



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9: 30 a.m., 3rd March 2021, Via Zoom

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

Councillors Present: Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Brian Fitzgerald, 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

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 3rd February 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 3rd February 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Nick Killian requested that the crossing point at the Shrine, Ratoath be reinstated.

Councillor Damien O'Reilly queried as to when the taking in charge of estates becomes effective following a decision taken at a municipal district meeting – it was agreed to refer this to Planning for response.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations



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Sympathy was extended to:

- Tony Hand, Meath County Council – Ratoath Municipal District, on the death of his brother Frank.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Bernadine Carry, the litter wardens and outdoor crews on the successful Green Kilometre Initiative, which has attracted significant public support.
- Declan Clarke on his appointment as Principal of Coláiste Ríoga.

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

4.1 A short discussion followed, with queries made in relation to the possible alternative uses for the site, including affordable sites or social housing, and the nature of the agreement being proposed. The background to and the nature of the proposed lease agreement was provided. It was agreed to defer this matter to the April meeting, with further information to be provided in relation to developing a plan to assess the site for social housing/affordable sites in the short-medium term. Information was also requested on the history of the site, including purchase price and access to the separate plots.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

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

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

- Thanked Philip and his team for the works undertaken and efficient response to queries.

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- Requested that Ratoath Tidy Towns be consulted with regard to the 'Welcome to Ratoath' signs and the plan for the old stones from Moulden Bridge.
- Requested an update on the Low Cost Safety Scheme for Cabin Hill.
- Commended the outdoor staff for removing the graffiti on the Ratoath Inner Relief Road.
- Queried when works will start on installing the ramps on the Skryne Road at Ratoath Harps – the contractor will commence works when restrictions have been lifted, starting with the pedestrian crossing in Dunboyne followed by the ramp on the Skryne Road.
- Referred to the number of potholes in Dunboyne village and the durability of the repairs – an existing machine is procured on an annual basis.
- Queried whether drainage works are being carried out during the current restrictions – drainage works are continuing as normal. Drainage works at Dunsany are to commence this week.
- Referred to the increased litter over the last 12 months and the need for additional bin collections, particularly at weekends – it was agreed to see what could be done to increase the weekend collection schedule.
- Referred to a development on Bracetown Lane with a large number of storage containers and prefabs on site – it was agreed to refer this to Planning Enforcement.
- Referred to the need to resurface the road on Fairyhouse Road at the Tesco junction – it was agreed to see what could be done.
- Requested that consideration be given to reviewing the 60km/h speed limit at MSD – the speed limit is unlikely to be increased due to the traffic lights at the junction.



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- Requested that the fencing be raised and a timelock gate be installed at the playground at Steeplechase to deter anti-social behaviour.
- Welcomed the footpath works from Steeplechase to Ratoath village.
- Requested an update on the provision of a footpath on the Curragha Road to the housing estate, which was a condition of the planning permission – the initial design for the footpath to the rugby club has commenced, a GPS survey is being undertaken and Eircom and the Public Lighting section have been out to look at the poles. It is intended to liaise with the developer with regard to the section to be provided as part of the development. Consultation will take place with landowners and residents with regard to the footpath width at the narrow section.

5.2 Corporate Services

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

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

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole

“Why is the Jamestown inner relief road, Ratoath, not a public road? It is registered in several folios, none of which is registered to Meath County Council.”

Response:

A “public road” means a road over which a public right of way exists and the responsibility for the maintenance of which lies on a road authority. The “Jamestown inner relief road” in Ratoath, is Road number L-1016 and is in the charge of Meath County Council. Public road and land ownership do not necessarily go hand in hand.



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The response was noted. Councillor Gillian Toole sought clarification as to what are the terms of licences/agreements in place with landowners when the local authority is not in ownership of such roads.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to begin the process of releasing council land in Dunsany for affordable / low cost sites."

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

The Housing Department will consider the replication of the Low Cost Private site initiative at Lagore Lawns, Dunshaughlin, in other suitable sites in the ownership of Meath County Council, subject to a number of considerations, including existing use of site/s where applicable, cost implications of providing the necessary enabling infrastructure in the absence of central funding for same, and the presence of local amenities and services that would be required in order to facilitate, as far as reasonable, the principal of sustainable development.

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

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to consider installing a dog run in Dunboyne park / Dunboyne park extension while enhancement works are underway."

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

The funding received for the works in Dunboyne are specific to the works outlined in the Part 8 and grant application stage, so it is not feasible to include additional items into this project at this time.



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In relation to the specific request for a dog run, the Council has not provided any dog runs in the county and there are currently no proposals to introduce a dog run at present. However, if this changes in the future, consideration will be given to this request at that stage.

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

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole

"Meath County Council will write to Horse Racing Ireland & Fairyhouse racecourse to request the opening of the inner roadway [on non-race days], for the use of Ratoath residents as a walking route, subject to an agreed "code of conduct/ terms of use" policy. Meath County Council will support local groups in the restoration of the Bridle Path right of way, to safely connect residents with the publicly funded & owned amenity, Fairyhouse racecourse."

A discussion followed with queries raised as to whether the above wording represented two separate motions, to which Councillor Toole responded. The need for additional amenity areas was underlined and the potential issues, were such a proposal to proceed, were also acknowledged. It was agreed that representatives from Fairyhouse and Horse Racing Ireland, whose meeting with councillors had been postponed due to COVID, would be invited to the April meeting and this issue, and any other relevant issues, would be raised and discussed.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**, was noted.

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

- 8.1 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 17th February 2021.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence



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There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Maria Murphy referred to the following issues:

10.1.1 Referred to recent water outages in Dunboyne and Kilcloon and the need to address the ongoing resultant delays in water pressure returning to Kilcloon.

10.1.2 The need for Irish Water/Meath County Council to take account of the impact on communities due to water outages, e.g. schools, , to time planned works based on community needs and provide adequate advance notification.

10.1.3 Queried whether adequate water supply is available in Dunboyne to accommodate future development needs.

10.2 Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Referred to concerns of residents regarding the erection of barbed wire fencing close to the roadway in Dunsany, preventing people from walking safely along the road.

10.3 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issue:

10.3.1 Referred to objections being lodged by An Taisce to one-off rural housing and queried whether An Taisce are restricted to submitting observations within a limited time period.

10.4 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:

10.4.1 Requested an update on the completion of the footpath at the GAA club, Dunshaughlin - it was agreed to get an update.

10.4.2 Referred to trucks avoiding COVID checkpoints on the R147 by diverting to The Bush and queried whether laybys could be provided to facilitate passing traffic.



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10.4.3 Expressed disappointment at the delay in progressing the CIS scheme at The Bush.

10.5 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:

10.5.1 Thanked Meath County Council for providing signs at schools welcoming students back.

10.5.2 Referred to the green area adjacent to the Broadmeadow stream in Somerville estate, Ratoath, which has been taken in charge. The area is inaccessible due to being waterlogged and queried whether Meath County Council can assist residents in dealing with the issue.

10.6 Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith raised the following issue:

10.6.1 Queried whether Meath County Council can erect large visible signs on footpaths, particularly in urban areas, reminding people of the need for social distancing.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach