



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ratoath Municipal District

9:30 a.m., 5th April 2023, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Nick Killian, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Brian Fitzgerald & Damien O'Reilly

Councillors Present via Zoom: none.

Absent/Apologies: Cllr Deirdre Geraghty-Smith

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: deputising Elaine Daly SEO

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Director of Service: Dara McGowan

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 8th March 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Cllr Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Cllr Nick Killian**

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to Councillor Damien O'Reilly on the death of his Uncle Michael Kinsella.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

There were no expressions of Congratulations.

4 To receive an update on the EirGrid East Meath North Dublin Project.

The members received a presentation from EirGrid representatives outlining the project details to date which will deliver a high capacity 400kV underground cable electricity connection between Belcamp Substation in Dublin and Woodland Substation in Meath.

They advised on the need to upgrade and strengthen the network to:

- improve the transfer of power,
- address the increased electricity demand,
- reduce the use of and reliance on fossil fuels,
- facilitate further development of renewable energy.
- assist in achieving climate action targets.

EirGrid announced the Emerging Best Performing option in March 2023 following Public Consultations and assessments on four route options in 2022. The best performing Options will be announced in the summer 2023 and then apply for planning permission to An Board Pleanála in Quarter 4 2023.

The members were informed that the route is approximately 37 km in length with an estimated off-road section of 9 km. Most of the route follows existing roads and will cross the river Tolka, the railway at M3 parkway and the M3 motorway. This upgrade will use High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) which is currently used in electricity grids in Ireland and internationally. The cable will be buried about 1.3 meters below the road surface.

The EirGrid representatives advised that they continue to engage with residents, landowners, and community groups along the route, carry out more technical studies and onsite investigations and engage with the local authorities, elected members and other agencies. A comprehensive media campaign commenced, and a communications plan is in place with information also available on the EirGrid website. A Community Benefit fund will be in place to the amount of €1.5m with a once off payment to residents along the route.

The members raised the following:

- To ensure that the contractors reinstall and clean the roads following works as the roads in Kilbride following the installation of solar panels will be left in a mess.
- Requested that the roads remain open with traffic lights in place during these works.
- Requested that font and map in the leaflets being circulated be larger in size.
- Referred to the positivity with the consultations taking place with locals and residents.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Enquired that the road from Woodlands to the junction of R156 be resurfaced with same surface as the R154.
- Understand there's no extra capacity – advised that need the 400 KV to strengthen the 220 network to deliver the extra capacity.
- Referred to the North/South interconnector cable which is not deep enough to deal with the heat distribution – advised that design is to the required standards which will be 1.3m in dept and 1.7m in width which will vary depending on the area.
- Complimented the work of the Community Forum and engagement with residents.
- Important that the roads are resurfaced and verges re-instated following works.
- Referred to the other works that are/will be taking place in this area which will have high traffic volumes.
- Enquired about the health effects – advised that the EPA will be measuring levels and can report back with details.
- Road closures will be required to carry out the works, cognisant of damage to verges on other roads where works had taken place by contractors.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

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

The report, circulated in advance was noted.

Area Engineer advised that 2 tenders for pedestrian crossings commenced works and a third one due to commence once the ESB connect up the lighting.

Matters raised by the councillors and responses provided included:

- Commended the outdoor staff for all the works completed.
- Bin in the park needs to be emptied as overflowing – advised that the park is not officially open to the public but will get bin emptied.
- Issue with drainage at the entrance to the tennis club. - advised issue is being caused by a local development, will look at the issue.
- Referred to new gully on Fairyhouse road which needs some more work.
- Ballybin resident's association. Request a traffic survey on the Ballybin road.
- Referred to a road opening licence for a solar farm on Ballybin road and how



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

this might affect the road in this municipal district – advised that no route has issued yet to this MD area.

- When will the proposed ramps be installed in Culmullen, as ducting completed – advised that lighting needs to go in first by the ESB and then ramps.
- Commended works to footpath in village to the graveyard, ducting, cabling needed at the Grange end.
- Bad weather has brought an increase in calls for pothole repairs.
- Enquired if school wardens will be designated at the 2 new raised pedestrian crossings outside Ratoath and Rathbeggan schools when completed like at the Dunshaughlin pedestrian crossing.

5.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance

5.2.1 To note details of recipients for MD awards night Thursday May 11th, 2023

Audrey Norris gave an update on the nominations received. It was agreed that a full list of recipients would be circulated to the members when finalised.

5.2.2 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District.

The MD allocations were noted.

6 Notice of Question

There was no notice of question.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to explore the feasibility of developing a greenway from Kilmessan and Dunsany to Dunshaughlin village."



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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

There is currently no specific policy supporting a greenway from Kilmessan to Dunsany and Dunshaughlin village. Considering the absence of a specific policy and the Transportation Departments current workload, it is not intended to complete a feasibility study for this greenway.

The motion proposed by **Cllr Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Cllr Nick Killian** was noted.

Cllr O'Reilly stated that there are lots of facilities in the proximity such as Killeen Castle, Station House Hotel and Tara to work with and develop a greenway in the area. Cllr Fitzgerald said that Dunsany Castle has lands and suggested writing to the owners to see if interested in having the greenway through their grounds. Cllr Toole suggested using the old railway line as a greenway like in other areas. Elaine Daly advised that it's too premature writing to Lord Dunsany as there is no specific policy supporting a greenway and she suggested that it be referred to the SPC for consideration.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

"Now that the footpath along the R149 has been completed along the perimeter of The Gallops to the entrance of Holsteiner Park that Meath County Council proceeds with a plan to extend the new footpath to Kribensis Manor."

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

The Transport Section currently have no plans to construct this project. It will be added to the request for new works to be put forward for consideration in a future programme of works. The implementing of any measures will be subject to the available resources and funding.

The motion proposed by **Cllr Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Cllr Gerry O'Connor** was noted.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

CLlr Murphy advised that residents have no safe way of getting to Ongar other than driving and that a continuation of the footpath is required. Members referred to previous planning permissions that may have a condition attached to construct a footpath in this location.

It was agreed to liaise with Transport and Planning on the matter.

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

- 8.1 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise, and European Affairs SPC of 24th March 2023

The reports circulated in advance were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

- Referred to the low-cost sites in Dunshaughlin, applicants awaiting final documents from Council's solicitors to progress their mortgage – advised will follow up with the Housing section.
- Request a review of the criteria used for the allocation of affordable houses in Dunshaughlin as only 30% allowed to be allocated within the County. Clarification if policy is national or local- advised that it is national, and that council must adhere to the circular criteria.
- Referred to the disused RTE 252 transmitter at Clarkestown where a planning condition specified the removal of the mast once it has discontinued. – advised would check with Planning
- Members advised to submit questions prior to the Tripartite meeting on May 8th which will start at 9.15am with presentation from the NTA. Each MD will be allocated 30 minutes for questions and answers.
- Members reminded of the Dermot Gallagher Memorial Lecture on April 13, 2023
- Requested an update on the lands at Drumree- advised will have an update at next meeting.
- Referred to correspondence sent to the DAA on 8th November 2022 and suggested a joint meeting with Ashbourne MD be set up with the DAA to discuss noise, flights, altitude, routes, plans etc.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Requested a timeline on completion of works to the main streets of Rataoth and Dunshaughlin as in bad repair– advised would request Transportation for an update.
- Referred to the draft Electric Cycle scheme, Dunboyne and the status of this.
- Seeking an update on the Dunshaughlin Public Realm plan for next month
- Members advised of a public consultation by Meath Partnership for next LEADER programme in Dunboyne Castle this Thursday 6th April from 6-9pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach