



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30a.m., 16th November 2016, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Gillian Toole**, presided.

Councillors Present: Brian Fitzgerald, Nick Killian, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Damien O'Reilly.

Apologies: Councillor Maria O'Kane.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Senior Executive Engineer: Maurice Kelly

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 12th October, 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th October 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Finance Meeting held on 2nd November, 2016.

The Minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 2nd November 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Nick Killian sought clarification on the procedure relating to Item 5.1.1 – the Chief Executive’s Report in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Act 2000-2015 and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2015 for the construction of the Maynooth Outer Orbital Route from Mariavilla Co. Kildare to the R157 Moygaddy Junction in Co. Meath and this clarification was provided. The Cathaoirleach, having referred to the timeframe made available for the consideration of the final report, proposed a number of amendments to the report. It was pointed out that any proposed amendments would require consideration and response and therefore could not be dealt with at this meeting. A short discussion followed where the other Councillors present expressed the view that the concerns and issues which they had raised, had been addressed in the Chief Executive’s report which was noted at the previous meeting. It was then agreed that the proposed development should proceed on the basis of the Chief Executive’s report and recommendation, thereby benefitting the community and improving road safety.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Joe Horan, former County Manager, Meath County Council, to whom tributes were paid for the contribution he had made to the county and to the local authority.

Congratulations were extended:

- Simonstown GFC on their recent win;
- Rathbeggan N.S. on winning the Bunscoil Shield and St. Paul’s N.S. for their participation;
- Dunshaughlin Tidy Towns on their Pride of Place award.

4 To meet with a representative from Bus Éireann to discuss bus services in the Municipal District.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Adrian O'Loughlin, Services Manager, Bus Éireann provided an update on relevant services including the 103, 105, 109A and 109B routes and the college service from Navan/Trim to DCU.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Access to Connolly Hospital.
- Issues around capacity on certain routes and reliability, particularly at peak times – it was pointed out that information on the agreed service levels and penalties that apply are available on the NTA website.
- Connectivity with train services at Pace – it was agreed to raise this with the NTA.
- Access to bus stops for people with disabilities, e.g. at Steeplechase, Ratoath – it was agreed to check this.
- The possible review of the 105 route and Fairyhouse Road service – it was confirmed that, whilst services were always under review, a formal review of the 105 route should follow the review of the 103 route, due to take place at the end of the year.
- The need for private operators, contracted to Bus Éireann, to clearly indicate this to avoid confusion for passengers.
- The need for an increased service to Dunboyne and other locations such as Kilsaran/Plantagen as well as meeting demands based on existing and future developments – it was confirmed that Bus Éireann was aware of developments along the 109 route.
- Welcomed the Kilmessan service due to commence on 27th November.
- The need to ensure that buses do not leave earlier than scheduled.
- The need for additional direct services from Ratoath to Dublin at peak times with a review of off-peak services.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The policy with regard to rural stops without designated bus stops – it was pointed out drivers will not stop if it is not safe to do so.
- The need for a bus stop at Harlockstown on the R125 – it was confirmed that this had been discussed with the NTA and the Council with some works needed but funding was needed.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Adrian for attending and for the information provided. It was agreed that a follow up meeting would be arranged for February 2017.

5 To receive a presentation on Solstice Arts Centre activities.

Belinda Quirke, Artistic Director/CEO, and Mark Mahoney, Marketing Manager, Solstice Arts Centre attended the meeting and delivered a presentation which covered the background to Solstice Arts Centre, objectives, culture and the arts, activities, artists, productions, collaboration and linkages to Ratoath Municipal District.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need for additional signage indicating the location of the centre and improved internal signage for facilities – it was confirmed that improved external and internal signage would be in place early in 2017.
- The possibility of starting the Navan Amateur Drama Festival again – such a proposal was welcomed and the regional and national events already held in Solstice were outlined.
- The fees charged for voluntary group usage, including stage experience and performance for young bands – it was pointed out that open rehearsal days are held, with flexibility around fee structures.
- The possibility of extended access hours to facilitate community and voluntary groups – it was confirmed that meetings with local community groups would take place early in 2017 and feedback received would inform future planning.
- The possibility of restarting the Cultural Companion Programme in conjunction with The Venue, Ratoath and with the involvement of Flexibus.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The need to advertise events and exhibitions in the Meath Forum.
- The possibility of increasing the number of local artist exhibitions.
- The possibility of twinning with the Arts Centre in Cary – it was confirmed that they had worked together before.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Belinda and Mark for attending and for the information provided.

6 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

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

7 Planning Matters

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

8 Statutory Business

8.1 Water Services

8.1.1 To receive an update on the proposed Meath Watermains Rehabilitation Scheme, Phase 2.

Pat Wickham, Senior Resident Engineer, Water Services delivered a presentation to the meeting on the scheme, which included the background to the scheme, the proposed works and locations, the timeframe and scheduling.

Matters raised by Councillors, and responses provided, included:

- The upgrade of the pipe from Dunshaughlin to Ratoath – it was confirmed that, whilst Irish Water had not yet released their 2017-2021 investment plan, it was expected that this project may be included.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The need for consultation with local businesses prior to works commencing, to avoid disrupting traffic during peak school times and to consider events such as race meetings at Fairyhouse.
- The need to coordinate with other utility service providers with regard to road openings.
- The responsibility for replacing lead pipes on private properties – it was confirmed that this remained the responsibility of the property owner.
- The reinstatement works planned for road surfaces – it was confirmed that temporary and permanent reinstatement works would be carried out.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Pat for the presentation.

8.2 Corporate Services

8.2.1 Festive Lighting Allocation 2016.

In 2015, it was agreed to make five allocations of €200 to each of the following towns: Clonee, Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin, Kilmessan and Ratoath. It was unanimously agreed to continue this arrangement for 2016.

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

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

8.3 Transportation

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

The report had been circulated in advance and was noted. Councillors acknowledged the work undertaken as outlined in the report.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department, and Michael Finnegan, Road Safety Officer, attended the meeting to discuss issues relating to traffic management and road safety.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Update on the Fairyhouse junction to Pace on the R147 – it was confirmed that a traffic assessment and review was being undertaken to include recent planning applications and the various options, including signalised junctions. A short discussion followed on the issues affecting this location including the size of the roundabout, traffic avoiding the motorway, the impact of traffic lights on peak hour traffic, the need for funding and the impact of traffic diverting to local roads. It was agreed that the traffic study should be reviewed prior to any decisions being taken.
- Glascarn Lane – it was confirmed that a traffic survey had been undertaken and that there were land acquisition issues to achieve an interim solution with the longer term solution, an outer relief road, unlikely to be achieved. It was suggested that additional traffic calming measures could be implemented.
- Liaison with the Gardaí around enforcement – it was confirmed that a new Garda speed van would be deployed in Meath for four months per annum, in addition to the Gosafe vans, at locations designated by accident statistics. Councillors were asked to submit details of suggested locations to the Road Safety Officer and these would be forwarded to the Gardaí.
- The need for a protocol for the use of solar speed signs – it was confirmed that a draft protocol had been presented to the Transportation SPC with a view to being finalised in January and that the signs, to be used as a last resort, would be restricted to locations where they were genuinely needed.
- Baltrasna on the R125 – it was confirmed that the Garda van was to be deployed and that the location had been reviewed to see what could be

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

done, including hedge cutting and micro-texturing of road surface, but that driver behaviour was key.

- The fatality on the R157 and the need to cut the hedges and erect signage.
- The need to update the parking bye-laws to prevent illegal parking – it was pointed out that the Gardaí had sought legal advice on this matter.
- The need for a meeting with the TII in January/February 2017.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Nicholas and Michael for attending and for the information provided.

9 Notice of Question

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

“What quantity of bio solids were spread in Ratoath Municipal District in 2014, 2015 and in 2016, how many acres was this spread on and how many inspections/checks were carried out on site of this spreading in each of the years to see that it was carried out to the standards of the council protocols?”

Response:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tonnage of Biosolids Spread</i>	<i>Area of land Used (Acres)*</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>
<i>2014</i>	<i>2,070</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>3,759</i>	<i>318</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>No data yet</i>	<i>No data yet</i>	<i>No data yet</i>

Figures for 2016 register will be compiled in coming weeks and can be made available then.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The response was noted.

10 Notice of Motion

10.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

“That Meath County Council prepares a structural engineers report to determine what level of work must take place to restore the ruins of Rodanstown Church to a safe condition.”

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

Meath County Council has charge of a large number of burial grounds across the county. Many of those burial grounds include protected structures and or national monuments. Meath County Council does not have a dedicated budget to fund remedial works to those structures.

The motion was withdrawn as Councillor O'Reilly was absent from the meeting.

11 Correspondence

- 11.1 Correspondence received from Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District re Appointment of Minister for Brexit.

The correspondence was noted.

12 Any Other Business

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

- 12.1.1 Update on the capital programme allocation for Dunshaughlin playground – it was confirmed that the capital programme would be reviewed early in 2017.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach