



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10.30 a.m., 11th June 2015, Duleek Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Paddy Meade**, presided.

Councillors Present: Eimear Ferguson, Wayne Harding, Tom Kelly, Sharon Tolan.

Apologies: Councillor Sharon Keogan and Stephen McKee.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

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 14th May 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th May 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Tom Kelly referred to Item 8.3, correspondence received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding additional funding requests for the R132 and R147, and requested a report from the Transportation Department in relation to this matter.

Councillor Eimear Ferguson asked that item 6.1 be amended to reflect that the motion was withdrawn.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

4 To receive a presentation from the FAI Development Officer.

Mark Scanlon and Barry Ferguson attended the meeting and delivered a presentation to Councillors on participation rates, programmes and partnership initiatives.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The potential for a late night league in Bettystown;
- The activities involving Mosney – it was confirmed that an after schools programme takes place over March/April in conjunction with the Intercultural Officer, and which includes students from Mosney;
- Cooperation between clubs – it was confirmed that clubs do cooperate and the focus is on increasing participation rates;
- Mental Health programmes – it was confirmed that good feedback had been received in relation to the Kickstart to Recovery programme in Ashbourne, a pilot project with 12-16 participants, and that a visit could be arranged for Councillors, subject to agreement by the HSE;
- The policy in relation to clubs operating in compliance with planning permissions – it was confirmed that all queries received from clubs are forwarded to the IFA's Facilities Department, which can offer advice and assistance.

Councillors were urged to become involved in events taking place, in acknowledgement of the support received from Meath County Council.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Mark and Barry for attending and for their presentation. They congratulated both Mark and Barry on their new positions.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services

- 5.1.1 To receive a presentation on the preparation of a Draft Polling Scheme for County Meath.

Olive Falsey and Sheila Sheridan attended the meeting and delivered a presentation to the meeting that covered the current polling scheme, the purpose of the review, the format and the process, and some issues specific to Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District. It was pointed out that a revised draft would be presented to municipal district meetings in September for approval, following which it would go before the full Council for adoption. If adopted, the new Polling Scheme will take effect from 15th February 2016.

Councillors were asked to submit any suggestions to Corporate Services by 4.00pm on Friday 31st July 2015.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Olive and Sheila for attending and for their presentation.

5.2 Environment

- 5.2.1 To receive an update on the Beach Management Plan.

Consultants AECOM have now been appointed to prepare the draft Beach Management Plan and representatives met with Officials from the Environment Department on the 26th May where they outlined the project Methodology over the coming months including information gathering activities in respect of interalia, traffic management, operational issues, and staff responsibilities.

They also advised of proposals to engage with key stakeholders including public representatives and statutory bodies as well proposals for holding of a stakeholder workshop as part of the information gathering process. Further meetings with staff from the Council who are familiar with beach management issues are to be held in the coming weeks.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The elected Members of the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District will be kept informed of developments in respect of the plan preparation process.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The need for the consultants to meet with the Councillors to discuss specific issues relating to the Beach Management Plan and the Northlands Drainage project – it was pointed out that the consultants had just been appointed and that a meeting with Councillors would be arranged;
- Specific issues raised included the exclusion of Seafields and the Pitch & Putt club, the details of the estuary review of the Nanny – it was confirmed that issues raised would be referred to the Environment Section;
- The role and responsibilities of the recently appointed beach wardens and opportunity for Councillors to liaise them to provide them with local knowledge and information – it was confirmed that the wardens would have a uniform and transport and it was agreed to refer the other issues to the Environment Section;
- The need to keep Councillors of informed of developments relating to the beach areas, for example the appointment of beach wardens – it was pointed out that staffing was an executive function.

5.3 Community

5.3.1 To receive a presentation on the Meath Age Friendly Initiative.

Michael Finnegan, Chair, Meath Age Friendly Initiative delivered a presentation to the meeting. The presentation included information on the background to the initiative, membership, the strategy and its review, information on the Age Friendly Business Town initiative and the next steps planned.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The need for dropped kerbs throughout the municipal district;
- The road safety issues for users of Ozanam House;
- The need to review all bus stops to ensure they are accessible for wheelchair users;
- The role of organisations such as Men's Sheds in assisting older people with small jobs in the home, similar to South Meath Social Economy – it was confirmed that South Meath Social Economy was due to deliver a presentation to the July meeting of Meath County Council.
- The assistance available to make homes more energy efficient – it was confirmed that a programme of energy upgrades is taking place for all local authority houses with new homes meeting new building standards with regard to energy efficiency whilst private homeowners can available of sustainable energy information, advice and grants for appropriate works;
- The options for reducing HGV traffic in Duleek.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Michael for attending the meeting and for his presentation.

5.4 Transportation

- 5.4.1 To receive an update on the establishment of the Transportation Operations Section.

John McGrath, Transportation Operations and Ger Murphy, HR attended the meeting and provided Councillors with an update on the establishment of the Transportation Operations Section, including the context for the reform programme and the municipal district structures with a focus on operations and customer service.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The appropriateness of the municipal district boundaries in terms of roadworks programmes;
- The impact of the recruitment embargo on outdoor staff resources;
- The need for all calls and emails to receive a response – it was confirmed that the new customer service model would allow all calls to be logged, assigned and tracked and that progress would be reviewed;
- The impact of the centralisation of tenders on municipal district works – it was confirmed that this was intended to improve efficiency and would not cause any delays on works commencing;
- The Town Enhancement resources available to other municipal districts and the possibility of considering this for the 2016 budget – it was advised that the related funding must be provided for in municipal district budgets;
- The role of the Gateway staff – the current works being undertaken by the staff was outlined and confirmation given that this work programme would expand as transport was being provided;
- The grass cutting on public areas such as roundabouts.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked John and Ger for attending and for their update.

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

The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The provision of the schedule of street sweeping and related road maps to Councillors – it was agreed to provide this;



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The provision of a list of projects to be undertaken by the Gateway staff and the removal of the hut;
- The maintenance schedule for drains and gullies – it was confirmed that this is done on an ongoing basis based on reports received and that Councillors should submit locations for attention, for example Eastham Road and opposite the school in Julianstown;
- The need for pothole repair and hedge cutting at the entrance to the clinic near Alverno Heights;
- Dangerous bends on the Garrow Road.

The Cathaoirleach expressed his thanks to Transportation for having quickly resolved two issues he had recently identified.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Tom Kelly

“What bye-laws allow residential parking only within housing estates?”

Response:

*If the estate is a private estate (not taken in charge by the Council) then the regulation of parking is a matter for the owner(s) of the parking areas. However if the area is in charge of the Local Authority then S. 36 Of Roads Traffic Act 1994 provides for—(1) A road authority may make bye-laws for the control and regulation of the parking of vehicles in places specified in the bye-laws (in this section referred to as parking places) on public roads within their functional area and **shall in the bye-laws provide for the payment of fees** in respect of such parking.*

This would involve extending the Paid Parking Bye Laws to cover the estate in question & introducing Residents permits for residents. There would be costs associated with setting up (Lining of bays, Signage, Parking machines) Operation & Enforcement (cash collection, Traffic Warden costs , Appeals , Court processes & admin overhead). It is likely that the costs associated with the proposal would far outweigh income generated & would have to be subsidised from elsewhere “



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Perhaps a simpler solution in the short term would be to install signage (Residents Only parking) to act as a deterrent.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Tom Kelly

“That Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District does not take in charge housing estates unless there is a full traffic calming provided in the estate.”

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

It is the requirement of Section 180 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 -2014 as amended that housing estates be built in compliance with the conditions attached to the grant or grants of planning permission for the particular estate prior to it being taken in to the charge of the Local Authority.

The Planning Authority can only require completion of works as originally granted under the conditions of planning permission. If traffic calming is not specified, then Meath County Council cannot enforce such a requirement. Members may wish to provide traffic calming after taking in charge where Local Authority resources are available.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

A short discussion followed on the legal requirements that apply when taking an estate in charge and the legal basis of not taking an estate in charge if all planning conditions have been met. Councillors referred to specific examples of estates where traffic calming measures were needed. It was also confirmed that, where a developer has gone into receivership, bonds or cash securities can be used to undertake works required. The importance of good estate design was emphasised. A query was raised as to when the guidelines for housing estates were last reviewed and it was agreed to check this with the Planning Department. It was also confirmed that the Transportation Department is looking at the reduced speed limits for housing estates.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The motion, and supporting information, was noted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Tom Kelly

“That Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District prepares a plan to qualify the beach at Sea Field, Laytown to apply for a Blue Flag beach for 2016.”

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

The Green Coast Award is a symbol of environmental excellence and has been established to acknowledge, to promote and to protect the environment of rural beaches which meet EC bathing water quality standards, but which are also prized for their natural, unspoilt environment. Mornington Beach previously held a Green Coast Award but lost it in 2013 due to water quality issues.

As the Members are aware, the Council have engaged Environmental Consultants AECOM to prepare a draft Beach Management Plan for a section of the coast from the mouth of the River Nanny to the sea wall at Mornington and which will incorporate the beach at Bettystown.

The Consultants will be examining issues relating to the Blue Flag and the Green Coast Award schemes including the water quality issues and while the Sea Field section of the beach is outside the proposed plan area it is suggested that the findings will feed into any consideration being given to an application being made for a blue flag award for this section.

In this regard it is suggested that the motion be given further consideration upon completion of the Consultants investigations.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Tom Kelly**. It was agreed that, given the information provided under Item 5.2.1, this motion was premature and Councillor Kelly agreed to defer it to a later date.

The motion was deferred.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

8 Other Matters Arising

8.1 Councillor Tom Kelly raised the following issues:

- 8.1.1 The need to remove a rusty bin on the beach – it was agreed to remove this if unsafe.
- 8.1.2 The schedule for the beach cleaning machine.
- 8.1.3 The need to repair the lights at the low car park in Laytown – it was agreed to refer this to the Public Lighting Unit.
- 8.1.4 The security fence at the railway station in Laytown – it was confirmed that Meath County Council were liaising with Iarnróid Éireann in relation to a number of items.
- 8.1.5 Traffic management needed on the Minnistown Road – it was agreed to monitor this and liaise with the soccer clubs, particularly with regards to parking for events.

8.2 Councillor Eimear Ferguson raised the following issues:

- 8.2.1 Speeding on the Station Road, Commons, Duleek – it was agreed to look at this.
- 8.2.2 Flooding on the Minnistown Road/Pilltown Road – it was confirmed that contractors were commencing work today and works would be complete by next week.
- 8.2.3 Update on drawings needed for the lease for Julianstown Garden – it was confirmed that, when staff were available, this would be done.

8.3 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issues:

- 8.3.1 The need for maintenance works on the roundabout at Colpe and on the slip roads off motorway towards Julianstown – it was agreed to see if this could be included on the programme of works for Gateway staff.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

8.3.2 Car break-ins and anti-social behaviour on the beach and the need to prepare a plan in conjunction with the Gardai in advance of the Junior Cert and Leaving Cert results – it was agreed to invite the Community Garda to the July meeting.

8.3.3 The provision of hours and contact numbers for beach wardens.

8.3.4 Speeding on the Corballis Road and an update on the speed limit review – it was agreed to erect speed counters at this location and request an update from the Transportation Department.

8.3.5 Broken fencing on the Eastham Road around a disused development – it was agreed to contact the owner.

8.4 Councillor Paddy Meade raised the following issue:

8.4.1 The road repairs needed on the Broomsfield to Grangegeeth road and second route, parallel to that currently under repair – it was confirmed that these would form part of the 2016 roadworks schedule but that potholes are being monitored.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

Councillor Eimear Ferguson thanked Councillor Sharon Tolan for her work as Cathaoirleach over the previous year and wished Councillor Paddy Meade well during his term as Cathaoirleach. Councillor Tolan thanked Councillor Ferguson and Councillor Meade thanked everyone for their support, acknowledged the good work achieved to date and stated how he looked forward to the coming year.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach