



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9.30 am, 10th December 2020, Via Zoom

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Tom Behan**, presided.

Councillors Present: Wayne Harding, Elaine McGinty, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Sharon Tolan.

Apologies: Councillor Geraldine 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 5th November 2020.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 5th November 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Elaine McGinty**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 13th November 2020.

The minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 13th November 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Elaine McGinty**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Sharon Tolan wished to clarify that her query in relation to the COVID vaccination referred to its rollout to council staff and essential workers, which has now been clarified in the government's COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Strategy.



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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Councillor Suzanne Jamal on the death of her sister, Máire;
- The family, including former councillor Patsy O'Neill, on the death of his sister, Nancy McGough, Heronstown, Lobinstown;
- The family of the late Tom Dillon, Woodtown, Drumconrath, brother of the late former councillor Ann Dillon Gallagher, top greyhound trainer and noted GAA footballer.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Councillor Wayne Harding on being appointed Chair of LMETB;
- Stephen O'Hare, MCC staff member, who has been selected for the second time to umpire the GAA All Ireland Final;
- All those who participated and won awards at the recent Community Well Being Initiative.

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 had been circulated in advance and matters raised by councillors included:

- Acknowledged the amount of work carried out by Christy and his team across the municipal district.



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- Referred to mud on the Beamore Road arising from adjacent developments – contact is ongoing with the developer, who has sweeper on standby.
- Referred to mud being sprayed onto the footpath on Eastham Road by sweepers operating from an adjacent development – it was agreed to raise this with the developer.
- Queried the status of the application to the NTA for a footpath at Colpe – contact is ongoing with the developer and the Department of Education & Skills with regard to funding for a controlled school access, which has been agreed in principle.
- Referred to traffic issues at Mount Hanover N.S. – the issue occurs at school peak times and, once duct laying works are completed, the amount of construction traffic will reduce significantly.
- Queried whether the gully is to be filled in following ducting works for the new data centre – the gully is to collect surface water.
- Requested an update on trees being trimmed at pedestrian crossings.
- Welcome the provision of the compactor bins.
- Referred to delays being experienced by school buses accessing the school in Donacarney and arising from the temporary traffic lights – these are related to road opening licences, some of which will be completed before Christmas, and the temporary lights relating to works at Bettystown Square will be removed over the Christmas period.
- Welcome the works carried out at the car park at Laytown and requested that a gap in the fence be created to allow pedestrian access from the car park to the beach – it is unlikely that this can be undertaken as part of the contract.



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- Welcomed the road markings on the Pilltown Road and requested that these be continued further down after the bridge.
- Requested that CCTV be provided at the bottle banks at Laytown – provision is being made for CCTV and it will be used for a period and can be returned, if required.
- Queried whether the landscaping plan for the car park includes a wild flower bed – the contract allows for the provision of grass, with informal discussions ongoing with the Tidy Towns group.
- Queried whether Brexit will impact on the use of Northern Ireland contractors – many of these companies have established offices in the Republic and new tenders will issue in the new year.
- Queried whether conditions can be imposed on road opening licences to hire additional staff for traffic management – local conditions can be applied but all licences require traffic management plans.
- Queried whether staff can be redeployed from other municipal districts – this is an operational issue.
- Requested a list of all road opening licences, to include timeframes and locations – this is not feasible as many applications are preliminary with no specific timeline and others are for emergency works.
- Queried whether the footpath works at the church in Slane would be completed before Christmas – it is hoped that these will be completed by Christmas.
- Requested that gullies be cleaned at Millmount Abbey – these were cleaned last year and further cleaning is not planned unless a specific issue arises.



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- Queried whether the footpath at Woodgrange is wide enough for wheelchairs/buggies – the footpath/cycleway width is 1.5m and is of sufficient width for all users.
- Queried whether the crossing at Church Road, Mornington is wheelchair accessible – the works are not yet complete but the level will be flush with the existing kerb and fully accessible.
- Queried whether the ducting works at Cooper Hill will facilitate connections for local residents – the broadband ducting being provided is specific to a company and no connections are being provided.

5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Elaine McGinty

“To ask Meath County Council to consider providing pop up ‘cycle lanes’ by using cycle symbol on hard shoulders where roadway width permits. This would be on a trial basis in South Drogheda and East Meath district. In light of the ongoing travel restrictions imposed by COVID 19, funding availability from the NTA to provide cycle lanes in support of more active travel measures, this has the potential to be a cost effective and timely solution. The initiative would also support the council's own work in securing ‘Greenway’s across the County. This could be a wonderful and visible short-term solution to making roads around East Meath more cycle/pedestrian friendly. If successful, it could then be rolled out across the County.”

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

The transportation section would support the provision of ‘pop up’ cycle ways in principle but considerations to date have concluded that the opportunities are limited given the available road space, cycling demand and the lack of an extensive cycle network in the



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county to safely tie in to. Since the COVID pandemic began there have only been isolated calls in Meath for such measures to be introduced. Given the level of funding that the Government have signalled will available over the life of the 33rd Dail, the Transportation section have engaged with the NTA to discuss an overall approach to cycling priorities for the County that can be incorporated into a five year plan. The intention of this plan is to deliver a more comprehensive and cohesive cycle network across the County in locations where the potential for cycling is greatest. We have also discussed with the NTA what is realistically achievable in this time period and how to secure the resources that will be necessary to deliver such a plan. In addition, Council have also recently engaged ARUP consulting engineers to review and update the 'Laytown and Bettystown Walking and Cycling Network Study' prepared in 2014 with a view to improving safety, connectivity and increased uptake in cycling and walking to facilitate the continuing sustainable growth of the area.

Councillors expressed support for this proposal and a number of other suggestions made, including the possibility of replacing the climbing lane to the north of Slane with a dedicated cycle lane and the inclusion of cycle lanes as part of any future Part 8 schemes on national routes.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Elaine McGinty** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**, was agreed.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

"To call on Meath County Council to secure possession of the 22 acres of land zoned F1 Open Space at the Town Centre in Bettystown, in order to assist local Sporting Clubs and community organisations to realise the development of said lands as a sporting facility, and to begin the process of delivering the Community Centre funded for in the Capital Plan for East Meath."

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

In 2019 the Council prepared a feasibility study for lands in its ownership at Seafields. This feasibility process included consultation with the local sports clubs and the proposed development had facilities included that would meet the needs of the Athletic club. Unfortunately, when the application was submitted for funding under the Large Scale



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Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF), it was unsuccessful. The Council has retained all of the work undertaken to date and intend to consider the inclusion of this project when this funding stream is opened again in the future.

The Council will continue to use its available monies to try and secure funding to develop the Seafields lands to their full potential. The Council do not have an allocation in the Capital Budget to purchase additional land as requested.

A discussion followed on the need for a centrally located community and sporting facility to allow local clubs to increase their capacity and provide a facility for young people. The constraints were outlined and it was agreed that this should be considered in the context of the County Development Plan process. It was also suggested that local groups can come together to access national grant schemes.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan**, was agreed.

7 Other Matters Arising

There were no other matters arising.

8 Correspondence

8.1 Correspondence received from Louth County Council in response to the notice of item 10.3.1 from the October meeting.

The correspondence was noted.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Stephen McKee raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Requested an update on the road safety scheme for lower Main Street, Duleek including traffic lights at the bottom of Station Road, a pedestrian crossing to the post office and ramps – an application for funding has been made under the Town

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& Village Renewal Scheme and a decision is due early in the new year, with works commencing in Q2 subject to funding.

- 9.1.2 Referred to complaints received regarding foul smells from the wastewater treatment plant on the Marsh Road, Drogheda, which is affecting residents in Meath.
- 9.1.3 Referred to safety concerns regarding the crossing at Harry's – works are not yet completed with ramps at the crossing to be installed next week and lining and road surfacing to follow, making it wheelchair accessible.
- 9.1.4 The need to reinstate the bollards, which were removed, allowing vehicular access to the dunes at Mornington, which are a SAC – the bollards had been secured but removed and new bollards have been sourced.
- 9.1.5 Requested an update on the planting of a tree of hope, as agreed at the last meeting.
- 9.2 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issues:
 - 9.2.1 Queried whether the ditch to the rear of Fairways Lawn will be cleaned out, as stagnant water is causing a smell – it was agreed to check this although no complaints have been received.
 - 9.2.2 Referred to the potholes and poor condition of the road into the Village Hotel and whether it is taken in charge – the road status will be checked.
 - 9.2.3 Requested that access to the beach from the car park at Laytown be looked at before Christmas.
 - 9.2.4 Requested an update on the completion of the landscaping at Northlands following flood relief scheme works.
 - 9.2.5 Queried whether the Part 8 for the footpath at Donacarney be presented at the January meeting – discussions are ongoing with the Planning Department and information is due from the consultants and the Heritage Office.



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- 9.2.6 Welcomed the number of pedestrian crossings provided and asked if a pedestrian crossing from Inse Bay to the bus stop will be delivered in 2021 – this location is on the list for requested works.
- 9.2.7 Queried as to who is responsible for protecting the SAC at the Mornington dunes and whether central government funding is needed.
- 9.3 Councillor Elaine McGinty raised the following issue:
 - 9.3.1 Referred to the further information request made by An Bord Pleanála in respect of the Boyne Greenway and queried when the information will be submitted – the information will be submitted as soon as possible.

The Cathaoirleach thanked all councillors and staff for their support and assistance during the year and wished everyone a happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach