



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30a.m., 10th February 2016, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Nick Killian**, presided.

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

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Barry Lynch

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Maurice Kelly

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Des Foley, Director of Service

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 13th January, 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th January 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:



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- Kerrie Leonard, Drumree, who came second in the World Paragames in Las Vegas.
- Dunshaughlin Community College on their recent sporting awards, including Team of the Year for the Under 14s.

4 Planning Matters

The planning list, circulated in advance of the meeting, was noted.

Councillors raised concerns regarding the application of planning policy on the Skryne and Kilbride Roads and the impact of the road classification on planning decisions. Councillors were advised to raise these concerns with the Director of Service for Planning.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Community

- 5.1.1 To consider the Draft Local Economic Community Plan (LECP).

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department delivered a presentation to the meeting, including the background to an overview of the plan, an outline of the sections and objectives, and the next steps. The plan was endorsed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

5.2 Transportation

- 5.2.1 To receive a presentation on the Atkins Report for Ratoath.

Kieran Boyle, Atkins Engineering, attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the proposed Ratoath Cycle Network and Bus Hub. The presentation outlined the objectives, the methodology and consultation, the cycling provision options and recommended schemes, the bus hub proposals and next steps.

Matters raised by Councillors included:



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- The funding for the works proposed – it was confirmed that the overall cost estimate was to be prepared and that, whilst a preliminary design for the whole network would be developed, funding applications could be made to the NTA for the whole network or for smaller elements.
- Issues relating to specific locations outside of the brief for this project.
- The linkage with works to be undertaken in the area of Ratoath College – it was confirmed that these works would be substantially complete by the agreed timeline.
- Illegal parking on cycle tracks, issues of anti-social behaviour on cycle ways, ensuring safety of users and the possibility of providing secure bike storage.
- The need to consider the Draft Biodiversity Plan.
- The need to consider the specific pressure points in the village, linkages with sports facilities, parking and pedestrian crossings at schools, and provision of bus shelters.
- The need to consider promoting behavioural change.

It was confirmed that NTA approval would be required for the plan, which would be subject to a Part VIII process later this year.

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

The report was circulated in advance and matters raised by Councillors included:

- The deteriorating wooden strip in between the road sections in the Paddocks, Dunboyne – it was agreed to check this.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** to extend the meeting by one hour.



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5.3 To consider and adopt the 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

David Jones, Housing Department outlined the categories for housing maintenance and repair and explained the background to the allocations, including those managed centrally. It was pointed out that the 2016 budget for Housing had increased significantly on 2015.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The number of 'voids' in Ratoath Municipal District and the difference between these and pre-let repairs – it was confirmed that there were approximately 6 'voids' in Ratoath Municipal District, that these received funding from the Department as they represented significant works and that, as a result of stock management, the number of 'voids' had decreased.
- The policy of installing teak doors and the maintenance required – it was confirmed to check if any particular issues arise as a result of this.
- Compliance with building regulations in relation to accessibility – it was confirmed that all new builds comply with all building regulations.
- The ratio of social housing in Ratoath, Ashbourne and Laytown-Bettystown Municipal Districts against Navan, Trim and Kells and the need to acquire land/units for social housing.
- The policy on heating systems and the benefits of ranges/stoves – it was confirmed that oil/gas central heating systems, with high efficiency boilers, in addition to high levels of insulation, are preferred.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department provided an overview of the breakdown of funding relating to transportation, the sources of funding and how these can be spent, the rationale for the allocations to the Municipal District and the central budgets that are allocated over the six municipal districts. The three year road programme for the restoration improvement grant was also outlined.



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Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need to encourage applications under the CIS.
- The erosion of the bank along the road and river in Kilcock and the options to bypass this road section.
- The allocation of any additional funding received to Ratoath Municipal District.
- Mullagh Cross and the possibility of undertaking one of the initial proposed solutions, i.e. the junction or Jenkinstown bridge – the proposed Part VIII solution was outlined and it was confirmed that a response was limited without capital funding. It was agreed however to investigate what measures could be implemented to reduce speed and to consider the suggestion made.

The 2016 Ratoath Schedule of Municipal District Works was unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

The 2016-2018 Roadworks Programme for Ratoath Municipal District was unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

5.4 Corporate Services

5.4.1 To agree the details for a civic event for relevant groups/teams/individuals.

The list of proposed recipients, as received from Councillors, had been circulated in advance. A number of other possible recipients were suggested and Councillors were asked to submit these to Corporate Services. It was agreed that this matter would be included on the agenda of the March meeting for decision.

5.4.2 To receive update on Meath County Council owned lands in Dunboyne (8 acre site).

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, attended the meeting and outlined the proposal for the provision and maintenance of a



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fenced and gated playing pitch by the Gaelscoil under a licence agreement, which would enable public access outside of school hours. It was also proposed to tidy up the trees along the road and reinstate Turner Bridge to link with the existing park. A decision on the future use of the land, which was considered a flood risk, would be required at a later date.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The potential uses of the land for housing and/or amenity and the implications of the flood risk assessment.
- The terms of the licence agreement – these were broadly outlined.
- The need to develop a framework plan for the lands.
- Insurance arrangements – it was agreed to check similar facilities for the arrangements in place.
- The provision of a footpath to access the pitch – it was confirmed that capital funding was in place.
- Support for the bridge being reinstated and the need to address any concerns that the residents may have.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** to proceed with the licence agreement with the Gaelscoil for the pitch.

The proposal to name the bridge over the M3 on the Dunshaughlin to Drumree road after James Fox, as requested by the Dunshaughlin and District Historical Society, was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**. It was confirmed that this matter would be considered by the Protocol Committee and Meath County Council on 7th March.



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6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

“Meath County Council has taken in charge pathways, access boundaries, utilities access and roadways within a large number of residential estates within Meath. Green areas are not included under this charge/area of responsibility of Meath County Council.

1. Precisely who is responsible for any ‘Public Liability’ matters which may arise in the event of the following scenarios: falling trees, falling branches, accident whereby someone falls from tree, impact with stones or rocks or outdoor furniture (public seating for example), and children or adults injured on an uneven playing surface?
2. Should a boundary wall collapse, a green area flood, or should a boundary, wall or hedge suffer damage, precisely who is (a) responsible in the event of a ‘Public Liability’ issue & (b) who shall be responsible for repair works?”

Response:

The taking in charge process, as set out under Section 11 of the Roads Act and Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts, provides that a planning authority, when taking in charge residential housing estates, shall take in charge “any sewers, water-mains, or service connections within the attendant grounds of the development” (now the responsibility of Irish Water) “and public open spaces, or public car parks within the attendant grounds of the development”. The Council also takes in charge roads, footpaths and public lighting.

The Council may not necessarily take ownership of public open space in the course of the taking in charge process, but it does take on a duty of care for those areas of the estate. Where an estate is taken in charge, the Council’s public liability insurance is extended to cover the estate or the phases or specific areas taken in charge. The normal principles of public liability apply as they would to an incident on a public road.

The Council reserves its position in relation to specific instances such as those alluded to in this Notice of Question.

Suffice it to say, that the Council will not be liable for any event, damage or incident that may occur on, or emanate from, the property of any private individual or household or



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for any injury or damage caused to a member of the public on foot of the actions of a private householder.

The Council does not have sufficient resources to maintain public opens spaces or estate boundaries. Instead it provides grant assistance to residents associations and offers other supports to residents associations through Pride of Place and similar initiatives.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

“That Meath County Council mows the grass on the green area at the front of Kilbreena, opposite the Council depot in Dunboyne, on a regular basis in line with the grass cutting schedule for Dunboyne Park. This area is under the remit of the Housing Department. It was landscaped a couple of years ago. However efforts by local residents to cut it on a regular basis have been unsuccessful given the area of grass involved.”

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

The site concerned, opposite Kilbreena, was overgrown and subject to illegal dumping. Following representations from local residents, the Housing Department committed at the time to the completion of landscaping works, with the understanding and agreement that residents would take responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of same, which was the case until recently. As the Housing Department is not involved in the function of grass cutting in any location within the County, it is not in a position to consider the request to do so in this particular instance.

However, a funding contribution to Resident Associations towards grass cutting is eligible under Meath County Council’s Community Grant Scheme 2016, which has recently been advertised, and represents an option that the local residents concerned may wish to pursue.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.



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The motion was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issue:

9.1.1 When the signs for each Municipal District, listing the names of Cathaoirleach, would be erected – it was agreed to refer this to Corporate Services.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach