



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

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

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

***9: 30 a.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, Via Zoom***

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 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

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

Councillor Nick Killian referred to the proposed removal of the bridge at Moulden Bridge, as part of the Outer Relief Road works, and referred to the impact this would have on the approach to the village, the possibility of coordinating with the planned works at the top of the Kilbride Road and conveyed the concerns of residents with regard to plans for a new left exit – it was confirmed that Transportation were due to meet councillors on site and that an internal meeting is planned this week to discuss progress, which has been affected by the public health restrictions, following which an update will be available.



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Councillor Nick Killian also queried how the reinstatement works, following completion of the culvert and the removal of the sewerage system, are to be carried out – it was suggested that a follow up meeting with residents could be arranged, when appropriate.

Councillor Gillian Toole requested an update on the removal of the bus stop at Donnelly's Providers – Bus Éireann have been instructed to no longer use this location as a bus stop and a new location is to be identified and agreed.

Councillor Gillian Toole also referred to the minutes and the reference to the Maynooth Outer Orbital Route – it was confirmed that the scheme remains an objective but is not currently a live transport project. A Part 8 was prepared for both sections of the road, with a Section 85 agreement allowing Meath County Council to carry out works on the Kildare section.

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

Sympathy was extended to:

- Gillian Mangan, Ratoath Municipal District on the death of her grandmother;
- The family of the late Terry Byrne, Dunboyne - thanks were expressed to all the community and voluntary groups in Dunboyne who had assisted in searches for him, including Meath Civil Defence;
- The family of the late Heather Dosumu, Ratoath;
- The families of all those who had lost their lives to COVID, particularly since Christmas.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The members of An Garda Síochána on their recent dance challenge;
- Community Garda Derek Halligan on his recent retirement.

### **4 Statutory Business**



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### **4.1 Transportation**

- 4.1.1 To inform the Members of the commencement of a review of submissions received regarding housing estates to be considered for inclusion in an update to the current 30 km/h Housing Estate Special Speed Limit Bye-Law and seek representations in relation to any estates which the members feel should be included for review.

Paul McKown, Executive Engineer, Transportation referred to the estates in Ratoath Municipal District that had been identified for review and asked that any further suggestions be submitted by email by 31<sup>st</sup> March. It was confirmed that this applies to estates that have been taken in charge. It was agreed to circulate the list of estates in which the reduced speed limit already applies.

Councillor Gerry O'Connor referred to the need to review the speed limits entering Dunshaughlin and extend the town limit to take account of the new residential developments on the Dublin road – the speed limit review in housing estates will be followed by a full countywide speed limit review.

- 4.1.2 To receive an update re Part 8 Ratoath Enhancement and Traffic Calming Scheme.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation referred to the Part 8 process and the public display in October, following which it emerged that the proposed removal of trees along the R125 was causing considerable concern, with over 200 submissions received. At the Chief Executive report stage, the options to reduce the number of trees to be removed were considered, with these to be presented to the municipal district, with a view to reaching consensus on what might be more acceptable, and it is proposed to re-advertise the whole scheme, thereby maximising the opportunities for engagement.

The options, to minimise the number of trees to be removed, were outlined, including associated impacts such as the removal of shrubbery/hedging, shared cycle and path facilities and relocation of boundary walls. The alternative proposal would result in the majority of trees being saved, with a replanting scheme to replace any trees removed.



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Matters raised by councillors included:

- Suggested that the proposed project be split into two elements, with the village centre to be prioritised.
- Expressed a preference for shared cycle and path ways.
- Queried whether residents would be in favour of the removal of shrubbery due to the impact on noise, privacy, etc. and the relocation of boundary walls.
- Expressed concern regarding the changes on the approaches to roundabouts.
- Supported the re-advertisement of the proposals but queried if adequate public engagement was possible under Level 5 restrictions.

It was agreed to take the views expressed into consideration and come back with proposals on how to progress the Part 8, including the possible prioritisation of certain sections.

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

The report, which was circulated in advance, was noted.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested that road lining be refreshed in Ratoath village, particularly on Irish Street and at the creche end of Jamestown Inner Relief Road.
- Requested that the road markings, indicating the crossing point on Cemetery Road from the shrine to the opposite side of the road, be reinstated.



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- Requested that any remaining Christmas signs, including Shop Local, be removed, e.g. Newtown roundabout and the R125.
- Requested that the abandoned shopping trolley at Boylan's Bridge be removed.
- Requested that potholes be filled at a number of locations, including Kilbreena, Mill Farm and at the top of the Rooske Road.
- Requested that advance warning signage in relation to horses be erected on rural roads.
- Referred to flooding at Grange Hall.
- Requested that traffic signs be erected on the R147 on the Dublin side of Rathbeggan N.S.
- Requested that a sign be erected on the R147 into Dunshaughlin, where the bus lane was removed and from the water tower to the garage, due to the number of walkers using the hard shoulder and the possibility of indicating a shared facility with pedestrians.
- Welcomed the flood alleviation works at Rodenstown.

### **4.2 Planning**

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.

- Chestnut Grove Estate, Dunboyne

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.



