



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9: 30 a.m., 12th May 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 14th April 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 3rd March 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gillian Toole referred to the response circulated on behalf of the Transportation Department in relation to the removal of trees at Moulden Bridge estate and referred to the communication with residents, which indicated that a commitment had been given that the trees would be reinstated and also referenced the missing dash on the boundary wall – it was confirmed that the issue with the trees would be dealt with and any other commitments given would be honoured.

Councillor Nick Killian expressed concerns regarding the plans for trees on the Ratoath Outer Relief Road and any possible delays in the traffic lights becoming operational.



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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Lorraine Eiffe, wife of the late Detective Sergeant Seán Eiffe.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Meath Library Service on the poetry trail in Dunshaughlin and queried whether this could be arranged for other towns and villages in Ratoath Municipal District.

4 To meet with representatives from Facebook

Mark Hunter, Site Manager, Clonee Data Centre and Aoife Flynn, Community Development Manager attended the meeting. Mark provided information on the Clonee Data Centre, including the background, the employment generated during construction and operations, renewable energy/emissions and a construction update. Aoife provided information on the Data Centre Communities initiatives, including supporting STEM education, community action grants, local volunteering, community partnerships and COVID-19 supports.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the progress made since 2016.
- Commended the community initiatives introduced and their positive impact on different sectors within the community.
- Queried the guarantee of power supply into the plant and the use of renewable energy sources – Facebook works closely with energy suppliers and all power is renewable in data centres and headquarters.
- Made a number of suggestions around additional community supports that could be considered, e.g. supporting remote working hubs.

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- Queried whether future plans might include the provision of office accommodation on the site – there is office accommodation on site to provide the administrative support of the core activities of the data centre.
- Referred to the Climate Action Forum and the possibility of partnering on climate action initiatives.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Mark and Aoife for attending the meeting and for the information provided.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Housing

5.1.1 To receive a report on lands at Knockmark, Drumree.

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Department referred to the discussion at the April meeting and the request that the matter be examined further from a planning perspective. Following discussions with the Planning Department, it is confirmed that the current draft County Development Plan designates Drumree as a rural node, with clustered developments possible. However, any such developments would be confined to local rural need. With regard to water services, it is feasible to connect to existing services, with the cost of bringing these services into the site to be estimated. An estimate of costs with regard to roads, footpaths, ESB connections, etc. is also to be completed. No central funding is currently available. An application for low cost private sites in Donore has been submitted to the department and this will indicate if funding will be made available for the infrastructure associated with low cost private sites. A key consideration will be value for money, i.e. reasonable cost against the number of sites that can be provided. A formal report is to be prepared.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Facilities Management also pointed out that the S183 for the 5 year lease will not now proceed and that a shorter term licence will be put in place and this can be terminated at short notice, if required.

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Whilst councillors expressed concern that any sites made available would be restricted to local rural need, it was also suggested that sufficient demand would still exist. A full cost benefit analysis of the site was also requested. It was agreed to work through the issues raised.

5.1 Transportation

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

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department referred to the update provided in February and, specifically, the concerns expressed at the number of trees to be removed. Since then, the options have been considered and meetings held with residents. In advance of the public display period associated with the Part 8, it is proposed to undertake a non-statutory consultation commencing next week on the consultation portal. Whilst not all trees can be saved, two options have been developed, the first of which would involve the removal of 23 trees and the second 13 trees, with the aim being to strike a balance between retaining trees and delivering the scheme. Both options were outlined.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- It was agreed that the non-statutory public consultation be undertaken and it was requested that the drawings be put on display locally.
- Queried whether the NTA had approved the phasing of the scheme delivery to prioritise the village centre works – following discussions with the NTA, they have no objections to phasing the scheme, starting with the urgent areas, i.e. working from the town centre to outlying areas. The concerns of groups had also been conveyed to the NTA and, to accommodate all users, a segregated path and cycleway will be provided on both sides. The priority is to commence works in the village centre and it is intended to proceed with the display of the two options and get the Part 8 for the village centre completed.
- Queried whether a tree planting initiative can be undertaken in an alternative location to offset those to be removed – it was agreed to

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identify suitable locations for tree replacement/complementary planting.

- 5.1.2 To receive an update on the provision of parklets in Ratoath Municipal District.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation referred to the recent email circulated, which outlined details of the funding available to provide parklets. The type of infrastructure to be provided was outlined, including a temporary kerb, sand, drain if required and suitable surface to create an area flush with the footpath. Eligible businesses can also apply for grant assistance to provide furniture, etc. A grant application has been received for one location in Ratoath Municipal District, i.e. outside Fingal House in Dunboyne, which will involve the loss of two parking spaces, and the views of councillors are being sought to proceed to application stage, the closing date being this Friday. If agreed, Transportation will undertake a design and safety assessment.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**, subject to an assessment as outlined.

- 5.1.3 To receive an update on N3 M50 to Clonee Project.

Maurice Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation attended the meeting with Eoin Greene, AECOM and Niamh O'Connor, Fingal County Council, which is the lead authority under a S85 agreement. A presentation was made, which included reference to the public consultation on the emerging preferred option (EPO) to commence on 24th May for 3 weeks, an update on work to date, project management guidelines for a TII scheme, the scheme location, the need for the scheme, scheme outcomes, next steps and public consultation overview.

When the scheme has been fully developed, a further update will be provided. Prior to the consultation portal going live, a copy of the brochure, which includes drawings, will be provided to councillors.

Matters raised by councillors included:

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- Queried the possibility of providing segregated cycle lanes from Clonee to facilitate those wishing to cycle to work, with the possibility of travelling on the M3 to Ashtown and accessing the city along the canal – there are no proposals for cycling/walking facilities on this corridor due to issues such as traffic speed, particularly during off-peak times, and the land take required, which would impact on residential properties. The cycling measures that could be provided, e.g. at junctions, crossing points, etc. have been looked at in detail. This scheme will take traffic off other routes where such facilities would be considered safer.
- Queried whether consideration had been given to facilitate car/van pooling – this falls outside the remit of the scheme but bus lanes will be provided and the M3 Parkway could provide a park & ride/park & share facility.
- Queried the possibility of adding a lane into Littlepace/Ongar to cut journey times – this will be looked at.

The Cathaoirleach thanked all involved for the information provided.

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

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

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, was noted.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly



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“Can Meath County Council provide all land banks in the councils ownership in Ratoath Municipal District in tabular format (location / acres)?”

Response:

Meath County Council has access to an internal software system that allows all of its registered landholdings (as well as other assets such as other infrastructure and land zonings, etc) to be viewed on a screen with links on each to the relevant folio documentation for further information. Unfortunately, this system does not separate lands available or lands with a building on it (housing, civic offices, libraries, etc.) and this system does to have the ability to print off a report outlining all of the land ownership details by location or area.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’Reilly

“I call on Meath County Council to review all approach roads into Dunboyne Village, Rooske Road, Station Road, Summerhill Road and the Maynooth Road for increased safety measures such as speed ramps / traffic chicanes.”

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

The Transport Section of Meath County Council will add the approach roads into Dunboyne Village, Rooske Road, Station Road, Summerhill Road and the Maynooth Road, to the current list of requests for traffic / speed surveys and will revert once the surveys have been completed and the results assessed, along with a review of the collision history information at the locations in question.

It should be noted that we are currently working through a large number of speed surveys required as part of the current 30 km/h Housing Estate Special Speed Limit Bye-Law update.



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These roads will also be added for review as part of the next county wide Special Speed Limit Review, which is expected to commence early next year.

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

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"That Meath County Council locates a solar compacting bin in Kilmessan village."

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

The provision of solar powered compacting litter bins is normally decided after considering available budget, the need for such a bin and the availability of resources to empty the bin. At this moment in time, there are currently no proposals to increase the number of solar compacting litter bins, however if this is to change in the future, the possibility of including Kilmessan will be considered at that time.

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

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

8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 9th April 2021.

The minutes were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business



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- 10.1 To agree a date for site visit to Fairyhouse Racecourse.
 - 10.1.1 It was agreed to arrange the site visit for 10am on Thursday 10th June.
- 10.2 Des Foley raised the following issues:
 - 10.2.1 Confirmed that the Annual and June monthly meetings would take place in County Hall, Navan.
 - 10.2.2 Requested that suitable applications be submitted to the Community Department for consideration under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme.
- 10.3 Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the following issues:
 - 10.3.1 Requested an update on the masterplans for Dunboyne North and Moygaddy – the masterplan for Dunboyne North is nearing completion with a number of planning applications imminent. The Planning Department is engaging with the new landowners with regard to the masterplan for Moygaddy but significant work remains.
 - 10.3.2 Referred to the road proposed for Bracetown and requested that alternative options be considered – this road is in the County Development Plan and Facebook must provide an element of it on their lands as part of their planning permission. Whilst proceeding cautiously, discussions are ongoing with landowners.
- 10.4 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:
 - 10.4.1 Requested that any notifications issued by Transportation in relation to proposed road safety projects be sent directly to councillors in addition to being advertised in local print media.
 - 10.4.2 Requested that the Road Safety Officer carry out an assessment of pedestrian crossings in Dunshaughlin, including at Tara News and the Village Grill.
- 10.5 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issue:



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10.5.1 Requested that follow up contact be made with Horse Racing Ireland in relation to the information sought at the April meeting.

10.6 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

10.6.1 Requested that an alternative location for the bus stop at Donnelly's be identified as soon as possible.

10.6.2 Requested that the opening of the Ratoath Outer Relief Road be delayed until the schools return in August to avoid it being used as a speed track and that consideration be given to installing ramps.

As this was his last monthly meeting as Cathaoirleach, Councillor Damien O'Reilly thanked the executive, the meeting administration team, the district engineer and the outdoor staff for their work throughout the year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach