



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9.30 a.m., 5th March 2020, Duleek Civic Offices

An Leas-Chathaoirleach, **Councillor Annie Hoey**, presided.

Councillors Present: Tom Behan, Wayne Harding, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Sharon Tolan.

Apologies: Councillor Sharon Keogan.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Christy Clarke

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 13th February 2020.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th February 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Behan** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- The family of the late Fr. Jack Kiernan, Creewood, Slane, who had served in a number of parishes in Meath.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Altay Guney, Dylan O'Boyle, Evan Haddock, Emre Topcu and Sean O'Halloran who have been signed to play for Drogheda United.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

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

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

- 4.1.2 To receive an update on proposed Traffic Calming at Coney Hall estate in Mornington in the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation confirmed that, based on the submissions received, it has been decided not to proceed with the proposed traffic calming measures in the estate. Works will now proceed to the next estates on the list.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Referred to the desire of residents for alternative traffic calming measures, e.g. ramps – the national guidelines allow for ramps only if there are no other alternative options whilst the current contract relates to chicanes.
- Concerns of residents regarding the ability of school buses to turn if chicanes are installed.
- The effectiveness of chicanes in other estates in reducing traffic speed.



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4.2 Community

- 4.2.1 To inform the Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District Members about the development of Broadband Connection Points in Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District as part of the National Broadband Plan.

Cormac McCann, Broadband Officer, Community Department delivered a presentation which provided a background to the scheme, the roll-out programme over 2020-2021, the beneficiaries, the BCP models, BCP locations in Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District, considerations including access, management and insurance, connecting BCPs and the role of councillors.

Councillors raised a number of specific queries, to which responses were provided, and welcomed the provision of BCPs in the context of limited broadband availability in many rural areas.

4.3 Corporate Services

- 4.3.1 To inform the Laytown Bettystown Municipal District Members that Meath County Council Corporate Services Section intend to apply for Part 8 planning approval in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), for Bettystown Library.

Ciarán Mangan, County Librarian, Enda Weldon, Executive Engineer, Corporate Services and Robin Lee, Robin Lee Architects attended the meeting and provided a presentation, which included a history of the local library, the catchment area and a summary of the facilities to be provided. The site layout and floor plan were outlined followed by the next steps and timelines. An application for URDF funding will be made by 28th March, with the planning process to commence in Q2 2020. Internal consultation has commenced, with the public consultation due to commence in May. It is hoped to proceed to tender in Q4 2020, with construction to commence in Q1 2021, for approximately 18 months. A detailed design will be prepared after the Part 8 has been submitted.

Councillors welcomed the proposed project and facilities and commended the consultation undertaken. A number of queries were raised in relation to the proposed design, including beach access, glazing and the internal layout, and it was pointed out that much of this detail will be included in the detailed design.



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Other matters raised by councillors included:

- Reference was made to the potential impact of high tides/flooding and the capacity of the steps to withstand any adverse elements - it was pointed out that the building would be at street level, below high tide level, with the benchmark being a 1 in 1,000 year flood event and that the material to be used for the steps is considered adequate and suitable for maritime conditions. The ground floor design also allows for minimal damage.
- Queried whether a foreshore licence would be needed during the construction phase for materials - it was confirmed that the site would be self-contained.
- Queried the likely impact on local businesses – construction works will be managed to minimise impact and to include access to the beach.
- Queried whether the building could also act as a digital hub to reduce commuting and also facilitate training and conferencing – the building will have high speed broadband and people can work/study in the public spaces and smaller group spaces. However, the building is primarily a community facility and a separate enterprise facility would be required to accommodate hot desks, etc.
- The opportunity to showcase the use of renewable energies in the building design and operation.
- The possibility of clearing the site immediately to deter anti-social behaviour – site clearance forms part of the construction phase but the site will be secured in the interim.
- The approach being taken with regard to the foundations – site investigations are to commence in the coming weeks and this will determine the required approach.

4.3.2 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.



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The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

7 Other Matters Arising

Una McNamara, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services referred to the S183 regarding lands at Newgrange, for which information had been circulated in advance, and the proposed transfer of lands to the OPW for the creation of a bus pull-in area.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

A short discussion followed with reference to requests previously made to the OPW to provide a playground at Oldbridge and the impact of visitors numbers to Newgrange on local traffic. The recent investment in the interpretive centre was acknowledged, as were the related benefits to the local economy. It was pointed out that the council liaises with a number of agencies, where related issues can be raised and discussed. Therefore councillors were requested to submit any issues related to the OPW and these can be dealt with separately.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Referred to flooding in the Bettystown area during recent storms and the



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impact on householders – the issues are being assessed with a view to identifying solutions and correspondence will issue to those affected.

9.2 Councillor Stephen McKee referred to the following issues:

9.2.1 Referred to the need for additional road safety signage at Fiveoaks and the possibility of erecting 'Children at Play' signs – reference was made to issues arising from local speeding and car parking, some of the location referred to being in Louth County Council and these being non-standard signs, for which residents are responsible.

9.2.2 Requested that a metal pole at the entrance to Oldbridge be removed.

9.3 Councillor Paddy Meade raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Referred to hedges at the junction in Rosnaree and the possibility of acquiring land to improve visibility – verges are cut back twice per year and this is on the list for consideration under the Low Cost Safety Scheme.

9.3.2 The need to address flooding on the road to Brú na Bóinne – two areas have been referred to the OPW regarding flooding.

9.3.3 The impact of bad weather on the number of potholes.

9.4 Councillor Tom Behan raised the following issue:

9.4.1 Referred to a request for a 'Stop' sign/ line outside Boshells shop in Laytown.

9.5 Councillor Annie Hoey raised the following issue:

9.5.1 Wished both Councillors Sharon Tolan and Sharon Keogan well in the forthcoming Seanad elections.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



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Cathaoirleach