



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ratoath Municipal District

9:30a.m., 11th July, 2018, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

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

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

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Clerical Officer: Edita Zolotuchina

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 13th June, 2018.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13th June, 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 13th June, 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th June, 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- The family of the late Ronan Kelly, Kiltale
- The family of the late Eamonn Kiernan, Dunshaughlin.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Councillor Maria O’Kane on her recent marriage;
- Meath Fire Service for their work during the recent weather-related fires;
- All clubs in the municipal district who hosted the recent Fleadh;
- Dunshaughlin Athletics Club on their recent 10k run;
- Ratoath Athletics Club on their successful season, having won at many levels;
- The participants in the national Special Olympics and for their achievements during the games.
- The members of the Rehab Care group participating in next week’s Meath’s Got Talent competition in Ratoath.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

- 4.1.1 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:

- Delays to works at Moulden Bridge.



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- The changed access arrangements to the commercial outlets, including the Village Grill, in Dunshaughlin and general traffic management issues, including the plans for traffic lights at that junction to facilitate Lidl – it was confirmed that a meeting to discuss these issues was taking place later this week.
- The traffic accessing Tayto Park via Rackenstown Lane and other minor roads and the erection of temporary signage by Tayto Park on the R125 directing traffic towards the main roads – it was agreed to write to Tayto Park requesting that temporary signage be erected before the Rackenstown turn-off and to write to Google requesting that Google Maps direct traffic to Tayto Park via the main roads rather than the shortest route.
- The concerns that the traffic situation will deteriorate in the Autumn at Shires/Avoca, the need to improve the road layout/directional signage during the works and the lack of progress in dealing with the R147 – it was confirmed that works were ongoing at these junctions.
- Acknowledged the works undertaken in Ardlea, verge cutting works, especially at junctions, and drainage works. It was also acknowledged that the towns and villages in the municipal district look well.
- Update on the fencing works at the Jamestown end of Coill Beag – it was confirmed that these were taking place today.
- Concerns regarding the accessibility of the hydrant that is covered opposite Peter Donnelly's – it was pointed out that the fire service is aware of it's location.
- Complaints received regarding anti-social behaviour in the playground in Dunshaughlin park, issues at Lidl and College Close and the refusal of the Gardaí to attend. Reference was made to the Park Byelaws and it was confirmed that this topic had already been discussed at the JPC with a further opportunity to raise it at a public meeting being held by the JPC in the Autumn. It was also agreed that a letter would issue to the Chief Superintendent requesting that probationary Gardaí be asked to increase their patrols of parks and use the fine books already issued.



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- The need to complete works on the Ratoath Inner Relief Road – the current position was outlined, including that the Conciliator’s recommendation had been received on 24th May, following which each party has 45 days from the date of receiving the report to assess the recommendation and to either accept the findings or express their dissatisfaction with same. The day before the expiry of the consideration period, the contractors contacted the Council to express their dissatisfaction with the findings and arbitration is a possible next contractual step/option for either party. In addition, the Council has contacted the contractor requesting that they return to site to complete the outstanding works and will again remind the contractor of their responsibilities and will use the mechanism in the contract to ensure that the works are carried out.
- The need for the NTA to fund projects that are wanted and needed in communities rather than funding projects that only meet their policy requirements.
- It was agreed that an item would be added to the agenda of the September meeting to discuss issues including public transport and connectivity, the need for central government/agencies to fund priority projects within the community and other issues that might be raised with the NTA, TII and Dublin Bus.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’Reilly

“Can Meath County Council provide how much development levies and rates were paid to Meath County Council from developments and businesses in Clonee over the last 15 years in tabular format year by year?”

Response:

The financial management system used to record development contributions does not distinguish what municipal district or townland development contributions are collected for. It is only possible to report on county wide collections per annum.

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Collections	
Year	Levies
2017	8,249,170
2016	7,177,012
2015	4,371,138
2014	5,036,957
2013	4,098,541
2012	2,941,984
2011	3,939,304
2010	6,936,141
2009	7,497,231
2008	17,388,689
2007	27,808,304
2006	31,655,420
2005	35,581,718

In relation to rates we are unable to give collections for Clonee as we do not hold data at this granular level. Our information is at MD level.

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2017	3,616,482
2016	3,567,469
2015	3,043,343
2014	2,904,626

The response was noted. Councillor Damien O'Reilly expressed his dissatisfaction at the amount of levies being spent in the Clonee area despite the number of developments taking place. Des Foley reminded Councillors that the levies funded the capital programme and that any projects required in Clonee should be identified for consideration for inclusion in the next capital programme.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

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“I call on Meath County Council to begin contingency planning to extend Rooske Graveyard, Dunboyne, row by row into the adjoining Meath County Council field in the event of any delays to the new Dunboyne graveyard project.”

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

With regard to the suggestion to provide an additional row of graves at the rear of Rooske Road Cemetery (outside the existing fence-line), please note as follows:

- *The ground conditions here are unfavourable for burials due to the high water table. A number of EMs witnessed the level and fast ingress of water during previous excavations, it should be noted the purpose of these particular trial holes were to demonstrate to the EM the unfavourable conditions.*
- *While there are no Irish guidelines or Codes of Practice relating to environmental impacts of burials, Meath County Council have taken a proactive approach to protecting ground and surface waters by using UK best practice, namely the Environment Agency’s Cemeteries and Burials: prevent groundwater pollution, this clearly states there should be a 1m clearance zone between base of grave and the water table. All new burial garden site selections use this document to ensure we do not cause pollution to groundwaters and maintain the highest level of protection.*
- *There is a LV ESB overhead line along the fence line at the rear of the site. I met with ESB in relation to this and they recommended burials do not take place under this overhead line. This would mean any additional line of burials would be further into the field by 6-7m.*
- *Aside from the environmental impacts, it is felt that it would be very distressing for families to bury loved ones in a water logged grave, it would be difficult to maintain the grave water free during the ceremony (even with grave dressings) and may necessitate the use of a water pump which would add to the distress. Additionally, after the ceremony it is considered unlikely that anyone would like the idea of their loved ones lying in a water logged grave and such conditions will greatly lengthen the natural decomposition process which brings its own challenges in the event of a grave being re-opened.*

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- *All engineering options have been fully examined and explored and, in our opinion, do not need to be revisited. It is recommended that consultation with the local priest take place to ascertain the number of vacant, unused plots. There are approximately 60 ‘gaps’ where possibly plots have been purchased but remains unused. There is also space at the front of the burial ground that would accommodate 1.5 – 2 rows both sides, this section is vested to the church and I did advise against burying here a number of years back, as to do so would greatly restrict any future road re-alignment at the bad bend, however, a new row has snuck in and while it wouldn’t be ideal it would accommodate the short term problem. This would be a matter for the church to decide on and they would have to be made aware again of the implications in relation to any future road alignment. For clarity, there are no current plans to re-align, this is merely a ‘what if’ scenario.*

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

A discussion followed on the issues that impact on the field referred to in the motion and its possible uses, including drainage and above-ground burials, and the provision of parking facilities, a columbarium wall and an environmentally friendly project. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the September meeting in terms of the options and costs involved.

The motion was adopted.

7 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

- 7.1 To note the report from the Housing SPC meeting of 15th June, 2018.

The report was noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Environment SPC meeting of 22nd June, 2018.

The report was noted.

- 7.3 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise SPC meeting of 26th June, 2018.



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The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Thanked Pat Wickham for his management of the watermain rehabilitation works.

9.1.2 Issues with the traffic light sequence at the entrance to Fox Lodge.

9.1.3 Recent ESB outages.

9.1.4 The possibility of Councillors meeting separately to discuss appropriate capital projects within the municipal district.

9.2 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issue:

9.2.1 The serious potential impacts of the draft National Planning Framework on Meath, particularly in the level of residential development that might be permitted – it was pointed out that the Chief Executive and senior management were in ongoing discussions with the department in this regard.

9.3 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

9.3.1 Requested an update on the process/delivery of the housing units in Ratoath and Dunshaughlin.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



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Cathaoirleach