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- Dunboyne Castle Estate, Dunboyne

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

Councillor Maria Murphy sought a timeframe for works to commence in Dunboyne Castle and it was agreed to refer this to Planning for response.

### **4.3 To consider and adopt the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works.**

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section outlined the schedule of works as they relate to housing, including the service categories, funding allocations per municipal district, the centralised budgets and updates on the previous year. Reference was made to a national commitment given with regard to the Energy Retrofit Programme, which will represent an annual programme of works over the coming years.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried whether long-term tenants will benefit from the new energy retrofit programme as many of these units have not had work done in some years – whilst further information on the programme is awaited from the department, it is envisaged that priority will be given to those units that have not had work done to date and/or have a low BER rating. Councillors will be notified when further information on the programme is available. At a national level, there is a move towards a more planned approach towards maintenance.
- Requested contact information in the Housing Department in relation to repair requests – whilst all maintenance calls are logged through Sugar, it was agreed to circulate the relevant contact information.
- Referred to the level of interest expressed in the nine low cost sites in Dunshaughlin and queried if council lands in Dunsany could be assessed to provide a similar opportunity – it was confirmed that correspondence would soon issue to the successful applicants for the sites in



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Dunshaughlin and other locations will be assessed to replicate this model elsewhere.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation outlined the programme for the delivery of the Schedule of Municipal District Works, as it relates to Transportation, including the funding sources and status. Some grant allocations have not yet been confirmed and a contingency allocation has been made in the event that grants are reduced from 2020 levels and/or inflation leads to increased costs.

John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation outlined the proposed programme of works, across the different categories and schemes and including the funding breakdown.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Thanked the team in Transportation for the works undertaken and proposed and welcomed the funding increase.
- Referred to the need for additional funding for footpaths, particularly in the three main centres in the municipal district, and queried if IPB funding will be made available – the capital programme includes a further allocation for footpaths, including the IPB funding, and considerable progress has been made across the county. A separate update can be provided for proposals for 2021.
- Underlined the need to consider additional funding for footpaths in estates as part of the 2022 budget.
- Referred to the need for Rath Hill Lane to be resurfaced – if the road is beyond maintenance, it could be considered for the next 3 year roadworks programme or possibly a CIS.
- Queried if the planned works on Main Street, Dunshaughlin, including the footpath and raised pedestrian crossings at the schools, can be coordinated and undertaken together – it was agreed to look at this.



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- The need for resurfacing works in estates such as College Park.
- Queried whether a street sweeper can be purchased – it was agreed to consider this under the capital programme.
- Referred to the need for public lighting at the back of Mill Farm, on the old fairgreen, with a large number of pedestrians using this facility – it was agreed to refer this to the Public Lighting Section.
- Requested an update on the Dunboyne Bypass – TII have confirmed that it will address the defective section in the coming months.
- Queried if TII would address the subsidence on the R147 at Bracetown flyover – it was agreed to check if this had been referred to TII.
- Referred to the need to progress the Part 8s undertaken for the R156 Mullagh to Jenkinstown and also the R157 to the Kildare border, due to the traffic volumes on both roads – a specific improvement grant would be required and previous funding applications were unsuccessful but it was agreed to raise the R156 and Dunshaughlin Distributor road again.

The 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Ratoath Municipal District was unanimously agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

### **5 Notice of Question**

#### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly**

“Please confirm the amount of Meath County Council housing applicants who are currently receiving HAP payments in Ratoath Municipal District.”

**Response:**





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*There are currently 152 active HAP tenancies within the Ratoath Municipal District area.*

The response was noted.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

#### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly**

"I call on Meath County Council to write to Facebook (Clonee) and MSD (Dunboyne) inviting them to make presentations to Ratoath Municipal District on activities and future plans on their campuses and how the municipal district can collaborate with them to benefit the wider community."

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**, was agreed.

#### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly**

"I call on Meath County Council to relocate all "Welcome to Dunshaughlin" signage to the new boundaries of the town."

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

*The relocation of the signage "Welcome to Dunshaughlin" to the new boundaries of the town will be addressed as part of our Maintenance Works Programme for the Municipal District.*

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

### **7 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.



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### **8 Any Other Business**

8.1 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issue:

8.1.1 Requested an update on works in Dunboyne Graveyard.

8.2 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issue:

8.2.1 Underlined the need to extend the town speed limit in Dunshaughlin to take account of the new residential developments on the Dublin Road.

8.3 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

8.3.1 Referred to concerns expressed regarding anti-social behaviour at the bus shelter at Steeplechase but highlighted that this was located there to facilitate access by residents of Steeplechase and Arkle House and referred to the need for a bus shelter also at Jamestown.

8.3.2 Referred to the need for the bus stop, to replace that at Donnelly's, be fully accessible.

8.4 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issue:

8.4.1 Referred to a route change introduced by Bus Éireann which has posed an issue for residents of Arkle House to access the bus stop.

8.5 Councillor Damien O'Reilly raised the following issue:

8.5.1 Requested an update on the Dunboyne playground, including the equipment audit and funding available to purchase equipment.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**



comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council



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**Cathaoirleach**