



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9: 30 a.m., 11th September, 2019, Dunshaughlin Community Centre

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**, presided.

Councillors Present: Nick Killian, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Damien O'Reilly, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 10th July, 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th July, 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Des Foley, on the death of his father John.



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- The family of the late Ronan Cahill.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The council outdoor and library staff in Dunboyne for their efforts in preparing for the judging of the Enterprise Town Awards and All Ireland Pride of Place awards and the hosting of the Pride of Place awards night.
- Fionn Foley, actor and playwright, whose award-winning production of 'Brendan Galileo for Europe' featured at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Electric Picnic.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

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

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

- The need to monitor the visibility of signage on the Maynooth Road and Dunboyne Bypass due to overgrowing trees and hedging.
- The possibility of increasing the bin emptying schedule in Dunboyne from two to three times weekly, particularly in the village centre, at the park and bus stop, and the possibility of introducing segregated bins to encourage recycling.
- Thanked council staff for providing the public lighting at Tattersalls and requested that the ESB connect these before the next sales.
- The need to review the traffic lights at Meadowbank Hill that currently limits the number of cars turning right to 2-4.



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- Concerns expressed due to the length of time being taken to complete works by contractors for Irish Water – it was pointed out that difficult ground conditions were encountered during the works, leading to delays.
- The need to reinstate the area at Park View and Foxbrook following works for Irish Water.
- Queried the timeframe for the replacement of traffic lights at Cemetery Cross – it was confirmed that this was being progressed.
- Referred to the road safety issues at the High Cross junction on the Skryne Road – it was confirmed that this had been submitted under the Low Cost Safety Scheme.
- The possibility of providing additional signage in the interim at the High Cross junction on the Tayto Park side.
- The possibility of adding further locations for tree maintenance/pruning – it was pointed out that works had not yet commenced and further locations could be submitted.
- The need for road markings on the R147 and at Gainstown roundabout.
- The delay in providing bus shelters at a number of locations.
- The need for permanent signage and verge/hedge cutting on the approaches to Tayto Park in advance of the planned Halloween Festival.
- The need to address the growth of tree roots in College Park, following the tree removal programme, to minimise damage to gardens/boundaries.
- Water retention affecting the road towards Kilcock between the chapel and the Kildare boundary – it was confirmed that drainage works are planned.



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- The need to address the road condition between the Summerhill Road and the M3 Parkway – it was confirmed that discussions were ongoing with the NTA to try and secure funding for road restoration works.
- Requested a report on road resurfacing planned for Ratoath – it was confirmed that discussions were ongoing with Irish Water regarding the temporary and permanent reinstatement works, with the intention that these would be undertaken by the end of October at no additional cost to the council.
- Requested clarity with regard to the Part 8 being prepared for Main Street, Ratoath being separate from the reinstatement works – it was confirmed that a Part 8 design would be prepared as soon as possible for a number of projects such as the Supervalu junction, crossings, footpaths, etc., following which funding would be sought. There is no current funding commitment in place. An update would be made available next month.

4.1.2 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 road improvement and realignment works at the Kilbride road (L-1007) junction with the R125 Ratoath/Ashbourne Road in the townlands of Raystown, Tankardstown and Ratoath (P8/19008).

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation, Billy Joe Padden, Executive Planner and Pdraig Maguire, Senior Executive Planner were in attendance and outlined the key elements of the Chief Executive's Report. The process and timeframes for the Part 8 were also outlined, with no decision required at the meeting.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The traffic issues currently affecting Ratoath, including traffic volumes, delays caused by traffic lights and impact of sequencing on traffic flow.
- The opposition of residents on the Kilbride Road to the installation of traffic lights, the possible impact on traffic coming from the



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Ninemilestone and the need to consider an alternative approach to the junction, e.g. a roundabout – it was pointed out that the junction realignment is required to improve the junction.

- The likely timeframe for the completion of the Outer Relief Road and the planned operation of the traffic lights – it was confirmed that the traffic lights at the realigned junction would not be installed until such time as the Outer Relief Road is completed, with the first phase to the school currently expected to be completed by the end of Q2 2020.
- The possibility of undertaking measurements to predict the likely improvement from the additional lane – it was pointed out that an assessment had been carried out and much of the issue relates to congestion at the Ballybin junction and that the traffic lights are intended to control traffic rather than resolve traffic delays.
- The need to provide the road through Moulden Bridge to the Ballybin Road initially – it was pointed out that works are also required on the Kilbride Road and that the road through Moulden Bridge would form part of a separate scheme. It was agreed to provide an update on any related proposed scheme.
- The possibility of reviewing the pedestrian lights at Fox Lodge to avoid tailbacks.
- The possibility of delaying the signal control at the Kilbride junction on a trial basis to monitor the impact of the signals on the LIHAF road. It was confirmed that the proposed scheme included the realignment of the junction but proposed that the actual traffic lights would not be installed until the Outer Relief Road had been completed to link the R125 and the R155.
- The need to consider the traffic issues in Ratoath in a wider context, including commuting patterns from the south west of the county to north Dublin.

As no decision was required at this meeting, it was agreed to consider the matter further at the October meeting.



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5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

“Can Meath County Council provide details of new NTA applications for new and relocated bus stops in Dunshaughlin?”

Response:

The Transportation Department have not made any applications for funding for new or relocated bus stops in Dunshaughlin. The provision of new bus stops infrastructure is a matter for the National Transport Authority and relevant bus operator(s) in the first instance.

The response was noted.

A discussion followed on the issues affecting bus services in the Ratoath Municipal District and it was agreed that Bus Éireann would be invited to attend a meeting to discuss these, with a follow up meeting requested with the NTA.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian

“That Meath County Council will commence a safety review of the High Cross Junction at Cabin Hill on the Skryne Road, to improve the safety of this much used junction, where traffic usage has increased over the past 3 years due to the amount of extra traffic using these roads to attend Tayto Park.”

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

Following requests from the MD members last year, Meath County Council staff met with management staff of Tayto Park and signs were installed to guide motorists on the route to travel to Tayto Park. This route avoided the junction below. However, this junction will be reviewed and can be included in the list of junctions considered by Meath County Council, for inclusion on the list of locations to be submitted, as part of



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the annual allocation of the Low Cost Safety Scheme, funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

The motion, in light of the previous discussion under Item 4.1.1, was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to write to ESB Networks and Irish Water requesting details of the delays in connecting new homes in Dunshaughlin and Kilmessan leaving new home buyers paying mortgages for months for homes they cannot dwell in."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

The motion was adopted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to write to the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the NTA requesting they permit / licence Bus Éireann to pick passengers up at Dublin Bus stops in Clonee and Dunboyne to provide connectivity and ease of transfer between bus services."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

The motion was adopted.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sports and the National Transport Authority in response to the Notice of Item 8.4 – Notice of Motion as adopted at the July meeting re public transport ticket prices.



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The correspondence was noted.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issues:

8.1.1 Requested an update on the site assessment for the burial ground in Dunboyne.

8.1.2 Requested an update on the number of applications received for the recently advertised school warden positions.

8.2 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:

8.2.1 Queried the delay in commencing delivery of the social housing units in Lagore.

8.2.2 Referred to the difficulties in accessing planning files.

8.3 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:

8.3.1 Requested that a letter issue to the Garda Superintendent requesting an update on issues raised at the May meeting, including speed checks on local roads based on locations submitted by councillors.

8.3.2 Requested an update on St. John's Well – it was confirmed that the Part 8 design was complete and would go on public display next week if no changes made.

8.4 Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the following issue:

8.4.1 The need for grass verges to be cut for road and pedestrian safety.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach