



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9.30 a.m., 13th May 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 Executive Engineer: Maurice Kelly

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 15th April 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th April 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- Séamus Bruton, Ashbourne Municipal District, on the death of his partner, Vivienne Wood.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The increased number of participants in this year's Anti-Litter League;
- The staff of the Community & Environment Departments on the recent successful compost day in Dunboyne and Kells;
- Fergal and Pauline Ralph, Eurospar, Longwood and Ratoath residents who recently won a Top of the Tree award;
- Royal Gaels who recently won the Leinster Ladies Final;
- Students and staff at Dunshaughlin Community College, who recently collected LMETB Francis Ledwidge Poetry and LMETB Young Historian awards.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Community

4.1.1 To receive a presentation on the Meath Age Friendly Initiative.

Michael Finnegan, Chair, Meath Age Friendly Initiative delivered a presentation to the meeting. The presentation included information on the background to the initiative, membership, the strategy and its review, information on the Age Friendly Business Town initiative and the next steps planned.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The possibility of introducing the Age Friendly Business Town Initiative to Dunshaughlin, Dunboyne and Ratoath and the potential to combine efforts to meet the needs of older people as well as young parents and those with disabilities – it was pointed out that guidelines and a template were available from Áine Bird, Community Department;



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- The need to engage the whole community including all relevant organisations and schools and the benefits of research undertaken by students;
- The need to future proof any new housing provided to cater for the needs of an ageing population – it was confirmed that this approach was planned, not only for housing but also for other infrastructural developments;
- The need to consider the needs of older people in accessing services provided in public buildings;
- The need to consider relevant issues in terms of the capital programme allocations.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Michael for the presentation and acknowledged his work as Road Safety Officer.

5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence received from the National Transport Authority with regard to the request for the meeting with NTA.

It was agreed that the meeting would proceed on Wednesday, 20th May at 2.00pm in the NTA offices in Dublin and that Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department would attend along with all Councillors.



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A draft template report for Ratoath was circulated to Councillors for comment, with a similar one to be prepared for Dunshaughlin and Dunboyne. Councillors agreed to prepare a list of discussion items for submission to the NTA in advance of the meeting.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillors discussed the future of the civic offices in the county and Dunshaughlin Civic Offices, in particular. The potential for offering space to other state agencies was also discussed, as was the provision of facilities to Councillors for meetings, etc.

8.2 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

8.2.1 A motion is to be proposed at the June Ratoath Municipal District meeting regarding the refusal of planning permissions for one-off rural houses on the Skryne Road/Kilbride Road due to the road status in the County Development Plan and the need to amend the policy to enable this road to be treated as a county road due to the decreased traffic volumes arising from the opening of alternative routes.

8.2.2 That Ratoath BMX Club be invited to make a presentation at the June meeting of Ratoath Municipal District – this was agreed.

8.2.3 The need for further information to be provided to Councillors on the new Community Grants Scheme and the need for such schemes to be presented to the Housing & Community SPC.

8.2.4 The need for details of the Pride of Place Scheme to be presented to the Housing & Community SPC.

8.2.5 An update on the resurfacing works in Ratoath by Tayto.

8.2.6 An update on the Part VIII for the R155/R125 junction in Ratoath Village.

8.2.7 That Councillors should not be charged for copies of planning reports.

8.2.8 The health and safety implications for staff from the new bins – it was confirmed that training and information had been provided.



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- 8.3 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:
- 8.3.1 The public lighting in College Park – it was confirmed that a site visit had taken place this morning and that, whilst the lighting complied with guidelines, a report would be prepared outlining any possible solutions.
 - 8.3.2 An update on the village enhancement allocations for Ratoath as part of the capital programme.
 - 8.3.3 The need for reinstatement of road markings at the roundabouts off the M3 at the Dunboyne junction.
 - 8.3.4 The need to include the results of surveys undertaken by local cycle groups and schools as part of the GDA Cycle Survey.
- 8.4 Councillor Damien O'Reilly raised the following issues:
- 8.4.1 The need for road markings, etc. at Baytown Cross, Ennistown/Porterstown Lane and Grange, Maynooth Road.
 - 8.4.2 The damage on the Rooske Road Junction possible pothole repair, Dunboyne.
- 8.5 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issues:
- 8.5.1 The need for a plan in conjunction with the OPW to clear Castle Stream, Dunboyne;
 - 8.5.2 The continuation of the grants to Tidy Towns groups for hanging baskets, etc. in light of the new Community Grants Scheme.
- 8.6 Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the following issues:
- 8.6.1 An update on the Community Involvement Scheme.
 - 8.6.2 An update on the wall in Dunsany.
 - 8.6.3 The timeframe for the roadworks programme.



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- 8.7 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:
- 8.7.1 An update on the junction at Tara Mews, Dunshaughlin .
 - 8.7.2 An update on footpath on Drumree Road.
 - 8.7.3 The need for a fair allocation across the municipal districts under the CIS.
 - 8.7.4 The timeframe for the expenditure of allocations under the capital programme.
 - 8.7.5 The need for the NRA to finish works to an acceptable standard.
 - 8.7.6 The need for wifi printers in County Hall and the civic offices.

On behalf of the Ratoath Municipal District Councillors, the Cathaoirleach paid tribute to Joe Fahy, who is to retire this month, acknowledged his hard work and achievements and wished him well for the future. Joe Fahy thanked the Cathaoirleach and Councillors for their best wishes. He outlined how local government had changed during his time in the sector, particularly during the last year, and how Ratoath Municipal District had a leading role to play in the county, especially with regard to economic development. He also referred to how Councillors needed to work together to advance strategic projects that would benefit the county as a whole. He thanked the staff in the Ratoath Municipal District and Meath County Council for their assistance and support and confirmed that Des Foley would be attending the meetings from June until the post of Director of Services was filled.

As this was his last meeting as Cathaoirleach, Councillor Gerry O'Connor acknowledged the progress made during the last year, which had seen considerable change with the introduction of the municipal districts. He acknowledged the progress made and the manner in which Councillors had worked together for the benefit of Ratoath Municipal District and for the county as a whole.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach