



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

09:00 a.m., 11th October, 2018, Duleek Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Wayne Harding**, presided.

Councillors Present: Eimear Ferguson, Tom Kelly, Sharon Keogan, Paddy Meade, Stephen McKee, Sharon Tolan.

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Christy Clarke

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 13th September, 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th September, 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Meath ladies team on reaching the intermediate final, including Monica McQuirk and Kate Byrne, Duleek Bellewstown;



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- Councillor Stephen McKee on the birth of his daughter.

4 To meet with Garda Superintendent Fergus Dwyer

Superintendent Fergus Dwyer thanked the Cathaoirleach and councillors for the invitation to attend the meeting and outlined his career to date and his plans for his new role in the district. He also provided information on the challenges facing the district and on the issues submitted by councillors in advance of the meeting, including speeding, illegal parking and CCTV.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The resources and facilities available to Gardaí in the district – it was pointed out that any probationary Gardaí allocated must be trained, mentored, etc. before being redeployed to stations in the district and that efforts were ongoing to improve facilities.
- The targeting of young people for drugs – the importance of parental guidance was underlined.
- The valuable role of community policing – it was confirmed that a proposal to deploy a dedicated community officer to Laytown was being made.
- The availability of a private area in stations – it was confirmed that the public can request a private room to conduct business, if required.
- The need to undertake enforcement with regard to speeding on the beach, particularly at night – it was confirmed that patrols were carried out.
- The need for Garda clearance before abandoned cars can be removed.
- The possibility of returning to the Louth/Meath Garda district – it was confirmed that consideration was being given to reopening stations that had closed following boundary realignments. It was also pointed out that a new commissioner was now in place and further changes may be made.



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- Crime rates in the district – it was confirmed that burglary rates had decreased, partly due to rolling checkpoints in the division.
- Speeding at various locations and the use of the speed vans – it was pointed out that adequate space was required on roads for the deployment of the speed vans.
- Parking at schools – it was pointed out that the relevant parents association had a role in highlighting this issue.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Superintendent Dwyer for attending the meeting and wished him well in his new role.

5 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

- 5.1 This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by Councillor Eimear Ferguson.
- 5.2 This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

6 Statutory Business

6.1 Transportation

- 6.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

The report, which had been circulated in advance, was noted.

Christy Clarke, Executive Engineer, circulated the proposed three year roadworks programme, which had been prepared following consultation with councillors. It was pointed out, that whilst rates had generally increased, it was hoped to obtain better rates for small civil works by tendering earlier.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Welcomed the planned road and footpath works from Donacarney to Bettystown Cross.
- The potential impact of Brexit on the planned works – it was confirmed that no impact was anticipated at this stage.
- Welcomed the planned works in Lobinstown.
- Queried the allocation across the six municipal districts – it was pointed out that the allocations were based on the pavement condition survey index (PCSI) and road lengths but that the RMO had been requested to develop a model reflecting traffic volumes also. It is also intended to review the results of PCSI, being carried out independently. Additional funding for national primary roads will also be allocated by TII. It was suggested that any change to the allocation policy be brought to the Transportation SPC for consideration.
- Update on the progress of bypasses for Slane, Duleek and Julianstown – it was pointed out that contact was ongoing to address the issues previously raised in relation to the route options for the Slane Bypass.
- Planned works on the Mosney Road - it was confirmed that the tender for drainage works would issue in the next month, with funding to be secured before these can proceed.
- Update on the issues on the N2 at Primatestown – it was confirmed that this was a priority issue, with efforts ongoing to manage the traffic signals and progress as a major infrastructural investment with TII.

6.2 Corporate Services

- 6.2.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

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

7 Notice of Question



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7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

“What progress has been made for the delivery of the footpath between Donacarney and Bettystown? And what is the estimated date of completion?”

Response:

Tender documents for the procurement of consultants for the proposed footpath/carriageway upgrade/farmers underpass at Donacarney have been completed and uploaded on the Supply.gov website with a closing date of 22nd October 2018. The completion date will be dependent on the consultants design and funding.

The response was noted. Councillor Sharon Tolan sought clarification as to whether all affected landowners were in agreement and whether a cycle lane was included. It was confirmed that as the design had not yet been finalised, no firm agreements were yet in place but most landowners had been approached and contact made with the ESB in relation to diversion of services. A cycle lane would be included.

8 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Keogan

“Calling on Meath County Council to allocate monies from the public lighting fund towards the provision of public lighting along the Oldbridge boardwalk in 2019.”

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

The Oldbridge boardwalk forms part of the Boyne Greenway and is within an SAC (Special Area of Conservation). The lighting of greenways and conservation areas does not align with Meath County Council’s public lighting policy, so it is not intended to proceed with a lighting scheme at this location.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.



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During a short discussion that followed, the benefits of public lighting to those using the facility, particularly during the winter months, was highlighted, as was the value of lighting in deterring anti-social behaviour and vandalism. However it was also conceded that lighting may have a detrimental impact on wildlife and therefore the impact of this proposal should first be examined before it proceeds. It was also pointed out that the surface can be dangerous in icy weather and that it is hoped to extend the boardwalk to Slane.

The motion was noted.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Keogan

“Calling on Meath County Council to engage with Irish Cement to establish the legal framework around the community fund as set out in the conditions attached to Irish Cements grant of planning with An Bord Pleanála.”

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

The Planning, Community and Transportation sections met recently with Irish Cement to discuss the conditions set out under their grant of Planning by An Bord Pleanála.

The Community section will liaise and work with Irish Cement over the coming months to progress and establish under condition 13 a “Community liaison committee” and condition 14 “A community gain fund”.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee**.

A short discussion followed on whether the scope of the fund should be extended, the planning conditions as they apply to traffic movements and the role of the municipal district in the process. It was agreed to request further information from the Community Department.

The motion was adopted.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan



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“To call on the Executive to include funding for two playgrounds in the upcoming Budget, one in Donacarney and one in Mornington.”

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

Playground funding does not form part of the revenue budget. The capital budget provides for playground funding and is presented annually to the members. The provision of funding for playgrounds in both Donacarney and Mornington will be considered as part of the next capital budget.

The motion was deferred.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

“To call on the Executive to provide funding in the upcoming Budget for Coastal Restoration/Repair Works between Laytown and Bettystown.”

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

The local authority will continue to make submissions for coastal erosion funding as it has always done. Coastal erosion is not funded from the revenue budget and has historically been funded from a combination of OPW and MCC as part of the capital program.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

The motion was adopted.

9 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

9.1 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 14th September, 2018.

The report was noted.



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10 Other Matters Arising

10.1 Councillor Sharon Keogan raised the following issue:

10.1.1 Requested that a letter issue to developers requesting that increased efforts be made to ensure that the streets in Duleek are adequately cleaned as part of ongoing building works – it was agreed to refer this to Planning Enforcement.

10.2 Councillor Eimear Ferguson raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Requested that contact be made with property owners in Laytown where hedges are obstructing footpaths – it was agreed to check this.

10.3 Councillor Paddy Meade raised the following issue:

10.3.1 The need to address the issue of dangerous trees in Donore towards St. Oliver's school, particularly in advance of adverse weather – it was confirmed that a local landscaper contractor is available to provide additional resources, if required, during adverse weather.

10.4 Councillor Tom Kelly raised the following issues:

10.4.1 The plans in place to deal with issues arising from the storm forecast – it was confirmed that an emergency response team was on notice, sandbags were prepared and all staff were on standby.

10.4.2 The need to cut the hedges from the Laytown road to Bettystown, where footpaths were obstructed – it was agreed to check this.

10.5 Councillor Wayne Harding raised the following issues:

10.5.1 The traffic lights were out of order in Slane.

10.5.2 The variable message signs on the approach – it was confirmed that correspondence had been received from TII highlighting a number of issues, including the need for these signs to be bi-lingual.



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10.5.3 The survey on the Big Belly Bins – it was confirmed that this was being dealt with centrally as the bins would represent a large capital cost.

11 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

12 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach