



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 @ 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, Mike Bray, Peter Caffrey, Eugene Cassidy, Pdraig Coffey, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey, Sean Drew, 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, Emer Tóibín, Gillian Toole.

**Councillors Present via Zoom:**

Councillors, Dave Boyne, Edward Fennessy, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Noel French, Stephen McKee, Maria Murphy, Conor Tormey, Maria White

**Apologies:**

Councillors Brian Fitzgerald

**Officials in attendance:**

**Chief Executive:** Kieran Kehoe

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

**Meetings Administrator:** Elaine Daly

### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 8th July 2024

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

### **2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were queries from **Councillors Gillian Toole, Gerry O'Connor** and **Helen Meyer**. Queries included further details in relation to responses to matters raised at the Council meeting, funding update on the RRDF and update on previous motions passed by Council. Responses were provided by the Chief Executive, Mr. Martin Murray and the Meetings Administrator.

### **3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

3.1 Expressions of Sympathy were extended to:

## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

Brian Murphy, Transportation on the death of his daughter, Zara Murphy.

Rebecca McKeever, Kells Library and Dervilla McKeever, Corporate Affairs and Governance, on the death of their husband/brother-in-law, Thomas (Tommy) McKeever.

Gregory Hoey, Water Services on the death of his mother, Kitty (Catherine) Hoey.

Colm Ennis, GSS, Trim on the death of his sister, Catherine Hanley.

Finn Morris, Water Services on the death of his sister, Mary McInerney.

Marion Van Der Wel, Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service on the death of her mother, Margaret Quinn.

Ian Brecknell, Transportation and Carmel Brecknell, Library Service on the death of their brother/brother-in law, Arthur Brecknell.

### **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 0.168Ha of property at Ardsallagh, Navan, County 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 July 4, 2024 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**.

4.2 Disposal of 0.074Ha of land (Plot A) and 0.036Ha of Land (Plot B) for Land Rectification to Boundary at Finlaghtown, Ardbrackan, Kilmessan, 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 July 5, 2024, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey**.

4.3 Disposal of 0.0285Ha of land at Salford, Moynalty, 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.

## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on April 3, 2024, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

### **5.0 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Corporate Affairs and Governance**

##### **5.1.1 To Approve Meath County Council Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024 – 2029**

Mr. Dara McGowan outlined the details of the proposed scheme. He proposed that in light of the revised management structure the SPC names should be amended to the following:

- Forward Planning and Development Management
- Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism, EU Affairs and Rural Regeneration
- Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services
- Housing and Integration
- Transportation and Urban Regeneration
- Community & Cultural Development and Gaeltacht Affairs

There were queries from Councillors David Gilroy, Gerry O'Connor and Gillian Toole. Queries raised included the minimum number of meetings, the process for nominations from the Gaeltacht, the inclusion of Integration with Housing, attendance of public authorities at SPC meetings and induction and training for SPC members.

On the proposal of **Councillor David Gilroy**, seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and unanimously agreed, the Elected Members resolved to adopt the draft SPC Scheme, including the amendments as outlined above.

#### **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**

For the purpose of resolving as follows:

- a) Vary the basic rate and set a local adjustment factor that will apply for a period as specified by the resolution, or
- b) Not vary the basic rate

Ms. Fional Lawless, Director of Finance provided details of the four reports that were to be considered in accordance with the Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2022. It was noted that the public consultation period took place from July 5, 2024 to August 7, 2024 and 64 submissions were received. It was further noted that every 1% variation would impact the budget in

## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

the sum of €214,029 and that there was a preliminary gap of €2,617,947 in the estimate of income and expenditure for next year.

There were interventions and queries from **Councillors Michael Gallagher, Nick Killian, Sean Drew, Gerry O'Connor, Maria White, Gillian Toole and Ronan Moore**. Matters raised included tenders for legal services, details of submissions received, concerns regarding the LPT process, timelines for resolutions when varying the LPT and clarity around what services the LPT supports. Responses to queries raised were provided by Ms. Fiona Lawless and the Chief Executive.

**Councillor Nick Killian** proposed to not vary the basic rate, this was seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**. There were no further proposals.

The Elected Members unanimously resolved to not vary the basic rate, for a period of one year from the next Local Property Tax liability date.

5.2.2 To note the Half Year Financial Statement as at 30th June 2024

The report was noted by the Elected Members.

### **5.3 Arts and Culture**

5.3.1 To approve Meath Culture Night Events Grants 2024

On the proposal of **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**, the Elected Members unanimously resolved to approve the Meath Culture Night Events Grants 2024.

### **6.0 Reports**

6.1 Management Report

There were interventions from **Councillors Nick Killian, Gillian Toole, Michael Gallagher, Helen Meyer, and Sean Drew**. The issues raised included:

**Housing:** Aylesbury Development, Age profile emergency accommodation figures, Age friendly homes, provision one-bed accommodation, Part V Accommodation, Tenant-in-Situ acquisitions, Housing adaptation grants;

**Community:** Collegelands, Integration;

**Corporate:** FOI Requests.

6.2 Report from Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator agreed to circulate the report to the Elected Members after the meeting. The following report was circulated:

## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

The CPG met on Monday August 26, 2024 to review the draft agenda and the arrangements for this afternoon's Council Meeting.

It was noted that a Notice of Motion had been received in relation to a procurement matter that could not be actioned by the Council. It was agreed that this motion would be amended to write to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and included under Section 10 of the Agenda. It was also noted that the format of the Management Report would be reviewed with the presentation of a more streamlined report.

The Director of Finance, Ms. Fiona Lawless, outlined the provisions of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 and noted that Meath County Council has not increased the rate of LPT since its introduction in 2015. She further noted the Chief Executive's recommendation to increase the basic rate of LPT by 15%.

The Members reviewed the draft SPC scheme. It was suggested that the sectoral interests on Community & Cultural Development and Gaeltacht Affairs should include an additional representative due to the increased remit in relation to Gaeltacht Affairs. It was also noted that the IFA had expressed an interest in sitting on the Development Management, Forward Planning, and Rural Development SPC. It was agreed to incorporate the changes into the draft scheme.

Attendance at conferences and training was noted and agreed.

### **7.0 Correspondence**

Councillors Gillian Toole and Joe Bonner sought clarification on the dates for the meeting with the DAA. A Response was provided by the Meetings Administrator.

### **8.0 Notice of Question**

#### **8.1 Submitted by Councillor Eddie Fennessey**

*"To ask the Executive for confirmation that a review of the council's Commemoration Policy commenced in May and that as per the direction from this council, a reduction in the 20 year rule to 10 years will form part of that review?"*

#### **Response:**

The review of the Commemoration Policy is ongoing and will be brought before the Elected Members for adoption once the review is complete.

Councillor Eddie Fennessey sought clarification regarding the review of the Commemoration Committee and the Protocol Committee. A Response was provided by the Meetings Administrator.

#### **8.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

*"With reference to new speed limits to be introduced nationally, what is the traffic management plan for Meath County Council pertaining to calming measures/road*

## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

*safety outside schools in the county?"*

**Response:**

The Council's position remains as per MOV OBJ 35 in the County Development Plan i.e. that it supports the installation of appropriate traffic management measures on a case by case basis on the approach roads to all schools throughout the county in the interest of road safety.

Noted by the Elected Members.

### **8.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding**

*"What is the update on the proposed Boyne Greenway?"*

**Response:**

Since the public consultation on the Emerging Preferred Route in Early 2024, the project team has been finalising documentation relating to the option selection phase and progressing the development of the Emerging Preferred route. A Topographical Survey for the entire route has been tendered and will commence on site in September 2024. A Ground Investigation Scheme (GIS) has also been designed, environmentally assessed and is currently out to tender. It is anticipated that the GIS will commence on site in Q4 2024.

Before commencement, the Council will be in contact with all affected landowners to provide details of the surveys and arrange access.

Noted by the Elected Members.

### **8.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*"Can I get a detailed explanation of how the councils can carry out a compulsory purchase order and can this process include the purchase of land for parkland, amenities or pitches?"*

**Response:**

A proposed development consistent with the objectives of the County Development Plan needs to be identified and normally a Part 8 would have been processed setting out a specific scheme as otherwise a Landowner could possibly assert that the CPO was premature.

If the proposed development requires and EIA or NIA both Development Consent and Confirmation of the CPO could be sought at the one time from An Bord Pleanála.

## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

The short answer is yes the Council can exercise CPO powers to acquire amenity land.

### **Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) Process:**

The power to acquire land compulsorily has a clear basis in law. There is a constitutional right to own and enjoy property and the forced sale of property must therefore be strictly justified. A Local Authority must provide a clear purpose for the CPO and be prepared to advance the realisation of same within a reasonable timeframe. **The Council's preference is always to acquire by agreement where at all possible.**

There are strict statutory procedures governing the exercise of compulsory purchase powers. The acquisition of private land raises many sensitive issues and requires careful consideration and justification. The compulsory purchase order (CPO) process may involve an oral hearing convened by An Bord Pleanála if there are objections to the CPO or may lead to a legal challenge through the Judicial Review process in the courts.

The Council makes a CPO in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by section 76 of the Housing Act, 1966 and the Third Schedule, as extended by section 10 of the Local Government (No 2) Act, 1960, as substituted by section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966 as amended by section 6 (extinguishment of rights of way) of and the Second Schedule to the Roads Act 1993 and Roads (amendment) Act 1998, as amended by the Planning and Development Act, 2000 – 2021.

The CPO process takes approximately 18 months. Factors affecting the time frame:

- Objections
- An oral hearing
- A judicial review
- Size of the CPO

### **Overview of CPO process**

· Establish the purpose for which the land is to be acquired ie Housing/Roads/Mixed Use Development etc. or to perfect title already acquired.

· Identify the area to be compulsorily acquired on a map prepared by the Mapping and Survey Section.

· Prepare a Book of Reference & Rental ie ownership details.

· Certificates are obtained certifying the suitability of the area of the land for the purpose for which it is to be acquired. A Managers Order, referred to as the Determination Order, authorises the making of the CPO. The Certificates, Book of

## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

Reference & Rental and map which is termed (“X”) map accompany the Determination Order.

- Law Agent instructed to make CPO.
- Publish a Notice of the Making of the CPO in the National Press.
- The Notice is served on all owners, lessees and occupiers.
- The CPO. is submitted to An Bord Pleanála for confirmation.
- Objections can be made to An Bord Pleanála by affected parties within a specified period (not less than 21 days from the date of service of the notice of the making of the CPO on the owners).
- An Oral Hearing may be held at the discretion of An Bord Pleanála, at which affected parties can formally put their views forward.
- Following the hearing An Bord Pleanála may confirm with or without modifications or annul the CPO. It is an objective of An Bord Pleanála to ensure the matter is determined within 18 weeks from the last day for making objections. Notification issues from An Bord Pleanála that the Confirmation Order has been made.
- In cases where there are no objections or all the objections are withdrawn the Council may, on receipt of such notification from An Bord Pleanála, confirm the CPO with or without modifications or refuse to confirm the CPO.
- Publish Notice stating that CPO has been confirmed (within 12 weeks from date of confirmation).
- The CPO becomes operative three weeks from the date of publication.
- Judicial Review period (8 weeks from date of publication). The Judicial Review period allows objectors to challenge the CPO on a point of law.
- Notice to Treat is served on affected parties within 18 months from the date the CPO becomes operative requesting the submission of their detailed claims for compensation. On reaching agreement, compensation is paid, otherwise the matter may be referred by either party to the Property Arbitrator to assess compensation. The Arbitrator’s decision is final. Claims for compensation are normally based on Market value of land and buildings. Diminution in value of retained lands, if any. Costs resulting from acquisition, Disturbance, Loss of profits or goodwill, Professional fees necessary for acquisition.
- A Notice for Possession may be served at any time after serving of a Notice to Treat. This gives the City Council the right to enter and take possession of the land on the expiration of 14 days from the date of service of a Notice for Possession. This





## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

may occur before compensation is agreed and before the compensation money has been paid. However the Council is liable to pay interest on the agreed compensation from the date of entry in cases where a notice of entry has been issued.

Noted by the Elected Members.

### **8.5 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer**

*"The portal has been a welcome support for councillors. However, reps are frequently marked as completed when they are not. Could the council add an additional function to the software where the councillor has to sign off to say the representation has been completed to their satisfaction? "*

#### **Response:**

As the CRM Members' Reps Portal has been live for almost 12 months, the Customer Services Team will undertake a review of the operation of the Portal and feedback from Councillors is welcome.

Noted by the Elected Members.

### **9.0 Notice of Motion**

#### **9.1 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew**

*"This council recommends that priority of public funding for reconstruction/improvement works on local roads and lanes is allocated to the Community Involvement Scheme (Public Roads) rather than the Local Improvement Scheme (Private Roads)."*

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

Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) and Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) are funded by different departments, the Department of Transport and Department of Rural and Community Development respectively. Both schemes are subject to particular criteria in relation to eligibility and what can be funded under the allocation, unfortunately grants are not interchangeable.

If the motion is agreed, the Council can write again to the Minister for Transport seeking additional CIS allocation.

**Councillor Sean Drew** introduced the motion and acknowledged the response provided. He noted that cul-de-sacs are still local roads and suggested that, in the absence of further funding from the Department of Transport, the annual roads programme could fund works

## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

on these roads.

There were interventions of support from **Councillors Joe Fox, Michael Gallagher, Sarah Reilly, Eugene Cassidy, Ronan Moore** and **Gillian Toole**.

The motion, together with supporting information, was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sean Drew**, seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**, and unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

### **9.2 Submitted by Councillor Linda Nelson Murray**

*"We call on the Environment Section of Meath County Council to launch a 'bin your sticker' campaign, similar to the recent 'bin your gum' campaign, to prevent the unsightly placement of white stickers from vapes on litter bins, walls, and poles."*

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

If the Motion is agreed, it will be referred to the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC.

**Councillor Linda Nelson Murray** introduced the motion and welcomed the response. She noted that she had visited several towns across the County and noted the unsightly stickers in all areas.

The motion, together with supporting information, proposed by **Councillor Linda Nelson Murray**, seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**, was unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

### **9.3 Submitted by Councillor Linda Nelson Murray**

*"That Meath County Council identifies civic buildings within its ownership where 'Changing Places Toilets' can be installed. A Changing Places Toilet is an accessible sanitary facility with a toilet, hoist, washbasin, adult-sized changing bench and optional shower, with adequate space for use by persons with a range of disabilities and who may require assistance."*

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

Meath County Council is the leading Authority delivering "Changing Places" in its buildings and has provided facilities at Kells Swimming Pool and Athboy Convent Community Centre. In addition to this, the Council is considering the provision of Changing Places Facilities in new building designs, with the first of these in Bettystown Library, scheduled to be completed shortly.

**Councillor Linda Nelson Murray** introduced the motion and welcomed the response. She noted that there were insufficient Changing Places facilities in public buildings throughout the County. **Councillor Ronan Moore** supported the information.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

The motion, together with supporting information, proposed by **Councillor Linda Nelson Murray** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**, was unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

### **9.4 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer**

*"I call on Meath County Council to provide a direct telephone line for Councillors, to the Housing Dept. and to ensure that calls are answered in a timely manner."*

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

Meath County Council experience a very high volume of phone calls on a daily basis. The most appropriate way to contact Housing is through the CRM portal. Many of the telephone calls are detailed and take time. Phones can go unanswered if staff are on calls, in meetings or out of the office holding clinics, allocating houses, or carrying out in person assessment. The most appropriate way to contact the Housing Department is by contacting the Customer Service Team who can log a Sugar case for Housing Staff to get back to the caller. This is a more efficient use of time, as the staff member can have the facts to hand when calling or emailing back. All interactions with Councillors need to be logged through Members Reps to ensure representations can be tracked, traced and dealt with in a timely manner.

**Councillor Helen Meyer** introduced the motion. She outlined the difficulties that she encountered when contacting the Housing Department. There were interventions of support from **Councillors Alan Lawes, Michael Gallagher, Sean Drew, Maria White, Nick Killian, Emer Tóibín and Joe Bonner**. The Councillors commended the hard-working staff in the Housing Section and suggested perhaps a review of CRM responses and timelines would be appropriate. **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** did not support the motion stating that Housing resources should prioritise the needs of customers.

The motion, together with supporting information, proposed by **Councillor Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Fionnan Blake** was agreed by the Elected Members. **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** dissented from the motion.

### **9.5 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer**

*"To ask the Housing Department to review the procedures when undertaking a Housing Needs Assessment to ensure that every effort is made to contact the housing applicant before removing them from the Housing List."*

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

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) is carried out annually by All



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

Local Authorities in the Country. This is a statutory assessment to count the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the country on 1 November each year. In accordance with the Social Housing Assessments (summary) Regulations 2016, and the respective Circulars and Guidelines issued by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage each year, “a rigorous tracing of existing applicants will be required to determine if they still need support and intend to continue pursuing their application. Accordingly, multiple attempts may be required through different means to contact applicants.

Where an existing applicant fails to respond to any two communication attempts by the local authority, further measures may be taken at the local authority’s discretion to ascertain, as far as possible, that the applicant household no longer needs support or has left the local authority’s area. If a number of attempts are made to contact a household and there is no response, the relevant application may be closed. Where a household subsequently responds within a reasonable time, the local authority may reactivate the application without affecting the original date of qualification. This is an onerous task taken on by the staff in Housing every year for in the region of 1,000 applicants on the social housing list, who are not in receipt of HAP or RAS and whose file has not been updated since the July of the previous year. Meath County Council Housing Staff issue the 8-page SSHA form, issue 2 written reminders and then phones the applicants who have not responded. Only then are applicants taken off the list. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the information held by the Local Authority is as up to date as possible.

