



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9.30 am, 4th March 2021, Via Zoom

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

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

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 4th February 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th January 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Elaine McGinty** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Sharon Tolan wished to have it noted that she disagreed with the decision to write a letter to the LMETB with regard to the relocation of the Educate Together School as the LMETB were not responsible this decision.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- The family of the late Jimmy McGuigan, Laytown, acknowledging the role he played in the local community and sporting sectors.

Congratulations were extended to:

- St. Mary's GFC, Donore and Slane GFC, who both participated in the recent TG4 programme and competition "Go Gasta", demonstrating not only their football skills and fitness levels but also highlighted Meath in a positive way;
- Helen Behan, sister of the Cathaoirleach, on her recent interview on the Tommy Tiernan Show, when she highlighted how she started her acting career, subsequently receiving a BAFTA nomination, through a chance encounter in McDonough's pub in Bettystown;
- All council staff and councillors on the successful funding application for the footpath connecting Rathmullen to the Boyne Greenway;
- Louth County Council on their successful funding application for the Boyne Valley Camino;
- St. Colmcille's GFC on winning a national award for their 'Every Step Counts' initiative;
- Liz and Roger Pickett on The Cottages, Bettystown featuring in a blockbuster film;
- The Environment Department, Meath County Council on the Green Kilometre Initiative, which has attracting significant interest.

4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

- 4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of land adjacent to the property 2 Cottages, Doncarney, Co Meath.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan**.



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5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

5.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

The report, circulated in advance, was noted.

5.2 Corporate Services

5.2.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

5.3 Planning

5.3.1 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.

- Mornington Towers, Laytown-Bettystown.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.



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8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Elaine McGinty raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Referred to the need for a park to be provided to serve the South Drogheda/East Meath area, particularly given the importance of open green space for physical and mental wellbeing, and the possibility of seeking the support of business/industry in the area to assist in delivering such an amenity.

9.1.2 Welcomed the progress being made in relation to the Joint Area Urban Plan for Drogheda and highlighted the need to ensure that vital infrastructure, such as roads, is provided in tandem with developments.

9.1.3 Referred to the increase in illegal dumping, including household waste on roadsides, and suggested that behavioural change is needed.

9.2 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issues:

9.2.1 Expressed her disappointment at the delay in commencing the Part 8 for the footpath from Bettystown to Donacarney and queried whether the tender process will be completed to facilitate works being undertaken during the summer – it was pointed out that the project required additional environmental studies, some of which, e.g. bat surveys, can only take place at certain times of the year. Following review of submissions, additional requirements had been identified and these were currently with the consultants for review. Once returned, these will be resubmitted to Heritage and Environment and, if in compliance, the Part 8 process can commence.

9.2.2 Requested an update on the Arup Walking and Cycling Report including when it will be finalised and funding applications made to ensure its delivery – the report is currently being updated and arrangements being made for consultants to



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review it. Councillors were requested to submit any proposals to feed into the final report.

9.2.3 Referred to the ongoing coastal erosion, with its impacts for the dunes in Bettystown and Mornington, and the deteriorating rock armour in Laytown and suggested the need for a Coastal Task Force to review the situation and identify measures to address the issues and protect the dunes, gardents, roads and other amenities.

9.3 Councillor Paddy Meade raised the following issues:

9.3.1 Requested that footpaths be completed when works are being undertaken, e.g. that the entire section of path in Rathmullen be piped adequately – a submission has been made for additional works required.

9.3.2 Referred to the recent roads funding allocated by central government, where Meath received less than other counties per head of population and proposed that a letter issue to the Transportation Department expressing the disappointment of councillors that the Low Cost Safety Scheme, which was included in the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works, will not now proceed as it did not receive funding this year, and that it be prioritised for 2022. This was seconded by Councillor Stephen McKee.

9.3.3 Referred to the need for enforcement of landowners who refuse to comply with hedge cutting notices issued – the hedge cutting season ended at the end of February and councillors were requested to submit information on any relevant locations and these will be checked to see how best to proceed.

9.3.4 Queried why council staff cut an overhanging hedge on Rathmullen Hill, which is on land formerly owned by NAMA and has since been the subject of a planning application for a residential development – verge cutting had been carried out from the Obelisk bridge to Rathmullen to provide a safe walkway off the road.

9.3.5 Requested that the district engineer meet in Donore to discuss possible traffic calming measures on the three approach roads.



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- 9.3.6 Queried whether adequate outdoor staff numbers are available in the municipal district to carry out works, such as pothole repairs, and in light of the public health guidelines – two additional outdoor staff have been allocated to the municipal district and staff can move from depot to depot, based on need. Recent poor weather, heavy traffic and surface treatment all impact on issues arising and work is ongoing to address these, including the use of contractors.
- 9.4 Councillor Stephen McKee raised the following issues:
- 9.4.1 Requested that a speed review be undertaken on the Station Road, Duleek and consideration be given to providing traffic calming measures, particularly at the playground, e.g. speed limit signage – it was pointed out that signs are in place and that repeat signage can lead to confusion but it was agreed to check with the Transportation Department regarding the guidelines.
- 9.4.2 Referred to safety issues at the Colpe Road near Southgate, with increased traffic and bus services, where there is no safe crossing to the bus bay, no public lighting road markings need renewing, the road surface needs to be reinstated and the barriers are continuously being damaged – a road safety audit was recently carried out in relation to the damage to the barriers and certain sections are to be replaced with bollards. An uncontrolled pedestrian crossing is provided to the west of the bus stop. It was agreed to refer this to the Transportation Department regarding other possible traffic calming works.
- 9.4.3 Referred to parking issues at Mornington, the need for ‘No Swimming’ signage and increased litter on the beach.
- 9.4.4 Referred to delays affecting families due to move into homes in Maudlin Brook, Duleek, being provided by Respond, due to Level 5 restrictions and queried why this social housing development is not considered essential construction under the current restrictions.
- 9.5 Councillor Tom Behan raised the following issues:
- 9.5.1 Referred to anti-social behaviour in the new car park in Laytown and confirmed that this will be raised with the JPC – this is a matter for the Gardaí.



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- 9.5.2 Complimented the outdoor staff in quickly cleaning up the bottle banks when needed and requested that additional banks be provided when the new banks become operational – the banks are to be relocated following the lights becoming operational on the western side of the bridge and there is adequate capacity for additional banks at the new location.
- 9.5.3 Referred to severe potholes in Alverno and Inse Bay, where repairs are also needed to the ramps – councillors were requested to submit details of locations where pothole repairs are required. It was agreed to check the ramps.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach