

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

4th November 2024 @ 1.30p.m.

Buvinda House, Navan (and online via zoom)

Presiding: An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sharon Tolan

Councillors Present:

Councillors, Fionnán Blake, Joe Bonner, Mike Bray, Peter Caffrey, Pdraig Coffey, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey, Brian Fitzgerald, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Wayne Harding, Suzanne Jamal, Geraldine Keogan, Nick Killian, Alan Lawes, Carol Lennon, Helen Meyer, Maria Murphy, Linda Nelson-Murray, Gerry O'Connor, Caroline O'Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Alan Tobin, Emer Tóibín, Gillian Toole and Maria White.

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Councillors, Yemi Adenuga, Dave Boyne, Eugene Cassidy, Sean Drew, Eddie Fennessy, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Ronan Moore, Amanda Smith and Conor Tormey.

Apologies:

None

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Kieran Kehoe

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

Meetings Administrator: Elaine Daly

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 7th October 2024

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 7th October 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 21st October 2024

The minutes of meeting held on 21st October 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were queries from **Councillors Gillian Toole, Helen Meyer** and **Nick Killian**. Matters raised included details relating to the hostel for homelessness, Active Travel income/expenditure report,

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

planning application with An Bord Pleanála and funding for Ratoath cycle lane. Responses were provided by the Chief Executive. In accordance with Standing Orders there was no comment made on the live planning application with An Bord Pleanála .

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

3.1 Expressions of Sympathy were extended to:

John McCormack, Planning on the death of his sister, Mary Fitzsimons.

The family of the late Philip Lowe, former Councillor.

The family of the late Bidy (Bridget) Watson.

Chris Rourke, Planning and Sandra Brown, Corporate Affairs and Governance on the death of their wife/sister-in-law, Kelley Rourke.

3.2 Expressions of Congratulations were extended to:

Members of St Colmcilles (Kells) Handball Club who won gold medals at the World 4 Wall Handball Championships this weekend.

Tom Sheridan - 55 plus Singles World Champion

Tom & Michael Sheridan - 55 plus Doubles World Champions

Joy Walsh & Sinead Forde - Ladies C World Champions

All involved in the organisation of Púca Festival

All involved in supporting LAMA at the recent Autumn Conference in Navan

Trim Tidy Towns, the Business Community in Trim, Trim Residents, and Trim MD on their success at the recent international Communities in Bloom Awards held in Canada.

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

None

5.0 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Affairs and Governance

5.1.1 To adopt the Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2029

The Chief Executive set out the ambitious strategic objectives of the Council over the next 5 years. He outlined the extensive public consultation that had been undertaken in the preparation of the Plan and the level of funding that would be required to deliver the key objectives.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

There were interventions from **Councillors Nick Killian, Gillian Toole and Maria Murphy**. The Meath County Council Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029 was unanimously agreed by the Elected Members, on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

- 5.1.2 To approve the appointment of the three external members, (Geraldine Tallon, Declan Kelleher and Theresa Brennan) to the Meath County Council Audit Committee in accordance with Section 122 of the Local Government Act, 2021 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014.

Mr. Des Foley outlined the background for the proposed external members of Meath County Council Audit Committee. On the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**, the Elected Members unanimously approved the appointment of the external members, Ms. Geraldine Tallon, Mr. Declan Kelleher and Ms. Theresa Brennan, to the Meath County Council Audit Committee.

- 5.1.3 To Appoint Sectoral Nominees to Strategic Policy Committees

On the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**, the Elected Members unanimously approved the appointment of the following sectoral nominees to the Strategic Policy Committees:

Forward Planning & Development Management	Climate Action, Environment & Emergency Services	Transportation and Urban Regeneration	Housing and Integration	Community & Cultural Development and Gaeltacht Affairs	Economic Development, Enterprise, Tourism, EU Affairs and Rural Regeneration
Alan Hora	Michael Breen, Sick of Plastic	Dave Anderson, Navan Cycling Initiative	Yurii Dunin, Trim Climate Action	Siun O'Connor, Meath Film Collective	Anne Headley, Kentstown Tidy Towns
Fran O'Connor, Ratoath Men's Shed and Tennis Club	Frank O'Sullivan Kiltale Hurling and Camogie Club	Josephine Reynolds O'Connor, Sculogstown Olympiad	Nazih Eldin, Beechmount Residents Association	Lisa Rowntree, Boardsmill GAA	
			Kay Kearns, Meath Women's Refuge		

- 5.1.4 To appoint seven Elected Members to the Meath Local

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Community Safety Partnership

It was noted that appointments would be made in accordance with Schedule 10, Paragraph 18 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended).

Councillor Gerry O'Connor advised of a group of 6 to nominate **Councillor Maria Murphy** as follows: Councillors Joe Fox, Suzanne Jamal, Maria Murphy, Linda Nelson-Murray, Gerry O'Connor and Sarah Reilly.

Councillor Gerry O'Connor advised of a group of 6 to nominate **Councillor Alan Tobin** as follows: Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Sharon Tolan, Eugene Cassidy, Paddy Meade, Alan Tobin, and Aisling Dempsey.

Councillor Gerry O'Connor advised of a group of 6 to nominate **Councillor Caroline O'Reilly** as follows: Mike Bray, Pdraig Coffey, Sean Drew, Wayne Harding, Caroline O'Reilly and Conor Tormey.

Councillor Nick Killian advised of a group of 6 to nominate **Councillor Carol Lennon** as follows: Brian Fitzgerald, Noel French, David Gilroy, Geraldine Keogan, Amanda Smith and Gillian Toole.

Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons was proposed by Councillor Ronan Moore and seconded by Pdraig Fitzsimons.

Councillor Francis Deane was proposed by Councillor Nick Killian and seconded by Councillor Carol Lennon.

Councillor Joe Bonner was proposed by Councillor Joe Bonner and seconded by Councillor Francis Deane.

Councillor Maria White was proposed by Councillor Helen Meyer and seconded by Councillor Fionnan Blake.

Councillors Maria Murphy, Alan Tobin, Caroline O'Reilly and Carol Lennon were deemed appointed to the Meath Local Community Safety Partnership. In accordance with Schedule 10, Paragraph 18 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) a roll call vote was taken in respect of any members nominated and not included in the grouping system. Results as follows:

	Fitzsimons	Deane	Bonner	White	Absent
BLAKE, Fionnan				√	
BONNER, Joseph			√		
BOYNE, Dave		√			

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

CAFFREY, Peter				√	
DEANE, Francis		√			
FENNESSY, Eddie				√	
FITZSIMONS, Padraig	√				
GALLAGHER, Michael				√	
KILLIAN, Nick		√			
LAWES, Alan					√
LENNON, Carol		√			
MC KEE, Stephen					√
MEYER, Helen				√	
MOORE, Ronan	√				
TÓIBÍN, Emer			√		
TOLAN, Sharon	√				
WHITE, Maria				√	

Councillors Padraig Fitzsimons, Francis Deane and Maria White were deemed appointed to the Meath Local Community Safety Partnership on the Cathaoirleach's casting vote.

Councillor Nick Killian expressed his disappointment that the chair of Local Community Safety Partnerships would be appointed externally.

5.1.5 To agree to hold the Statutory Budget Meeting on Monday 25th November 2024 at 1.30pm in hybrid format

The Meetings Administrator noted that a resolution of a majority of the Elected Members was required to hold the meeting in hybrid format. The Cathaoirleach called a roll call vote, results as follows:

	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
ADENUGA, Yemi	√			
BLAKE, Fionnan		√		
BONNER, Joseph	√			
BOYNE, Dave	√			
BRAY, Mike	√			
CAFFREY, Peter		√		
CASSIDY, Eugene	√			
COFFEY, Padraig	√			
DEANE, Francis	√			
DEMPSEY, Aisling	√			
DREW, Sean	√			
FENNESSY, Eddie				√
FITZGERALD, Brian	√			
FITZSIMONS, Padraig	√			



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

FOX, Joe	√			
FRENCH, Noel				√
GALLAGHER, Michael		√		
GILROY, David				√
HARDING, Wayne				√
JAMAL, Suzanne	√			
KEOGAN, Geraldine	√			
KILLIAN, Nick	√			
LAWES, Alan				√
LENNON, Carol	√			
MC KEE, Stephen				√
MEADE, Paddy		√		
MEYER, Helen		√		
MOORE, Ronan				√
MURPHY, Maria	√			
NELSON MURRAY, Linda	√			
O'CONNOR, Gerry	√			
O'REILLY, Caroline	√			
REILLY, Sarah	√			
SMITH, Amanda	√			
TOBIN, Alan	√			
TÓIBÍN, Emer		√		
TOLAN, Sharon	√			
TOOLE, Gillian		√		
TORMEY, Conor	√			
WHITE, Maria		√		

Result: For – 25, Against – 8, Abstain – 0, Absent – 7.

On the basis of the results above and on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly**, seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**, it was resolved to hold the Statutory Budget Meeting on Monday 25th November 2024, at 1.30pm in hybrid format.

5.2 Planning

5.2.1 Consideration of Motion in accordance with provisions of 153(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001

The Elected Members of Meath County Council expressly authorise, pursuant to Section 153(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, the Chief Executive to act for and on behalf of the Council in relation to High Court Proceedings Record No. 2024/604JR Protect East Meath Limited -v-



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Meath County Council.

The Chief Executive made the following statement:

The High Court case between Protect East Meath (PEM) Limited and Meath County Council centres on Protect East Meath's demand that the Council fulfills its statutory obligation to prepare a Local Area Plan (LAP) for the Laytown-Bettystown-Mornington-Donacarney (East Meath) area. While the Council has an objective in the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 (MCDP) to prepare a new local area plan for East Meath, it has not yet commenced this process due to significant resource constraints and competing Forward Planning priorities.

The absence of a LAP has not prejudiced the development of Laytown/Bettystown/Mornington/Donacarney as these settlements have the benefit of the current provisions of a written statement and zoning objectives within the current County Development Plan. Under the new Planning and Development Act 2024, any existing local area plan, shall cease to have effect upon the adoption of the new County Development Plan. This means that if any Local Area Plan were drafted for East Meath, it would expire within 12-15 months of its adoption. In addition, the Council intends to bring forward the review of the County Development Plan from November 2025 to May 2025 to deal with the new requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2024 and NPF updates.

The Chief Executive requires express authorisation from the Elected Members pursuant to Section 153(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 to act for and on behalf of the Council in this High Court Case. Should the Members agree, the Council proposes to agree to a Declaration that it did not adopt a LAP for Laytown/Bettystown /Mornington/Donacarney, but seek that any order of Mandamus sought by the applicants to commence the LAP process be adjourned generally with liberty for the Applicants to re-enter this aspect of the proceedings and an Order for the Applicants costs up to the date the compromise is ruled, to be adjudicated in default of agreement.

Should this offer be rejected by the Applicants, the Executive may accede to the making of the Declaration as mentioned and oppose by way of a defence of the proceedings, the making of an Order of Mandamus.

There were interventions and queries from **Councillors Gillian Toole; Brian Fitzgerald; Paddy Meade** and **Gerry O'Connor**. Responses were provided by the Chief Executive.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Management Report

There were interventions from **Councillors Nick Killian; Helen Meyer; Gillian Toole; Mike Bray; Alan Tobin; Wayne Harding; Maria Murphy** and **Sean Drew**. Matters raised included:

Housing: Social housing list; HAP figures; Part V acquisitions; Aylesbury residential development; choice based lettings; Emergency Accommodation; Anti-Social Behaviour; Partnership with AHB; Part 8 Housing; Affordable Housing.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Planning: Enforcement; Development Contributions; Settlement Capacity Audit; commencement figures; County Development Plan.

Community: Age Friendly appointments, Comhairle na nÓg; Integration.

Transport: Road works Ashbourne; road signage; Slane By-Pass.

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

6.2 Report from Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator noted that the CPG met on Monday 29th October to review the draft agenda and the arrangements for the November Council Meeting. She noted that the members had received an update on the preparations of Budget 2025 and set out the meeting dates for the General Municipal Allocation Budget Meetings. She further noted that the NOAC performance indicators had been discussed and a copy of the NOAC Performance Indicator report was circulated to the Elected members. Finally, it was noted that the Conference and Training Schedules were approved and circulated.

7.0 Correspondence

Noted by the Elected Members

8.0 Notice of Question

None

9.0 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

“To ask the council to introduce a text alert scheme to combat the misuse of accessible parking bays. (please see [Text alert campaign to combat abuse of disabled parking \(rte.ie\)](#))”

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

A text alert system was implemented in Navan from 2018 to 2020, to monitor parking violations. The public showed low engagement, neither participating on parking observations nor utilizing the provided number to report misuse. Based on experience and knowledge, warden patrol and direct observation have proven to be most effective methods of enforcement. Wardens consistently monitor all disabled parking bays, and their observations indicate a high level of compliance with the requirement to display a valid permit on vehicles parked in these bays during patrol hours across Navan, Trim and Kells.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillor Helen Meyer introduced the motion and noted the success of the scheme in other towns. The motion together with supporting information, proposed by **Councillor Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Maria White** was unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

“That the council conduct an education campaign about the safety of E-scooters and to advise users about the enactment of the new law that bans E-scooters from the footpaths (Driving e- scooters on pavements is illegal. New laws to regulate their use in May stated that users must be 16 or older and that the maximum speed limit is 20km/h.) In addition to ask the council to erect public signs on streets in towns indicating that the use of e-scooters on footpaths is illegal.”

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

The Road Traffic (Electric Scooters) Regulations 2024 (SI 199 of 2024) stipulates the requirements for the use of electric scooters on public roads including limitations on speed, usage requirements and technical requirements on the scooter. Schedule 7 of the Road Traffic Act 2010 (Part 3) (Fixed Charge Offences) Regulations 2024 (SI 227 of 2024) provides for fixed charge penalties of €50 for a broad range of electric scooter offences including driving on a footpath.

The Road Traffic (Signs) Regulations 2024 (SI 200 of 2024) specifies that signs for pedestrian and bicycle shared/segregated spaces will also apply to electric scooters, there is no change to the existing signage, that is, a circular sign with a white image of bicycle and pedestrians on a blue background. The Traffic Signs Manual details options for shared routes, and segregated routes, sign numbers RUS 058, RUS 058CL and RUS 058CR refers.



Only signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Manual should be erected within the

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

road space, non- regulatory signs may lead to confusion for road users and can add to street clutter in urban areas. Particulars in relation to prohibition of electronic scooters on footpaths can be articulated through education and awareness as outlined below.

- ◆ Awareness education through the Road Safety Officer to schools in Meath An
- ◆ awareness campaign in relation to the Fixed Charge Fines that you can receive
- ◆ A Social Media Campaign highlighting 6 rules in relation to the use of Electric scooters :

1. You must be 16 years or over to use an e-scooter.
2. E-scooters are not permitted on footpaths.
3. E-scooters must not exceed 20Km/h.
4. E-scooter users must not carry goods or passengers.
5. E-scooters must follow the same rules of the road as cyclists.
6. They must be treated with the same care as cyclists.

The motion was introduced by **Councillor Helen Meyer**. She outlined the dangers posed by e-scooters and potential injuries to pedestrians. There were interventions of support from **Councillors Nick Killian** and **Alan Tobin**.

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

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Maria White

“To call on Meath County Council to establish a task force on homelessness in County Meath.”

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

Meath County Council provides Homeless Service as part of the Mid East Region of Meath, Kildare & Wicklow. The Mid East Region Homeless Action Plan 2024 – 2026 which was adopted and launched by all 3 Local Authorities earlier this year clearly sets out the Priorities, Actions, and objectives for the Region for the next 3 years.

Councillor Maria White introduced the motion and noted that a housing task force was required specifically to deal with housing issues in County Meath. **Councillor Alan Lawes** supported the motion.

The motion, together with supporting information, proposed by **Councillor Maria White** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes** was unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“To ask Meath County Council to fast track a housing application where the applicant is facing imminent homelessness and is in need of homeless accommodation.”

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

The Housing Assessments Team always work very closely with the settlement Team to ensure applications are dealt with in a timely manner. It is essential that any person at risk of homelessness engages with the Council’s Settlement Team at the earliest possible opportunity. Support can be provided on the potential housing options including HAP, placefinder and Emergency Accommodation as a last resort.

Councillor Emer Tóibín introduced the motion and welcomed the response.

The motion, together with supporting information, proposed by **Councillor Emer Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** was unanimously agreed by the Elected Members.

10.0 General Interest Motions

10.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria White

“To call on Meath County Council to write to the Minister for Justice in relation to the need for increased Garda resources in Meath.”

Councillor Maria White introduced the motion. She noted the impact of anti-social behaviour on communities and public transport.

Councillor Gerry O’Connor proposed an amendment which was seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** as follows:

“To call on Meath County Council to write to the Minister for Justice and the Garda Commissioner in relation to the need for increased Garda resources in Meath.”

The motion, as amended, proposed by **Councillor Maria White** and seconded by **Councillor Fionnán Blake** was agreed.

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.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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

There were interventions from **Councillors Gillian Toole; Helen Meyer; Alan Tobin** and **Emer Tóibín**. Some MD matters were raised and it was agreed that such matters should be raised at the respective Municipal District meeting. Other matters raised included Mí Meath vouchers and the morning's workshop with transport representatives from the NTA and Bus Éireann.

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sharon Tolan wished all general election candidates best wishes in their upcoming campaigns.

The meeting concluded at 3.15pm.