



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 7th July 2021, Via Zoom

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

Councillors Present: Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Brian Fitzgerald, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Damien O'Reilly, Gillian Toole.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Director of Service: Martin Murray

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 16th June 2021.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 16th June 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 16th June 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th June 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes



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Councillor Gillian Toole referred to the issue she had raised in relation to the Glascarn Lane/R155 junction and requested that an update be provided in relation to plans to improve safety at this junction, including for pedestrians and particularly in light of the volume of heavy goods vehicles using the route.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Fr. David Brennan P.P., Kiltale/Moynalvey and Fr. Stan Deegan P.P., Batterstown/Kilcloon who are moving to different parishes and it was agreed that letters of thanks would issue.
- Helena Forde who was awarded the Benemerenti Medal by Pope Francis in recognition of her service to the parish of Moynalvey and it was agreed that a letter of congratulations would issue.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Water Services

- 4.1.1 To receive an update on the Windmill Reservoir and Ratoath Trunk Main project.

Pat Wickham, Senior Executive Engineer, and Philip Doherty, Executive Engineer, Water Services delivered a presentation which included information on the project overview, objectives and benefits; the design route and reservoir; and expected works including sequencing and duration. The tender process is due to be undertaken at the end of 2021 and advance notifications will issue prior to construction commencing. Further information will be available once a contractor has been appointed.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Welcomed the investment and the news that the project would be delivered and underlined the need to keep councillors and residents fully informed.
- Requested that further information on the planned traffic management associated with the works be provided as the commencement date approaches, with reference to the possible implications for traffic volumes on the local roads network during planned road closures and the traffic at peak times at the roundabout from Windmill Hill to the Curragha Road – traffic management will form a key element of the project and consultation with key stakeholders, including businesses, will take place.
- Referred to two pieces of land belonging to the council on the Curragha Road, acquired some years ago to facilitate the removal of bad bends on the road, and the possibility of straightening the road whilst works are ongoing.
- The possibility of increasing the pipe size serving a small number of houses on Brennan’s Lane, Kilbride Road as part of the planned works.
- Queried the plans for road reinstatement – Road opening licences are required, with considerable detail regarding reinstatement. On protected roads along the route, the full lane width will be reinstated when one lane is affected. Otherwise, trench reinstatement will be undertaken with a slight overlap. Temporary trench reinstatement will be undertaken initially, followed by final reinstatement, including road verges, etc.
- Queried the timeframe for the commissioning of the reservoir and pipeline – the reservoir and pipeline will be constructed at the same time. Following testing, the pipeline will be commissioned as the project progresses and will be built into the existing network in stages.
- Queried the level of water disruptions expected – limited outages are expected to facilitate connections and these will be carried out at night, where possible.

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The Cathaoirleach thanked Pat for the presentation and wished him well with the project.

4.2 Environment

- 4.2.1 To receive a short presentation about the UN Sustainable Development Goals and how Meath County Council are integrating these into organisational culture. To receive an update on the URBACT Global Goals for Cities project.

Caroline Corrigan, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment delivered a presentation which provided information on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Global Goals 4 Cities, which includes Trim, the only Irish town, and examples of how to become involved.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Referenced the need for additional training for councillors to facilitate full participation – additional training will be arranged.
- Referred to the council's support of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and suggested that environmentally friendly weed spray be used and its use promoted – the council is partnered with Kildare County Council regarding the use of alternative sprays and this will be trialled, with a plan to raise awareness of the benefits of weeds in terms of biodiversity.

4.3 Transportation

- 4.3.1 To receive an update on the proposed R154 Traffic Calming Scheme at Batterstown.

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation confirmed that public consultation under S38 had taken place between 24th May and 24th June 2019 and the concerns expressed in submissions and at a public event were outlined. As a result, the scheme had not been progressed since. Vehicle activation signs had been installed in January 2021 and speed had been monitored, with 57kmph being the average speed. It is intended to review the design towards the end of

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the year and finalise the design documents next year, with a view to including this in the next 3 year road programme.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Expressed disappointment that construction would not take place until 2023 and requested that it be expedited to next year - it was agreed to review the programme to see if the project could be expedited.
- Requested that the hedge be cut on the Dublin Road to ensure that speed signs are visible.
- Requested that, in the interim, consideration be given to adding raised tables at the traffic lights to slow traffic – it was agreed to consider appropriate interim measures.
- Underlined the need for Garda enforcement of speed limits – it was agreed to issue a follow up email to the Garda Superintendent requesting that speed detection vehicles be deployed on either side of Batterstown on the R154 during peak school times Monday to Friday.

Councillors requested an update on the Ratoath Outer Relief Road – it was confirmed that it is hoped to have it completed in the coming weeks but it will only be open to construction traffic until the school opens and/or new housing provided. The council is liaising with the school authorities to facilitate cycling and pedestrian access, with the road to be secured until there is adequate vehicular traffic. It was confirmed that secure barriers are to be provided. The traffic lights will be commissioned but may not be fully activated until vehicular traffic is using the LIAHF road. A temporary system can be provided in the interim, if required.

4.3.2 To receive an update on the Bracetown Link Road.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation provided the background to the proposed link road, including the S47 agreement, which facilitates the advancement of the relevant planning conditions and delivery of the objective in

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the County Development Plan. The current status was outlined, with further discussions with key stakeholders required. It was underlined that, whilst aware of concerns, the information presented was based on the delivery of the objective in the current County Development Plan and compliance with the conditions associated with the planning permission granted. The intention is to keep all options open regarding accessibility to relevant lands.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Referred to concerns expressed by some affected landowners, the need for their support and for further discussions to address these concerns.
- Expressed concerns that the road would create a rat run, divert traffic from the M3 onto minor roads and the need to balance safety of residents with economic development needs.
- Queried if this could be delayed until the impacts of the proposed M50/M3 project were known.
- Questioned the benefit of the proposed road and whether an alternative solution could be found, e.g. through discussions with Fingal County Council.

It was confirmed that all the points raised had been considered, interaction had taken place with the parties concerned, full technical assessments would be carried out, the road would be a public road and the plans of other statutory bodies such as the NTA were outlined.

4.3.3 To receive an update on Woodlands Park

In relation to the Ratoath Enhancement Project, a meeting had taken place with councillors and representatives from the Transportation Department on 2nd July, with an alternative proposal outlined involving the setting back of a wall into Woodlands Park and reducing the number of trees to be removed. It was agreed that the Part 8 would now proceed with this alternative proposal, with the



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documents to be updated and brought to the September meeting. The remainder of the proposed scheme will remain largely unchanged.

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

- 4.3.4 To advise the members of the Municipal District that Meath County Council Transportation Department propose to put the draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (Housing Estates) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.1) 2021 on public display as required by Section 9 of the Road Traffic Acts, 2004 (No.44 of 2004).

Paul McKown, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the information circulated in advance, including the estates to be added for review. Consent was sought to proceed to put the maps and new byelaw on public display, following which they would be brought back to the municipal district and then to the full council for approval.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy** to proceed as outlined.

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

The report, circulated in advance, was noted.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried whether the picnic benches owned by the council could be branded to prevent them from being removed and used elsewhere – it was pointed out that these are bolted into the ground.
- Thanked the outdoor team for works at Meadowbank Hill, verge cutting on local roads and gully clearing at Killeen.

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- Requested that Tayto Park be asked to renew road signage and add new signs at appropriate locations – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation.
- Requested that adequate communications, including on social media, be undertaken in advance of works on Lagore Road/Grange End.
- Acknowledged that the council had gone through the statutory process in relation to a prominent derelict site in Dunshaughlin but queried whether hoarding can be erected as no works have yet been carried out on the site and it is detracting from outdoor dining for the business opposite.

4.4 Corporate Services

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted. Councillors were reminded that the deadline for the receipt of completed application and deferral forms is 30th September.

5 Notice of Question

There no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to CPO / Vacant site levy, derelict site (Folio Number MH29697F) across from Dunboyne schools for community amenities."

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



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Notwithstanding that the site is privately owned, the Council did in the past arrange for the site to be serviced by a Rodent Infestation Company. However it is not considered to be derelict within the meaning of the Derelict Sites 1990. The Council are however arranging to assess the site to determine if it can be included in the Vacant Sites Register in accordance with the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 and thereafter be subject to an annual levy of 7%.

A short discussion followed with a number of suggestions made in relation to possible future uses of the site including parking, a small number of step-down houses or a period style building to reflect the historic nature of the site. It was pointed out that, as the site is not in council ownership, the first option would be to determine if it can be included in the Vacant Sites Register.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**, was agreed.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to conduct a traffic and speed study on all roads into Kilmessan village to compile data for much needed increased safety measures in the village centre."

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

Transportation Section confirms that it will conduct speed surveys at Kilmessan, to gauge the level of compliance with the posted speed limits in the area, as soon as resources are available for this study.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**, was agreed.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian



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“Following on from recent serious sewerage spillage from Ratoath Sewerage Treatment Plant, which resulted from grease build up in the pipes can the relevant section investigate that 'Grease Traps' are installed in all restaurants in Ratoath Village.”

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

The control of Section 16's is a function of IW that regulates the use of grease traps, where a business discharges FOG'S into the foul sewer they are required to have a section 16 licence, it is no longer a function of water services within Meath County Council to regulate Section 16's.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**, was agreed.

7 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

- 7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 11th June 2021.

The minutes were noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 6th May 2021.

The report was noted.

- 7.3 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 30th June 2021.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business



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9.1 Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Requested an update on the masterplans for Dunboyne North/Pace and Maynooth Environs.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach