



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

09:30 a.m., 16th January, 2017, Duleek Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Tom Kelly**, presided.

Councillors Present: Eimear Ferguson, Sharon Keogan, Paddy Meade, Sharon Tolan.

Apologies: Councillors Wayne Harding and Stephen McKee.

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 15th December, 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th December 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late John Hyland, Boyne View, Johnstown, Navan, former Garda Sergeant who was based in Duleek;



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The families of the late Josie Duff and Kathy McDonald, Ardee, who died tragically on the N2;
- The family of the late Emma O’Keeffe, Wilkinstown, Navan and formerly of Kilmainham, Kells and Nobber, who died tragically in a road accident;
- Councillor Paddy Meade on the death of his aunt, Janette Mohan (nee Meade), Painstown, Castletown Kilpatrick;
- Seán Reilly, Citynorth Hotel, Gormanston on the death of his father, Charles Reilly.

Congratulations were extended to:

- All those who made submissions supporting the retention of the Meath East constituency;
- All those who made submissions to An Bord Pleanála in respect of the Aldi development.

4 To receive a presentation in respect of the operations of the Local Authorities Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO) and an update on the preparation of the 2nd Cycle Draft River Basin Management Plan.

Aoife McGrath, Community Water Officer, Local Authorities Waters & Communities Office (LAWCO) delivered a presentation on the Water Framework Directive, water quality and significant water pressures, an introduction to the LAWCO, progress to date and future plans. Reference was also made to the issues affecting the Nanny River and the coastal waters.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The impact of agricultural activity, including the spreading of bio-solids, on water quality and the need to ensure inspections take place – it was confirmed that engagement with farmers would take place.
- The role of other statutory agencies, including the OPW and Irish Water, in protecting water quality - it was confirmed that LAWCO did have coordinators in place to liaise with the relevant agencies.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The economic, social and recreational role and potential of the river to the area.
- The issue of insurance preventing community groups from becoming involved – it was confirmed that efforts to deal with this were being undertaken at national level.
- The need to liaise with the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Duleek.
- The responsibility for water testing – the current system was outlined.
- The legislative support available – it was confirmed that whilst talks were taking place at national level with regard to statutory requirements, there was also an effort to increase awareness and encourage a changed attitude and behaviour to assist in improving water quality.
- The importance of angling to local areas and the need for water quality to sustain this.
- The funding available to LAWCO – the resources available were outlined and it was agreed to circulate information on alternative funding sources.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Aoife for the presentation, wished her well in her new role and invited her to return to provide a progress update.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services

- 5.1.1 To consider a schedule of twinning activities for Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District for 2017.

Audrey Norris, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services attended the meeting and reminded Councillors of the protocol adopted in 2016. It was pointed out that there was a county budget available, with €15,000 available for the six municipal districts, and that proposals were now being invited for inclusion on the schedule of twinning activities for 2017. These are to be considered by the Protocol Committee in February.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

During a short discussion, a number of suggestions were made and it was agreed that these needed to be further examined before proposals could be submitted.

It was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade** that a decision should be taken today.

An amendment was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**, seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**, that this required further consideration and would be decided on at a later date. The amended proposal was adopted on a show of hands vote, with three in favour and two against.

It was therefore agreed that Councillors would discuss these separately and submit proposal(s) to Corporate Services.

5.2 Transportation

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

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

- The timeframe for the completion of footpath works in Alverno – it was confirmed that these should be completed within the next month.
- The provision of additional litter bins on walking routes including Eastham and Laytown roads – it was pointed out that emptying these would pose an issue based on available resources, that the list of problem areas would be submitted to Environment for inspection and that litter picks would be arranged.
- Hedge cutting notices – it was confirmed that these had been issued and would be followed up.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The provision of an entrance stone to St. Eric's Terrace, Slane – it was pointed out that these are usually provided by the residents association but that the Council could provide a plinth if required.
- The drainage works at Donore – it was confirmed that these were substantially completed with a few outstanding items to be dealt with, including the removal of waste and landscaping.
- The number of Gateway staff in the municipal district – it was confirmed that there were 5 staff based in Duleek but undertaking works throughout the district, that the scheme was to conclude by May but that it may be replaced with another type of scheme.
- The possibility of clearing leaves on the Eastham Road – it was agreed to check this.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Tom Kelly

“Will the Executive outline in detail the following:

1. The regulations for the spreading of slurry and silage for 2017 and the timeframe;
2. Details of inspections and licenses granted;
3. Nutritional report required to grant licenses;
4. Report and conditions laid down by the Wheat Merchants Association?”

Response:

The legal position and protocol developed by Meath County Council in respect of the land spreading of treated sludges otherwise known as bio solids on Agricultural lands in the County was as set out in the response to Notices of Motions considered at the



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

October and November Council meetings as well as being the subject of presentations at the last two Environment SPC Meetings.

Sludge from Waste Water Treatment Plants and septic tanks can only be used in Agriculture in accordance with the Waste Management (Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture) Regulations, 1998 and the Waste Management (Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture) Regulations, 2001.. The storing of sewage sludge prior to spreading is regulated under the Waste Management (Registration of Sewage Sludge Facility Regulations 2010 and specifically a requirement to obtain a Certificate of Registration – premises used for storage of sludge are also subject to planning requirements.

The EU Nitrates Directive and the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations (known as GAP Regulations) made there under also provide a statutory basis for ensuring good agricultural practices to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources.

In accordance with the aforementioned legal provisions all persons proposing to spread sewage sludge must first seek written acceptance for the suitability of spread lands by submitting a Nutrient Management Plan to the Council and all parties are advised to engage the services of an Agricultural Consultant with specific experience in the area of Sludge Management.

Such plans when submitted are then risk assessed by trained Council Officials and particularly in respect of the suitability of the lands for sludge application including soil type, soil quality, soil nutrient status, local topography, buffer zones, proximity to local rivers, streams lakes etc and the status of the groundwater.

Where approval is granted for the Nutrient Management Plans conditions are normally applied and include inter alia, adherence to buffer zones, the time period for spreading, notifications to local residents likely to be effected based on wind directions, and a requirement to notify Meath County Council in writing 5 days in advance of when delivery and spreading is due to take place.

It is pointed out that the Council in 2011 published a protocol to provide a clear and concise guide to all wastewater treatment plant operators, sludge handling contractors, consultants and landowners of the standards considered appropriate by the Council

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The following Table sets out the volumes of biosolids spread in 2014 & 2015 as well as the acreage of land used and number of inspections. The details are obtained from a Sludge Register which is generally compiled at the end of the spreading season (15th October) and while the tonnage and acreage information is currently being compiled for 2016 the rate of inspection at 58 is known and represents a significant increase on inspection levels of previous years.

It is policy to carry out inspections of all lands which were not subject to previous land spreading and as resources permit as many lands as possible where spreading previously occurred. Such inspections focus particularly on compliance with storage timeframes, plough in requirements (within 24 hours) and buffer zones. The inspections also seek to ensure that spreading is taking place on the lands delineated on the map submitted with the Nutrient Management Plans.

Failure to comply with the provisions of an approved Nutrient Management Plan may result in cross reporting to the Department of Agriculture and resulting in financial penalties being imposed.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tonnage of Biosolids Spread</i>	<i>Area of land Used (Acres)*</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>
<i>2014</i>	<i>37,417</i>	<i>3,236</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>40,289</i>	<i>3,507</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>No data yet</i>	<i>No data yet</i>	<i>58</i>

The spreading season for fertilizers comes to an end between mid September and November and commences again in mid January as follows:

15th September – 15th January for chemical fertiliser

15th October – 15th January for slurry (includes sewage sludge's, poultry litter, mushroom compost)

1st November – 15th January for farmyard manure (dung)



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

There are no restrictions on silage use and while it is unclear what the reference to Report and conditions laid down by the Wheat Merchants Association refs to it is pointed out that each year An Bord Bia request a copy of our Sludge Register be given to them as they refuse to certify foodstuffs grown using lands which have received sewage sludge.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

8 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

- 8.1 To receive the report from the Environment & Emergency Services SPC meeting of 16th December, 2016.

The report was noted.

- 8.2 To receive the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural SPC meeting of 21st December 2016.

The report was noted.

9 Other Matters Arising

- 9.1 Councillor Paddy Meade raised the following issue:

9.1.1 The possibility of removing or changing the barrier on the hill in Slane, which is affecting the visibility of a resident when exiting a property – the rationale behind the barrier location and design was outlined and it was agreed that this would be discussed separately.

- 9.2 Councillor Eimear Ferguson raised the following issues:

9.2.1 The payment of the festive lights allocation to Julianstown – it was agreed to



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

check this with Corporate Services.

9.2.2 The provision of road markings on the Pilltown Road – it was pointed out that the guidelines indicated that a road must be of sufficient width before road markings can be provided but it was agreed to check this location.

9.2.3 The provision of additional signage or road markings on the Platin Road, from the cement factory to Platin Terrace, due to a number of incidents at this location – it was agreed to check this.

9.3 Councillor Sharon Keogan raised the following issues:

9.3.1 The provision of electronic signage at Beamore Cross to slow traffic – it was confirmed that all recommended improvements following the accident had been implemented but that a road safety audit could be undertaken.

9.3.2 Welcomed the commencement of works on the houses in Laytown.

9.3.3 The timeframe for the commencement of works on Main Street, Duleek – it was confirmed that delays had occurred but that works should commence in May.

9.4 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issues:

9.4.1 The provision of road markings at Bettystown Cross – Councillors were asked to submit proposed locations for road markings.

9.4.2 The collapsed wall at Bettystown Cross and the impact of vegetation on pedestrians and motorists – the issues with the property ownership were outlined.

9.4.3 The provision of additional signage on the Garrow Road at Castle Glen - it was pointed out that enforcement of the speed limit was needed at this location and it was agreed to request the Gardaí to undertake speed checks.

9.5 Councillor Tom Kelly raised the following issues:

9.5.1 Requested an update on coastal erosion works.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- 9.5.2 The damage being caused by water pooling at the junction in Duleek turning off to the Laytown Road.
- 9.5.3 Requested a report based on traffic counts on the Minnistown and Laytown roads for the March meeting.
- 9.5.4 The possibility of installing a roundabout at the Beamore junction.
- 9.5.5 Requested an update on the Slane Bypass, funding received and the submission to An Bord Pleanála – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation.
- 9.5.6 Requested that President Higgins be invited to launch the Ledwidge series of events in March and whilst in the municipal district, to officially unveil the sculpture in Duleek – it was agreed to refer this request to the appropriate departments.

10 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

11 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach