



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10.00 a.m., 14th May 2015, Duleek Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Sharon Tolan**, presided.

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

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Senior Executive Engineer: Jim Colwell

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 16th April 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th April 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

4 Statutory Business



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4.1 Culture – Libraries

4.1.1 To receive an update on Bettystown Library.

Ciarán Mangan, County Librarian, attended the meeting and delivered a verbal report on Bettystown Library. He confirmed that Meath County Council remained committed to delivering the library in Bettystown Town Centre and had allocated money to the fit-out of the library from both amenity levies and the capital programme. Progress on the project would now be determined by the allocation made under the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government's library capital programme and the planning application to be lodged by the developer. When provided, the library will incorporate the most up-to-date technology and benefit from an 'open library' system, which will also include community space. Extending to circa 6,000 sq. ft., in addition to 2,000 sq. ft. community space, the design of the library will be finalised once the actual location has been confirmed.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors welcomed the update and thanked Ciarán for his report.

4.1.2 To receive an update on the 2016 Centenary Events

Ciarán Mangan, County Librarian, also delivered an update on the progress of events relating to the 2016 Centenary. A public consultation was held on 29th April, to which groups and individuals were invited via direct invitation and through public advertisements. Those in attendance were given information on the national and county events planned, to encourage linkages where possible. An allocation of €30,000 has been made to each county in 2015 and Meath County Council intends to allocate this full amount to groups in the county. A further allocation of €30,000 is expected in 2016, with possible local authority match funding. Two major applications have been received for Ashbourne and it is hoped that these might attract national funding, thereby releasing the €30,000 for smaller projects. He confirmed that interested parties can still make applications. He also confirmed that the Garden of Remembrance assistance is in the form of design advice, information on suppliers, etc. and not direct funding.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors welcomed the update and thanked Ciarán for his report.



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5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

“To ask Meath County Council if there are plans for the taking in charge of Legavooren Manor in Drogheda and if not, how this process can be advanced for the benefit of the estate's residents.”

Response:

Meath County Council has not received a request for the taking in charge of Legavoreen Manor. The Council can only initiate the taking in charge process following receipt of a request from the developer or the majority of house owners within the estate. I attach the plebiscite form to be completed by residents for your information.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

“Is Meath County Council the local authority with full responsibility for the road connecting the greenway at Oldbridge to Rathmullen?”

Response:

The road connecting the greenway at Oldbridge to the Rathmullen road is in charge of Meath County Council.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Wayne Harding

“That Meath County Council undertakes a review of the process by which the Council allocates beach trading licences and of the assessment of all applicants in terms of their tax liability, health and safety procedures etc.”

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

The Casual Trading Act 1995 provides the powers to Local Authorities to make Bye Laws in relation to the control, regulation, supervision and administration of Casual Trading within its functional area and including the designation of areas where such trading is allowed.

Meath County Council adopted such bye-laws in 1997 and designated amongst other places 6 No. Pitches on the beach at Laytown/Bettystown and specifically located between the Public Toilets at Laytown to the Lady's Finger at Mornington. Each year the Council publish an advertisement in local newspapers inviting applications for concessions to operate stands for the sale of refreshments / beach goods for the summer season at these 6 pitches.

Both the advertisement and the accompanying guidelines make reference to pitch allocations being decided by lot and especially where more than 6 applications for pitches are received – the aforementioned Bye Laws provide for such discretion in the allocation of pitches as well as an appropriate mix in the sale of refreshments/ beach goods.

In most years the number of applications exceeds the number of pitches available and accordingly the allocations by lot is used and with the draw for places being made by an elected Member of the Electoral / Municipal District and all successful applicants being notified thereafter.

All traders should be aware of their obligations in terms of Tax compliance and the Council in accordance with the provisions of the 1995 Act and the 1996 Finance Act are required to submit names and addresses of successful casual trading applicants to the Revenue Commissioners. The 1995 Act also provides that the Local Authority on granting a casual trading licence shall notify the Minister for Social Welfare in writing of the name and address of the person to whom the licence was granted and the conditions (if any) contained in the licence including the duration thereof.

Applicants for Casual Trading Licences must provide through the application form a declaration that they have not been convicted of an offence in relation to the importation, possession or sale of goods committed while holder of a casual trading licence or an offence under this Act during the period of 3 years before the date of application for the licence. The Act provides that the local authority may revoke a casual trading licence if it is satisfied that a condition of the licence is being or has been contravened, if the person to whom it was granted is convicted of an offence in relation



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to the importation, possession or sale of goods committed while he was the holder of a casual trading licence. The Act also empowers the Gardaí to take action including powers of arrest where there is reasonable cause to believe there is a contravention of the Act.

The Council propose in the coming months to commence a review of the 1997 Casual Trading Bye Laws including the criteria used in the allocation of Licenses – such a review is dictated to a large extent by the provisions of the EU Services Directive 2006/123/EC a piece of legislation which will significantly amend the way in which future Casual Trading Licenses are issued. The review process will provide for public consultation and the making of submissions or observations by interested parties.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**.

A short discussion followed, which confirmed that this matter had been discussed by the Environment SPC and that a review was to be undertaken.

The motion was withdrawn.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Eimear Ferguson

“That Meath County Council urgently seeks funding for coastal reclamation and protection for the Meath coastline.”

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

As the Members will be aware a tender process is underway to procure Consultants for the preparation of a Beach Management Plan and with the closing date for tenders being the 6th May 2015. One of the objectives that the successful Consultants will have to look at is:

“To identify areas where coastal erosion is evident and also areas at high risk of coastal erosion within the extents of the beach management plan area and any further examination of coastal erosion or proposals to address same maybe subject to a separate mini-tender process.”



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It is suggested that further consideration of the issue be deferred pending completion of consideration of this aspect of the Beach Management Plan by the Consultants, and particularly the extent of the problem identified and the likely level of and availability of funding required. The OPW do have funding available for coastal protection works under their Minor Works Scheme with the maximum cost of the works being €500,000 and subject to criteria being met. Details of the scheme can be found via the attached link:

<http://www.opw.ie/en/floodriskmanagement/operations/minorfloodworkscoastalp/rotectionscheme/explanatoryleafletsandapplicationforms/>

It is noted that the possibility of accessing EU Interreg funding for the coastal erosion programme was also discussed at the April meeting and while this can also be examined as part of the Consultants brief referred to above, a cursory examination of the environmental related projects contained in the terms of reference for the Interring funding scheme makes no reference to coastal projection and are more targeted at developing policies and programmes targeted at job creation in the areas of natural & cultural heritage and “green” projects.

The first call for applications for such funding will open in mid-June and close mid-July however this is subject to the Interreg Europe programme receiving approval from the European Commission.

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

A short discussion followed, which included the extent of the Beach Management Plan/coastal erosion study. Jim Colwell informed Councillors that one pedestrian entrance to the beach was to be closed permanently and the other would be realigned.

The motion was adopted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

“That Meath County Council outlines what steps the Duleek Heritage Group must take in order to satisfy the Council that they can proceed to install their proposed phase 1 walkway through the Commons; outlines how Meath County Council can assist the Group bringing the project to fruition and furthermore to outline how it manages the



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issue of insurance on other public walkways in the County and what best practice applies in the wider national context.”

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

The Duleek Heritage Group was approved funding under the Carranstown Community Grant Scheme in 2014 in respect to their proposed walkway. There has been ongoing liaison between officials of Meath County Council and the Heritage Group in assisting the development of their project, including the provision of landscaping consultancy and advice regarding issues pertaining to Special Areas of Conservation.

A requirement of the Scheme for all applicants is the necessity for project promoters to have in place any necessary insurances applicable to their project, and to indemnify Meath County Council in their capacity as a project funder. It is the responsibility of the project promoter to ensure compliance with all conditions attached to an award of grant funding. The support staff of the Carranstown Community Grant Scheme, Community Department, will continue to assist the Heritage Group, where possible, in bringing their project to fruition.

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

The motion was noted.

7 Other Matters Arising

7.1 Fiona Lawless raised the following issue:

7.1.1 A new model was being implemented this year for the Beach Wardens, whereby a 7 day rota system would be operated and the duties of the wardens would include beach and traffic management, etc., thereby relieving the pressure on the outdoor staff.

7.2 Councillor Sharon Keogan raised the following issue:

7.2.1 An update on the one-way system in Duleek.



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7.3 Councillor Tom Kelly raised the following issues:

- 7.3.1 The timeframe for the speed limit reviews – it was confirmed that this was ongoing.
- 7.3.2 The need for road markings at Donore.
- 7.3.3 The need for dangerous bends signage at Garrow Road – it was confirmed that these had been ordered.
- 7.3.4 Grass cutting, the areas covered and the need to remove the cut grass – it was confirmed that a new contractor had been appointed this year.
- 7.3.5 The lack of safe pedestrian access at Harry Healy's junction – it was confirmed that talks had taken place with the owner.
- 7.3.6 Queried as to whether residents can restrict parking in estates to residents only, is planning permission required to clamp vehicles in private car parks and the obstruction of access to two houses in Julianstown due to parking – it was agreed to refer the first two queries to Environment and Planning respectively whilst the residents affected under the third point should report the matter to the Gardaí.
- 7.3.7 Work had been carried out in Alverno by a contractor, following which dangerous tree stumps remain – it was agreed to refer this to Housing.

7.4 Councillor Wayne Harding raised the following issues:

- 7.4.1 Complimented the high standard of works carried out at the bridge in Higginstown and on the footpath on the Hill of Slane.
- 7.4.2 The possibility of entering into an agreement with Coillte regarding the access of Gateway workers to their lands to undertake work on amenities - it was agreed that this would need to be referred to HR.



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7.5 Councillor Eimear Ferguson raised the following issue:

7.5.1 The need for grass cutting to extend to the 80km signs in Julianstown – it was confirmed that this would be reviewed for 2016 and that an estimate would be requested for extending this in 2015.

7.6 Councillor Paddy Meade raised the following issue:

7.6.1 The need to raise the grate at Herronstown School following road works – it was confirmed that this would be checked and repaired if required.

7.7 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issues:

7.7.1 The need for a review of the junction and road markings at Harry's Garage on the Garrow Road – it was confirmed that all road markings would be reviewed following the surface dressing.

7.7.2 Potholes on the Eastham Road is causing the road to sink – it was confirmed that this would be reviewed.

7.7.3 Planning for the spine road – it was confirmed that the Transportation Department was undertaken considerable background work around land ownership.

7.8 Councillor Stephen McKee raised the following issues:

7.8.1 An update on the wall at Balsaran – it was confirmed this was with a consultant and that funding had to be identified.

8 Correspondence

8.1 Correspondence received from Laytown Development Association in regard to Old Library and Green Site, Laytown, Co. Meath.

The correspondence was noted.

8.2 Correspondence from Transportation Department to Department of Transport, Tourism



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and Sports in regard to Traffic Levels on R132 and R147 County Meath.

The correspondence was noted.

- 8.3 Correspondence received from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in regard to additional funding requests for R132 and R147 in Meath.

The correspondence was noted.

9 Any Other Business

Fiona Lawless acknowledged that this was Councillor Sharon Tolan's last ordinary meeting as Cathaoirleach. She thanked Councillor Tolan for her work and cooperation throughout the year and complimented the manner in which she had held the position as Chair. The Cathaoirleach thanked Fiona and expressed her gratitude to Councillors for their efforts throughout the year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach