



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

11.00 a.m., 7th December 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:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

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 16th November 2022.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th November 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Nick Killian requested an update on the school wardens at Ratoath and Rathbeggan national schools and referred to his request that the posts be advertised. He sought confirmation that the positions would not be filled, in which case a discussion is needed at full council level. It was confirmed that works are planned for Ratoath after Christmas but that no further works are planned for Rathbeggan, with this information having been provided to the relevant schools. Councillors expressed disappointment that the information had not first been



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

provided to them and the Cathaoirleach referred to an email she had submitted with suggestions on the works needed at both schools, to which she had not received a reply. They queried what works are planned for Ratoath and referred to the need for additional works at Rathbeggan, e.g. a raised table with ramps on either side. Councillor Nick Killian queried if the policy not to replace school wardens had been discussed by the full council or by the Transportation SPC only. It was pointed out that the SPC had discussed the policy regarding safety at schools, including the difficulty in providing cover for school wardens during absences. Each case is considered individually and, where possible, appropriate engineering solutions are provided. It was agreed that an update would be sought on proposals for both Ratoath and Rathbeggan, with councillors' preference being the provision of school wardens.

Councillor Maria Murphy referred to an Emergency Notice of Motion that had been submitted for this meeting but had not been included as it referred to a live planning application. She pointed out that her query was general in seeking clarity on the power of councillors in relation to planning applications that impact on the public aspect. It was pointed out that the wording of the motion submitted clearly related to a live planning application, which councillors cannot discuss but on which they can make submissions.

Councillor Nick Killian queried if a Part 8 is required if a planning application includes changes to roads, etc. It was confirmed that once the development is within the red line, it forms part of that planning application and a letter of consent is required from the local authority to undertake such works, once pre-planning and consultation is undertaken in advance. It is then up to the planners to decide if the proposed development complies with proper planning.

Councillor Brian Fitzgerald queried as to whether proposed amendments to the layout of a town or village, which is set out in the local area plan, represents a material contravention of the County Development Plan. It was confirmed that the consideration of any planning application by the planners is based on all available information.

Councillor Nick Killian queried since when councillors have been unable to discuss planning applications at meetings – it was agreed to re-issue the relevant circular.

Councillor Gillian Toole requested an update on the provision of bus stops – it was confirmed that the contractor is due to commence works early in the new year. Councillor Nick Killian referred to the proposal to put a bus stop opposite Donnelly's, which is the wrong location and would result in the loss of four parking spaces. Councillor Gillian Toole agreed and referred to the need to consider the elements of the Part 8 that was agreed. She also referred to her



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

submission of a list of locations requiring bus stops, including Jamestown. Councillors requested that no works commence until the relevant staff, and Bus Éireann, walk the route to discuss the options.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Maria Kealy Johnson, Ballinlough, Dunshaughlin;
- The family of the late Elizabeth (Betty) Galway Greer, Rooske Lodge, Dunboyne;
- The family of the late Joe Mannering, Ratoath.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Councillor Damien O'Reilly on becoming Chair of LMETB and Dunshaughlin N.S.;
- Meath County Council on the playground in Dunboyne, supported by the donation from Facebook;
- All involved in the recent Dunshaughlin Harvest Festival event;
- Meath LEO on the Shop Local initiatives and the council staff for erecting the signage;
- All involved in the Craft Collective in Dunshaughlin Courthouse.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by councillors included:

- Thanked Philip and his team for all the work undertaken, including the hedge cutting, works on the Bog Road, footpaths and works in College Park.
- Referred to complaints from cyclists regarding the overgrown hedges on the stretch of road from the Esso station to the Workhouse – a notice can be issued.
- Referred to ongoing works and disruption caused by the works being undertaken on behalf of Irish Water, despite a commitment given that these would be finished, and related traffic disruption caused by failure to coordinate with other works being undertaken and having to revisit locations several times.
- Referred to ponding at the fence in Lutterall Hall and the damaged gully beside the green area to the rear of the estate.
- Referred to the information provided at the budget meeting regarding an increase in staff numbers and queried if this would result in additional outdoor staff being assigned to Ratoath Municipal District – the staff referred to are government funded, primarily for Housing, Transport, etc.
- Requested an update on when works are due to start in Culmullen.
- Requested that a letter issue requesting that the waste ground at Dunsany Cross, arising from the road realignment, be given to the local people who wish to make it into a small park and picnic area.
- Referred to the need for the Ballybin Road to be upgraded and realigned, due to the amount of traffic using it.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian

“I propose the motion that Meath County Council Transportation Department consider declaring the road at Corballis Demsense a public road under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993. The designation would stretch from the Junction with the R125 at Corballis Shopping Centre to Stonebridge estate in Ratoath”.

Councillor Nick Killian introduced the motion by referring to the safety issues at this junction, with cars parking on the corner and with neither the council nor the Gardaí having a remit. In addition, there is limited parking for residents and commercial units. The process for declaring a public road was outlined.

The motion, proposed by Councillor Nick Killian and seconded by Councillor Gerry O'Connor, 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 November 2022.

The minutes were noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Requested an update on the Dunboyne park extension, asked who will control



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

the car park area and requested that the car park barriers be locked at night and bollards be positioned along the path – the council has responsibility for the car park whilst the GAA can use it and have a lease for the pitches. The linear walkway is nearly complete whilst the landscaping is weather dependent.

It was also pointed out that the developer has submitted a planning application for a playground in Clonee.

9.2 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issue:

- 9.2.1 Requested an update on the progress of the connection from Junction 6 of the M3 to the R147 to alleviate traffic in Dunshaughlin village and whether a funding application has been made.

9.3 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:

- 9.3.1 Requested an update on Moulden Bridge, including the wall, artwork and signage.
- 9.3.2 Reminded councillors of the meeting being held tonight in relation to Navan Hospital.

9.4 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issue:

- 9.4.1 Thanked Philip and his team and the Meeting Administration team for their work throughout the year.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Philip and his team, the Meeting Administration team and Dara for their work and support throughout the year and wished everyone a very happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



Cathaoirleach