



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9: 30 a.m., 13th November, 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 16th October, 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th October, 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Finance Meeting held on 5th November, 2019.

The minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 5th November, 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillor Gillian Toole requested that the location referred to under Item 7.1 be amended to Donnelly's Hardware on the Cemetery Road, Ratoath – this was agreed.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Jonathon Ryan, Transportation Department on the death of his mother, Mary;
- Councillor Nick Killian on the death of his grandson;
- The family of the late Julie Crowe, Dunshaughlin.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Ratoath GAA on winning the Meath SFC;
- Dunboyne Tidy Towns on winning a regional award in the Tidy Towns competition;
- Dunshaughlin Community College on coming second in TRI schools showjumping competition, Leinster League.

4 To meet with representatives from Bus Éireann

Adrian O'Loughlin, Regional Operations Manager and Lynn Cullen, Services Manager attended the meeting and outlined a project currently underway to re-evaluate the punctuality timeframe for relevant services and also the Christmas 2019 services relating to the PSO. A dedicated email address was provided to councillors for the submission of queries and comments.

Councillors had submitted a number of issues in advance and these were dealt with, as follows:

- The provision of new bus shelters – the process for the provision of bus shelters was outlined, whereby proposed locations are submitted to the NTA for consideration and funding.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The possibility of using Dublin Bus stops in Dunboyne and Clonee as pick-up and drop-off points – it was acknowledged that there was some confusion on this but that it would appear that Bus Éireann was restricted from using these stops under their current licence. However, this will be raised with the NTA.
- The possible provision of a shuttle bus service from Dunshaughlin and Ratoath to the M3 Parkway – this is a matter for the NTA as part of the PSO requirement.
- The possible review of the fare structure on routes operating in south Meath in comparison to the metropolitan area fare structure – this is a matter for the NTA with a policy in place to encourage use of LEAP cards, multi-ticket purchases, etc.
- Reliability issues on the 109 service to and from Dunshaughlin, e.g. buses leaving early, late or not arriving at all, with services from Navan/Kells being at capacity when reaching Dunshaughlin – it was acknowledged that the Dunshaughlin service can be impacted by vehicle availability, due to the services from Kells/Navan also serving the area. It is hoped to expand the fleet. It was agreed to check on reports that buses are departing earlier than scheduled.
- The possibility of revising the bus stop locations in Dunshaughlin, with the provision of an alternative route serving expanding residential developments – it was agreed to discuss this with Meath County Council and the NTA.
- The need to upgrade the bus stops on the R147 at the Killeen Road junction – it was agreed to discuss this with Meath County Council.
- The need to improve accessibility for disabled passengers, including suitable vehicles and bus stops, e.g. in Ratoath – it was pointed out that the various stakeholders need to understand the requirements of service users and put in place a process to deliver on these requirements, including service changes, accessible fleet, the necessary infrastructure, etc.
- Reliability issues at night on the 109A service affecting those working in the airport and also on the 103 from Dublin at the weekends – further information was requested on the 109A issues in order to resolve any persistent issues and it was agreed to check what the issues are in relation to the 103 service.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The need for passengers to travel further to ensure that a seat is guaranteed, e.g. on the outskirts of Ashbourne and travelling to Ratoath, with all day parking as a result.
- The possibility of relocating the bus stop in Ratoath from Donnellys Hardware on the Cemetery Road – it was agreed that Meath County Council would meet with Bus Éireann at this location and make a case to the NTA for the stop to be relocated.
- Expressed disappointment at the slow progress being made to resolve issues that have repeatedly been raised – it was acknowledged that the process can be slow due to the number of stakeholders involved but that more information should be provided, even if there is no update available.
- The need to review the bus services in south Meath, where there is no rail alternative or Dublin Bus services, and where numbers employed have increased and the need for forward planning including the possible introduction of a direct service from Dunshaughlin/Ratoath to the Dublin city centre.
- The continued use of the Drumree Road, Dunshaughlin despite the installation of ramps and the HGV ban – it was confirmed that reminders are issued.
- The confusion over whether the bus stop at Grange Hall is official and can be used.
- The use of unsuitable locations for drivers taking their statutory breaks – it was acknowledged that proper facilities are required and that drivers are encouraged to use identified locations.
- Requested an update on the planned move of the terminus on Beresford Place – this is planned for 2020.
- Suggested that Bus Éireann make a submission in respect of the Meath County Development Plan review, e.g. regarding the provision of park & ride facilities.

It was agreed that representatives would return in March/April to provide an update on issues raised.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Adrian and Lynn for attending the meeting and for providing information on the issues raised.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

5.1.1 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:

- Commended the works undertaken by Shareridge in Ratoath and requested that any outstanding road opening licences be implemented before the road is resurfaced – it was pointed out that this can be done with those already submitted but cannot account for future applications being made.
- Commended the resurfacing work undertaken from Mullagh Cross to Jenkinstown but expressed concern at the traffic management plan used, which seemed to direct traffic to local rather than regional roads, due to poor signage - it was pointed out that the official detour did direct traffic to regional roads.
- Queried as to whether there were any health & safety/traffic management requirements for contractors carrying out hedge cutting works- it was suggested that this be referred to the Transportation SPC for consideration.
- The possibility of installing raised tables at the pedestrian crossings at the Gaelscoil and national school on the Drumree Road and the need to have the lighting connected by the ESB.
- The plans to replace the temporary measures at Hillview – it was pointed out that work was ongoing in preparing a suitable design that would not adversely impact pedestrians, lorries, etc.
- Requested an update on the works at Tara News – it was confirmed that public lighting would be dealt with initially, followed by the signalisation of the junction and road resurfacing.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The availability of funding from IPB for footpath repairs – a commitment was made to provide funding for a multi-year programme of works.
- The possibility of installing compacting bins at the bus stop and school in Dunboyne.
- Requested an update on the tree programme – this runs to March.
- The decision by Meath Partnership not to replace Tús workers in Dunboyne, Clonee and other parts of Meath and the impact of this on maintenance works. It was also suggested that the Meath Probation Service be contacted for a possible collaboration on similar type work.
- Reports of the hedging encroaching on the hard shoulder on the R147 from the Country Store up.
- The possibility of erecting signage on Cabin Hill from High Cross towards Tayto Park to deter HGVS from using the narrow roads, which are being promoted by sat nav.
- The possibility of prohibiting access on the flyover at Rathbeggan Lakes.
- The need to replace the temporary signage on the approach roads to Tayto Park in advance of the Christmas events.
- Requested an update on the flooding at Derrockstown graveyard.
- The lack of information for businesses on a planned ESB outage – it was confirmed that this was a matter for the ESB.

5.1.2 To receive an update on proposed Traffic Calming at the Old Mill estate in Ratoath.

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation circulated a report, outlining the submission received and recommending that the proposal proceed, as outlined.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

A short discussion followed on whether the measures outlined were required in this estate and were favoured by residents. Examples were given where similar measures were introduced and were considered successful. Councillor Gillian Toole wished her opinion to be noted, whereby such measures/investment would be better suited to an alternative estate with greater need.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy** to proceed as outlined.

- 5.1.3 To receive a presentation on a Proposed Part 8 for "Ratoath Enhancement Scheme with Improved Pedestrian and Cycling Facilities" with a view to getting approval from Elected Members to proceed to public display of the scheme.

Pat Shore, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the background to the scheme, which was subject to a number of minor changes following the initial Part 8 process and these were outlined. It was pointed out that this was a significant scheme, which would be implemented on a phased basis. A funding application would be made to the NTA once the Part 8 process was completed.

Councillors requested that the works commence in the village centre, that the information be placed on public display in the community centre and that a public information evening be organised.

It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** to proceed to public display.

Councillor Maria Murphy requested an update on the Dunboyne proposals and it was confirmed that these were at preliminary design stage.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"Can Meath County Council provide progress report for the last 12 months on Dunboyne graveyard?"

Response:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The Environment Department are meeting with Eirgrid the week after next to ascertain how the CP1029 project would impact on any potential burial garden development, once the Environment Department have clarity on this, negotiations can begin on a price for the land.

The response was noted. However, Councillor Damien O'Reilly expressed his disappointment at the rate of progress being made. It was agreed to invite the Environment Department to attend the December meeting to discuss this.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

"That Meath County Council calls on Transport Infrastructure Ireland to address the defective surface on the Dunboyne Bypass as a matter of urgency. This road was built as part of the M3 Project."

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

Meath County Council has written to Transport Infrastructure Ireland on 1st May 2019 and again on 29th October 2019 in relation to the defects issue on the R157 Dunboyne By-Pass. It has been agreed with them that this will be pursued through the PPP agreement.

The most recent response from TII, dated 1st November confirmed that they are currently liaising with Eurolink Motorway Operations (M3) Ltd. in order to agree proposals for localised site investigations on the R157, and that they will keep Meath County Council informed on the proposals.

Meath County Council will arrange a follow up in due course, to ensure a course of action has been agreed.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

The motion was adopted. It was agreed that an update would be sought in January.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council, to write to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Eurolink Motorway Operations (M3) Ltd requesting emergency funding for works to reinstate deformation in the carriageway line on the R157 Dunboyne Bypass. This is a key corridor for the economic development of County Meath."

Please see agenda item 7.1 for supporting information.

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

The motion was adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council, to write to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, BusConnects and the National Transport Authority requesting that they relocate the proposed BusConnects Blanchardstown hub away from Blanchardstown Shopping Centre. This should be located at a more appropriate traffic free location such as Blanchardstown Hospital grounds / interchange or Navan Road Parkway Train Station."

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

The Bus Connects proposals are being promoted by the National Transport Authority, and Meath County Council does not have any direct role in the development of the design. The proposed configuration of bus services for Blanchardstown is the result of extensive studies carried out by the National Transport Authority in recent times.

We wish to note the public consultation on Bus Connects is still open should the Councillor wish to make a personal submission. The closing date for submissions to the public consultation is the 3rd of December 2019.

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillors expressed their support for bus hubs, once they are in the right locations and asked that Bus Connects be invited to a future meeting to discuss their proposals.

The motion was adopted.

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

- 8.1 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 23rd October, 2019.

The report was noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Climate Change, Environment and Emergency Services SPC meeting of 31st October, 2019.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

10.1.1 Expressed disappointment that Irish Water would appear to be delaying the allocation of houses in St. Oliver's estate.

- 10.2 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:

10.2.1 Commended the work of Cathal Rogers, Litter Warden on dealing with fly tipping.

10.2.2 Requested an update on St. John's Well.

10.2.3 Requested that, as the civic offices in Dunshaughlin were currently closed, and



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

despite the fact that there may be no public meetings/briefings planned in relation to the County Development Plan review, that an information event be arranged for Dunshaughlin, due to the number of proposals for Ratoath Municipal District, and/or information be provided for inspection in Dunshaughlin Community Centre.

10.3 Councillor Damien O'Reilly raised the following issue:

10.3.1 Requested that the drone footage taken in respect of Dunboyne burial ground be circulated to councillors.

10.4 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issue:

10.4.1 Referred to the deterioration of the roads in the vicinity of Kilsaran and requested that the EPA be requested to become involved – it was pointed out that a meeting with Kilsaran is arranged.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach