



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30a.m., 13th September 2017, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**, presided.

Councillors Present: Brian Fitzgerald, Nick Killian, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Councillor Maria O'Kane.

Officials in Attendance:

Senior Executive Officer: Dara McGowan

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

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 12th July, 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th July, 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gillian Toole requested an update on the provision of a bus stop at Harlockstown, following a recent meeting with the NTA – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation Planning & Design.

Councillor Brian Fitzgerald requested an update on the provision of signage in Dunsany – it was agreed to check this.



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Councillor Brian Fitzgerald requested an update on the Part VIII for the continuation of the link road at Kilcock and asked that this be progressed as soon as possible.

Councillor Nick Killian referred to the ongoing works on The Avenue, Ratoath, which were continuing despite the schools having reopened and which were causing concern for residents, school principals and parents as a result of traffic disruption and delays. He queried whether the original deadline for completion, by mid-October, was still feasible and what the role of the consultants was in terms of managing the project. Reference was also made to the need for the contractors to vacate the sports campus site by 6th October to enable the group make a capital grant funding application. An update on the project status was provided, it was confirmed that works on The Avenue were nearly complete and that any delays due to poor management by the contractors would not result in additional costs.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- William (Lally) McCormack, Parsonstown, Batterstown, on the death of his wife, Mary.

Congratulations were extended to:

- John Davis, Team Manager of the Meath Camogie Team.

4 Planning Matters

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

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The central government decision to transfer responsibility for the delivery of Ratoath Outer Relief Road from private developers to Meath County Council, resulting in delays due to the required tendering process and the implications for the delivery of residential developments reliant on the road being delivered.
- The need to urgently address the enforcement case in Clonee, which is causing great concern for neighbouring residents.



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- The possibility of arranging a site visit for Councillors to a solar farm near Belfast so that accurate information can be provided to local communities on their impacts – it was agreed that this would be requested.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

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

The report had been circulated in advance and further updates provided. Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The timeframe for the planned works in Batterstown, for which allocations had been made in the capital programme – it was pointed out that, whilst other village enhancement projects were being progressed, a pedestrian crossing was planned for Batterstown which would fit in with the bigger scheme planned, that the funding allocated was available to 2020 and that a new appointment had been made to advance capital projects including that in Batterstown, as well as Kilcloon and Drumree Road, Dunshaughlin.
- The need for communication with local Councillors for works being managed centrally, for example the resurfacing of roundabouts at Steeplechase and the planned works by Irish Water.
- The need for works on the Fairyhouse Road to be undertaken at nights/weekends/during school holidays.
- The need to accelerate the taking in charge process for the road from Corballis estate to the village centre.
- The need to review signage showing a right turn from Dublin into Corballis estate and the need for double yellow lines to prevent parking outside the estate.



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- The number of outdoor staff available to Ratoath Municipal District compared to that in Trim Municipal District and the joint oversight structure in place – it was agreed to check the numbers and the current operations structure was outlined.
- The possibility of removing the Smart phone box in Dunboyne – it was pointed out that this was privately owned and could not be removed.
- The possibility of completing the footpath at Cortown Drive.
- The possibility of cutting the grass on the green area at the Church of Ireland, Dunboyne.
- The need to prioritise a review of the turn at Avoca , including signage and road markings.
- The availability of the AECOM traffic study report and the need for this report to consider road safety on rural roads – it was pointed out that the draft report had been submitted to the Department of Transport for review and comment and would subsequently be brought to Ratoath Municipal District. Councillors expressed their dissatisfaction that they had not had an opportunity to see it first and asked that an update be provided at the October meeting.
- Update on works in Dunshaughlin Business Park – it was agreed to check this.
- Speeding concerns in Bective Court, Kilmessan
- The need to activate the WiFi hubs on the Big Belly Bins in Dunshaughlin and Ratoath.
- The need for ramps at Fairyhouse Cross as the only means of solving the traffic congestion in the area, which will deteriorate further as the population and traffic volumes increase.
- The possibility of meeting with the NTA.



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- Water disruptions and the need to transfer the Ratoath water supply from Staleen to Dunshaughlin.

It was confirmed that the traffic lights were due to be switched on at Shire from noon this Thursday – Councillors requested that consideration be given to either a freeflow arrangement or loops favouring main road traffic during peak times.

- 5.1.2 To receive an update on the proposed Housing Estate Special Speed Limit Bye-Law statutory process.

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

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

5.2 Housing

- 5.2.1 To receive a Housing Programme Update for Ratoath Municipal District.

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Department provided an update on the housing programme within the municipal district, including the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF), the capital programme, Approved Housing Bodies, the acquisition programme, Part V, Vacant Homes Strategy, the adaptation works scheme, the adaptation grant schemes for older people and people with a disability, the homeless service and social housing supports.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The allocation scheme and potential abuses of the housing waiting list – it was acknowledged that some abuse of the system can occur but that local authorities are obliged to assist those in need of housing based on information provided and in compliance with the regulations.



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- The Part V scheme as it applies to new residential developments – the scheme was outlined.
- The need to exercise caution when acquiring units in established developments.
- The resources available to the Housing Department.
- The supports available to privately owned houses that require some remedial work but where there is no eligible medical need – the alternative supports, e.g. SEAI grants, were highlighted.
- The planned units in Dunboyne where a change of use is required – it was agreed to check this with the approved housing body responsible.
- The Vacant Homes Strategy – the issues and challenges that apply to some of these units was highlighted.
- The problems facing those who are working but who cannot afford the rents being charged.
- The possibility of assisting those to build extensions to deal with overcrowding – it was pointed out that this was restricted to medical need.
- The opportunities associated with infill developments – it was confirmed that a report would be finalised by the end of September and will be brought to the SPC and that infill sites will be considered in the next phase, following the focus on main sites.
- The possibility of getting a breakdown on the reasons people find themselves homeless in order to link with the HSE to provide appropriate supports – it was confirmed that the 2015 report will be updated for 2016.
- The need to adopt a zero tolerance approach to tenants engaging in anti-social behaviour.



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The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked David for the update.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** to extend the meeting by twenty minutes.

5.3 Planning

5.3.1 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within these developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2017.

- Fortune Way, Ratoath

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

- Evergreen Court, Kilmessan

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

5.4 Corporate Services

5.4.1 To receive a presentation from Dunboyne Boxing Club in relation to their proposed club facility in Dunboyne.

A presentation was circulated, with an update on the status of the site and the proposed facility provided. It was confirmed that a S183, seeking consent to dispose of the full site, will be brought to the next meeting of the municipal district with a legal agreement to be put in place with boxing club as per the proposal.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**.



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Whilst a lease is required before the group can apply for funding, it was agreed to issue a letter of consent in the interim with the revised drawings. This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

- 5.4.2 To consider a Town Twinning Initiative with Northern Ireland.

A short discussion followed on the report circulated in advance of the meeting and the differences in population in the council areas in Northern Ireland. It was agreed that this matter would be considered again at the October meeting.

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

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

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

“The Parish of Dunboyne & Kilbride wishes to erect a wall for the storage of urns/ashes at the back of the graveyard at Rooske Road, Dunboyne. It is intended that the Parish will arrange for the building of the wall and manage the internment of the ashes. The cost of building the wall will be recouped by the costs paid for the wall spaces. Could Meath County Council please work with the Parish and give permission for the wall to be erected in the field behind the graveyard.”

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

The Environment Department will provide all assistance possible to the Parish of Dunboyne and Kilbride with regard to their proposal to provide a wall for the storage of urns / ashes at the Rooske Road Cemetery, Dunboyne. Such assistance will include the



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identification of a suitable location for such a facility as well as considering any statutory or other consent required.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government in response to the Notice of Item 7.1 – Notice of Motion as adopted at May meeting re Solar Farm planning applications.

The correspondence was noted.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Access by Councillors to Buvinda House – Councillors were assured that they can access the restaurant, etc.

- 9.2 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issue:

9.2.1 No advance notice given of works at Priestown, within the Ashbourne Municipal District, and poor signage at Curragha.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach



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