



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 11th January 2023, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Brian Fitzgerald, Nick Killian, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor and 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 7th December 2022.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 7th December 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Maria Murphy referred to the four narrow bins installed by the contractor in Dunboyne Park and queried who will manage these and suggested that three of these could be removed if replaced with a standard sized bin – the contractor remains responsible for these until it is handed over. It was agreed to check these.

Councillor Maria Murphy referred to the discussion that took place regarding the school wardens at Rathbeggan and Ratoath, with no further works planned for Rathbeggan, and



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expressed the preference for school wardens at both locations. She also urged that the safety standards at schools be applied, particularly if no school warden is in place, given the issues that apply at Rathbeggan on the R147 and the population increases in Ratoath. She requested that additional signage and raised tables with ramps on both sides be provided. Councillor Nick Killian agreed and referred to the speed of traffic approaching Rathbeggan from Fairyhouse roundabout in addition to the use by parents of the car park on the opposite side of the road. He also urged that the policy of school wardens be addressed. Dara McGowan pointed out that the Transportation SPC had developed a policy on school safety measures, based on extensive UK research, which prioritised engineering solutions, with school wardens as a last resort. Having a school warden in place can create a dependency, which can cause issues if the warden is unavailable, whilst engineering solutions are available at all times. Councillor Gerry O'Connor referred to the countywide speed limit review, which may result in the speed limit on the R147 increasing. He suggested that a school warden may be appropriate as an interim measure until engineering solutions have been provided. Councillor Gillian Toole requested that information on any plans be circulated to councillors and requested a raised table and additional signage at Rathbeggan.

Councillor Gillian Toole sought an update on the provision of bus stops in Ratoath. It was confirmed that the Transportation Department intend to commence the construction of the bus stops on Monday. However, it is intended to omit the bus stop on the cemetery side of the road and only construct the bus stop in the northbound direction for now as a replacement to Doherty's entrance. Councillor Toole expressed dissatisfaction at the loss of parking spaces and referred to other bus stops designed to drop off without such an impact.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Noel Leonard, Dunboyne, former councillor, on the death of his wife, Philomena (Phil);
- The family of the late Sib Rooney, Oristown, Kells and former councillor;
- Charlie Tully, Transportation Department, on the death of his mother, Mary;
- Audrey Norris, Corporate Affairs & Governance, and Derek Halligan, former Community Garda, on the death of their mother, Molly.



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Congratulations were extended to:

- All the council staff involved in the recent Shop Local Campaign and the Christmas lights and events;
- All the small businesses and crafts people on the Christmas craft initiatives;
- Declan Clarke, Coláiste Ríoga, on starting the process of making Dunshaughlin an Autism Friendly Town.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

- 4.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ratoath 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 works carried out, including the winter gritting, including footpaths, etc. and the footpath works on the old Navan Road, Dunboyne.
- Referred to two drains in College Park that require attention.
- Queried if it would be possible to add recycling facilities for paper and cardboard at Dunshaughlin Civic Offices.
- Referred to the condition of the road at the back of Woodview/Oakridge Crescent – this is on the three year roadworks programme and has been measured for paths/kerbs initially. It was agreed to check the timeline.



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- Referred to the winter gritting programme and the need to include roads such as the Kilbride Road, which is gritted on the Dublin side; the full extent of the Skryne Road, Ratoath; Ballybin Road; Rooske Road, Old Navan Road and Millfarm Road, Dunboyne and all bus routes.
- Suggested that the review of the winter gritting programme be considered in the context of next year's budget, to fund any extension of routes – the programme will be reviewed and brought to the Transportation SPC in the Autumn. If additional funding is allocated for 2024, consideration can be given to extending the programme.
- Suggested that additional salt barns be provided throughout the county to improve efficiencies within the winter gritting programme – If a salt barn and loader were to be provided in each municipal district, the cost would represent a large capital and revenue outlay, subsuming any budget increases over approximately 5 years.
- Queried if the municipal district can purchase a small road sweeper – it was agreed to check the capital plan, fleet replacement programme, to see if this is included but this would represent a large capital cost and such machines do not tend to have a long lifespan. Therefore, such equipment is generally leased although availability can be an issue.
- Queried if the tender had issued for the pedestrian crossing at Eurospar, Dunboyne.
- Referred to the uneven surface on the footpath at Supervalu, Dunboyne.
- Referred to ponding by the green in Dunboyne, opposite Macaris.
- Referred to the amount of surface water on roads, as a result of rainfall amounts, and the potential damage to roads if this freezes.
- Acknowledged the progress being made in Batterstown in relation to the watermain works.



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- Referred to the issues being experienced by businesses, developers, etc. as a result of delayed ESB connections.

It was agreed that councillors would submit proposed locations to be included in the winter gritting programme to Councillor Gerry O'Connor and the Meetings Administrator with a view to bringing these to the attention of the Transportation SPC and to be included in the review to be carried out later this year.

5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to begin the Part 8 planning process for a pathway and cycle way from Newtown Roundabout, Dunboyne to Dunboyne AFC, A86 KT68."

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

Further to the update provided in June 2022, the Council can confirm that consultants have been appointed to assess and identify the preferred links for the overall pedestrian and cycle networks in Dunboyne, including along the R156 Summerhill Road to the Dunboyne AFC pitch. Ultimately, the Council intends that all elements in the preferred scheme for Dunboyne will be brought forward in a single planning process, appropriate for a local authority development of this nature. If the appropriate planning process turns out to be a 'Part 8', then it is estimated that the entire process from inception to completion will take circa 18 months.

Councillor Damien O'Reilly introduced the motion by welcoming the information provided and requested that, if works start, that this element be brought forward as Phase I. Councillor Maria Murphy spoke in support of the motion but expressed concerns at any delays in advancing the project, as no draft plan has been presented, public consultation has not commenced and the Part 8 process has not commenced. Councillor



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Gerry O'Connor queried what costs would be borne by the council and if an allocation would be made in next year's budget. It was pointed out that, if this was a NTA project, it would most likely be 100% funded. Councillor Gillian Toole suggested that this element be advanced separate to the Part 8 for the wider scheme, if funding was available, as it would then be delivered more quickly and would be of wider benefit to the community.

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

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence received from Dublin Airport Authority in response to correspondence issued, as per Item 9.5.2 on the October meeting minutes re flight paths.

The correspondence was noted. Councillor Gillian Toole suggested that this matter continue to be monitored.

8 Any Other Business

- 8.1 Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the following issue:

8.1.1 Requested an update on the Part 8 completed a number of years ago which was designed to straighten the road and set back the wall at Carton House, which has been the location of a number of accidents and has resulted in damage to the wall.

- 8.2 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issues:

8.2.1 Queried when the update on the lands at Drumree would be provided – this will be provided at the February meeting.

8.2.2 Requested an update on the countywide speed limit review – the review is ongoing.

8.2.3 Referred to a water pipe on the Curraghera Road, Ratoath where new gullies, etc.



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are needed.

8.2.4 Referred to lorries ignoring the traffic lights on the Ratoath Outer Relief Road, especially at school times.

8.3 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issues:

8.3.1 Requested an update from the Transportation Section on the remaining section of the road at Bracetown, including maps, etc., following the result of the Judicial Review.

8.3.2 Referred to the issue of wastewater pipes located on private property, particularly in older housing estates such as St. Patrick's Park and Beechdale, Dunboyne, and the refusal of Irish Water to enter to rectify issues such as blockages. This has resulted in homeowners having to pay to have such issues investigated but they should not have to cover any related capital costs on communal infrastructure.

8.4 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:

8.4.1 Requested that the sign at Eden Court, removed during works, be replaced.

8.4.2 Requested an update on outdoor staff numbers.

8.4.3 Requested an update on the possible provision of a dog park.

8.4.4 Queried if modular housing could be provided at the site in Drumree.

8.5 Councillor Gillian Toole raised the following issues:

8.5.1 Requested an update on the outstanding issues at Moulden Bridge, including the name plaque and landscaping.

8.5.2 Requested that the verge be replaced at Leigh Valley.



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- 8.5.3 Suggested that a future municipal district meeting be held in the Hub area of the civic offices to showcase the facility.
- 8.5.4 Requested an update on the timeframe for the resurfacing of Main Street, Dunshaughlin from the garage to the Willows.
- 8.5.5 Requested that signs be erected on the back roads through Lagore, Mooretown, etc. to warn traffic of pedestrians on the roads.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Cathaoirleach