



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

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

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

***9:30 a.m., 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices***

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

**Councillors Present:** Brian Fitzgerald, Nick Killian, Maria Murphy and Gerry O'Connor.

**Councillors Present via Zoom:** Councillor Damien O'Reilly

**Apologies:** Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith.

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Senior Executive Officer:** Larry Whelan

**Executive Engineer:** Philip Traynor

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

**Apologies:** Dara McGowan, Director of Service

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

##### **1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022.**

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

##### **1.3 Confirmation of minutes of Special Finance Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**



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

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Councillor Maria Murphy and seconded by Councillor Damien O'Reilly.

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

Councillor Maria Murphy requested that Item 9.6 be removed from the minutes as this did not form part of the meeting – this was agreed.

Councillor Gerry O'Connor referred to the disposals dealt with at the Special Meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> November and subsequently at the full council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November – Councillor Nick Killian confirmed the Chief Executive and Meetings Administrator had agreed the approach to be taken at the full council meeting.

Councillor Nick Killian referred to the discussion that had taken place on the Joint Urban Area Plan and raised concerns that Kildare County Council had lodged an objection to a SHD application at Moygaddy. The Cathaoirleach suggested that councillors ensure to make relevant submissions.

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

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Ioana Mihaela, who was murdered in Ratoath;
- The family and friends of the late Vicky Phelan, to whom tributes were paid;
- The family of the late Paddy Sheils, Kilmessan, former employee;
- The family of the late Margaret Maguire, Warrenstown, Dunboyne;
- The family and colleagues of the late George Mulvey, former employee.

Congratulations were extended to:



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

- Ratoath Senior GAA team on winning the County Championship and reaching the Leinster Senior Semi Final;
- The Ratoath Municipal District entrants in the County Pride of Place Awards and the Tidy Towns competition;
- Dunshaughlin GAA on reaching the Intermediate Championship;
- Trim on winning the National Tidy Towns Competition.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Housing**

- 4.1.1 To receive a report on the Council owned lands in Drumree.

Corinna Elder, Senior Engineer, Housing Department outlined the report, which included information on the site area, type of development, planning permission, land zoning/objectives, planning requirements of site, site services, site appraisal and the estimated cost of possible unit(s) development.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the rationale for the purchase of the land and referred to the associated cost and the unavailability of other council owned land.
- Queried if it would be possible to change the zoning of the remainder of the site by way of a variation, thereby increasing the amount of available land for housing and maximise the value of the site and reducing the overall cost.
- Queried if national funding would be available for the provision of services, including a group water scheme.



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

- Underlined the importance of rural nodes in rural areas, particularly to avoid one-off houses.
- Referred to the reliance on Part Vs to acquire social housing and how rural areas are being neglected, as a result.
- Referred to the proximity of Drumree to Dunshaughlin, where people are unable to buy houses, and the need to keep young people in the area.
- Referred to the services available at the junction of the Drumree Road and the number of houses along the road, many of which are using septic tanks. It was queried if an arrangement was possible to provide access for all these houses to services, e.g. through grants, connection charges and the sale of the sites.
- Referred to the impact of the M3 construction works on private water sources and wells.
- Referred to the impact of rules and regulations on rural development.
- Requested that a tiered approach be adopted in relation to any future sites, i.e. Tier 1 – allocated to those from the municipal district, Tier 2 – allocated to those from neighbouring municipal districts and Tier 3 – allocated to those from the rest of the county.
- Suggested that the Land Development Agency be asked to take the land if it cannot be progressed.
- It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** to request a tri-partite meeting between the Housing, Planning and Water Services departments to discuss how the development of the site can be progressed. A sketch of the site was also requested, to include the road and number of sites.

In response to the issues raised, it was pointed out that the site does not meet funding criteria and the sale of the sites would generate significantly



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

less than the cost of providing services. All available zoned lands are being reviewed to facilitate housing development, including the site at Dunsany. The requested meeting will be arranged and an architect is due to commence in January and a sketch can then be prepared.

### **4.2 Planning**

#### **4.2.1 To receive an update on the taking In Charge of Seachnall Abbey, Dunshaughlin.**

Neville Carolan, Planning Enforcement provided the background to the taking in charge and confirmed that map that had gone on public display contained a small green area that should not have been included as it was owned by a third party. Therefore it is necessary to reverse the process for this section of land and it will go on public display today for four weeks, with two further weeks for public submissions, following which a formal report will be brought back to the municipal district.

Matters raised by councillors included reference to sightline issues exiting the land adjacent to this section and the possibility of widening the lane and also the request by residents for a proper boundary. It was confirmed that no works are planned.

### **4.3 Transportation**

#### **4.3.1 To receive an update on the proposed Dunboyne Link Road – Dunboyne Business Park connection to R157.**

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer delivered a presentation on the study area, the scheme location, the County Development Plan objectives and zoning, the Dunboyne & Environs Transport Study, the overall scheme objectives, the four route options and preferred route, the proposed road design and next steps.

Matters raised by councillors included:



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

- Commended the work undertaken to date and underlined the importance of the road to the industrial estate and its potential to address other issues in the area and provide an amenity for walkers.
- Queried if signalised lights are planned for the junction – the new link road will have a priority junction, with ducting to be installed for traffic lights.
- Requested that consideration be given to installing ramps in both directions to improve safety for vehicles turning right from the Summerhill Road into the business park, particularly as the path is taking away from the hard shoulder.
- Referred to the need for noise mitigation measures, e.g. planting, to reduce noise for nearby residents.
- Queried if the allocation in the capital plan would be sufficient to cover the costs.
- Queried the rationale for choosing the preferred route option – this was to facilitate trucks parking off site if the recycling centre is not open and to avoid potential conflict for pedestrians and cyclists passing the entrance to the recycling centre.
- Underlined the need to create a short cut for traffic.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy** to proceed to public display.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Paul for the presentation and for his work on the project.

- 4.3.2 To advise the members of the Municipal District that Meath County Council Transportation Department propose to put the draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (30km/h Housing Estates) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.1) 2022 on public display as required by Section 9 of the Road Traffic Acts, 2004 (No.44 of



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

2004).

Paul McKown, Executive Engineer, Transportation Department outlined the contents of the letter circulated in advance. A follow up speed survey will be undertaken to check if speeding has reduced.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Referred to policy being discussed by the Transportation SPC relating to ramps in estates and requested that the criteria for consideration of estates include traffic speed and movements, e.g. if the estate is being used as an access route. Reference was also made to estates where houses are built directly on the road, with no front gardens or driveways.
- Referred to estates where chicanes had previously been installed and the preference for ramps.
- Referred to the need to audit chicanes in estates as many have deteriorated and the markings have worn away.
- Suggested that planning conditions be included in residential developments for the inclusion of ramps at development stage – the Transportation Department reviews each planning application.
- Queried how estates are included in review – estates must be taken in charge and residents and councillors can submit locations.
- Referred to a road in an estate that has never been taken in charge and queried if a section of road can be taken in charge under the Roads Traffic Act, to prevent dangerous parking – it was requested that the location be forwarded to the Transportation Department for review.

It was agreed, on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**, to proceed to public display.

4.3.3 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ratoath



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

### **Municipal District.**

The report had been circulated in advance and a further update provided at the meeting.

### **Matters raised by councillors included:**

- Thanked Philip and his team for all the work undertaken in the municipal district.
- Commended the footpath on the Curragha Road and referred to requests to have it extended past the 80kmph limit and also to provide a yellow box.
- Referred to potholes at Supervalu and on the Curragha Road, Ratoath following works undertaken on behalf of Irish Water – it was agreed to discuss this with the contractor.
- Queried the works being undertaken at the GP surgery in Dunboyne – these are footpath repairs.
- Queried the timeframe for the replacement of the fire-damaged compacting bin at the school and requested a bin also for the bus stop in Dunboyne – whilst three new compacting bins are due to be delivered, each cost approximately €5,000, and there is a reluctance to replace the damaged bin if such damage is to re-occur.
- Referred to a damaged gully beside the green area to the rear of Lutterall Hall.
- Queried if public lighting would be provided following the footpath works on the Bog Road.
- Queried if the grass can be cut beside Mael Duin estate.





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

- Referred to issues regarding the installation of a pipe to deal with surface water in Eden Court and also the erection of a fence by the community college, which has led to issues of anti-social behaviour – it was pointed out that this was a matter for the private landowner and school but that the Land Registry would be checked regarding the right of way.

### **5 Notice of Question**

There were no Notices of Question.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

#### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy**

“We call on Meath County Council to pursue with Eirgrid the reinstatement of grass verges and road surfaces which were damaged on the roads indicated as the diversion route during the MSD/Corduff project.”

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

*Transportation can confirm that Eirgrid are not involved in the MSD to Corduff project. Suir Engineering are currently on site carrying out the works along the MSD to Corduff Route.*

*Further to consultation with Suir Engineering regarding the reinstatement of all verges and the repairs to roads and roadside ditches, the Ratoath Municipal District can confirm that all these works will be attended to in full when construction is finished. The reinstatement works will then be surveyed by the Municipal District when they have been completed, to confirm satisfaction.*

Councillor Maria Murphy introduced the motion by referring the number of road closures and diversions in place, resulting in damage to verges on these diversion routes. Councillors Nick Killian, Damien O'Reilly and Gillian Toole spoke in support. It was pointed out that the roads damaged were not necessarily the official diversion route. Verge



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

repairs will take place next year when weather conditions improve. Councillor Maria Murphy requested a report following an inspection of the roads.

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

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes to 11.45am.

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

"I call on Meath County Council to install a "Welcome to Meath" sign at Meath bridge, Kilcock."

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

Ratoath Municipal District will provide a Welcome to Meath sign at this location.

An amended motion, below, was proposed by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**:

"We call on Meath County Council to install a "Welcome to Meath" sign at Millerstown, Kilcock."

The amended motion was agreed.

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

**7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

The minutes were noted.

**7.2 To note the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC Meeting Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

The minutes were noted.

- 7.3 To note the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

The minutes were noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

- 8.1 Correspondence received from the NTA in response to Item 6.1 – Notice of Motion regarding Route 270 Bus Service.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** to issue a response on behalf of councillors referring to the difficulty of councillors in accepting the information provided, based on local knowledge, and requesting that this matter be further discussed at the meeting between the NTA, Go Ahead Ireland and Ratoath Municipal District, as previously requested.

### **9 Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

- 9.1.1 Requested an update on the provision of bus stops in the municipal district.
- 9.1.2 Referred to the urgent need to replace the school wardens in Ratoath and Rathbeggan and asked that these posts be advertised immediately. He also requested that the management of school wardens be reviewed to ensure that cover is provided from a central source rather than the municipal district.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** to extend the meeting by ten minutes to 11.55am.

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

- 9.2.1 Referred to the discussion at the Transportation SPC meetings regarding school



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

wardens and the use of traffic lights instead.

9.3 Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the following issues:

9.3.1 Requested an update on the solar energy planning application, which was described as being near Summerhill but is actually near Culmullen and the commitment given by developers to come back on this.

9.3.2 Requested an update on the planning application for power storage at Batterstown and the related safety concerns.

9.4 Councillor Damien O'Reilly raised the following issue:

9.4.1 Requested an update on the masterplan for land management in Dunboyne as there are no major estates planned and this is having a negative impact on local retailers.

9.5 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:

9.5.1 Requested additional signage on the approaches to Moulden Bridge.

9.5.2 Requested that the Road Safety Officer liaise with the Gardaí with regard to an increased Garda presence at Ratoath and Rathbeggan schools to influence driver behaviour.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Gillian Toole

Cathaoirleach