part of the Development Management process, assess all applications, particularly Large Scale Residential Developments (and previously granted SHDs) to ensure that they comply with Chapter Seven of the Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027. This has a number of key objectives relating to Social Infrastructure specifically for vital community amenities such as creches, playgrounds, retail spaces or shops to ensure that each Municipal District is sufficiently served with these facilities

Noted by the Elected Members.

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9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Elaine McGinty (Deferred from April meeting)

“To ask Meath County Council to consider the introduction of columbarium walls in the cemeteries under its management.”

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

The Council initiated a tender process for the procurement of suitably qualified Contractors for the development of Columbarium Walls and Urn Plots in The Good Shepard Cemetery Duleek, St Declan’s Ashbourne, St Finian’s Navan, Derrockstown Dunshaughlin and Rooske Cemetery Dunboyne. A contract has now been signed in respect of these works and it is expected the contractor will commence the works, starting in Duleek around the second week of May .

The Columbarium Walls in each Cemetery will be developed to accommodate 80 niches over two blocks- one block has already been developed as part of the extension to Rooke Cemetery. The development of the plots in the four cemeteries will accommodate circa 900 urn burials .

The Meetings Administrator noted that she had received correspondence from **Councillor Elaine McGinty** withdrawing the Motion.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor David Gilroy

“I propose that Meath County Council Transportation Section develops a comprehensive assessment framework to gauge the social impact of new infrastructure in rural communities, taking into account factors such as enhanced community interaction, road safety, accessibility to essential services, and the promotion of local identity and belonging.

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

If this motion is approved, it will be forwarded to the Transportation SPC for review. The Transportation SPC will consider it in the context of the draft policy on “Footpath Amenity Scheme for Community and Sporting Facilities in Rural Areas,” which is currently being developed by the SPC.

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The motion, together with supporting documentation was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor David Gilroy**, seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**, and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor David Gilroy

“I call on the Minister to Meath County Council to allocate all resources necessary for the recruitment of additional planning staff, recognising the pressing need to efficiently deliver on planning requirements, under NPF, RSES and CDP and ensure effective management of development projects in our county now and into the future.”

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

Resourcing is an issue not only for Meath’s Planning Department, but all Local Authorities across the country. In a recent review of the department by the Office of the Planning Regulator, their draft report has cautioned that the resourcing of the department must be an ongoing priority for Meath County Council. Unfortunately, due to a shortage of experienced, qualified people in the sector, the filling of posts at the various grades, is posing very difficult. To counteract this, Meath County Council is running a rolling competition for Executive Planners and creating a number of Graduate Planner positions to assist with all the functions, projects and caseloads that the department is managing, including those mentioned in the motion.

The motion, together with supporting documentation was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor David Gilroy**, seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín, Councillor Alan Lawes and Councillor Gillian Toole

“To call on Meath County Council to build, buy or adapt a building to provide emergency accommodation for homeless people in the form of a homeless hostel in Meath.

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

The Housing Department is actively exploring possibilities to buy and adapt a building or to purpose build a Short Term Accommodation Facility (STA). However any proposals for an STA in the County would be subject to the approval of the Regional Homeless Forum and the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

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The motion, together with supporting documentation was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Emer Tóibín**, seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Paddy Meade

"Meath County Council will endeavour to register a legal right of way with Land Registry Ireland on all required Land Portfolios and Maps to provide a legal right of way to the entrance point of each Council owned graveyard in County Meath, so that council workers and members of the public can visit and maintain graves year-round."

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

The Public Health (Ireland) Act of 1878 is the historic legislation which vested control of Cemeteries in the Sanitary Authorities (now County Councils) and such vesting includes both the Cemeteries themselves and all easements in and out of the properties. There are long established easements of access which do not have to be registered in the Land Registry and in the rare occasion where issues as to access arise, they are usually resolved on the ground with the landowner. In some cases, there may be agreed alternative routes and in such circumstances a Grant of Easement is obtained and registered in the Land Registry.

The motion, together with supporting documentation was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade**, seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

9.6 Submitted by Councillor Paddy Meade

"Meath County Council will request a copy of each Graveyard Register in County Meath from the appointed Registrar or Caretaker this year 2024, and once again every 5 years into the future."

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

Meath County Council carried out an extensive survey of all 231 burial grounds in the County in 2012/2013 and arising from which a register was created and containing inter alia the following information:

- Ownership / Vesting details and if registered in the Land Registry
- Status of the burial ground whether open, dormant (family plots) or closed
- Potential capacity remaining and options for extension
- Year of opening and most recent burial

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- Caretaking and contact person for the burial ground.

The information contained in the register serves to provide very valuable information both for the Council in terms of planning for replacement burial grounds or extensions, as well as responding to regular requests from members of the public who are involved in Genealogical Research or trying to contact parish or community groups who manage the burial grounds.

While the register is updated as new information comes to hand for individual burial grounds, it is acknowledged there is a need to update the complete register, and this will be undertaken as resources permit.

The motion, together with supporting documentation was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade**, seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

9.7 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

“That Meath County Council in conjunction with the Department of Transport, source funding and put a plan in place to restore the local roads in the County to the required standard.”

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

Meath County Council, supported and funded by the Department of Transport, delivers a substantial planned annual roadworks programme throughout the county on the regional and local road network. The Transportation Section is in regular communication with the Department of Transport’s Inspector and should any additional funding become available Meath County Council has iterated willingness to discharge this funding to the roadworks programme, the delivery of the roadworks programme under 4 separate contracts builds flexibility to deliver additional works.

The motion, together with supporting documentation was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher**, seconded by **Councillor Helen Meyer** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

9.8 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

“That the council provide a quarterly report to councillors detailing the status of the motions that have been approved. The status update should include an expected timeline

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for the motion to be actioned, any action taken and if the motion has been satisfactorily completed. As part of that compilation, a searchable report should be available online so that councillors and the public can see what motions have been submitted to the council.”

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

The Council is currently developing a module within the SugarCRM system for the management of Notices of Motion which will facilitate regular updates to the Elected Members in relation to progress on approved Notices of Motion.

The motion, together with supporting documentation was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Helen Meyer**, seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

9.9 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden

“We call on Meath County Council to create and maintain a footpath and road condition register of all roads and footpaths in housing developments under the charge of Meath County Council.”

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

The roads in housing estates in charge of Meath County Council are rated and these are recorded on the Pavement Management System.

There is no up-to-date rating of footpaths in housing estates in charge of Meath Council as the methodology for rating footpaths is currently under review by the Department of Transport.

The motion, together with supporting documentation was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Trevor Golden**, seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

9.10 Submitted by Councillor Yemi Adenuga

“I call on Meath County Council to proactively engage with Child Care Providers in Meath, with a view to supporting them to meet the high-quality child care facilities requirements which cause delays in planning and fire safety application approvals, in order to help address the growing demand for child care services in Meath County.”

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

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If a request is made by an applicant, Meath County Council's Planning Section and/or Fire Prevention Section can engage with the applicants during the pre-planning, planning compliance and/or fire certificate processes. This engagement includes applications for the development of child care facilities.

The motion, together with supporting documentation was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**, seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

10 General Interest Motions

10.1 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

"That Meath County Council call on the Department of Agriculture to ensure the suspension of imports of hawthorn plants due to the potential risk of importing the Fireblight disease and ensure that only Irish Provenance/Irish Origin hawthorn are planted under the ACRES hedgerow planting scheme."

The motion, together with supporting documentation was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French**, seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

10.2 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

"That Meath County Council call on the newly elected President of the Gaelic Athletic Association to refrain from making the Association a cashless organisation, that cash be accepted to attend games."

The motion, together with supporting documentation was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher**, seconded by **Councillor Helen Meyer** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

10.3 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden

"Meath County Council notes the serious impact the resourcing of education may have in Meath arising out of the new policy (Circular 0002/2024) on resource allocation for children with additional needs that was issued by the Department of Education. Meath County Council calls upon the Department of Education to pause the allocation model until an impact assessment is done on children with complex needs accessing supports and until there is adequate consultation with all relevant stakeholders."

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The motion, together with supporting documentation was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Trevor Golden**, seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

10.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To ask the Government to initiate a grant scheme for SMEs, specifically to increase their water storage capabilities, as an added incentive for water harvesting in areas affected by water shortages.”

The motion, together with supporting documentation was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin**, seconded by **Councillor Helen Meyer** and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

11 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 & Enterprise

Noted by the Elected Members.

12 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 6.30pm.