**Councillor Helen Meyer** introduced the motion and noted the response. She stated that the Council should also use registered letters or emails when contacting social housing applicants as part of the SSHA process. There were interventions of support from **Councillors Michael Gallagher** and **Alan Lawes**.

The motion, together with supporting information, proposed by **Councillor Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** was agreed by the Elected Members.

### **9.6 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding**

*“I call on Meath County Council to increase the number of locations with bathing water status in County Meath.”*

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

Meath County Council will review the capacity to extend the number of Bathing

## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

Waters in the future, following the implementation of a new sampling regime, facilitated by the commencement of an additional resource to undertake sampling at a number of pre-determined locations.

**Councillor Wayne Harding** introduced the motion. He welcomed the response and noted the importance of monitoring and improving water quality and managing our watercourses. There were interventions from **Councillors Sarah Reilly, Alan Tobin, Joe Bonner, Gillian Toole** and **An Cathaoirleach**. The benefits of water safety and learning to swim were also noted.

The motion, together with supporting information, proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** was unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

### **10.0 General Interest Motions**

#### **10.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessey**

*"We call on Meath County Council to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage calling for the establishment of a State/Council Owned Construction Company as a Pilot scheme based in County Meath for the delivery of social housing. This state owned company would also seek to deliver cost rental and affordable homes."*

**Councillor Edward Fennessey** introduced the motion, noting that it had been discussed and agreed at previous Housing SPC meetings.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessey** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** was unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

#### **10.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessey**

*"That this Council, recalling its unanimous passing of a motion in January 2024 endorsing the Amnesty International report entitled 'Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians: A Cruel System of Domination and a Crime Against Humanity' (2022) and noting the recognition by the Irish Government of the State of Palestine on 28th May, call on the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to review its procurement policies for goods and services and not engage with Israeli goods and services nor with those companies/agencies doing business in the Occupied Palestinian Territories".*

**Councillor Edward Fennessey** introduced the motion, noting the comments made from the morning's meeting with Ambassador to Palestine, Ambassador Dr. Jilan Wahba Abdalmajid.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessey** and seconded by **Councillor Fionnan Blake** was unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

#### **10.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

*"Meath County Council calls on the County Registrar to review current polling*



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

*stations to ensure that each one provides a wheelchair-accessible polling booth."*

**Councillor Francis Deane** introduced the motion. He called for a minimum of one wheelchair-accessible polling booth in every polling station.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** was unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

The Chief Executive left the meeting.

### **10.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*"Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government, and Heritage to carry out a structural condition audit, on a county-by-county basis, of all privately- owned thatched cottages with preservation orders. The purpose of this audit is to establish a sustainable grant system that will ensure the preservation of these cottages for future generations."*

**Councillor Alan Tobin** introduced the motion, noting the importance of thatched cottages to our culture and heritage.

On the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade** an amendment to the motion was put forward as follows:

*"Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government, and Heritage to carry out a structural condition audit, on a county-by-county basis, of all privately- owned thatched cottages with or without preservation orders. The purpose of this audit is to establish a sustainable grant system that will ensure the preservation of these cottages for future generations."*

The motion, as amended, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox** was unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

### **10.5 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*"That Meath County Council writes to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Consulate of China asking them to raise our call for the immediate release of women's rights activist #MeToo journalist Sophia Huang Xueqin and labour rights activist Wang Jianbing."*

**Councillor Alan Tobin** introduced the motion noting the unjust detention of the human rights activists.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** was unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

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

## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

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

### **12.0 Any Other Business**

The following matters were raised by **Councillors Alan Lawes, Yemi Adenuga, Gillian Toole, Michael Gallagher, Nick Killian, David Boyne and Alan Tobin**:

- Insufficient Gardaí in Navan Town
- Comhairle na Nóg AGM
- Planning with developers regarding Age Friendly Homes
- Noise Quality Consultation
- Contractors' compliance with road opening licence conditions
- Traffic safety at schools
- CRM portal timelines for resolution
- Further information on Thornton Hall
- Circulation of information following recent Councillors Workshop

Responses to queries raised were provided by the Chief Executive, Mr. Barry Lynch, Mr. Martin Murray and the Meetings Administrator.

The meeting concluded at 4.00pm