



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30a.m., 10th October, 2018, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Brian Fitzgerald, Nick Killian, Gerry O'Connor, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Councillors Maria O'Kane and Damien O'Reilly.

Officials in Attendance:

Senior Executive Officer: Dara McGowan

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Des Foley, Director of Service

1 Confirmation of Minutes

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

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th September, 2018 were adopted 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:



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- The family of the late Emma Mhic Mhathuna, including her children and uncle, John Moran, Ratoath – councillors expressed their admiration for the immense bravery she had shown during her illness and it was agreed that a letter would issue to Mr. Moran on their behalf.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Dunshaughlin Harvest Festival Committee on their recent successful event;
- Dunshaughlin Youths F.C. on winning the Cooper Cup;
- Dunshaughlin GAA Minor team on reaching the Division 2 minor final;
- Hugh Weldon, Kilmessan on winning the 2018 UN Young Champion of the Earth for Europe;
- Aisling Reid, Dunboyne on winning the Best Actress award at the Dublin Film Festival;
- Ratoath Junior C team on winning the county championship;
- Ratoath Camogie team on becoming the intermediate champions;
- Kiltale/Moynalvey on winning five in a row in the county hurling championship;
- Dunboyne Junior champions;
- Dunboyne on their forthcoming final match.

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.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Commended the achievements of the community policing initiatives.
- The increased growth of and population in the towns and villages in the district and the need for increased garda resources and visibility, particularly in rural areas – it was agreed that Garda interaction with the elderly was extremely important and that, whilst burglary rates had decreased, this may be related to ongoing checkpoints in the area.
- Welcomed the development of the text alert schemes.
- The enforcement of illegal parking, e.g. on double yellow lines and footpaths – it was pointed out that a reasonable approach was preferable but that enforcement and tickets can be issued and any ambiguity regarding byelaws can be tested in court.
- Access to the garda station in Dunshaughlin – it was pointed out that, whilst there was a resource issue, defined hours of opening were being discussed.
- The need to enforce the HGV ban on the Drumree Road, Dunshaughlin – it was confirmed that regulations apply to HGVs in terms of speed and use of roads. The problem of driver behaviour around schools has been identified as an issue nationally.
- The lack of a station in Ratoath – whilst it was conceded that a station in Ratoath would be beneficial, it was emphasised that mobile patrols were equally important.
- The increased traffic from rural areas to Dunshaughlin/Kilcloon following the closure of four rural post offices in Tara, Dunsany, Batterstown and Drumree.
- The impact of illegal parking on footpaths/double yellow lines on access by those using wheelchairs and at the entrance to estates for emergency services.
- The increase in anti-social behaviour and drug dealing at certain locations – councillors were urged to inform Gardaí of such locations as soon as they become aware of them so the problems can be tackled.
- Requested that the Community Garda visit secondary schools prior to Halloween to highlight the danger of bangers, fireworks, etc.



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The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Superintendent Dwyer for attending and suggested that he be invited in back in approximately 6 months to update on any progress on some of the initiatives/issues highlighted.

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:

- Commencement of works at Hillview – it was confirmed that the bollards and signs had been received.
- Subsidence on the Main Street, Ratoath following the watermain rehabilitation works – it was pointed out that this had been included in the three year programme and would be resurfaced following reinstatement works by the contractor.
- The possibility of incorporating a seat into the railings at the bridge at the Riverwalk, Ratoath to encourage teenagers to help manage litter.
- The responsibility of hedge cutting contractors with regard to health & safety and traffic management – it was pointed out that the advertisement calling on landowners to cut trees/hedges did point out the health & safety requirements but it was ultimately the responsibility of the contractor.
- Requested a report on the planned works by the council/OPW on the Castlestroom.
- Requested a copy of Constituency maps for Ratoath Municipal District.



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Philip Traynor, Executive Engineer circulated the proposed three year roadworks programme, which had been developed following consultation with councillors, and this was noted.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation delivered a presentation relating to The Dales, Dunshaughlin. The process of making this road a public road was outlined. It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** to commence the process as outlined.

- 5.1.2 To receive an update on the options for the closure of access for through traffic at St. Patrick's Park, Dunboyne.

Dara McGowan delivered a presentation, which included the results of a traffic survey and outlined five options, including the advantages and disadvantages of each. The recommended option and next steps were explained, with approval sought to proceed.

The recommended option and proposed next steps were unanimously agreed and the Cathaoirleach thanked Dara for his work on this matter.

5.2 Environment

- 5.2.1 To receive an update on the burial ground in Dunboyne.

Caroline Corrigan, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment referred to the previous options raised in relation the existing burial ground at Rooske Road, Dunboyne and provided approximate costs for each of these options. These included the development as per the Part 8 design, the increase of ground levels and installation of drainage.

It is intended to compare the maps to determine the number of remaining available spaces but it was confirmed the remaining capacity is 44 plots which is made up of 16 on the right hand side and 28 on the left, which would provide an approximate capacity of two years. The row at the front, if continued, would not impact on any future road realignment plans. It was also agreed that a columbarium wall could be looked at.



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Negotiations are ongoing in relation to the purchase of the new site with plans for trial holes at another site to take place on 6th November.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The comparative cost of developing the new site against developing the existing site – it was confirmed that there was approximately €250k in the difference, but that the new site, with a new design, would result in savings over time, would offer more choice in terms of burials and would accommodate a greater number of burials.
- Confirmation that the extension into the rear field at Rooske was not considered feasible – it was confirmed that the recommendation remained that this field should not be used and that the remaining plots would meet capacity in the short term.
- The proposed future use of the rear field if not being used as a graveyard – it was pointed out options could be considered, e.g. for community benefit.
- The need for a footpath and car parking facilities at the existing graveyard.

It was agreed to consider this matter again at the November meeting.

5.3 Corporate Services

- 5.3.1 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

There were no Notices of Motion.

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

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

The report was noted. Councillor Nick Killian highlighted that there was no land available in Ratoath Municipal District for social housing but that NAMA had possession of 22 acres, which had not been progressed. Councillor Gerry O'Connor referred to the eligibility criteria for affordable housing and it was confirmed that this was being discussed at the Housing SPC.

9 Correspondence

- 9.1 Correspondence received from An Garda Síochána in response to the Notice of Item 4.1.1 from July meeting re anti-social behaviour.

The correspondence was noted.

- 9.2 Correspondence received from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in response to the Notice of Item 7.1 – Notice of Motion as adopted at February meeting re eFibre.

The correspondence was noted.

- 9.3 Correspondence received from Google in response to the Notice of Item 4.1.1 from July meeting re high traffic volumes accessing Tayto Park via Rackenstown Lane and other minor roads.

The correspondence was noted.

10 Any Other Business



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There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach