



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown _ Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00am, 11th December 2014, 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

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Staff Officer: Eugene Farrelly

Senior Executive Engineer: Jim Colwell

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Clerical Officer: Fiona Casserly

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 13th November 2014.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th November 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Tom Kelly asked if the Road Safety Officer had submitted any information on the issues raised at the last meeting. An update would be sought.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.



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4 Statutory Business

4.1 Housing

- 4.1.1 To receive a presentation from the Housing Department on the current housing programme.

Brian Murphy, Administrative Officer, Housing Department, delivered a presentation to Councillors on the current Housing Programme, which included the Housing Department staff structure, functions and services provided under the main headings of Capital/Grants, Social Housing, Technical Services and Homelessness/Housing Investigations. Information specific to Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District was also provided.

Matters raised by Councillors included the following:

- Confirmation that the design for the 18 units at Narrowways, Bettystown would be presented to Councillors when finalised;
- Review of council housing stock – it was confirmed that a full stock survey would be carried out in 2015, that data would be logged in a new housing maintenance system and that this would inform the maintenance programme;
- The list is compiled based on first preferences for location;
- Alverno Heights – a funding application had been resubmitted to the Department but agreement by the residents is needed;
- The replacement of rent supplement with the Housing Assistance Payment – a presentation will be made to Councillors following the pilot phase;
- Rental Accommodation Scheme – a new national differential rent scheme will apply from 2015 and this will come before the full Council for agreement;
- Different housing options – the new Housing Strategy will impact on future housing provision.

Brian Murphy agreed to circulate the following documents to Councillors:



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- The regulations relating to the new Housing Act;
- The Scheme of Letting Priorities.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Brian for his presentation.

4.2 Community

4.2.1 To receive a Presentation on Pride of Place / Carronstown Grant Scheme.

Peter Brady, Community Section delivered a presentation on Pride of Place, which included the background, categories and format of the scheme, the 2014 prize winners in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District, the 2014 Cooperation Ireland competition and plans for 2015.

Councillors acknowledged the value of the Pride of Place Scheme and the approach to be taken in 2015 was discussed, including the benefits of a greater focus on participation at Municipal District level but the need to retain the county competition.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Peter for his presentation.

Bernadine Carry, Community Section, delivered a presentation on the Carronstown Grant Scheme, including the background, the types of eligible projects and groups and the successful applicants for 2010 – 2014 inclusive.

A short discussion followed, focusing on the area covered by the fund and whether the committee should be requested to extend the boundary for eligibility and the potential for the fund to deliver larger scale projects.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Bernadine for her presentation.

4.3 Transportation

4.3.1 To receive an update on the Roadworks Programme in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

A report was circulated by Jim Colwell, Senior Executive Engineer. He pointed out that maintenance works were ongoing and that contracts are to be signed for the installation of pedestrian crossings at Yellow Furze and Donacarney.

Matters raised by Councillors included:



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- Road repairs needed at Bellewstown Church – it was pointed out that this road was not taken in charge and that nothing can be done on a private road. It was agreed to check the status of the road.
 - The potholes on the R132 – it was agreed to follow this up with the landowner.
 - Damage caused to the Mullagh Road, Lobinstown from flooding.
 - The prioritisation of through roads over cul de sacs and the Community Involvement Scheme.
- 4.3.2 Louth County Council – Proposed Weight restriction for Matthews Lane South to Platin Road, Drogheda.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

5 Reports

- 5.1.1 To receive a Report on Council Lands – Seafields, Laytown.

Mary Murphy, Meath Local Sports Partnership, circulated a report summarising the responses received from Laytown Utd. FC, St. Colmcille's GFC and East Meath Utd. to the questionnaire on the use of lands at Seafields. It was underlined that a clear vision for the lands and the role of the clubs is needed prior to a management committee being established.

It was agreed that the report would need to be studied. The Cathaoirleach thanked Mary for attending.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Tom Kelly

“Can the executive please confirm if the coastal allocation for coastal protection will be used before the end of the year and, if so, what consultations have taken place with stakeholders to contribute to the scheme?”

A response was provided by Senior Executive Engineer, Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District, as follows:



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The works proposed for the coastal protection will require planning permission and a foreshore licence and because of these requirements we have requested that the coastal protection allocation be re-allocated for 2015.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

“Can Meath County Council outline what plans there are to resolve the issue of car parking in Laytown; specifically in the area close to the train station, where parking congestion is having a very negative impact on local businesses and the quality of life for residents?”

A response was provided by Transportation Section, as follows:

In 2013, the Council looked into the possibility of constructing a car park on Council owned lands in the vicinity of the railway station to regularise the parking situation. Due to the proximity of an environmentally sensitive area, this option is no longer being pursued. At a recent meeting with the Chief Executive, Ged Nash T.D. and representatives of the local community, the Council agreed to work with them to identify an alternative site for the car park.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

“I call on this Municipal District to put a plan in place to fully maximise the tourism potential of the 2017 centenary anniversary of the death of the poet Francis Ledwidge.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Kelly**.

Supporting Information was provided by Meath Tourism, as follows:

A new 5 year Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy will be undertaken during 2015 which will incorporate a comprehensive consultation plan. The tourism opportunities that will arise from the 2017 centenary anniversary of the death of the poet Francis Ledwidge will then be taken into account.



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Councillor Harding highlighted a number of issues, including the need for a car park and road realignment outside the cottage. It was suggested that the East Border Region might be in a position to assist with meeting the costs involved.

The motion was adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

“That Meath County Council commit to carrying out road safety measures to include improving road signage and markings at the junction of the R150 and R152 roads at Duleek graveyard which is a particularly dangerous junction.”

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

Supporting information was provided by the Transportation Section, as follows:

Meath County Council will carry out a technical investigation of this junction and carry out appropriate safety measures if deemed necessary.

Councillor McKee queried as to the opening hours of the car park at the new graveyard.

The motion was adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

“That Meath County Council make available all vacant and boarded-up social houses in the Municipal District to those on the social housing list as a matter of urgency and to prioritise those individuals and families most in need.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Stephen McKee** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

Supporting information was provided by the Housing Section, as follows:

There are currently 18 vacant properties in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District, comprising both casual vacancies and long term vacant units. Work is currently taking place on 5 casual vacancies and 5 long term voids. It is expected that works on same will be completed within the next two months, and allocations made in the first quarter of 2015. Allocations will be made in line with Meath County Council's Allocation Scheme for Provision of Social Housing Support. The remaining eight properties require major refurbishment works and can only be progressed through a refurbishment scheme funded by the Department. No such funding is currently available to progress same, but



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the matter will remain under review, particular in light of the recently published Social Housing Strategy 2020.

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Other Matters Arising

9.1 Councillor Sharon Keogan raised the following matters:

- i. The provision of tenant information to Irish Water – it was confirmed that this information had been requested but not yet provided and that Councillors would be informed if the information was submitted;
- ii. Greyhound Pub, Duleek had become a dangerous building – it was agreed to refer this to the Derelict Sites Unit, Environment Section;
- iii. Visibility at the Abbeylands junction – it was confirmed that ramps were being considered for this junction but that funding had to be identified;
- iv. Obstructed road signs – limited resources were available and insurance was an issue if Gateway staff undertook this work;
- v. The removal of EU project signs from roads, e.g. Duleek-Julianstown Road – following the completion of these projects;
- vi. The number of unfinished housing estates in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District – it was agreed to request this from the Planning Section.

9.2 Councillor Tom Kelly raised the following matters:

- i. The use of the Gateway Scheme in the coastal area in 2015 – it was confirmed that a programme of work would be drawn up to include recruitment and training;
- ii. The organisation of a pre-planning meeting with stakeholders as part of the Coastal Protection Scheme – it was confirmed that works would only be undertaken on Council owned infrastructure adjoining the road and that the



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remaining land was in private ownership but that submissions could be made as part of the Part VIII process;

- iii. The provision of the footpath from Colaiste na hInse to Brookside as Eircom will willing to remove the poles and underground the cables to facilitate the works – it was confirmed that funding would have to be identified, that the length of the footpath was an issue and that cooperation would be required from residents;
- iv. A sunken manhole cover on the Eastham Road, subsidence on the road at the old school in Laytown and obstruction on the footpath at the pedestrian crossing at the new school due to the barrier;
- v. The possibility of installing ramps on the Laytown-Bettystown Road – it was agreed to refer this to the Transportation Section;
- vi. The situation regarding the provision of Leader funding – it was agreed to request a report from the Community Section for the January meeting;
- vii. The availability of the 2015 roadworks programme – it was hoped to have the Municipal District Schedule of Works for February and the roadworks programme for the March or April meeting of Meath County Council.

9.3 Councillor Eimear Ferguson raised the following matters:

- i. The installation of a barrier at the school entrance at Colaiste na hInse – it was confirmed that this would be installed when the schools were on holidays, as would measures at Donacarney and Donore national schools;
- ii. Car parking at Laytown/Bettystown for train/bus users – it was confirmed that this had been subject to discussions and that a countywide review of parking was to be undertaken with updates provided when available;
- iii. HGV restrictions in Duleek – it was agreed that this could be discussed at a meeting with Transportation on 18th December;
- iv. Adequate height warning signage at bridges – it was agreed to check this.

9.4 Councillor Paddy Meade raised the following matters:

- i. The need for traffic management measures at Newtown NS – it was confirmed that resources were needed for this to be undertaken;
- ii. Resurfacing works needed at Heronstown NS and flooding damage at Mullagh Road, Lobinstown – it was agreed that these would be reviewed;



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- iii. Resurfacing works needed at St. Oliver's Terrace – it was pointed out that an allocation for estates had been made to each Municipal District;
- iv. Damaged signage at Cooks Cross.

9.5 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following matters:

- i. Beach Management Plan – it was confirmed that this was being led by the Environment Section and that the Terms of Reference would be brought to Councillors in Q1 2015 for consideration;
- ii. The appointment of a beach warden – it was confirmed that no budget existed for an appointment;
- iii. The provision of bus shelters – it was agreed that Councillors should identify the locations and this would be referred to the Transportation Section.

10 Any Other Business

- It was confirmed that a meeting with Oireachtas members and the Transportation Section would take place on Thursday 18th December to receive an update on the Slane Bypass.
- Eugene Farrelly outlined the plan to use the proceeds from the cow plot rentals to fund a grant scheme, with one-off match funding to be provided to community groups, with a closing date in early January and to be launched in Lobinstown. This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**. A report would be presented to a future meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach