



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Ratoath Municipal District***

#### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***9:45 a.m., 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020, County Hall, Navan***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Nick Killian, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Brian Fitzgerald, 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

**Clerical Officer:** Edita Zolotuchina

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:

- Queried whether a response had been received from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government regarding the treatment by Revenue of units sold under LIHAF – it was agreed to check this and issue a reminder, if necessary,
- Requested an update on the playground upgrade in Ratoath – it was agreed to refer this to the Community Department. Signage is currently being prepared with a view to the re-opening of playgrounds next week.
- Requested an update on the reinstatement of the Municipal District Allocation Scheme – the scheme has been reinstated and all applications will now be processed.



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- Requested an update on the presentation of the capital programme – this was due to be provided in May but has been delayed, subsequent to a review of development levies income.
- Requested an update on the works on the Main Street, Ratoath and Part 8 cycleway – this is currently with the Planning and Heritage Sections and is ready to go. An allocation of €150,000 has been made for the overlay of Main Street, with works due to commence over the summer.
- Requested an update on the Takeda plant.
- Requested an update on the LIHAF road – works have re-commenced and it is due to be completed in Q3 2020. The focus is on completing the existing stretch of road with the link to be completed, as per the County Development Plan. It was agreed that an update would be provided at the July meeting.
- Requested an update on the provision of additional bus shelters.
- Requested an update on Pace and the allocated funding – a junction design has been prepared with a capital allocation identified as part of any match funding requirement for a larger funding application, e.g. URDF. The plan is to take into account other roads in the area and connections with the county growth centres. It was pointed out that new infrastructural improvements are required around Dunboyne, beyond the motorway junction, to take account of growth projections.

Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

- Underlined the need to commence planning for a new traffic management plan in advance of the LIHAF road opening in September/October, in conjunction with the Road Safety Officer, the Ratoath College principal and Board of Management and the Gardaí – it was pointed out that the college will have to carry out works within their boundary to connect the college to the junction.
- Requested that residents of Molden Bridge be kept informed of works planned as part of the road realignment.

Councillor Gerry O'Connor referred to the need to ensure that Ratoath Municipal District receives an equitable allocation under the capital programme, to support the needs of the growing local community, and the possible redirection of funds allocated to the proposed works at the Blackbull roundabout.

Councillor Maria Murphy welcomed the progress being made in extending the graveyard in Dunboyne and referred to concerns expressed by local residents regarding works ongoing in the adjacent field and the possible implications for flooding/water table levels. It was requested that planning enforcement be asked to look at this.



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### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- Philip Traynor on the death of his mother, Liz;
- Fiona Lawless on the death of her sister, Siobhan;
- Jackie Maguire on the death of her aunt;
- Conor Tormey on the death of his wife, Kathleen, and his mother-in-law, Phyllis;
- Nicholas Whyatt on the death of his mother;
- All council staff who have recently lost family members;
- All families in the municipal district and county who have lost family and friends as a result of COVID-19.

Congratulations were extended to:

- All community groups and volunteers who had provided support during the COVID-19 situation;
- Angela Lyons, Lagore Little, Dunshaughlin who won the Bryan McMahon Best Short Story competition at the Listowel Writers' Festival;
- Russell Bailey, La Bucca, Ratoath who has delivered a significant number of meals to cocooners – it was agreed that a letter of thanks should issue on behalf of councillors;
- The Gardaí and Meath Civil Defence for their role in supporting the community during COVID-19;
- Ratoath Athletic Club, Ratoath Harps and all local residents for their fund raising efforts to provide meals to those who needed them;



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- All small businesses including supermarkets, pharmacies, etc.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Transportation**

- 4.1.1 To consider pursuant to Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 that Meath County Council make a declaration that a section of the road at Dunboyne Business Park, Dunboyne, Co. Meath be a Public Road.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

A short discussion followed on the need to progress the completion of the road to the bypass to benefit the businesses in the business park , increase its potential to attract other businesses and reduce traffic congestion in the village. It was pointed out that this was to be developer-led but that, if this did not proceed, a URDF funding application would have to be made. A general costing has been undertaken, including traffic management works. It was requested that consideration be given to how the project to connect the R157 to the business park could be progressed, e.g. through commencing a Part 8 process, and that an update be provided when appropriate.

- 4.1.2 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 for additional collections of bins in Dunshaughlin park – additional collections have been taking place.
- The possibility of introducing Saturday bin collections or temporary additional bins on green areas/open spaces.
- The increase in the amount of illegal dumping and waste collections.



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- Requested a timetable for resurfacing works to be undertaken in Ratoath as the road near the cemetery is deteriorating.
- Acknowledged the benefit of works at Blackhall Cross.
- Referred to the significant investment being made in an equestrian facility and, specifically, the proximity of the entrance to the junction, off the R156 to Batterstown.
- Referred to the need for full road and grass reinstatement following works undertaken by contractors on behalf of Irish Water on the Curragha Road.
- Requested an update on works planned for the Cabinhill junction.
- Queried as to who could give permission for the erection of cameras on public lighting poles in Brownstown estate, Ratoath, which is not taken in charge.
- Referred to the cost of dealing with vermin problems in estates in Ratoath and whether responsibility for the Broadmeadow river lies with the council or the OPW as baits may be required at the river.
- Acknowledged the works at the Supervalu junction in Dunshaughlin, where Gardaí are enforcing.
- Requested a timeframe for modification works in Hillview.
- Requested an update on the public realm project for the junction and courthouse.
- Requested that consideration be given to the provision of recycling facilities for paper and cardboard, e.g. takeaway packaging.
- The possible need for traffic calming on the Summerhill road.



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- Pointed out the solar compacting bins at Dunboyne bus stop are filling up at weekends.
- Requested a timeframe for reinstatement works on the R155.
- Referred to graffiti on the Woodlands relief road.
- Referred to verge cutting and whether this is currently permissible – verge and branch cutting is being undertaken at junctions to improve road safety.
- Referred to branches impeding pedestrian access on the Steeplechase ring road and Jamestown relief road.
- Requested that correspondence be issued to the Roads Policing Unit regarding speeding at specified locations.
- Queried whether the path around the green area in Steeplechase could be widened to incorporate a cycle path.
- Queried the possibility of removing the fence around the dog run in Steeplechase.
- Queried if any response had been received from the HSE regarding the three acre site on the R125.
- The need to review the road markings on the R147 at Maher Tractors – due to the businesses operating at this location, this would require a full design, which has been requested.
- Queried whether public parkland can be used by personal trainers for group exercise classes – it was confirmed that efforts were being made to accommodate this.

## **5 Notice of Question**



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There were no Notices of Question.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.

### **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 virtual meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020.

The report was noted. It was pointed out that, other than lands in Dunshaughlin, no lands were available in Ratoath Municipal District for the construction of social housing.

### **8 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **9 Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issue:

9.1.1 The possibility of widening the footpath along the hotel wall on the Maynooth Road in Dunboyne to facilitate families walking and also at schools to facilitate social distancing.

- 9.2 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:

9.2.1 Referred to the unsecured site in Dunshaughlin opposite the Arch Bar, which is attracting anti-social behaviour and illegal dumping.

9.2.2 Requested that municipal district meetings be limited to two hours in duration, in line with public health advice.

This concluded the business of the meeting.



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Signed:

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Cathaoirleach