



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9: 30 a.m., 11th December 2019, Swift Room, Buvinda House

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

Councillors Present: Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Nick Killian, Maria Murphy, Damien O'Reilly, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Councillor Gerry O'Connor.

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 13th November 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th November 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gillian Toole queried as to whether there had been any response received in relation to her suggestion that the Council collaborate with the Probation Service to undertake general maintenance works and when permanent, more visible signage would be installed approaching Tayto Park.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Annie McEnroe, Dunboyne on celebrating her 100th birthday and it was agreed that a letter would issue on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District councillors.

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:

- Thanked Philip and his team for their work throughout the year.
- Requested an update on the playground in Ratoath.
- The need for assistance in Dunboyne with the clearance of leaves.
- The possibility of removing the lip of the kerb at Castle View, Dunboyne to improve lane access and the efficiency of the traffic lights.
- The need to prioritise the provision of bins at the bus stop in Dunboyne.
- The need to improve accessibility on the footpaths at the Ratoath Independent Living Facility – it was agreed to consider this for works in 2020.
- The possibility of undertaking age friendly audits in Ratoath, Dunshaughlin and Dunboyne.
- The need to prioritise works from the Steeplechase roundabout to the Marian Shrine, especially the junction at Supervalu, as part of the Ratoath Enhancement Scheme – contact is ongoing with the NTA and the priority is to finalise the Part 8 process initially.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Acknowledged that the works undertaken between Mullagh Cross and Jenkinstown had improved the situation significantly but referred to the original objective of removing the bends.
- Re-requested that the Part 8 to improve the road at Newtown Moygaddy be progressed – the different options are being considered with the possibility of traffic signals being provided as an interim measure.
- Queried the position of farmers volunteering to assist with road clearance in the event of extreme adverse weather – a list of agricultural contractors is in place and, if called out on a formal basis, they are covered and paid for works undertaken. Other volunteers are welcome but this is on a voluntary basis.

4.1.2 To receive an update on matters relating to Kilsaran Quarry, Kilmessan.

John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation attended the meeting and provided an update on meetings held with local residents and the Kilsaran. The issues of concern were highlighted, as were the proposed solutions agreed with Kilsaran, some of which could be trialled and their effects monitored and reviewed.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The need to ensure regular road cleaning – the verge repair works were outlined, following the completion of operations in the coming weeks.
- Highlighted some potential issues with the proposed solutions.
- The role of the Gardaí and other state agencies in dealing with the issues arising.
- Suggested additional measures that might assist, including additional signage exiting the quarry.
- Queried the status of the levy for road remediation – this is being paid in instalments.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Requested that a schedule of operations be provided for 2020 to ensure that the situation can be monitored effectively.

4.2 Planning

- 4.2.1 To receive a presentation on the Strategic Housing Development application, reference no. ABP-305820-19 (Glenbeigh Construction) in accordance with Section 8 (4) (c)(ii) of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016.

Philip Maguire, Executive Planner provided details of the application, the consultations that had taken place, the proposed site layout, residential typology and facilities, and the next steps, including the submission of the Chief Executive's report by 6th January 2020, which will include a copy of today's meeting minutes.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Expressed serious concerns at the application to develop this site on Phase II lands, the distance from the village centre relative to other undeveloped sites and queried the impact of the development, were it to be granted permission, on the core strategy for Dunboyne and other locations. Clarification was sought as to what effect this development would have, if granted, on the order of priority in Dunboyne and whether site(s) for 200 plus units would have to be de-zoned and, if so, would this site(s) be closer to Dunboyne village centre or be located elsewhere, e.g. Ratoath or Dunshaughlin.
- Expressed concerns about the capacity of the road onto which the development will access, due to its width, accident and flooding history, and the need for improved road infrastructure and public transport before any such development should proceed.
- Queried whether the design was appropriate for a village setting.
- Pointed out that the proposed apartments will overlook bungalows on the opposite side of the road.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Queried the demand for the number of apartments proposed and their suitability for families.
- Expressed concern about the scale and density of the proposed development.
- Expressed concerns that the SHD process was undermining the position of local elected representatives in expressing the views of the community and its impact on the democratic process.
- The potential impacts of commuting on people's mental and physical health.
- Expressed concern that the proposed Part V provision would include apartments only and be provided in the final phase of the development.
- Expressed concerns that only 351 car parking spaces were being proposed for 226 units, when most households now have two cars, indicating a need for 452 spaces.
- Expressed concerns that many of these SHD applications are speculative and that no new housing units will be delivered as a result in the short term.

4.3 Environment

4.3.1 To receive an update on Dunboyne Burial Ground.

Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Environment provided an update on the remaining capacity at the existing burial ground in Dunboyne and the efforts being made to acquire a site for a new burial ground.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- That in respect of the site at Bogganstown, valuations from the landowners are awaited and discussions are to take place with Eirgrid regarding proposed overhead lines.
- The possibility of enquiring again into the availability of the site at Salestown.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Trial holes will be dug in the lands adjoining the existing burial grounds and which are on the market – it was suggested that drainage works in the ditches may not serve to improve the water table situation.
- That plots appearing as unused from the drone footage may in fact have been already sold but may never be used.
- The need to consider the provision of two rows to the rear of the existing graveyard to ensure availability for 2 to 3 years – suggested this be considered as part of further consideration on bringing in infill material to the Council owned land to the rear.

It was agreed that, in light of the emerging capacity difficulties and the lengthy timescale in developing a new burial ground, to keep all options under consideration. A further update is to be provided at the January MD meeting.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.

5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council, to write to the Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works (OPW) and Flood Relief, The OPW and Fingal County Council, requesting (in conjunction with Meath County Council), they begin a joint operation to drain and clean out the Castle Stream and Tolka River from Dunboyne and Clonee into Dublin 15. This €32 million scheme requires maintenance immediately."

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

David Keyes, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment attended the meeting and provided councillors with an overview of how the council is currently working closely with the OPW in relation to various flood relief and maintenance projects in different parts of the county. It is hoped that this positive engagement will continue, subject to OPW resources being available.

The motion was withdrawn.

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

- 7.1 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 11th November 2019.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from the National Transport Authority in response to the Notice of Item 7.1 from the October meeting.

The correspondence was noted.

- 8.2 Correspondence received from Mr Owen Murphy re Batterstown Village - traffic and safety.

The correspondence was noted.

- 8.3 Correspondence received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to the Notice of Item 7.1 from the October meeting.

The correspondence was noted.

- 8.4 Correspondence received from the Meath Partnership in response to the Notice of Item 5.1.1 from the November Meeting re Tús workers in Dunboyne, Clonee and other parts of Meath.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The correspondence was noted. It was agreed that a response would issue requesting that councillors be updated on relevant developments.

9 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach