



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

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

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

***9: 30 a.m., 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020, County Hall, Navan***

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

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

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

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

Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

- Sought clarification on whether the winter gritting programme would be extended to include Kilbride Road, Ratoath – it was pointed out that, despite the intention to extend the winter gritting programme to include all regional roads, there is no intention to include additional routes at this time due to financial constraints;



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

- Referred to the concerns of residents in Clonkeen, Fairyhouse Road regarding the height and stability of trees, which are located on unregistered lands – it was agreed to follow this up.

Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues, including:

- Queried the planned allocation of single storey units at Maelduin;
- Referred to the fallen leaves causing slippery surfaces outside Clonkeen, Fairyhouse Road;
- The possibility of providing some support to groups in smaller centres, such as Kilmessan, to provide Christmas lighting.

Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:

- Confirmed that permission has been given to locate the projector at Dunshaughlin Garda Station to light up the Courthouse;
- Requested that support be provided to Skayne Valley Community Council for Christmas lighting;
- Requested that consideration be given to giving the Christmas lights that are being replaced in Navan to other towns/villages.

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

Congratulations were extended to:

- Orla Hayes, Ratoath who has joined the Ireland Senior Womens Rugby 7s team.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Planning**

- 4.1.1 To receive a presentation on the Strategic Housing Development application,



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

reference no. ABP-308396-20 Castlethorn Construction Unlimited Company in accordance with Section 8 (4) (c)(ii) of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016.

Philip Maguire, Executive Planner provided details of the application, the consultations that had taken place, the proposed site layout, residential typology and facilities, and the next steps, including the submission of the Chief Executive's report by 7<sup>th</sup> December, which will include a copy of today's meeting minutes. The closing date for the receipt of submissions is 16<sup>th</sup> November and the decision due date is 9<sup>th</sup> February 20221.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Referred to the proposed zoning amendment in the draft County Development Plans that would affect the delivery of a neighbourhood centre despite the need for such a facility in an area with a substantial amount of housing and the relative distance from the village.
- The need to ensure that the walkway through the LMETB and Community College grounds is adequately lit and has a boundary wall due to concerns around potential anti-social behaviour and referred to anti-social behaviour issues that would impact on the pedestrian link to the village centre.
- The possibility of adding a condition that a footpath and cycleway be provided on the link road from the roundabout to the water tower.
- Referred to the proposed density which is greater than that in the County Development Plan and considered excessive for a village such as Dunshaughlin.
- Expressed the view that the proposed 5 storey developments were out of character for Dunshaughlin and that best practice should be followed in the design of any multi-storey buildings.
- Referred to the location being in close proximity to the M3 and the need to minimise its visual impact on the approach to the village.



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

- Queried the demand for apartments and duplexes.
- Welcomed the proposed road and underlined the importance of the distributor road given the potential impact of traffic on the Drumree Road, the village centre and the R147 to Pace.
- Acknowledged the need for additional housing and welcomed the potential to open up community lands.
- Underlined the need for adequate designated parking for all units including apartments and duplexes.
- The need to ensure that roadways are wide enough to allow access by service vehicles, etc. and pathways are provided outside all units.
- The need to ensure that play areas and the creche are delivered in the early stages of the development.
- Queried the capacity of the schools to accommodate additional student numbers.
- Queried whether a transport analysis has been carried out, including the potential impact on traffic on the Drumree Road – the transport analysis included will be assessed by the Transportation Section including traffic counts, engineering statistical data, etc.
- Queried the amount of green space to be provided for residents, excluding those that are operated by specific groups and not accessible by the public and linear spaces, which are unsuitable on their own, and the need for these to be close to the higher density areas.
- Referred to the need for one bed units as part of the Part V provision and as identified in the social housing audit.
- Highlighted how the single storey units are located furthest from the R125 and the peripheral pathways and the related access issue for older people or those with physical mobility issues.



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

### **4.2 Transportation**

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

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

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Thanked Philip and his team for all the works carried out.
- The need to clean gullies – this is subject to an annual contract.
- Requested updates on planned works between Well Road and Skryne Road, including any planned diversions and particularly if continue into December and the potential impact on local businesses.
- Requested an update on the provision of a ramp in Moatlands – one objection had been made and it is preferred if residents were to agree to the works in advance.
- Referred to ongoing safety issues in Batterstown, particularly at the school, with traffic failing to stop at the traffic lights and lorries parking on the roadside and near the school entrance and traffic lights.
- Requested that a raised crossing with pedestrian lights be provided at the school crossings in Dunshaughlin.

### **5 Notice of Question**

There were no Notices of Question.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.



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

### **7 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **8 Any Other Business**

8.1 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:

8.1.1 Referred to the ongoing efforts of Skayne Valley Community Council to secure the building for a community centre – it was confirmed that discussions were ongoing.

8.1.2 Queried why meeting arrangements for the council differ from those that apply to the Dáil in terms of being able to have sanitisation breaks so meetings can exceed two hours in duration – it was confirmed that the Chief Executive had written to the department highlighting the points made at the full council meeting in this regard but that other arrangements also apply to Oireachtas meetings, e.g. pairing, etc.

8.2 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

8.2.1 Queried how many one and two bed units have been purchased in Ratoath Municipal District and are all of these purchases to be concluded by the end of the year.

8.2.2 Queried whether any land has been purchased in Ratoath Municipal District for the provision of social and affordable housing.

8.3 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issue:

8.3.1 Concerns expressed by residents regarding illegal trespass at Dunboyne train station and requested that discussions take place between the Council, Gardaí and Irish Rail to resolve the matter.

This concluded the business of the meeting.



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

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach