



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Municipal District of Ratoath***

#### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***16<sup>th</sup> July 2014, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices***

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

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

#### **Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Joe Fahy

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Administrative Officer:** Paul Monahan

**Executive Engineer:** Philip Traynor

**Clerical Officer:** Fiona Casserly

**Apologies:** Adrian Hobbs, Senior Executive Engineer

#### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

#### **2.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the issue of the attendance of Planners at the Ratoath Municipal District meetings and the provision of the planning application list. Joe Fahy requested that this be dealt with under Item 4.2 – Planning. This was agreed.

#### **3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Kieran Flynn, brother of Councillor Enda Flynn, Trim Municipal District.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The organisers of the Dunshaughlin Harvest Festival Committee, on its recent successful fund-raising event.



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### **4.0 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Corporate Services**

##### **4.1.1** To consider the Standing Orders for the meetings of Ratoath Municipal District.

A number of queries were raised including the quorum for Municipal District meetings and the source of the draft Standing Orders. It was agreed that the Standing Orders would be adopted at the September Municipal District meetings, incorporating feedback received.

#### **4.2 Planning**

A lengthy discussion took place around the attendance of Planners at meetings of Ratoath Municipal District and the provision of planning application lists to Councillors. Joe Fahy circulated a copy of the written legal opinion obtained by the Management Team of Meath County Council in relation to the role of Elected Members.

It was agreed that the planning list for Ratoath Municipal District would be made available on Alfresco along with other meeting documentation in advance of scheduled meetings, commencing in September.

Councillors Maria Murphy and Nick Killian, members of the Association of Irish Local Government, were requested to seek clarification from that body on comparative practices within other local authorities.

##### **4.2.1** To consider the taking in charge of the following estate and the making of a declaration that the roads within the estate shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 – 2014.

- Streamstown, Ratoath

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Damian O'Reilly**.

A report on the current status of all estates in Ratoath Municipal District with regard to taking in charge was requested for the September Municipal District meeting.

#### **4.3 Transportation**



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- 4.3.1** To consider taking in charge a new section of road from its junction with the existing Cookstown Lane (L-22151) in the townland of Cookstown through to its boundary with the townland of Roanstown and the making of a declaration that the road shall be a public road in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

In response to a query raised, it was pointed out that the process of extinguishing the right of way on the bypassed section of the old lane could now commence following the decision above, on receipt of a formal written request from the landowners involved.

- 4.3.2** To receive an update on the review of speed limits in Ratoath.

A written report was provided by Paul Monahan, Administrative Officer, Ratoath Municipal District.

Joe Fahy referred to the national Speed Limit Review Report, published in November 2013 and containing recommendations on speed limit changes. Local authorities are currently waiting on guidance from the Department of Transport in relation to the implementation of these recommendations. He confirmed that an update for Ratoath Municipal District would be provided at the September meeting.

- 4.3.3** To receive an update on the R156 Summerhill – Dunboyne and Specific Improvement Grant with specific reference to the Mullaghcross Junction.

A written report was provided by Paul Monahan, Administrative Officer, Ratoath Municipal District.

It was agreed that Ratoath Municipal District would write to the Minister for Transport requesting an allocation of funding to complete or progress the project from its current status.

Cllr. Damien O Reilly requested that temporary measures, including the provision of signage, be carried out to alleviate the current dangers and that some form of action should be taken in the meantime.

### **4.4 Environment**

- 4.4.1** To receive an update on the lands adjacent to Dunboyne Burial Ground.



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A written report was provided by Caroline Corrigan, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Water Services.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed by the Councillors that further investigations should be carried out on Site 2, taking into account possible engineering solutions that could be developed at an economically viable cost.

### **4.5 Ratoath Municipal District**

**4.5.1** To receive a report on the current status of the lands adjacent to the Gaelscoil in Dunboyne.

A written report was provided by Paul Monahan, Administrative Officer, Ratoath Municipal District.

Joe Fahy confirmed that a letter of consent to apply for planning permission to carry out temporary works on Council owned land had been provided to the Gaelscoil, Dunboyne. If the planning application is granted, the lands would be used during the construction phase and for the purposes of traffic management. Conditions of use will be applied. He recommended that the future use of the lands be considered in the context of the Local Area Plan development process.

### **5.0 Notice of Question**

No Notices of Question were submitted.

It was agreed to extend the duration of the meeting on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

### **6.0 Notices of Motion**

#### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria O’Kane**

*“That Ratoath Municipal District requests the Water Services Department of Meath County Council to provide a report on the water quality issues in the Ratoath Area, particularly water hardness and supply, and will work with the relevant authorities/bodies to ensure that issues relating to water quality in the Ratoath Area are prioritise and addressed.”*



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With Councillor Maria O’Kane’s agreement, the Motion was proposed by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O’Connor**, subject to the following amendment:

*“That Ratoath Municipal District requests the Water Services Department of Meath County Council to provide a report on the water quality issues in the Ratoath Municipal District, particularly water hardness and supply, and will work with the relevant authorities/bodies to ensure that issues relating to water quality in the Ratoath Municipal District are prioritised and addressed.”*

A written report was submitted by Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Environment and Water Services.

A discussion followed that included the difference between water quality and water hardness, the potential negative impacts from the use of water treatment systems and the cost implications of water hardness including appliance replacement.

Joe Fahy reaffirmed that there was no water quality issue in the Ratoath Municipal District and that water hardness was not a health issue, despite its impact on appliances. He confirmed that all necessary parameters were tested on a regular basis. It was agreed that the report prepared by the Water Services Section on water hardness should be made available to Councillors and that Meath County Council should liaise with Irish Water on this issue.

### **7.0 Correspondence**

**7.1** Joe Fahy referred to correspondence received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government last week providing further clarification in relation to the reserved functions of Municipal Districts and Local Authorities. This matter will be discussed further at a meeting of Meath County Council.

**7.2** Councillor Nick Killian requested that all Circulars relating to the Municipal Districts and the Local Government Reform Programme be compiled and made available to Councillors. Claire King agreed that this could be added to Alfresco.

### **8.0 Any Other Business**

**8.1** iPad Training: Staff from the IT Section of Meath County Council were in attendance to provide training on the use of the iPads provided. It was agreed to deal with any other business arising before the training commenced.



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- 8.2** Councillor Gerry O'Connor enquired as to when the Local Area Plan process will commence; Joe Fahy stated that it will probably commence in November.
- 8.3** Councillor Gerry O'Connor enquired as to when the Municipal District budget allocations will be known. Joe Fahy outlined the revised budgetary process and confirmed that representatives from the Finance Department will consult with each Municipal District as part of this process.
- 8.4** Councillor Nick Killian enquired as to the process of bringing a public road back into private ownership. Joe Fahy confirmed that a process applies, which includes the submission of a formal written request from the landowners concerned. Paul Monahan agreed to liaise with Councillor Killian in respect of this.
- 8.5** Councillor Maria O'Kane raised the following issues:
- where the three General Operatives, currently based at the pumphouse in Kilbreena, Dunboyne, will be transferred following the transfer of that pumphouse to Irish Water. Joe Fahy pointed out that the asset transfer to Irish Water is being implemented in stages, with the larger assets being transferred initially. There is potential for the implementation of shared services at certain locations but this remains the subject of discussion with Irish Water. The Workforce Planning exercise currently being undertaken for outdoor staff will take these issues into account but the staff will remain there in the interim.
  - that Meath County Council maintain the Council owned land at the entrance to Lagore Green, Dunshaughlin in advance of and during the Tidy Towns Competition.
- 8.6** Councillor Maria Murphy highlighted the traffic issues occurring at the Newtown roundabout on the Summerhill Road, Dunboyne.
- 8.7** Councillor Brian Fitzgerald highlighted the continuing recruitment embargo and enquired as to whether funding arising from the Local Property Tax could be used to recruit additional staff. Joe Fahy confirmed that the embargo remains in place and that local authorities must seek sanction from the Department when wishing to recruit any staff. He also referred to the possible impact of the Local Property Tax on other income sources and how budgetary decisions will impact on services.
- 8.8** Joe Fahy reminded Councillors that the administrative and technical staff within the Municipal District are available to them outside of the scheduled Municipal District meetings and that any informal queries or requests



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should be made directly to these staff so as to ensure the efficient running of Municipal District meetings.

- 8.9** Councillor Damian O'Reilly agreed to email a list of queries to Paul Monahan for attention.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The iPad training followed the ordinary business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cllr. Gerry O'Connor**  
Cathaoirleach