



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ratoath Municipal District

9: 30 a.m., 9th September 2020, County Hall, Navan

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

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

Officials in Attendance:

Senior Executive Officer: Dara McGowan

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Clerical Officer: Edita Zolotuchina

Apologies: Des Foley, Director of Service

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 15th July 2020.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th July 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Maria Murphy referred to the email correspondence circulated regarding the possible relocation of the 'Gateway to Meath' sculpture and requested that a meeting be held with councillors on site to discuss it further, with a costing to be provided for its relocation.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- Mary Fagan, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices on the death of her mother-in-law.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Yvonne Slevin, Principal of the new Community N.S., Dunshaughlin;
- Dunshaughlin & Royal Gaels GAA Club on winning a Meath Chronicle Lockdown Award;
- Dunboyne Boxing Club on their fundraising efforts for the construction of a building in Dunboyne.

Councillors also welcomed the news that the Shire facility is to be acquired by MSD (Merck Sharpe & Dohme).

4 This was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Nick Killian and seconded by Councillor Gillian Toole.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Community

- 5.1.1 To receive details of the allocations under the Community Amenity Project Scheme 2020 and if in agreement, recommend to the full Council of Meath County Council for approval.

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community outlined the recommended grant allocations following the assessment process. These were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

5.2 Transportation

- 5.2.1 To receive an update on Part 8 proposal for Dunboyne Industrial Estate link road.



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Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation confirmed that a consultant is to be appointed to prepare the Part 8 design and drawings for the link road between the R157 and the Dunboyne Industrial Estate link road and this will be progressed in 2021.

5.2.2 To receive an update on the winter gritting programme.

Dara McGowan confirmed that all national routes and 80% of regional routes are included in the winter gritting programme. Subject to available funding this year in the context of the additional COVID related expenditure, it is hoped to increase this to 100% regional routes and this will be considered by the Transportation SPC on 24th September.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Referred to the volume of traffic on the Skryne Road and the need to include the entire road in the gritting programme.
- The need to include the Kilbride Road, which is gritted from the Dublin border onwards.
- The signage on other roads indicating that the road is no longer gritted from a certain point onwards.
- The slippery surface on the Steeplechase relief road, which also serves as a bus route.

It was proposed by **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** that the Skryne and Kilbride Roads be included on the winter gritting programme and it was agreed to refer this to the Transportation SPC for consideration.

5.2.3 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ratoath Municipal District.



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The report had been circulated in advance and a further update was provided at the meeting.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested a timeframe for footpath works on the Curragha Road – whilst no definitive date is available, these may commence in Q2 2021, subject to funding.
- The timeframe for the provision of signs and a raised table in Mulhussey, with reference to speeding and the volume of heavy goods vehicles – the VAS signs should be in place within the next 2 weeks. No funding is available for the provision of a raised table. Similar issues apply to most routes and works are subject to available funding.
- Welcomed the €80,000 funding allocated for footpath works from Steeplechase to Supervalu under the NTA Stimulus Programme and queried this will be adequate to complete the works, including the provision of cycleways – the €80,000 had been intended to come from council own resources but this could now be diverted, following receipt of the stimulus funding.
- Sought clarification on whether the council would have to fund the remediation of the overlay on Main Street if the fault lay with the contractors, the full cost to the council of the works, the contribution being made by Irish Water following works being carried out and where the budget of €250,000, previously allocated for these works, would now be expended and how this was decided.
- Queried where the contribution made by Tayto Park towards road resurfacing from Cemetery Park following sewerage works had been expended.
- Referred to the need to publish the Part 8 for Ratoath, in the context of significant traffic volumes, the junction at Supervalu, the need for cycleways and footpaths, etc. – this is currently with the Planning Department for internal review and is due to go on public display in two



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weeks. Following a request from councillors, it was agreed to circulate it to councillors prior to it going on public display and being discussed at the October meeting. Councillors also requested that the documentation be put on public display in the Community Centre, Ratoath.

- The possibility of clearing the weeds at Boylan's Bridge.
- The need for the trees at the rear of the green at Sadlier Hall to be trimmed – the council crew have trimmed the lower branches.
- The need to clean the road signs on the Dublin side of the County Club.
- Queried as to who is responsible for cutting the grass on sponsored roundabouts.
- The possibility of erecting 'Residents Only Parking' at The Avenue/Milltree Park, where works have resulted in a reduced number of available parking spaces.
- The need to remove the temporary bus stop from Donnelly's gate.
- Requested that Bus Éireann be invited to meet with councillors on site to view bus routes and stops.
- Queried the allocation of €1.2 million for Kiltale – the funding relates to the provision of turning lanes in Kiltale, including bus stop and footpath improvements due to commence in 6 weeks.

5.3 Corporate Services

5.3.1 To receive an update on the naming of roads.

The process, as per the Protocol on Civic Commemorations, was outlined. It was agreed that councillors would submit the roads to be named by email and this would be discussed further at the October meeting.



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- 5.3.2 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District.

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted and councillors were reminded of the deadline for the receipt of completed applications, i.e. 30th September.

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole

“The Transportation division of Meath County Council will begin to draft Part 8 drawings to complete the Ratoath Outer Relief Road [R.O.O.R.], as close to the original indicative route of the roadway, as published in the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 & the Ratoath Local Area Plan.”

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

The Transportation section of Meath County Council intend to review how best to progress the next phase of the Ratoath Outer Relief Road (to connect with the RORR LIHAF scheme and complete the connection between the R125 Ashbourne road and the R155 Fairyhouse road) once the Draft Meath County Development Plan 2020-2026 has been finalised and adopted. It is noted that this road has been included under Movement Objective 48 of the Draft County Development Plan.

A short discussion followed, referring to the benefits of the road being delivered and the possible timeframe for its delivery. The various options were also discussed.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Gillian Toole**, and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**, was agreed.



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8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in response to the Notice of Item 4.1 from the March meeting re the Help to Buy Scheme.

The correspondence was noted.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Dara McGowan raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Referred to the land in Dunboyne, where works on the river are due to commence next week, as this is the appropriate time to do so. The Terms of Reference in respect of the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Grants are due to be published in September. The tender for the council works is completed, with a contractor to be appointed in September. The tender for the pitches will issue this month, with the GAA to supervise works. A written update, with timelines, was requested.

- 9.2 Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Referred to the proposed series of meetings to deal with the County Development Plan review and the difficulties posed in terms of attendance by councillors. The suitability of the location was also queried – it was pointed out that it is difficult to find an alternative location that would facilitate compliance with public health guidelines and it was also agreed to refer the comments on the meeting schedule to the Planning Department.

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

9.3.1 Queried whether a Part 8 was required to expedite the delivery of the Dunshaughlin relief road from The Willows – it was pointed out that the costs involved would depend on the extent of the road to be delivered by Part 8 and that this should be raised in the context of the capital programme.

9.3.2 Referred to a SHD application in Dunshaughlin where the intention is to provide



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a nursing home rather than a creche and requested that the need for a creche be underlined – the categorisation is for a community facility, which includes a creche or nursing home. When a SHD is brought before the municipal district, all comments are included in the council report submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

9.4 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issue:

9.4.1 Requested an update on St. John's Well – the heads are currently with the National Monuments Service, where conservation work has been carried out. Whilst the National Museum has expressed an interest in them, no decision has yet been taken. The Part 8 regarding access has been prepared with discussions ongoing with the landowner with a view to obtaining consent to proceed.

9.5 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

9.5.1 Welcomed the funding allocated for the Disabled Persons Grant.

9.5.2 Referred to the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme being administered by the Department of Agriculture and queried whether this could be availed of for the Riverwalk in Ratoath.

9.6 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issue:

9.6.1 Queried the possibility of establishing a sponsorship scheme for the compacting bins – it was pointed out that if bins are sponsored, the local authority has no control of the message and there are costs associated with placing public information notices if managed by the local authority directly. If WiFi is provided, a power supply is required.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



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Cathaoirleach