



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 1st February 2023, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

An Leas-Chathaoirleach, Councillor Damien O'Reilly, presided.

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

Councillors Present via Zoom: Councillors Gillian Toole and Deirdre Geraghty-Smith.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Gillian Toole, confirmed that, as she was attending online and had to leave the meeting early, the Leas-Chathaoirleach, Councillor Damien O'Reilly, had agreed to chair the meeting.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11th January 2023.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th January 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of Councillor Gerry O'Connor and seconded by Councillor Nick Killian.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gillian Toole referred to the updates provided in respect of the planned works at Rathbeggan national school over Easter and queried if any interim measures were planned – it



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is intended to carry out the infrastructure works at both locations during the Easter school break and no interim measures are planned.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Tom Moriarty, former Meath footballer, who had lived in Kilcloon.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Dunshaughlin Tidy Towns and Pride of Place committees and council staff on winning the national Pride of Place award in the relevant category;
- Dunshaughlin Dance on representing Ireland at the recent dance competition in Blackpool and achieving 2nd place as well as securing a number of individual awards.

4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

- 4.1 Agreement in principle to dispose of total land 0.1454Ha with Folio MH65521F (part of) comprising of 0.0515Ha – plot A, MH56313F comprising of 0.0885Ha – plot B and MH27761F comprising of 0.0054Ha – plot C as per drawing number LND5714 – S183 - 101.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

- 4.2 Agreement in principle to dispose of total land 0.0010Ha in Folio MH31592F (part of) and is zoned: A2-New Residential.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**.

5 Statutory Business



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5.1 To consider and adopt the 2023 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

In attendance on behalf of the Transportation Department were Martin Murray, Director of Services, Caroline Corrigan, Senior Engineer, Kitty Foyle, Senior Executive Officer, Majella Farrell, Administrative Officer and Maria Devaney, Senior Executive Engineer.

Caroline Corrigan delivered a presentation which included information on an overview of 2022, sustainability and the circular economy, data led SMDW development, pre-2018 versus 2022 PSCI ratings, Meath's performance in comparison to the national average, an overview of the 2023 SMDW programme, challenges for 2023, sources of funding, how increased investment in the road network has led to network improvements and reactive, planned and strategic services.

Matters raised by councillors, and responses provided, included:

- Welcomed the additional funding allocations, including own resources, and the climate and sustainability plans - there is no certainty around funding levels at this stage and the focus on sustainable projects may result in a slight redistribution of funding. Increased direct investment will be directed towards public realm projects.
- Requested information on the funding allocations per municipal district – the allocations are based on data and evidence, including traffic volumes. This information can be provided once presentations have been made to the six municipal districts.
- Queried if the funding announcements were being made later than in previous years and what are the knock-on effects, if any.
- Referred to the poor standard of workmanship by contractors following the granting of road opening licences and requested that this issue be raised in advance of future works – it was confirmed that a dedicated team is in place to manage road opening licences, a statutory process, which facilitates the provision of key infrastructure that benefits Meath, and is managed as appropriate.



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- Requested a breakdown per municipal district on the total number of active road opening licences.
- Referred to the need to ensure diversions, as a result of road opening licences, are appropriate for all traffic, are signed correctly and that these roads are adequately reinstated when works are complete, with adequate oversight by council staff.
- Referred to the need for additional staff in the municipal district, given the population, traffic volumes, number of footpaths, etc. - staffing levels are under review to improve service levels.
- Requested that potholes and other complaints relating to county roads continue to be dealt with.
- Referred to the impact of toll avoidance on the roads in the municipal district.
- Queried if applications are still being accepted for CIS – 39 CIS projects remain on the list with investment being targeted to priority projects based on available data. CIS applies to public roads whilst LIS applies to private roads.
- Queried the plan for the future maintenance of parks and playgrounds.
- Queried what are the cost implications of using recycled material and whether this would be covered centrally – the industry is trialling different approaches with a view to reducing associated costs.
- Referred to the number of estates with green areas but no greenways in Ratoath Municipal District and queried if funding can be provided to maintain these green areas – it is hoped to secure an annual grant for the maintenance of greenways.
- Requested that complaints regarding the dirt on roads associated with the solar farm development in Kilbride be investigated.



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- Requested a report on planned major improvement works to include those roads with high traffic volumes.
- Referred to the need to continue to focus on public transport solutions – a tripartite meeting between the NTA, Bus Éireann and the council is being sought.

Martin Murray thanked Caroline and her team for the work undertaken in preparing the Schedule of Municipal District Works – Transportation.

The Leas-Chathaoirleach thanked Caroline and the team for the information presented and the planned programme of works and congratulated them on the communications when works are taking place - the Transportation Department aims to undertake effective communications, taking into account submissions made and concerns raised.

Corrina Elder, Senior Engineer, Housing Department delivered a presentation, which included examples of improvement works carried out, sources of funding including centralised budgets and the funding allocated to the various categories and the planned programme of works for the year.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the programme of works presented and the increased funding allocated.
- Requested that the number of Approved Housing Body units provided, per municipal district, be included in the monthly Chief Executive reports.
- Requested that local authority upgrading works be coordinated with programmes being undertaken by Approved Housing Bodies in the same developments – this may not be feasible.
- Expressed concerns regarding the future repair and maintenance of social housing units, including those being provided by Approved Housing Bodies and in apartment blocks.



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- Referred to the standard of maintenance works being undertaken in local authority houses and tenants who report issues to contractors but receive no further update – it is currently problematic to secure the services of certain trades such as electricians and plumbers. Maintenance works are carried out on a priority basis.
- Requested that a planned programme of window and door replacement, over a two year period, be provided to affected tenants – a definitive timeline cannot be provided.

The Leas-Chathaoirleach thanked Corrina and the Housing staff for the work they undertake.

The 2023 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Ratoath Municipal District was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

5.2 Housing

5.2.1 To receive an update on the lands at Drumree.

Dara McGowan referred to the previous update provided and the commitment made to consult with other departments regarding the site. The Planning Department confirmed that the majority of the site is located within a rural area and any houses developed on the site would be car dependent. The cost of houses along the road connecting to the public water and wastewater systems would be excessive. Any housing provided on the site would not qualify for affordable housing schemes. The site was purchased approximately 15 years ago due to the possibility of the nearby rail line and, whilst there may be an opportunity in the future to develop a larger settlement, the development of the site for housing is not considered feasible at this time.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Expressed disappointment at the information provided and requested a report in writing.



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- Queried whether the site could be subject to a variation – the approval in principle by the Planning Department was given a number of years ago and different development plan criteria now apply. This was not considered a priority for a variation in terms of the current County Development Plan.
- Referred to nearby houses and the proximity of the public connections – the wastewater services are at the junction (270m) whilst the water services are further away (1.5kms).
- Queried whether septic tanks and a group water scheme could be considered as an alternative – these are not favoured by Uisce Éireann, who would have responsibility.
- Queried what was the alternative plan for this site, e.g. use by another state body or modular homes for refugees.

5.3 Planning

- 5.3.1 To consider taking in charge of Seachnall Abbey, Dunshaughlin and the making of a declaration that the roads within the development shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2022.

Neville Carolan, Planning Enforcement outlined the background to the proposed taking in charge, including the submission received.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** to extend the meeting by 30 minutes to 12.00pm.

5.4 Corporate Affairs & Governance

- 5.4.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of



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Ratoath Municipal District.

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

5.5 Transportation

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

The report, circulated in advance, was noted.

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

“That Meath County Council writes to Irish Water requesting an upgrade of the equipment in the pumphouse on the R156 near Alltech in order to resolve the issue which causes water outages in the Kilcloon and surrounding areas everytime there is low pressure or a water outage in Dunboyne. Any other action which will resolve this issue should also be explored.”

Councillor Maria Murphy introduced the motion by referring to the need to resolve issues with the equipment, which have led to delays in restoring water following regular outages. This was supported by Councillors Nick Killian, Damien O’Reilly and Brian Fitzgerald.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O’Connor**, was agreed.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’Reilly



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“I request Meath County Council to write to the Minister of Justice and the Garda, Chief Superintendent of the Meath division seeking additional human resources and patrols for the growing towns of Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin and Ratoath.”

The motion, proposed by Councillor Damien O’Reilly and seconded by Councillor Nick Killian, was agreed.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’Reilly

“I request Meath County Council to write to the Department of Education and Skills and request all data currently in use by that department to profile the educational needs of Ratoath Municipal District for new primary, secondary and additional needs classrooms across the south Meath area which has experienced significant growth as detailed in Census 2022 and has significant additional occupied housing units across the area and pipeline zoning for over 4000 residential units.

Ratoath Municipal District

Batterstown, Clonee, Culmullen, Drumree, Dunboyne Dunsany, Dunshaughlin, Kilbride, Kilcloon, rural Kilcock, Kilmessan, Kiltale, Moynalvey, Mulhussey and Ratoath.”

The below amended motion, proposed by Councillor Nick Killian and seconded by Councillor Damien O’Reilly, was agreed.

“I request Meath County Council to write to the Department of Education and Skills and request all data currently in use by that department to profile the educational needs of Ratoath Municipal District for new primary, secondary and additional needs classrooms across the south Meath area which has experienced significant growth as detailed in Census 2022 and has significant additional occupied housing units across the area and pipeline zoning for over 4000 residential units.

Ratoath Municipal District

Ashbourne, Batterstown, Clonee, Culmullen, Drumree, Dunboyne Dunsany, Dunshaughlin, Kilbride, Kilcloon, rural Kilcock, Kilmessan, Kiltale, Moynalvey, Mulhussey and Ratoath.”



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- 8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 2nd December 2022.

The minutes were noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC meeting of 20th December 2022.

The report was noted.

- 8.3 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 8th December 2022.

The report was noted.

- 8.4 To note the report from the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee of 15th December 2022.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

- 9.1 Correspondence received from the NTA in response to letter issued as per Item 8.1 on the November meeting minutes regarding request for meeting with NTA and Go Ahead Ireland.

The correspondence was noted.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the following issue:

- 10.1.1 Requested that a survey be carried out at Mulhussey N.S. to identify the road safety measures required, e.g. public lighting, etc.

- 10.2 Councillor Maria Murphy raised the following issue:



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10.2.1 Requested an update on the pedestrian crossing in Dunboyne.

10.3 Councillor Gerry O'Connor raised the following issues:

10.3.1 Referred to issues with the sight lines at the entrance to Killeen Castle, where new houses are being built – it was pointed out that the hedge is on private property.

10.3.2 Queried the requirements for proof of identity for Irish and foreign housing applicants.

10.4 Councillor Nick Killian raised the following issue:


10.4.1 Referred to the funding allocation for Ratoath and stressed the need to prioritise works in the village centre and improve accessibility for residents of Arkle House.

10.5 Councillor Damien O'Reilly raised the following issue:

10.5.1 Requested the provision of a second solar compacting bin in Kilmessan on the opposite end of the village.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



Cathaoirleach