



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00a.m., 11th May 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: Des Foley

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 13th April, 2016.

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

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Nick Killian referred to the Bus Éireann route changes, which resulted in the bus stop at Arkle House, Ratoath being moved to the Woodlands Road and the accessibility issues for wheelchair users. Bus Éireann had indicated that it was the responsibility of Meath County Council to secure NTA funding for accessible bus stops – Nicholas Whyatt explained that the statutory role of the local authority is to ensure safety at the bus stop and that the locations are a licensing matter. It was suggested that this was a safety and equality issue and that Bus Éireann had failed to engage to discuss the matter further. It was also suggested that a route



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change would solve the issue. It was agreed to check the funding applications made to the NTA for bus stops.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Executive of Meath County Council on the recent announcement that Shire was to open a new facility in County Meath. It was agreed that a letter should issue to Shire on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District Councillors thanking them for the presentation that took place in Dunboyne Castle Hotel on 25th April, their ongoing communications and assure them of Councillor's full cooperation into the future.
- Regina Doherty, T.D. on her appointment as Government Chief Whip – it was agreed that a letter of congratulations and best wishes would issue on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District Councillors.
- Peter Kierans, Chief Executive, Louth Meath Education & Training Board on his forthcoming retirement - it was agreed that a letter of congratulations and best wishes would issue on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District Councillors.

4 To receive a presentation on Meath Laterlife Network.

Jim Matthews, Chair and Maureen Caffrey, Meath Laterlife Network delivered a presentation on the Age Friendly Alliance and Strategy, the background to the Meath Laterlife Network, it's aims, actions and achievements, and future plans. A number of specific issues were also referenced, including public transport, housing, etc. It was also pointed out that invitations would issue for a thematic seminar to take place on 27th June in either Navan or Kells on Active Citizens for Europe with a number of keynote speakers.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The opportunity to make submissions as part of the forthcoming review of the Local Area Plans;



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- The impressive facilities provided in Cary, North Carolina, which is twinned with Meath and the possibility of developing links;
- The programmes delivered by Meath Local Sports Partnership – it was confirmed that contact had been made;
- The opportunity to share information in local newsletters and through community pharmacies;
- The opportunity to raise issues with local Councillors who are on the Regional Health Forum – it was confirmed that health issues and getting answers to queries was a particular issue.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Jim and Maureen for attending and for their presentation.

5 Planning Matters

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

In response to a query, it was confirmed that a decision on the Aldi development was due in 3-4 weeks.

6 Statutory Business

6.1 Planning

- 6.1.1 To receive an update on the review of the Dunboyne Local Area Plan.

A report, circulated in advance, was noted.

6.2 Transportation

- 6.2.1 To receive an update on the current Speed Limit Review.



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Paul Phelan, Executive Engineer, Transportation attended the meeting and outlined the report that had been circulated in advance, which dealt with both the countywide speed limit review and the proposed speed limit bye-laws for housing estates. He confirmed that 62 locations had been identified for review in the Ratoath Municipal District, of which 14 were estates. The bye-laws could only apply to Council estates or appropriate estates that are taken in charge.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need for traffic calming on the Maelduin road in Dunshaughlin, which links the Lagore road to the R147 – the guidelines were outlined in terms of what was considered appropriate.
- The view of the Gardaí on signage proposals – it was confirmed that the speed surveys would indicate the appropriate measure, whether standardised signage or traffic management, with repeat surveys to be undertaken if signage only was erected. The funding for estates in 2016 is €80,000 with no additional funding provided in respect of the countywide review.
- The need to take account of school traffic – it was confirmed that this would be included in the countywide review, which is subject to five yearly reviews, and may include speed restrictions for the school term only.
- The opportunity to review additional estates – it was confirmed that the draft bye-laws would come to the June Municipal District meetings, following which it would go on public display, with submissions to be considered by the Municipal Districts in September and presentation to Meath County Council for adoption in October. The speed limit bye-law would then, if accepted by Councillors, become effective from November 2016.
- The effectiveness of flashing speed signs at schools – it was confirmed that a countywide policy on these signs was being drafted for presentation to the Transportation SPC.



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It was agreed that the meeting of Ratoath Municipal District to consider the draft county wide bye-laws should be a separate meeting later this year, with adequate notice given to allow time for review.

6.2.2 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:

- Speed signs at Batterstown school – it was confirmed that a policy on flashing signs was being prepared.
- Civil works at St. Oliver's and the houses at the end – it was confirmed that a list of estate works had been circulated and that the additional allocation of €140,000 was not intended for new works. The list circulated was agreed.
- A gully blocked under the road at Tony Darbys.
- Road disintegrating at The Knocks.
- The inclusion of rural areas for footpath works – it was pointed out that a footpath also required the provision of public lighting for safety.
- The disintegrating seams on the road in The Paddocks.
- The schedule for the Village Enhancement Team in Dunboyne.
- The possible inclusion of Powderlough in the CIS – it was suggested that an application be made for 2017 and that the footpath could be included on the list for new works.
- Flash flooding and water in gardens along the Summerhill-Trim Road as a result of road resurfacing works – it was pointed out that maintenance of gullies and open ditches was key to preventing this.



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- The possible removal of the fallen beech tree in Loughsalla graveyard.
- The provision of double yellow lines – it was pointed out that a statutory process applies to these.
- Complaints received regarding access to Fairyhouse Road following works – it was agreed to check this.
- The need for additional signage or road markings at Mullinam Lane – it was agreed to check this.
- The issue with the trees in College Park.
- The problem of illegal dumping on a site adjacent to Gogan's Yard, Dunshaughlin and the need to clear the site.
- The concerns of residents accessing their homes during the ALMC Rally – it was confirmed that the Council was aware of the issues and no decision had yet been taken on this.

6.3 Corporate Services

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

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

7 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

8 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.



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9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issue:

10.1.1 The Civic Event taking place on 12th May – the details were outlined.

10.2 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:

10.2.1 The new customer water connection fee being charged by Irish Water for Dunshaughlin GAA Clubhouse despite being an existing customer of Meath County Council – it was suggested that this matter was not straightforward.

10.2.2 The provision of a footpath from the GAA pitch to roundabout and the recent resolution of issues surrounding same – it was agreed to check if allocation was still available.

10.3 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issue:

10.3.1 Who to contact where rural residents wished to connect with the public sewerage system – it was agreed to refer this.

10.4 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issue:

10.4.1 The impact of water cuts on the work of tidy towns and pride of place organisations – it was confirmed that these were required for functional reasons.

10.5 Councillor Damien O'Reilly raised the following issue:

10.5.1 A presentation due to take place on the introduction of Imagine broadband into south Meath.



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As his last meeting as Cathaoirleach, Councillor Nick Killian thanked his Councillor colleagues, the Executive and the outdoor staff for their work and cooperation throughout the year. Councillors acknowledged Councillor Killian for his term as Cathaoirleach.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach