

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

8th July 2024 at 1.30p.m.

Buvinda House, Navan (and online via zoom)

Presiding: An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sharon Tolan

Councillors Present:

Councillors, Yemi Adenuga, Fionnan Blake, Joe Bonner, Peter Caffrey, Eugene Cassidy, Pdraig Coffey, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey, Brian Fitzgerald, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Wayne Harding, Suzanne Jamal, Geraldine Keogan, Nick Killian, Alan Lawes, Carol Lennon, Paddy Meade, Helen Meyer, Ronan Moore, Linda Nelson Murray, Gerry O'Connor, Caroline O'Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Amanda Smith, Alan Tobin, Gillian Toole, Maria White.

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Councillors, Dave Boyne, Mike Bray, Sean Drew, Noel French, Stephen McKee, Maria Murphy, Conor Tormey

Apologies:

Councillors, Edward Fennessy, Emer Tóibín

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Kieran Kehoe

Directors of Service: Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch, Dara McGowan, Martin Murray, Fiona Fallon.

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 13th May 2024

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 13th May 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Annual meeting held on 21st June 2024

Councillor Ronan Moore requested an amendment to the minutes as the party name he's aligned to was incorrectly named.

The minutes with the amendment of the Annual meeting held on 21st June 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

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2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Gillian Toole requested a copy of a transport report carried out as part of Variation 2.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Councillor Sean Drew on the death of his father, Richard Drew
- The family of the late Thomas (Tommy) Conway, former employee
- Barry Fitzsimons, Housing on the death of his brother, Philip Fitzsimons
- The family of the late John (red) Meighan, Navan former employee

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** Disposal of 0.0008Ha of land at Dunreagh (Archers Glen, Ashewood, Ashbourne), 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 7th May, 2024, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Aisling Dempsey** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

5.0 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Affairs and Governance

- 5.1.1** To consider Reserved Functions that may be performed in respect of a Municipal District or by the County Council.

The reserved functions were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey**.

- 5.1.2** To approve the CPG Terms of Reference

The CPG Terms of Reference were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Aisling Dempsey** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

- 5.1.3** To appoint a Chairperson to the Community, Cultural Development

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and Gaeltacht Affairs SPC.

Councillor Ronan Moore was proposed by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey**.

As there were no further nominations **Councillor Ronan Moore** was deemed appointed as Chairperson to the Community, Cultural Development and Gaeltacht Affairs SPC.

5.1.4 To agree the Draft SPC Scheme to proceed to public consultation

The Draft SPC Scheme was proposed by **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox** to proceed to public consultation.

5.1.5 To appoint one Councillor to Teagasc (local stakeholder board)

Councillor Paddy Meade was proposed by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

As there were no further nominations **Councillor Paddy Meade** was deemed appointed to Teagasc.

5.1.6 To appoint one Councillor to the Regional Health Forum following the resignation of Councillor Suzanne Jamal

Councillor Sarah Reilly was proposed by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

As there were no further nominations **Councillor Sarah Reilly** was deemed appointed to Regional Health Forum.

5.1.7 To appoint one Councillor to the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee following the resignation of Councillor Ronan Moore.

Councillor Yemi Adenuga was proposed by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**

As there were no further nominations **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** was deemed appointed to Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee.

5.1.8 To appoint one Councillor to the Boyne Valley Tourism following the resignation of Councillor Maria Murphy.

Councillor Linda Nelson Murray was proposed by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

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As there were no further nominations **Councillor Linda Nelson Murray** was deemed appointed to Boyne Valley Tourism.

5.2 Cultural Development

5.2.1 To consider Arts Office Grants, Bursaries & Awards 2024 recommendations.

On the proposal of **Councillor Aisling Dempsey** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** the recommendations were approved.

5.3 Planning

5.3.1 To receive the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Section 291 of the Planning and Development Acts, in relation to a Strategic Infrastructure Development application made to An Bord Pleanála, reference ABP-319799-24, for proposed development of 25 no. wind turbines and associated works off the coast of Co. Louth

5.3.2 To receive the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Section 291 of the Planning and Development Acts, in relation to a Strategic Infrastructure Development application made to An Bord Pleanála, reference ABP-319866-24, for proposed development of 35-49 no. wind turbines and associated works off the coast of Co. Louth, Co. Meath and Co. Dublin

An Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Teresa O'Reilly, Executive Planner to the meeting. Ms O'Reilly advised that her presentation covers both items 5.3.1 & 5.3.2 above regarding the section 291 applications to An Bord Pleanála. She said that the Chief Executive's reports are to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála along with any submissions from the members and that the documentation is available at the council offices and online for inspection.

Ms. O'Reilly gave a detailed presentation in respect of the proposed developments by NISA Wind Farm Ltd, ABP-319866-24 & Oriel Wind Farm Ltd, Reference no. ABP-319799-24.

There were interventions from **Councillors Eugene Cassidy; Alan Lawes; Joe Bonner; Brian Fitzgerald; Ronan Moore; Alan Tobin; Sean Drew; Michael Gallagher; Gillian O'Toole, Amanda Smith and Sharon Tolan.** Matters raised included the following:

- Referred to the visual effect of the proposed development, prefer it to be off shore.
- Queried how the turbines connect to the national Grid.
- Looked at the 220kV lines and what the impact will be on the countryside.
- What impact will it have on the North-South Interconnector.

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- Reference to an existing 220kV project and whether NISA will be connected to this.
- What will the effect be on sea wildlife/ birdlife.
- What is the contribution to renewable energy targets and climate change.
- What is the impact on inland fisheries and small offshore fishing.
- Asked if the proposal might affect the development of a new port at Bremore.
- Is Bremore port part of this development.
- Tourism in the area needs to be considered.
- Enquired about the value of the Community fund and how it will be allocated.
- Asked about the disruption to the communities and how they can benefit.
- How else will the Local Authority benefit from funds, and can this funding be ring-fenced for the area to provide opportunities for communities affected.
- Referred to the disruption on land due to the proposed new infrastructure.
- Referred to the amount of CO₂ likely to be saved which is significant.
- Queried the role of the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).
- Referred to the Exclusion Zones around the turbines for fishing which can represent an opportunity for biodiversity and increase sustainable fishing elsewhere.
- Welcomes the proposed development as an alternative to onshore wind farms.
- Queried the impact on fishing at Clogherhead due to the Oriel Offshore windfarm.
- Asked about the impact on Meath's roads and where the cables will be located.
- Requested that a briefing be provided to the Meath Heritage Forum.
- Queried the End-of-Life Stage of the project including the concrete beds.
- Will the proposal impact on the EirGrid Kildare project.
- Referred to Renewable energy projects and interventions
- Referred to the visual impact of the proposed development from the shoreline and consider it too close.
- How will the Airport and Aircorp/ Armycamp be affected by the proposal.
- What will the impact be on the beach and the passage tombs, heritage sites.
- What impact will construction have on the blue flag status at Bettystown Beach.

Responses to queries raised were provided by Ms. O'Reilly , Executive Planner.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Chief Executive's Report

There were interventions from **Councillors Nick Killian; Gillian Toole; Pdraig Fitzsimons; Alan Tobin; Alan Lawes; Helen Meyer** and **Sean Drew**. Local Authority matters raised included:

Housing: Allocation of apartments, Part V's, Notice to Quit, HAP inspections,

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Affordable Housing, Housing Waiting list, Adaptation grants, Homelessness, Emergency Accommodation.

Climate Action & Environment: Blue Flag beach, Air Quality project , Food Waste scheme, Urn Plots

Transportation: Safe routes to schools project.

Community: Healthy Ireland Meath Sunscreen project

Responses to queries raised were provided by Barry Lynch, Fiona Fallon, Martin Murray and Dara McGowan.

6.2 Report from Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator reported that the CPG met on Monday 1st July to review the draft agenda and the arrangements for this afternoon's Council Meeting. The CPG will now meet in advance of the agenda being issued.

The members were updated on the terms of reference and their role on the CPG. Terms of reference is on today's agenda.

The members were updated on the draft SPC scheme and advised following approval at today's meeting; it will go out to public consultation.

In addition, the CPG were updated on the Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029, which will include a workshop on 22nd August with all the members and will be in touch with further details on this.

The new seating arrangements for the monthly meetings here in the conference room was discussed, and it was agreed that the technical group would be re-named to the Independent Group.

Finally the committee agreed to the attendance of councillors at the various training sessions and conferences and suggested that more councillors should be encouraged to attend these sessions.

7.0 Correspondence

The correspondence was noted by the Elected Members.

8.0 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Noel French



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What is the current wait time for those seeking one bedroom units, two bedroom units, three bedroom units, four bedroom units and five bedroom units for the county as a whole?

Response

House size	Ashbourne	Kells	Trim	Ratoath	Laytown & Bettystown	Navan	Average wait time per house size in years
1 bed	3.6	5.7	5.2	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.7
2 bed	3.3	3.9	4.1	3.4	3.8	3.2	3.6
3 bed	3	3.4	4	2.9	2.8	2.2	3.1
4 bed	2.8	4	2.4	4.4	2.1	3.5	3.2
Total av per MD	3.18	4.25	3.93	3.75	3.30	3.38	

County wide Av 3.63

The response was noted by the Elected Members.

9.0 Notice of Motion

There were none.

10.0 General Interest Motions

There were none.

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

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Noted by the Elected Members.

11.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted by the Elected Members.

12.0 Any Other Business

There were interventions from Councillors Gillian Toole, Alan Lawes, Alan Tobin, Gerry O'Connor, Joe Bonner, Dave Boyne and David Gilroy. Matters raised included seeking meetings with Bus Éireann, TII & DAA, school wardens, Housing, RRDF applications that were unsuccessful and Thorton Hall.

The Chief Executive provided responses to the queries raised.

The meeting concluded at 3.15pm