



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10.00 am, 9th September 2021, Via Zoom

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Elaine McGinty**, presided.

Councillors Present: Tom Behan, Wayne Harding, Geraldine Keogan, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Sharon Tolan.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Christy Clarke

Clerical Officer: Edita Asaciova

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 8th July 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8th July 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Geraldine Keogan**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Sharon Tolan expressed disappointment that the Part 8 for the footpath from Donacarne to Bettystown was not on the agenda and underlined the need for the public consultation to commence as soon as possible.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The family of the late Jimmy Cudden, former councillor, St. Cianan's Villas, Duleek, and to whom tributes were paid;
- The family of the late Patrick Mooney, Bailieborough, Cavan/Ardara, Donegal, who sadly lost his life in a traffic collision at Mandistown, Lobinstown;
- The family of the late Shane Bellew-Reilly, Moneymore, Drogheda, following his tragic passing;
- The family of the late John Enright, Ardcath and the late David Conroy, Laytown, who sadly lost their lives in a traffic collision at Keenogue, Duleek, and to whom tributes were paid;
- The family of the late Linda Kennedy, Cardrath, Collon, following her tragic passing

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Meath Ladies and Minors team on their winning their respective All Ireland Finals, particularly those players from the municipal district;
- Councillor Paddy Meade and Martina Redden on their recent wedding;
- Duleek/Bellewstown U14s on their recent final win;
- Evan Ferguson on his debut on the U21 Ireland team and who also plays for Brighton;
- Alex Maguire, Mornington, on winning the North of Ireland Amateur Open.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Planning

- 4.1.1 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within the developments shall be public roads in accordance with

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2020.

- Roseville, Bettystown

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

- Larrix Mews, Duleek

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Stephen McKee** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

- Beacon View, Mornington

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Behan** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

- 4.1.2 To receive a presentation on the Strategic Housing Development application, reference no. ABP- 311028-21 Rockmill Ltd in accordance with Section 8 (4) (c)(ii) of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016.

Billy Joe Padden, Executive Planner provided details of the application, the consultations that had taken place, the development description, including the proposed site layout, residential typology and facilities, and the next steps, including the submission of the Chief Executive's report by 29th September 2021, which will include a copy of today's meeting minutes. The decision due date is 24th November 2021. The closing date for receipt of submissions by An Bord Pleanála was yesterday, 8th September, and the application, including submissions, has not yet been assessed.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Expressed concerns at the density and scale of the proposed development.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Expressed concerns at the limited capacity of the infrastructure, facilities, amenities and services in the area to cater for such a development, including schools, water supply, transport infrastructure and sports/community facilities and the longer-term implications in needing to access funding to increase such capacity if the development were to proceed.
- The traffic implications for the wider area including Drogheda and Julianstown and the need to have a plan in place for the provision of a bypass of Julianstown prior to any further similar developments being allowed to proceed.
- Expressed concerns at the proposed Part V social housing provision and the need to avoid families being forced into apartments.
- Queried the implications for the current draft County Development Plan and draft core strategy and whether it would have to be amended.
- Referred to other similar developments where roads were narrowed to slow traffic and parking on the road led to difficulties in emergency service access and expressed reservations at the proposed parking provision.
- Expressed concerns at the impact on neighbouring residential properties, particularly given the proposed scale of the development, and the implications on light and privacy.
- Expressed concerns that the proposed development contravenes a number of objectives in the County Development Plan, including those relating to scale, proper planning, landscaping with the proposed removal of trees and hedges, and green space.
- Expressed concerns at the proposed access points on the Dublin and Colpe roads and the wider implications for road safety.
- Acknowledged the need for housing but urged that alternative development be considered for this site, such as low-rise family homes.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Responses were provided to the points raised, with reference to the assessments that will be undertaken, including traffic safety, access, transport and parking, schools, water services, landscaping, amenities and open space, impact on neighbouring residential properties, social housing provision and compliance with the County Development Plan. The general opposition to the proposed development was noted.

4.2 Corporate Services

- 4.2.1 To receive an update relating to a disposal by way of licence for two plots of land at Seafields, Laytown.

Fiona Lawless outlined the background to the proposed disposal, including the past and current use of the lands. Councillors were asked if any other parties, who may have an interest in this land, should be consulted prior to any agreement being made, with another club, who are without a ground, having registered their interest.

A discussion followed, with councillors acknowledging the issues for groups in accessing appropriate facilities. Following a proposal by **Councillor Tom Behan**, seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**, to proceed to dispose of the plots by way of licence to Laytown Utd., a show of hands vote indicated that five were in favour and one was against.

- 4.2.2 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted and councillors were reminded of the deadline for the receipt of completed application and deferral forms.

4.3 Transportation

- 4.3.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The report, having been circulated in advance, was noted.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Elaine McGinty

“Can Meath County Council provide an update and time frame on the taking in charge of Grange Rath estate Drogheda, Co Meath; a valid plebiscite was received by the council in March 2019?”

Response:

Residents of Grange Rath carried out a plebiscite. It is confirmed that Meath County Council received a valid request from the residents on the 14th March 2019. It's not possible to provide a timeframe at present.

Unfortunately, at the moment, Covid19 is also a factor. Due to Covid19 shut down/restrictions some of Meath County Council's work programmes in 2020 had to be phased back to 2021. Additional Covid19 shut down/restrictions in 2021 have unfortunately resulted in further delays. The programme for 2021 is at capacity due to the high volume of projects already commenced. A programme for 2022 will be looked at in January 2022 and will be dependent on availability of resources.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

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

7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 2nd July 2021.

The minutes were noted.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- 7.2 To note the report from the Joint Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC meeting of 2nd July 2021.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Fiona Lawless raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Confirmed that the second and final phase of the tender process in respect of Bettystown Library was underway, with the intention that a contractor would be appointed in November, with a programme of works and timescale to follow.

9.1.2 Reminded councillors that the formal opening of Tara Road would take place on 29th September, with a temporary road closure of approximately two hours to facilitate this.

- 9.2 Councillor Sharon Tolan raised the following issues:

9.2.1 Queried when the public lighting and EV charging points on Tara Road will be switched on;

9.2.2 Requested that planning the next steps for the implementation of the Public Realm Plan commence, e.g. with an initial focus on smaller achievable steps.

9.2.3 Requested a copy of the full Arup Pedestrian & Cycling Report and underlined the need to commence its implementation as soon as possible.

9.2.4 Requested that the footpath works be completed and a pedestrian crossing be provided at Northlands to facilitate pedestrians, especially those with mobility

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

issues.

9.2.5 Thanked the beach wardens for their excellent work this year, particularly in ensuring that the parking spaces were available for the elderly and mobility impaired.

9.3 Councillor Stephen McKee raised the following issues:

9.3.1 Underlined the need for the process of providing a bypass of Duleek to be commenced and funding secured.

9.3.2 The need for additional traffic management and road safety measures in Duleek, e.g. the need for traffic lights at the bottom of Station Road, signage at the playground and speed ramps – works are planned on the approach to the bridge and the issue of signage will be addressed. Regarding traffic calming works in Duleek, the specification for the traffic lights is being finalised, for a signalised junction at the bottom of Station Road. Raised tables are to be provided at the Maudlins and St. Cianan's Villas.

9.3.3 The need to review and improve the cycle lane at Duleek N.S. – there are currently no plans for a cycleway to the school due to insufficient road width.

9.3.4 The need for appropriate safety measures at the Mount Hanover junction, e.g. flashing lights and safety signage and consider the closure of the road to Platin – normally the landowner would request such a road closure and it was agreed to look at it, pointing out that there were additional services on the road.

9.3.5 The need for road markings, signage and road realignment on the R152 at Keenogue, Duleek – works are being undertaken.

9.3.6 The need for traffic calming in Donore and from Donore to the Staleen Road.

9.3.7 Referred to overgrowth impacting on the footpath and pedestrian crossing at Rosevale – the verge cutting contractor will be asked to look at this again, having cut the hedges in early August.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- 9.3.8 Referred to overgrowth on the boardwalk – maintenance works are being undertaken with more permanent options being reviewed.
- 9.3.9 Referred to the safety issues arising from the open stream at Ryan’s Park – it was agreed to discuss this with the OPW, who require access for maintenance.
- 9.3.10 Requested that Irish Water be requested to provide adequate advance notifications regarding water disruptions and outages.
- 9.3.11 Referred to ongoing malodour issues arising from the Drogheda wastewater treatment plant - this should be referred to Irish Water directly.
- 9.4 Councillor Paddy Meade raised the following issues:
- 9.4.1 Requested an update on the plans for Rathbran junction – this is on the list for consideration as a Low Cost Safety Scheme.
- 9.4.2 Requested that flotation buoys be provided at Mentrim Lake – it was agreed to refer this to the Water Safety Officer.
- 9.4.3 Referred to the need for ramps on the three approach roads to Donore.
- 9.4.4 Requested that hedge cutting notices be issued and that repeat offenders be prosecuted – hedge cutting issues will issue with warning letters to follow regarding enforcement if action not taken.
- 9.4.5 Referred to the need for upgrade of the footpath to Heronstown N.S. – additional signage regarding pedestrians will be provided from Lobinstown to Heronstown.
- 9.4.6 Referred to the poor road conditions and suggested that additional outdoor staff were required to maintain road repairs – the road in Lobinstown may be included in the next three-year roadworks programme subject to the PCSI survey.
- 9.5 Councillor Elaine McGinty raised the following issues:

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- 9.5.1 Referred to the need for hedge cutting at locations in south Drogheda, e.g. Beamore Road – relevant surveys are to be carried out relating to the footpath on the Beamore Road.
- 9.5.2 Requested that consideration be given to the preparation of a Public Realm Plan for Duleek – there are currently no plans to develop such a plan for Duleek.
- 9.5.3 Underlined the need for a bypass of Duleek.
- 9.5.4 Requested an update on the provision of a cycle lane and footpath on Brownstown Wood.
- 9.5.5 Requested an update on the Part 8 for the footpath in Donacarney – the newspaper and site notice should be published next week.
- 9.5.6 Queried whether permanent parking can be provided for residents on Golf Links Road and St. Anne’s – there is no designated parking with double yellow lines having been installed due to road safety issues identified by the Gardaí.
- 9.6 Councillor Wayne Harding raised the following issues:
 - 9.6.1 Queried whether The Highlands Estate was taken in charge and, if so, were the green spaces and footpaths taken in charge – the estate is taken in charge and it was agreed to check if this includes the green areas.
 - 9.6.2 Referred to the dangerous bend on the N51 Slane to Drogheda road on the far side of Ledwidge Cottage and asked that the Transportation Department consult with the TII in relation to improving safety at this location – it was agreed to check if additional signage is required.
 - 9.6.3 Requested that a hard fill surface be provided at the parking area at Rossin Church.
 - 9.6.4 Thanked Christy and his team for the works carried out in estates in Slane- this is part of the risk mitigation works.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

9.6.5 Referred to accidents at Tubberfin junction – signage is in place but speeding remains an issue.

9.7 Councillor Geraldine Keogan raised the following issue:

9.7.1 Queried if age friendly parking spaces can be provided outside Londis on Lower Main Street, Duleek – age friendly parking spaces have no basis in law but represent a gesture.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach