



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Ratoath Municipal District***

#### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***9:30a.m., 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices***

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

**Councillors Present:** Brian Fitzgerald, Nick Killian, Gerry O'Connor, Damien O'Reilly, Gillian Toole, Maria Uí Ruairc.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

#### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Retired Lt. Col. Martin Cafferty, who served in Bosnia and the Lebanon;



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

- Benny Coldrick, former staff member, on the death of his wife, Maura;
- Jim and Richard Colwell on the death of their mother, Hilda.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Ratoath Musical Society on their recent show, 'The Sound of Music';
- All local groups who had received support from the Facebook Community Fund;
- Megan Thynne, Kilmessan, a member of the Meath Ladies JFC team, who won the NFL division 3 title after 25 years;
- Dunboyne Boxing Club.

#### **4 To meet with Garda Superintendent Fergus Dwyer**

Superintendent Fergus Dwyer outlined a number of ongoing initiatives, including an increase in Garda visibility, an increase in patrols, particularly in Ratoath, and the increased use of Garda bike patrols. Since the beginning of the year, statistics indicated that decreases had occurred in both burglary levels and shop thefts. However the statistics do not reflect other activity including interaction with vulnerable groups including the elderly and children, e.g. the number of reports made to the relevant agencies regarding child welfare, etc.

Matters raised by councillors, and responses provided, included:

- The need for additional resources to focus on certain areas during the summer months – it was confirmed that five additional Gardaí were to be deployed to the division next month and that parks and other amenities would be focused on during the summer months.
- The possibility of carrying out speed checks on local roads where residents had concerns over speeding traffic – councillors were asked to submit suggested locations.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

- The role of the public, parents and other organisations, including sporting bodies, in tackling drugs usage – the need for a multi-agency approach was confirmed, as was the need for parental guidance.
- The need for Gardaí to tackle illegal parking, particularly in locations where such parking obstructs access and visibility and also at schools – it was suggested that safer parking practices at schools could be encouraged by developing a programme for children.
- The need for additional Garda resourcing in the county and, particularly, in the south of the county based on population – the challenges were acknowledged but it was pointed out that available resources are maximised.
- The role of the community in providing relevant information to the Gardaí and implications, e.g. GDPR – it was pointed out that any relevant information should be reported to the Gardaí, whilst ensuring the safety of those who try to help.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Superintendent Dwyer for attending the meeting and for the work and support of the Gardaí in the area.

## **5 Statutory Business**

### **5.1 Transportation**

- 5.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ratoath Municipal District.

The report, which had been circulated in advance, was noted.

Michael Finnegan, Road Safety Officer, was in attendance to discuss the issues raised in relation to traffic accessing Tayto Park. It was confirmed that a meeting had taken place with Tayto Park, with temporary signage agreed for designated locations, the effectiveness of which will be monitored and permanent signage to follow. Correspondence had issued to Google regarding Google maps and highlighting road safety issues and they had agreed to add the new entrance to Google maps. It was suggested that correspondence could



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

issue to relevant bus companies requesting that they consider the issues and divert to more appropriate routes.

- 5.1.2 To receive an update on the proposed Safety Improvement Scheme at the R154 / L-2207 Batterjohn junction.

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation pointed out that the scheme was subject to non-statutory public consultation with the proposals due to go on public display later this month and the final proposal to be presented to the municipal district.

It was pointed out that advertising these schemes needed to be undertaken locally, e.g. in parish halls, shops, schools, local publications, etc. and that these advertisements should emphasise that the schemes are subject to funding, to manage expectations of when these works will take place.

- 5.1.3 To receive an update on the proposed Traffic Calming Scheme at the R154 in Batterstown.

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation pointed out that the scheme was subject to non-statutory public consultation with the proposals due to go on public display later this month and the final proposal to be presented to the municipal district.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The possibility of extending the footpath to the side road opposite the church as the kerbing is already in place.
- The funding available to undertake the scheme – it was pointed out that the costs would not be finalised until the tender process was complete, following which the funding could be determined, including own resources.
- Expressed concerns regarding lorries parking in dangerous areas and obstructing visibility.



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

- 5.1.4 To receive an update on the proposed Traffic Calming Scheme on the R154 at Kiltale.

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation pointed out that the scheme was subject to non-statutory public consultation with the proposals due to go on public display later this month and the final proposal to be presented to the municipal district.

- 5.1.5 To receive an update on the proposed Part 8 for the L-1007 Kilbride Road / R125 Ashbourne Road Junction Improvement Scheme.

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation pointed out that the scheme was subject to statutory public consultation with the proposals due to go on public display later this month and the final proposal to be presented to the municipal district.

Matters raised by councillors included the issues at Moulden Bridge and the need to synchronise the traffic lights with the new proposed signalised junction to be constructed as part of the Ratoath Outer Relief Road scheme.

- 5.1.6 To consider a recommendation for the permanent closure of access for through traffic, at St. Patrick's Park, Dunboyne, as per Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation referred to the process that had taken place to date, most recently the Section 38 in April, following which 8 submissions had been made, all in favour. The recommendation is to proceed with the permanent closure of access for through traffic and, if adopted, it is intended that the tender would be advertised on 24th May. It was also confirmed that the remaining temporary works (double yellow lines) would be in place this week.

It was unanimously agreed, on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**, to proceed as per the recommendation.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the residents and the executive, in particular Des Foley and Dara McGowan, for their efforts in progressing this matter.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### **5.2 Corporate Services**

- 5.2.1 To receive the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000–2018 and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001–2018 on the proposed development of a linear walkway, reinstatement of the William Turner Bridge over Castle Stream, sports playing fields, changing facilities and associated car park at Rooske Road, Dunboyne, Co. Meath, in the townland of Castlefarm. (P8/19003)

Billy Joe Padden, Executive Planner provided an overview of the report.

Whilst councillors welcomed the progress being made in relation to the site, which will provide an amenity for young people in the centre of Dunboyne, reference was also made to the concerns expressed by residents in the adjacent estate including light intrusion, access, boundary treatment, security concerns, access to and management of car park, etc. - responses were provided to the points raised.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** that the works should proceed, taking into account the points raised.

- 5.2.2 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.

### **7 Notice of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.

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



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

- 8.1 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

The report was noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

The report was noted.

- 8.3 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise PC meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2019 (CDP timetable also attached).

The report was noted.

### **9 Correspondence**

- 9.1 Correspondence received from Irish Rail in response to the Notice of Item 7.2 – Notice of Motion as adopted at the March meeting re free parking at Dunboyne Train Station.

The correspondence was noted.

### **10 Any Other Business**

- 10.1 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issue:

10.1.1 The need to expedite the development of social housing on the available land at Lagore Road, Dunshaughlin and the lack of land available to provide housing in the municipal district.

- 10.2 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issue:

10.2.1 The need to replace the school traffic wardens in Dunboyne and Ratoath, with information on the vacancies to be circulated to councillors to encourage interest in applying for the positions – this was proposed by Councillor Maria Murphy and seconded by Councillor Nick Killian.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

10.3 Councillor Damien O'Reilly raised the following issue:

10.3.1 Expressed disappointment at the lack of progress in delivering a new graveyard for Dunboyne and/or extending the existing graveyard into the adjacent field.

10.4 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issue:

10.4.1 The failure of traffic to slow at the zebra crossing at Dunshaughlin N.S.

The Cathaoirleach thanked her councillor colleagues for their work and support over the last year, with reference to the significant progress made in different areas. She also acknowledged the executive, engineering and outdoor staff and meeting administration staff for their work. On behalf of the executive, Dara McGowan thanked councillors for their support and cooperation over the council term.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**