



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

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

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

***9:30a.m., 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015, 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

**Assistant Engineer:** Gillian Mangan

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

**Apologies:** Philip Traynor, Executive Engineer

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting by referring to the recent RTE Investigates programme, which focused on a small number of councillors and possible breaches of ethics legislation. Councillors expressed their condemnation of the behaviour portrayed in the programme and also questioned the approach taken by RTE in terms of balanced reporting. It was suggested that clarification should issue with the form in January, to ensure it is completed correctly, and it was agreed that this would be raised with the Protocol Committee/CPG early in the New Year.

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015.**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**



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There were no matters arising.

### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Congratulations were extended to:

- Dunboyne Ladies GFC who had won the All Ireland Junior Championship;
- Curraha GFC who won the Leinster Club Junior Football Championship;
- Ratoath GFC who won the Leinster Club Intermediate Football Championship;
- Ross Geraghty, Drumree who won the equivalent of the American Grand National;
- Dunshaughlin Harvest Festival who won the Best Not for Profit Organisation of the Year category at the Meath Business & Tourism Awards.

It was suggested that a civic event be organised for those individuals and teams who had achieved success at regional and/or national level, representing the various sports disciplines. It was agreed that a proposal would be brought to the January meeting for discussion.

### **4 Planning Matters**

There were no matters arising.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Corporate Services**

- 5.1.1 To receive proposals on a 1916 commemorative garden.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the proposal for Ratoath Municipal District, which included:

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- The 1916 Gardens of Remembrance is an initiative to ensure an enduring physical legacy following the centenary celebration of the 1916 Rising. These gardens are an important element of the project with the objective of commemorating The Easter Rising, celebrating and honouring the lives of those who signed the Proclamation and those who fought in the cause of Irish freedom.
- These gardens will have 3 elements in common: an engraved life size typographical replica of the 1916 Proclamation, a maintenance-free flag pole and 7 trees that would represent the 7 signatories of the Proclamation.
- The proposed site and design for Ratoath Municipal District.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** that a design should be prepared for the site at Dunshaughlin Civic Offices. It was also suggested that the proposed designs should be circulated to relevant groups to assist them in their local plans and that the Irish language should be incorporated into the formal opening of the garden.

### **5.2 Economic Development**

#### 5.2.1 To receive an update on the survey of industrial estates.

Kevin Stewart, Director of Service, and Cianan Gallagher, Site Technician, Planning Department attended the meeting and a presentation was delivered on the overall project goal, the issues identified in the two sites in Ratoath Municipal District, the proposed remedial actions and the estimate for works.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need for clear signage at the entrance and throughout estates and the possibility of contributions from businesses towards same;
- The need to liaise with developers regarding taking in charge;



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- The issues associated with vacant units;
- The responsibility of management committees/owner-occupiers to maintain common and individual sites;
- The potential for greater cooperation between businesses in the estates and town centres.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Cianan for the presentation and welcomed the progress being made.

### **5.3 Transportation**

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

The report was circulated in advance and additional updates provided. The following matters were raised by Councillors:

- The repairs needed to the gate at Ratoath playground – it was confirmed that the gates, fencing and painting were being dealt with.
- The possibility of cleaning signs in villages, especially Ratoath - It was confirmed that these works would be included on the maintenance register. Also on the M3 motorway, at the Dunboyne junction, it was confirmed that this would be brought to the attention of Eurolink.
- The collapsed cobble-lock footpath at Tony Darby's shop, Ratoath due to blocked gullies – it was agreed to check this.
- There are red paint markings at the entrance to a residence in Harlockstown following gully clearance – it was agreed to check if further work was to be carried out at that location.
- The water being retained on the footpath on Main Street, Dunshaughlin.



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- The possibility of installing sensor activated lights, CCTV signage and a higher fence in the playground in Ratoath.
- The possibility of adding double yellow lines along the footpath on the Rooske Road – it was noted that there is a procedure before double yellow lines are added and this would be checked out.
- The water being retained on the road and at the pedestrian access following the resurfacing on the Summerhill Road and also at the health centre – it was agreed to check this.
- The use of the Jetvac in estates in Dunboyne.
- The Mill Farm distributor road may not have been done even though it is part of the road sweeper schedule for Dunboyne. This will be checked out
- The possibility of each Municipal District purchasing a ride-on mower to maintain green areas in estates that have been taken in charge.
- The need to address the health and safety issues at Tara Mews.
- Update on the tenders for a footpath at the GAA, Drumree.
- The need for Tayto Park to complete the roundabout as soon as possible.
- The need to complete the signage at Swan's junction in Curraha.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Maurice, Philip, Gillian and all Municipal District staff for the works undertaken during the year and commended the progress made in a range of areas.

5.3.2 To receive an update on the Traffic Survey on the L-1007.



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Maurice Kelly provided a verbal update to Councillors with comparative information from 2004. He referred to the criteria used in designating strategic routes, i.e. traffic volumes and speed, and that, whilst there is a process in place to amend these designations in the County Development Plan, the Transportation Department still maintains that these are strategic routes.

Councillors expressed their concerns that the road designation was preventing people from being granted planning permission. Reference was also made to the need to facilitate infill development in south Meath and ensure housing being provided is conducive to building communities. It was agreed that this matter would be raised during the County Development Plan review.

It was also agreed to invite Nicholas Whyatt to the January or February meeting of Ratoath Municipal District to discuss the Atkins Report for Ratoath.

### **6 Notice of Question**

There were no Notices of Question.

### **7 Notice of Motion**

#### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly**

"I call on the Environment Department, Meath County Council to assess the viability of using soil from the groundwork construction stages at the Facebook lands in Clonee as a low cost engineering solution to the extension of Rooske Cemetery, Dunboyne."

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

*As the Members will recall, the efforts being undertaken to identify a suitable site for a replacement Burial Ground to service Dunboyne and the surrounding areas was the subject of a presentation and lengthy discussion at the Ratoath November Municipal District Meeting.*

*Such discussions, as indeed did previous discussions at Dunshaughlin Electoral Area meetings, focused on particular engineering solutions to make suitable the lands*



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*adjoining the existing Burial Ground on the Rooske Road, and the failure of such a solution to work for a burial ground in the Navan Area was extensively highlighted. In particular, and in learning from the Navan experience, the following issues were suggested as making the build up of ground on these lands as unviable:*

- Amount of plots available for use in built up ground – when you take into account the offsets to ditches, side slopes, offsets from top of slope to burials, etc. the number of burials reduces from 709 to approximately 420.*
- Health and Safety – building up the ground would result in side slopes on all four sides that increased the risks of falls, slips and trips. Where possible risks should be designed out. In order to reduce the risk of a person slipping or falling down the slope, it may be necessary to fence around the top of the slope or heavily landscape the slope so visitors to the burial ground use the designated paths. While this can be simply ‘designed out’, there would be a capital and maintenance cost associated with it.*
- Localised ponding and run-off – built up ground does not behave like in-situ ground, due to the compaction and consolidation of the soil, water does not have voids to percolate through as would be the case in in-situ soil which can result in ponding on the surface and run-off down the side slopes.*
- Aesthetics – the ground would be visible from the existing entrance and the proposed entrance and would not be visually pleasing and would result in the adjoining properties being overlooked.*

*Notwithstanding these issues, the indications from personnel involved in the Facebook development is that they intend to use as much of the cut material in their landscaping and embankments around the site so there should not be a large amount of surplus material for disposal off site.*

*As advised at the conclusion of the discussion at the November Municipal District meeting, the Environment Section will continue to undertake desk studies to look at the greater Dunboyne area to identify a possible site and also undertake a study of the existing drainage of the Rooske Road site.*

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



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Following a short discussion, it was agreed that Councillors O'Reilly, Murphy and Fitzgerald should meet separately with Larry Whelan and Caroline Corrigan in January to discuss relevant issues.

The Cathaoirleach also requested that a site visit for Councillors to Derrockstown burial ground be arranged prior to its opening.

The motion was noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **9 Any Other Business**

9.1 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Update on the site selection for the proposed service station on the M3 following the public consultation – it was agreed to refer this to the Transportation Department.

9.1.2 The possibility of moving bollards at Dunshaughlin Civic Offices to facilitate parents dropping off and collecting school children – it was confirmed that this was not possible as the area was not designed for vehicular traffic, that the area had previously been damaged due to such usage and this had cost implications for repair and maintenance.

9.1.3 Update on Ratoath Village Enhancement Scheme – it was agreed that a meeting would be held in January with Councillors Toole and Killian to discuss the scheme.

9.2 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issue:

9.2.1 The need to look at traffic management on the Drumree Road, associated with the number of estates and schools in the area.

9.3 Des Foley raised the following issue:





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9.3.1 Provided an update on developments regarding Riverwalk Court.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Councillors and staff for their work during the year and wished everyone a happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**