



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9.30am, 14th January 2015, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**, presided.

Councillors Present: Brian Fitzgerald, Nick Killian, Maria Murphy, Maria O'Kane, Damien O'Reilly, Gillian Toole.

Officials in Attendance:

A/Director of Service: Joe Fahy

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Engineer: John McGrath

Senior Executive Engineer: Maurice Kelly

Administrative Officer: Alan Rogers

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Assistant Staff Officer: Rose McManus

Clerical Officer: Edita Zolotuchina

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 10th December 2014.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th December 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gillian Toole requested an update on whether an additional trial using an alternative solar powered litter bin product had been arranged. Joe Fahy confirmed that efforts to identify the alternative product had not been successful and that a full briefing on the trial scheme would be provided following the conclusion of the trial period.



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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Ratoath Musical Society on selling out 9 of their 10 pantomime performances at The Venue, Ratoath.
- Dunshaughlin Community Centre for being shortlisted for a LAMA/IPB award for Best Educational Building, with the awards taking place on 24th January.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 To discuss the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Joe Fahy outlined some of the changes introduced as part of the local government reform programme, including the establishment of the six Municipal Districts, the customer service model and the new operational structure. He introduced the staff from the Transportation Operations Unit, including John McGrath, Senior Engineer; Alan Rogers, Administrative Officer; Maurice Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer for Ratoath and Trim Municipal Districts; and Philip Traynor, Ratoath Municipal District Executive Engineer. He pointed out that the new operational structure will be reviewed following the initial embedment period.

John McGrath pointed out that the details of the technical team were still being negotiated and further information should be available by the end of the month. He confirmed that additional outdoor staff is being recruited, including a number for the Ratoath Municipal District.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need for equity of resources across the six Municipal Districts;
- Access by Councillors to appropriate staff;
- The level of customer services to be provided at Municipal District level.

With regard to the Schedule of Municipal District Works, Joe Fahy referred to Circular LG 27/2014 / FIN 21/2014, which was circulated to Councillors at the January meeting of Meath County Council. This will outline the works to be undertaken in the Municipal District during 2015 - its adoption is a reserved function, with the role of the executive being to ensure its implementation. The Schedule will include the activities that were included in the former roadworks programme in addition to other operational activities, such as street cleaning, and other departmental activities, such as housing maintenance and repair.



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John McGrath highlighted that a number of activities would be dependent on the receipt of government grants, notification of which was due in the coming weeks. He also outlined the other income sources that were at the discretion of Municipal District members, including the Members Discretionary Fund, the housing estate grant and the income derived from the NPPR. He outlined how the schedule would be prepared for this and subsequent years and the key road projects, including road restoration and resurfacing, in addition to other programmes, including winter maintenance, bridge repairs and the Low Cost Safety Scheme, and the need to allow for unforeseen issues.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need for monthly progress reports in relation to the Schedule of Municipal District Works;
- The expectations of the public as a result of the Local Property Tax;
- The standard of resurfacing works undertaken by contractors and the impact of using different materials – a specification is used to ensure works are undertaken to a certain standard;
- The provision of salt to communities to assist on routes not on the winter gritting programme;
- Community Involvement Scheme – it is hoped that this Scheme will be continued;
- The need to improve the condition of roads within industrial estates;
- The installation of solar powered speed signs;
- The provision of street cleaning services.

Specific locations mentioned included:

- Mullagh Cross – junction improvement and traffic calming;
- Nine Mile Stone to Harlockstown – footpath;
- Summerhill Road and Maynooth Road, Dunboyne;
- R125 Trim Road junction to Kilcock – road classification;
- Ratoath Village junction – wheelchair footpath accessibility.



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It was agreed to provide Councillors with a copy of the current roadworks programme and Philip Traynor agreed to meet with each Councillor to identify priority projects.

A Special Meeting of Ratoath Municipal District will be arranged for February with a view to adopting the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works and a draft will be circulated approximately a week in advance.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"What progress to date has been made in planning / costing pathways to Dunboyne Soccer Club from Newtown roundabout and from St.Peter's GAA Clubhouse to the castle pitches?"

A response was provided by the Transportation Section, as follows:

Preliminary cost estimates have been made for the construction of these footpaths but a full needs assessment and analysis of options has not been undertaken at this stage. The Council will give further consideration to the provision of these footpaths when the work programme allows.

The response was noted.

Councillor Damien O'Reilly requested that the preliminary cost estimates be circulated to Councillors, for their information.

6 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

7 Correspondence

7.1 The correspondence received from Kildare County Council, on behalf of Maynooth Municipal District, in November 2014 was raised. It was agreed that Councillors would require an update from Meath County Council staff prior to agreeing to this meeting request and this is to be arranged for the February meeting, after which a further response will issue.



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8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:

- i. Staff contacts;
- ii. Confirmation of the number of outdoor staff being recruited for allocation to the Ratoath Municipal District;
- iii. Issues relating to routes not included on the winter gritting programme;
- iv. Community Involvement Scheme;
- v. The need for salt depots in other locations within the county, with local access as required;
- vi. The need for gritting on the Drumree Road, Dunshaughlin;
- vii. The recent flooding on the main Dublin Road into Dunshaughlin.

8.2 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

- i. The funding for the provision of works at Ratoath College, which was included as a planning condition imposed by An Bord Pleanála – it was pointed out the onus was on the developer to comply with conditions of a planning permission.
- ii. The progress on closure of the Cookstown Lane – it was confirmed that the advertisement had been placed on www.meath.ie;
- iii. The need to resurface the road at Largo Foods;
- iv. An updated list of estates taken in charge to be provided for the February meeting.

8.3 Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the following issues:

- i. Dirt on the road and damage to the verge at Batterstown – it was confirmed that a notice had been served;
- ii. The need for gritting in Kilmessan.

8.4 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issues:

- i. Potholes at Boylan's Bridge – it was confirmed that temporary works had been undertaken with additional works to be occur when the weather improved;
- ii. The impact of the M3 on speeding on roads within the Ratoath Municipal District and the speed limit review;



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- iii. The addition of an agenda item on Dunboyne Graveyard;
- iv. Gritting needed on the old Navan Road to the business park, Millfarm and Rooske Road, Dunboyne.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

8.5 Councillor Damien O'Reilly raised the following issues:

- i. The need to update the signage indicating the location of Dunboyne Business Park;
- ii. That Dunboyne Monument Committee makes a presentation at the February meeting of Ratoath Municipal District.

8.6 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:

- i. That Bus Éireann be invited to attend a further meeting of Ratoath Municipal District to discuss recent route changes – it was agreed that an invitation would be issued for the February meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach