



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9: 30 a.m., 15th January 2020, Dunshaughlin Community Centre

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

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

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 11th December 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th December 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Maria Murphy requested that the report submitted to An Bord Pleanála by Meath County Council in respect of Strategic Housing Development application, reference no. ABP-305820-19 (Glenbeigh Construction) be circulated to councillors for information.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Ratoath Musical Society on their excellent pantomime production.

4 To receive a presentation from the PPN Resource Officer.

Danielle Monahan, PPN Resource Officer, Community Department delivered a short presentation, on the role and structure of the PPN, its composition and planned improvements, with the Department of Rural and Community Development to undertake a review and publish a new handbook. Of the approximate 900 groups represented in Meath, 109 are located in Ratoath Municipal District. A Community Wellbeing Statement is to be prepared for each municipal district and at county level and a related workshop will take place in Ashbourne Community Centre on 5th February, to include Ratoath Municipal District.

A short discussion followed, with councillors welcoming the PPN review, increased collaboration with the council and councillors and an increased awareness of the benefits of participation. Reference was made to the timing of meetings, which may need to be revised to facilitate those who are commuting. It was suggested that considerable work, already undertaken as part of the LECP and Age Friendly initiative, could be used as part of any future plans.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors wished Danielle well in her role.

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. It was confirmed that meetings would be held with each councillor in advance of finalising the relevant works to be included in the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested clarification regarding the amount available to each municipal district for footpath works in estates – in addition to the allocation made in



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

the GMA, further works are being undertaken throughout the county by a dedicated team.

- Referred to issues on Glascarn Lane due to speeding and traffic volumes, particularly heavy goods vehicles.
- The need for the road surface and green areas in Curragha to be reinstated properly following works by Irish Water – permanent reinstatement works are to be undertaken.
- Queried the provision of a footpath for residents in Fox Hall, Ratoath.
- The need for new traffic lights at the cemetery junction, Curragha.
- Requested the provision of a bin at the bus stop in Dunboyne.
- Queried the commencement of the tender for tree management.
- Acknowledged the work of the outdoor team during the recent storm.
- Referred to water pooling on the cul-de-sac off Porterstown Lane.
- The possibility of providing a disabled parking space in Somerville – if this were to be provided, it would likely set a precedent leading to similar demands in other estates.
- The possibility of installing flexi-bollards on the footpath on the R155 from Ratoath N.S. on the Fairyhouse Road to Eurospar.
- The need for public lighting in The Dales, Dunshaughlin – this is on the programme of works.
- Referred to potholes opposite the Post Office in Dunshaughlin and also on Main Street outside the vets.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Queried the timeframe for works to be completed on the public lighting and resurfacing following the taking in charge of the road at Tara News, Dunshaughlin, in addition to the need for traffic lights at the junction and a pedestrian crossing to Supervalu – as part of the taking in charge, works are to be undertaken on the footpath, drainage and public lighting with resurfacing to be included in the Schedule of MD Works.
- Referred to correspondence from residents regarding the extension of the footpath in Batterstown onto the Kilcloon Road as part of the Part 8 for traffic calming.
- Referred to a previous commitment given to residents in Kilcloon regarding the provision of traffic calming, road safety measures, signage, etc. with no progress having been made.
- Queried the timeframe for the resurfacing works on Main Street, Ratoath as part of the Irish Water works and whether these would take place during the February mid-term break, taking account of varying school closure periods and the need to issue public notices.
- Referred to potholes on the centre of the road at Spring Valley.
- The need to redirect the Stop sign at Culmullen Cross, as it is facing the wrong direction.

Reference was also made to queries being submitted by councillors to the local authority with regard to notifications being issued to businesses by the ESB regarding power disruptions, which may or may not occur. It was pointed out that the role of the local authority is limited to processing road opening licence applications, which, when granted, can only indicate the timing of these. A short discussion followed on issues relating to the ESB, including the impact on businesses of such disruptions, the need for clear communication and forward planning, the delays in connecting supply to homeowners and developments, the planned rollout of electric car public charging points, etc. It was agreed that a representative from the ESB would be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss these issues and any others identified and submitted by councillors.

5.2 Environment

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

5.2.1 To receive an update on Dunboyne Burial Ground.

Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Environment Department provided an update on a number of potential sites and confirmed that the council owned land to the rear of the existing graveyard is also being assessed from an engineering perspective to see if a solution can be found.

A short discussion followed on the potential impact of draining the surrounding ditches of the land at the rear and it was agreed to check the ownership of these.

It was agreed to provide a further update at the February meeting.

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

5.3 Community

5.3.1 To receive an update on proposals for the Ratoath Playground Upgrade.

Emmanuel Mwadiwa, Executive Engineer, Community Department provided an update on the proposed works at the playground in Steeplechase, Ratoath, the aim of which is to create an all-inclusive playground with a budget of €80,000. The footprint to accommodate the proposed works, including additional equipment, furniture and surfacing repairs, would require a limited extension to the playground of approximately 75m² in total.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Underlined the need for a playground in another location in Ratoath – this is being considered for an alternative location also.
- The need to completely resurface the existing playground and upgrade/replace the existing equipment – it was confirmed that a specialist had confirmed that full surface replacement was not required at this time.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Queried the appropriateness of locating a playground within an estate and the impact on adjacent homeowners, including issues relating to noise, anti-social behaviour, etc.
- The possibility of raising the height of the boundary fencing and locking the playground at night – the fencing height is standard for such a facility bearing in mind that it requires visibility from a security/safety perspective. The matter of locking the facility on a nightly basis would require the allocation of local resources, which may not be available.
- Referred to insufficient parking currently and the need for additional parking if the playground were to be extended.
- Queried the need for the extension – this is intended to accommodate additional equipment but also to comply with requirements and standards regarding space around the existing equipment as well as providing a roundabout to improve accessibility. Should the extension not proceed, a new design would be required.
- Requested that consideration be given to upgrading the existing equipment, raising the fence height, undertaking a complete resurface and putting in a roundabout within the existing footprint.

Due to the opposition expressed by some councillors in relation to the proposed extension of the playground, it was agreed to reconsider the proposals for the existing space available, undertaking a revised costing exercise and provide a further update at the February meeting.

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“I call on Meath County Council to install traffic lights and increased safety measures at the entrance to the Willows estate, Dunshaughlin onto the junction of the R147.”

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

The developer (Rockture1) is conditioned to construct traffic lights at the main entrance/R147 junction in their planning permission RA171416 (Phase 1C). The applicant has commenced the development and is required to complete the works in accordance with the planning permission. Part of the works (ducting) required to facilitate the signalisation of the junction have already been completed.

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

A short discussion followed on other measures that could reduce traffic speed, including the reinstatement of the island on the road and moving the reduced speed limit further out.

In light of the supporting information provided, the motion was noted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’Reilly

“I call on Meath County Council to provide funding for a pathway to Dunboyne AFC pitch from Newtown, roundabout on the Dunboyne - Summerhill Road.”

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

Meath County Council has applied previously to the NTA for funding for this footpath scheme.

We are currently awaiting confirmation of the allocation of funding for 2020 which is expected at the end of February.

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence

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

The correspondence was noted. Councillor Gillian Toole requested an update on the proposal that the Probation Service with a view to seeing if collaboration was possible in undertaking general maintenance works.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the following issues:

- 9.1.1 Welcomed the funding allocation made for the provision of pitches and the walkway in Dunboyne.
- 9.1.2 Regarding St. John's Well, it was confirmed that the department had decided to give the heads to the National Museum and the Part 8 can now proceed.

- 9.2 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issue:

- 9.2.1 In relation to the Rooske Road project, Dunboyne, it was requested that additional screening be provided on the Castleview side and that consideration be given to permanently closing the access from Castleview into Dunboyne Park.

- 9.3 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issue:

- 9.3.1 Referred to the failure to progress the footpath that was planned past the GAA to link to Castlethorn and the related agreement between the GAA and Department of Education & Skills and also the derelict site, which was affecting the Tidy Towns performance – the footpath and boundary treatment were subject to agreement in principle and if enrolment commences, planning compliance will be required.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

9.4 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

9.4.1 Requested support and advice from Meath County Council in relation to a proposal to plant 1,000 trees in Ratoath by school students.

9.4.2 The need for a footpath from Foxbrook to Foxhall to the Curragha Road to improve safety and access for pedestrians.

9.5 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issue:

9.5.1 Referred to operations recommencing at Kilsaran quarry, the amount of signage erected on a heritage route and queried whether the infill operations represented a breach of planning – it was agreed that an update would be provided in advance of the February meeting and, if necessary, a further meeting with residents would be arranged.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach