



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30a.m., 15th July 2015, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Brian Fitzgerald, Maria Murphy, Maria O’Kane, Damien O’Reilly, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Councillor Gerry O’Connor.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Clerical Officer: Edita Zolotuchina

Apologies: Maurice Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 10th June 2015.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 10th June 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O’Reilly**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 10th June 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th June 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.



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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended:

- Royal Gaels Ladies FC Under 14s on their recent win and all CLG teams that participated in the National Féile.

4 Planning Matters

The list of planning applications previously circulated was noted.

Councillors raised the following issues:

- The status of dedicated parking bays for certain retail outlets - it was confirmed that this was more an issue for traffic management than planning.
- It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** to send a letter to An Bord Pleanála on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District in support of the planning application lodged by Facebook.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services

- 5.1.1 To receive an update on the Municipal District Members Discretionary Fund.

A report was circulated at the meeting, indicating the allocations made to date by Ratoath Municipal District Councillors. Councillors were reminded that applications should be submitted no later than 30th September, otherwise allocations would be deferred to 2016.

5.2 Transportation

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



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The report was circulated in advance.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The light erected and since removed at the junction of Glascarn Lane and Fairyhouse Road and the issues with limited visibility at that junction – it was confirmed that, following complaints received, the pole had been relocated and that the issue of sightlines would be referred to Transportation for consideration.
- The need for road markings and signage on the Rooske Road.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

“Could Meath County Council provide update on Mullagh Cross realignment and what is planned for the €150,000 capital expenditure on this junction?”

Response:

The funding in the Capital Expenditure Programme for the R156 Mullagh Cross to Jenkinstown Scheme was provided subject to confirmation from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport that we could recoup the expenditure at some stage in the future if the Specific Improvement Grants were re-instated. Such confirmation has not been forthcoming and as a result we are currently not in a position to advance the scheme any further at this stage.

The response was noted.

Councillor O'Reilly suggested that the relocation of the electricity and telecommunications poles in addition to tree and hedge cutting by the landowner would help in the short term.



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7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian (deferred from June meeting)

“That Ratoath Municipal District requests Meath County Council to support the amendment of the policy outlined in the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019, which restricts new accesses for one-off dwellings on identified strategic regional and important county link roads, including the L-1007-0, and that these roads be treated as ordinary county roads in this regard.”

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

The Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 (as varied) states that ‘It is vitally important that new housing in rural areas, that is located along non national routes, is located in such a manner as to avoid endangering public safety by way of a traffic hazard’.

The Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines published by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in January 2012 state ‘The policy of the planning authority will be to avoid the creation of any additional access point from new development or the generation of increased traffic from existing accesses to national roads to which speed limits greater than 60kmph apply. This provision applies to all categories of development, including individual houses in rural areas, regardless of the housing circumstances of the applicant’. The Guidelines strongly recommend Planning Authorities to identify, as part of the development plan process, those stretches of non-national roads outside the 50-60 km/ph speed limit zones where it would be appropriate to apply these guidelines.

There are a number of regionally and locally important functions of certain regional and county road routes that are particularly important transport links, and traverse County Meath, consequently section 10.16.2 Regional and County Roads (and Map 10.6) sets out the policy:

PD POL 40 ‘To restrict new accesses for one-off dwellings where the 80km per hour speed limit currently applies in order to safeguard the specific functions and to avoid the premature obsolescence of identified regional and important county link roads (see Map



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No. 10.6) through the creation of excessive levels of individual entrances, and to secure the investment in non-national roads’.

Section 10.16.3 of the Plan sets out the Development Assessment Criteria for this policy.

Furthermore regard is had to whether applicants have access to the site or other lands served by lesser trafficked roads, and whether they can make use of an existing access onto a protected route. If such options are not available to the applicant, regard will be had as to their specific need to reside at the proposed location.

It is respectfully submitted that the policy does not unfairly mitigate against a genuine need to live at a proposed location where no other alternative is available.

The L-1007-0 is a very heavily trafficked county road linking Ratoath to Kilbride and onwards towards Finglas. The policy referred to in the motion is considered to be appropriate to this road and it is recommended that it should be retained.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner attended the meeting, as requested.

A short discussion followed on the traffic volumes on this road both before and since the opening of the M3, the process required to change this policy, the implications for other roads in the county and the other criteria considered as part of the planning application process. It was agreed that a separate discussion would take place regarding the individual cases referred to and that the policy could be considered as part of the County Development Plan review. It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** to undertake a traffic survey on this road to inform any future review.

The motion was noted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillors Damien O’Reilly, Maria Murphy and Maria O’Kane

“We the Ratoath Municipal District Councillors support the proposal by Gaelscoil Thulach na nOg, Dunboyne to lease 2 acres of the lands beside the school in the ownership of Meath County Council, for the purpose of developing a playing pitch for



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the school. We call on Meath County Council to arrange the lease agreement as soon as possible.”

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

Meath County Council have received a number of requests from interested parties including this request from the school seeking some of the land for a playing pitch. It is considered premature at this stage to dispose (sell, lease or rent) any of the land, until a review is undertaken to consider the best potential use of these lands.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Damien O’Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

A short discussion followed on the need to review the flood risk on the site, the original purpose of the site to provide housing and the need to maintain green space in Dunboyne as the population increases.

It was agreed that this item would be considered again at the September meeting.

The motion was deferred.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issue:

9.1.1 That the Ratoath Village Enhancement Project be added to the agenda for the September meeting and that proposals should be submitted by Councillors in the interim.

9.2 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issue:



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- 9.2.1 Update on the customer service model as he had received no response to an email submitted.

10 To receive a deputation from Riverwalk Court Management Company.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives from Riverwalk Court Management Company, members of the Oireachtas and representatives from the Fire Service, who had joined the meeting. The representatives from the management company expressed their reservations at the presence of the media. It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Maria O’Kane** that the remainder of the meeting would be held in committee.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach