



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30a.m., 16th January, 2019, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Maria Murphy**, presided.

Councillors Present: Brian Fitzgerald, Nick Killian, Gerry O'Connor, Damien O'Reilly, Gillian Toole, Maria Uí Ruairc.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Senior Executive Officer: Dara McGowan

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 12th December, 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th December, 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Des and Marie Foley on the recent loss of their son, Colin – Des thanked councillors and staff for their support;



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- Brian Reilly, GSS, on the recent loss of his father, Jimmy.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Killian Donnelly, Kilmessan in the production of 'Les Misérables' in the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre;
- The musical societies in the county for their successful productions over Christmas and the New Year, including those in the Solstice and The Venue, Ratoath;
- Matthew Costelloe, Dunshaughlin on winning Young Sports Star of the Year.

4 To receive a presentation from Eirgid – Overview on CP966 Kildare – Meath Project

Elin Ahlund, Mark Norton and Pádraig Slyne, Eirgrid delivered a presentation on the project, which included the transmission system, project drivers and needs, technology overview and list of options. The next steps in relation to CP966 were outlined, with the 5 options to be narrowed down further. It was underlined that all new technologies would be considered, including overhead and underground cables as well as the use of the existing infrastructure. No routes have yet been selected.

Reference was also made to capital project 1029, which relates to Intel and is now open for public consultation, including an Open Day in Leixlip next Wednesday, 23rd January. Further information on both projects is available on the Eirgrid website.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Specific queries relating to the route options, to which responses were provided.
- The preference for underground cables for this and other projects, including the North South Interconnector – it was confirmed that the most appropriate technology had not yet been selected but would result following further detailed assessments and consultation. It was pointed out that the policy is identifying the right technology for each project, with underground cables used where fit for purpose and where suitable to address the needs.



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- The depth of underground cables or height of pylons to eliminate electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) – it was pointed out that the cable depth enables the infrastructure to function adequately and both underground cables and pylons comply with international standards with regard to EMFs.
- The changes to pylon heights if the existing infrastructure was to be used – it was confirmed that, if using existing assets, a different approach would be used but the pylon heights would remain the same.
- The timeframe for the project to be undertaken – it is estimated that energisation would take place in 2025/2026.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the group for attending and for the information provided and asked that councillors be kept informed of any developments.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

5.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ratoath Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by councillors included:

- Concerns of residents on Glascarn Lane regarding speeding and access onto Fairyhouse Road. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Ashbourne Superintendent requesting that a Garda speed van be deployed to the area to enforce the speed limits.
- The need to replace the sign on the Lagore Road.
- The possibility of moving the solar sign to the Fairyhouse side of the junction at Glascarn Lane and also provide a matching sign from the Ratoath approach.
- Acknowledged the works in College Park and Supple Park.



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5.1.2 To discuss M3 slipways & access in the area of the R147.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Toll avoidance on the M3 resulting in increased traffic congestion on the R147 affecting commuters from Ratoath and Trim Municipal Districts.
- The need to take existing and projected economic and residential developments into account.
- Proposals made to alleviate the issue and the need for the Department of Transport and TII to support these and facilitate their implementation.
- The need for improved and reliable public transport options to encourage sustainable transport.
- The need for interim improvement measures at locations such as Avoca.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer Transportation referred to the forecasts used when developing the M3, the technical restrictions that apply to some of the proposals made, the contractual obligations relating to the tolls, the possible extension of the rail line to Navan and the process that applies for major infrastructural projects, including the project appraisal stages. It was suggested that the capital appraisal stage be carried out first, taking into account the issues and all options, including slipways, public transport, etc. Whilst some information is already available, additional information can be collected, e.g. drone footage.

It was agreed that a meeting with the Minister for Transport would be requested, with local TDs to be made aware of the request and Trim Municipal District representatives to be invited, and the information to be collated would be presented to the Minister.

5.2 Planning



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5.2.1 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within the development shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2018.

- Fairyhouse Lodge.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** on condition that the footpath referred to in the report be repaired as part of the 2019 programme of works.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** that the meeting be extended by 15 minutes.

5.2.2 To discuss the need for additional educational facilities in the municipal district.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The need to review the existing and projected needs for educational facilities at all levels in the area.
- The impact of the delayed County Development Plan review.
- The increased residential development and the need to plan based on future population models.
- The need for new schools to provide playing and parking facilities and to be constructed differently, e.g. three storeys.
- The need for schools to facilitate multi-use.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner attended the meeting and confirmed that the Planning Department is in detailed discussions with the Department of Education & Skills around existing and future school needs. It was pointed out that the department approach to school planning is not based on county boundaries and they use many forms of reliable data to inform their plans. Once on the school building list, it was pointed out that the department purchases the minimum amount of land and facilities such as playing pitches



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and car parks will often be excluded. Talks also take place with regard to usage of school buildings after hours. The County Development Plan review process will take into account the need to ensure sufficient community facility zoned lands that are suitable in terms of location, access, etc.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Wendy for the information provided.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** that the meeting be extended by 30 minutes.

5.3 Environment

5.3.1 To receive an update on the burial ground in Dunboyne.

Caroline Corrigan, Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that the situation regarding the site at Salestown remained the same, with regular contact ongoing and options being considered. A search for alternative sites was also ongoing. Drone footage had been used to identify available plots in the existing burial ground, with the map to be compared to that held by the parish. Designs for a columbarium wall has been prepared for Derrockstown, Ashbourne and Navan and these could be used for Dunboyne also.

Councillor Damien O'Reilly reaffirmed his position in relation to the relocation of the fence in the existing burial ground into the adjacent field to provide two additional rows of plots. The rationale for not doing this was again outlined.

It was agreed that the maps prepared would be presented at the February meeting.

5.4 Water Services

5.4.1 To discuss water service issues.

Gerry Boyle, Senior Engineer attended the meeting and provided an update on key water and wastewater developments as they affect the municipal district. These included the completion of the watermain rehabilitation works in Ratoath, which had successfully addressed the water pressure problems, and progress on the replacement of the trunk main from Staleen, due to be



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completed in 2021. Information on additional major projects was outlined including plant upgrade works and the pipeline works to service Bracetown, Avoca Shire and Facebook.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The need to address wastewater issues relating to Bracetown/Avoca – it was confirmed that this was being dealt with by Irish Water.
- The need for adequate and accurate notification to issue regarding planned maintenance works affecting supply – it was agreed that 2/3 days notice was the best approach, with Irish Water moving towards taking over this service directly.
- Commended the management of the watermain rehabilitation works in Ratoath, including the communications.
- The role of Irish Water in addressing issues arising on private property – it was pointed out that, although reluctant to date, a pilot scheme is to commence this year in Athlone, which may affect this policy.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Gerry for the information provided.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** that the meeting be extended by 15 minutes.

5.5 Corporate Services

- 5.5.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District.

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.



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7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council, to decrease the speed limit on the L5026, Dunboyne from Avoca, Piercetown, Whitesland to Stokestown to 50km as requested by the residents of this road."

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

The Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits), County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.1) 2018 was adopted by the members of the full council at their meeting on the 03rd December 2018. This Bye-Law will come into effect on the 03rd April 2019 and there is no provision for a 50 km/h speed limit, on the section of the L-5026 referred to within this Notice of Motion, contained within the adopted Special Speed Limit Bye-Law.

This location will be added to a schedule of locations to be considered in future reviews of the Special Speed Limit Bye-Law for county Meath.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

The motion was noted.

8 Correspondence

8.1 Correspondence received from Cllr. Maria Murphy, Chairperson of Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) re attendance at meetings.

The correspondence was noted.

9 Any Other Business

There was no other business.



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This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach