



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9: 30 a.m., 7th October 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:

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 9th September 2020.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th September 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gerry O'Connor referred to the winter gritting programme and related presentation to the Transportation SPC, which did not include the planned increase in regional roads being added to the programme – it was agreed to deal with this later in the meeting.

Councillor Maria Murphy referred to the proposal to relocate the 'Gateway to Meath' sculpture and requested that this proposal be considered and advanced.



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Councillor Nick Killian referred to the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme and related maps and photographs submitted. He requested that consultation take place in relation to the Riverwalk, Ratoath before the scheme deadline – this will be referred to under Item 4.4.1.

Councillor Gillian Toole referred to the possible progression of the Ratoath Outer Relief Road – the extension of the LIHAF road will be dealt with as part of the discussions on the draft County Development Plan later this month.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Councillor Joe Fox on the death of his mother;
- The family of the late Liam Farrell, Drumree.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Ratoath on winning the Meath senior football title and commiserations to Gael Colmcille;
- Catriona Flaherty and her What's for Pudding company in Kilmessan on winning Blas na Héireann and Good Taste Awards;
- Dunboyne Girls team on winning three finals.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Housing

- 4.1.1 To receive the Chief Executive's Report (reference P820011) in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Act 2000–2019 and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001–2020 in relation to the proposed development of 42 housing units, including all site development works, at the Lagore Housing Estate, Dunshaughlin.



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David Jones, Senior Executive Officer and Paul Barrell, Executive Engineer, Housing Department attended the meeting and outlined the key elements of the report circulated and the Part 8 process, following which departmental approval to tender can be sought.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the delivery of additional housing to meet demand, particularly by direct construction.
- Suggested that a number of small play areas be provided in Lagore.
- Queried the boundary materials being planned – the rear boundary wall will be concrete whilst the dividing boundaries will be timber fencing.
- Queried whether the number of one bed units being planned was adequate to meet demand – 38% of the planned units will be one bed, with 8 providing level access, and this will go towards meeting some of the current demand.
- Requested that walk in showers be provided in ground floor units.
- Expressed the concerns of residents in relation to the speed and volume of construction traffic on Lagore Road, the need for adequate traffic management and supervision and to remediate the road if required.
- Underlined the need to acquire land in the municipal district to be able to meet national construction targets – the Housing Department is actively pursuing land acquisition in various locations.
- Queried whether all the units at the entrance to Maelduin are to be allocated to older people and/or those with a disability – it was agreed to check this.

4.2 Planning



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4.2.1 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within the developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2020

- Millerstown Phase 1, Kilcock.

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

- Foxbrook Phase 1, Ratoath.

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

- Fairyhouse Road, Ratoath.

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

A query was raised in relation to available funding for road resurfacing in Fairyhouse Road and it was agreed to refer this to Planning.

- Brownstown, Kilcloon.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**.

4.3 Corporate Services

4.3.1 To discuss the 2020 Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal Budgets.

Audrey Norris, Corporate Services outlined a proposal that the remaining budget be used towards investment in an asset that can be reused throughout the year to support various events and initiatives, i.e. a projector for which the colour and design of the projection can be changed as required. It was suggested that for Christmas 2020, the projector be used at Dunshaughlin



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Courthouse, with the locations being rotated in subsequent years. There should be some funding remaining and this can be used to support local groups. It was pointed out that the lighting is most effective when used for higher buildings and open spaces, with a power supply required, and councillors were requested to submit suggestions for locations where the projector might be used.

The meeting adjourned for ten minutes and it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** to extend the meeting by thirty minutes on its resumption.

4.3.2 To discuss the naming of roads.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** to name the following roads in Ratoath:

- Woodlands Road, Steeplechase Road and Jamestown Road.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** to name the following road in Dunboyne:

- Millfarm Road.

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted. Councillors thanked the administration staff for their work on the scheme.

4.4 Transportation

4.4.1 To receive a presentation on the Part 8 for Ratoath.

Pat Shore, Executive Engineer, Transportation circulated the drawings that are going on public display, with the advertisements to appear today. They will be on display for 4 weeks from 8th October and a portal is available for the documents to be viewed and facilitating submissions being made. A synopsis of



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the scheme was provided, with confirmation that the widening and extension of the riverwalk is included.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the progress and queried how the plan would be funded – once the Part 8 is in place, an application for funding will be made to the NTA.
- Queried the estimated cost of delivery – the approximate cost is €3.5–4.5 million.
- Queried whether Bus Éireann had been consulted – whilst it is open to anyone to make submissions, the scheme will be brought to their attention.
- Requested that the maps be displayed in Ratoath Community Centre.
- Queried how submission can be made – it was agreed to circulate the site notice.

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

The report had been circulated in advance and a further update provided.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Thanked Philip and his staff for the works undertaken during difficult times, including the footpath in Grange Hall.
- Queried whether the Jetvac machine had been deployed to Dunboyne - the Jetvac was being used to deal with issues in estates whilst the gully machine was being used in the main streets.



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- Queried the removal of trees in Beechdale – the trees, which had been damaging the footpaths, were being dealt with first, followed by the footpaths next year.
- Referred to the absence of signs alerting drivers to bends on the Kilmessan to Kiltale road.
- Referred to the row of tall trees near the footpath in Clonkeen estate on unregistered lands and how these can be cut.
- Requested that vegetation removed from a boundary wall on Glebe Lane be removed.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

“Can Meath County take in charge the playground at Cnoc Tiarnach estate Dunshaughlin before taking in charge the rest of the estate?”

Response:

Meath County Council cannot take in charge an area such as this as it would firstly have to have a request from the developer, currently there is none and secondly the Council could not access it as they would have no right to enter lands surrounding not in their charge.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

“I call on Meath County Council to ring-fence development levies from the new housing developments in Dunshaughlin for the Dunshaughlin Youths FC/ Dunshaughlin Athletic Club sports facility project.”



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

The Meath County Development Contribution Scheme is adopted by the full council and lists the projects which will be funded by the levies collected. The current scheme is due for review in 2021 and it is only then that additional schemes may be added for funding. These schemes must be included the Capital Works Programme.

It was pointed out that the council cannot apply for grants for other bodies but that the bodies identified could make their own application. Projects identified in the capital plan can however tie in with plans by other bodies.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**, was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to ring-fence development levies from the new housing developments in Dunboyne for the development of a footpath to Dunboyne AFC."

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

Please see Item 6.1 for the supporting information.

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

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

- 7.1 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 16th September 2020.

The report was noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 24th September 2020.



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The report was noted. Reference was made to the previous request made to include the Skryne and Kilbride roads to the county boundary in the winter gritting programme and the decision taken not to extend the programme this year. It was confirmed that the intention had been to extend the programme this year to include 100% of regional routes through fleet hire but, due to the difficult budgetary process, a lot of items had to be reviewed. It was also pointed out that much of the cost is associated with ongoing running costs, in addition to vehicle acquisition/hire. It was suggested that a letter issue to Fingal County Council requesting that they grit the Kilbride Road to Ratoath to facilitate access by those who commute into Fingal.

- 7.3 To note the report from the Climate Action, Environment & Emergency Services SPC meeting of 24th September 2020.

The report was noted.

- 7.4 To note the report from the Planning Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs of 25th September 2020.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Des Foley referred to the capital programme, specifically concerns raised at the full council meeting regarding the allocations being made to Ratoath Municipal District. He underlined that the programme is subject to change over the three years, depending on the funding streams available and the success of funding applications made. Examples of funding sources include the URDF, RRDF, Greenway, Town & Village Renewal, Large Scale Sports Infrastructure and the Outdoor Recreation Scheme. In addition, NTA funding will be sought for projects such as the Ratoath Village Enhancement Scheme.

Dara McGowan pointed out that, whilst no centre in Ratoath Municipal District qualifies for the URDF, three applications, including one in Ratoath Municipal District, had been made under the RRDF. Whilst unsuccessful on that occasion, the application was ready



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to submit when the scheme reopens. The Town & Village Renewal Scheme focuses on community led projects, of which few were put forward for this municipal district. An application for the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure had been successful. There are greater opportunities for this municipal district to avail of grants and councillors were requested to submit project ideas, whether for consideration under the capital programme or for available grants.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Highlighted the lack of a civic amenity facility in the area and the need for central funding to provide such a facility, particularly in the context of the green agenda.
- Referred to the outdated 2016 census population figures, their use to assess eligibility under the URDF and the possibility that the next census will be postponed.
- Underlined the need for open space in Ratoath, particularly in the current climate, and queried the possibility of developing the Riverwalk by identifying what is needed, the cost and possible funding. The need for an alternative space, such as a park, was underlined.
- Highlighted the need for a park & ride facility in Ratoath.
- Suggested that the needs identified by residents and businesses in Ratoath were not included in the draft County Development Plan.
- Queried the removal of funding for the Dunshaughlin and Kilmessan community facilities and pedestrian crossings at the schools in Dunshaughlin from the capital programme.
- Expressed the need to include a feasibility study for the Dunshaughlin distributor road in the roads programme.
- Queried the plans to deliver the park beside the train station in Dunboyne.



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- The need for facilities in smaller communities, such as Clonee.
- The urgent need to improve the Dunboyne to Maynooth road.
- The impact of national plans and policies on residential development.
- The need to work with private developers to maximise benefits for communities.

It was agreed to consider the projects suggested during the discussion in terms of how they might be delivered. Some of those mentioned would be considered under alternative programmes, such as the roadworks programme or grant schemes.

9.2 Councillor Damien O'Reilly raised the following issues:

9.2.1 Requested that Horse Racing Ireland be invited to present at the November meeting – this was agreed.

9.2.2 Requested that a joint meeting of Ratoath and Ashbourne Municipal Districts be arranged and it was suggested that representatives from Bus Éireann and TII be invited to discuss issues of interest.

9.2.3 Requested that a Notice of Motion on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District be submitted to Meath County Council requesting that a letter issue to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage regarding the use of the 2016 census population figures and the need for these to be reviewed.

9.2.4 Councillor Brian Fitzgerald

9.3 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Requested that a letter issue to the ESB regarding the regular power outages affecting Baltrasna and requesting a list of recent faults, the reasons for these and how they intend to address any infrastructural deficits.

9.4 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issue:



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9.4.1 Queried when the additional planting would be undertaken as part of the works in Dunboyne park to provide coverage and privacy for residents of Castleview.

9.5 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

9.5.1 Requested that the new Garda Superintendent be invited to meet with councillors.

9.5.2 The need to install ramps on the new outer relief road to reduce speeding.

9.5.3 Requested that a letter issue to Irish Water asking them to upgrade or replace the water pipe serving residents on Brennan's Lane on the Kilbride Road, who have no water pressure.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach