

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ratoath Municipal District

9:30 a.m., 10th May 2023, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

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

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

Councillors Present via Zoom: Damien O'Reilly

Absent/Apologies: Cllr Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Cllr Brian Fitzgerald

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 5th April 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

Members raised the following matters:

- The response to the question on the Clonee to Ongar footpath is inaccurate.
- A report on the Drumree lands.
- Farmer on the Ballybin road getting pressure from Energia as awaiting a road opening licence for a solar farm.
- Update on school wardens for Rathbeggan and Ratoath National Schools.
- Request an update on correspondence to the DAA seeking a meeting.
- Referred to the disused 252 transmitter and a suggestion that the Company Imagine might use this as a solution to broadband blindspots

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Dara McGowan referred to the Drumree lands and gave an update on the cost at the time and the intended usage. He advised that it is currently leased out by the Council and said that housing already gave an update to the members on using the lands, for housing units and/or serviced sites. He stated that as the lands are not zoned for housing, the government will not give the funding.

He suggested that if groups or clubs wanted to submit proposals, that they could, and it would be a matter for the Council to approve a proposal to lease the lands.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to Irene Lynch, Planning Department on the death of her parents Matthew (Mattie) and Kathleen Lynch.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Jackie Maguire Chief Executive on her upcoming retirement.
- Brendan Fulham, Housing Department on his recent retirement.
- Reminder of the MD awards night taking place in Buvinda House on 11th May.

4 To receive a presentation from Dunboyne AFC

Walter Moran and Niall Devitt representatives from Dunboyne AFC gave a short presentation on proposed plans for Dunboyne AFC.

- Community Club: 53 years in Dunboyne having served thousands of residents.
- Dunboyne is fast growing.
- Facilities are limited.
- Growing number of teams across all age groups
- Dedicated kids' nursery / academy 60+ kid every year
- Pele officially reopened our club in 2009.

Members thanked the club for their presentation and suggested the following:

- Pathway required to the club, suggested seeking a Community Gains Fund from local developers in the area.
- Referred to the Astro pitch on the Summerhill Road and if they have approached the surrounding landowners to extend their facility.
- The Cowpark is vacant and has great potential, needs a Club to start it off with a plan.

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- Suggested registering to the PPN, where they will be notified of when grant schemes are available to apply for.
- Should apply to the Community Foundation Ireland for funding and/or Solar Farms will have community funds available.
- Advised that a business plan should be in place as this is a requirement when applying for large amounts of funding.
- Suggested setting up as a Limited Company and can apply for a Sports Exemption from Revenue for specific projects.
- Suggested applying to the FAI, Meath Local Sports Partnership, LEADER, Council, and local developers for funding support.
- Dunboyne College due to develop soccer pitches, maybe able to link in and have use of their grounds.
- Referred to building up networks and linking in with other agencies and groups.
- Advised that the Council is currently designing a pedestrian and cycle routes for Dunboyne and an update will be sought in relation to the inclusion of a footpath to Dunboyne AFC.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Planning

- 5.1.1 To consider the Taking in Charge of Broadmeadow Vale, Ratoath 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.

On the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** the members agreed to the Taking in Charge of Broadmeadow Vale, Ratoath and the making of a declaration that the roads within the development shall be public roads.

- 5.1.2 To receive an update on the content of the proposed Part 8 for the conservation and renovation of the existing building and the creation of a multi-purpose community facility including a new public plaza at the former Courthouse in Dunshaughlin.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner, gave an update on the proposed Part 8 for the conservation and renovation of the courthouse. She said that funding had been approved under the RRDF to procure consultants Sheridan Woods to



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prepare a Part 8 planning application, bring to construction stage and delivery of the project. She said that once the Part 8 is granted, a detailed design will be progressed, to be ready for the next phase of RRDF funding at the end of the year.

Sheridan Woods Architects gave a presentation on the proposed Part 8 for the existing courthouse and advised that the application will include a front plaza, and an area at the front of the garda station.

The members raised the following:

- Hindered by what works can be done as it is a listed building.
- Who will look after the facility once it's completed.
- How is the disability access being dealt with.
- Need to talk to persons with disabilities regarding their needs.
- Will the disabled parking spaces be removed.
- The sculptor should not be relocated too far away.
- The Civic Trust plan should feed into the RRDP project.
- Will the outdoor stairway be enclosed.

Architects Sheridan/Wood responded to the queries raised:

- Design needs to be flexible for the end users.
- The ground floor level will be accessible to all with two rooms upstairs not accessible to wheelchair users due to the costs to install a lift.
- The stairway outside will be enclosed.
- The sculptor outside will be re-located close by.

Advised that consultation will take place with the public for the part 8. As the timeframe is tight and on the **proposal of Cllr Nick Killian and seconded by Cllr Maria Murphy** members agreed to receive the Part 8 report prior to the public consultation should there be no MD meeting scheduled at the time.

5.2 Transportation

- 5.2.1 To receive an update on the content of the proposed Part 8 for the Dunshaughlin Main Street Public Realm Scheme.



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Paul McKeon, Senior Executive Engineer gave a presentation on the proposed Part 8 and advised the following:

- Funding received from the Rural Regeneration Development Fund to prepare plans for public realm works to improve pedestrian safety, traffic flow and parking.
- The Transportation Department and Tobin Consulting Engineers have been working on re-developing the street to the front of the Courthouse over a length of approximately 300m and 200m of the Dales Road.
- The front area of the Courthouse will be paved.
- There are two cycle lanes and the narrowing of the carriageway.
- A signalized junction pedestrian crossing at the Dales Road junction.
- Each end of the street will have a raised platform.
- There are currently 29 parking spaces with a proposal to maintain 9 spaces.
- There will be 2 disabled spaces with one on the main street and the other on Dales Road.
- Two large trees and several smaller trees will be removed.
- There are 500 private car parking spaces within the village.
- Various options and layouts were developed and considered, and a final design has been selected which is proposed to progress to a full statutory planning Part 8 process.

The members raised the following issues:

- The disabled spaces in front of the courthouse are there for a reason.
- Businesses will be annoyed if 20 parking spaces are removed.
- Will not get buy in from businesses if parking removed off street with no alternative parking provided.
- Businesses depend on shoppers being able to park close to their business and will kill the stop and shop concept.
- Need to support small businesses as some businesses may have to close if on street parking is removed.
- Need to review disabled parking spaces on the street as not suitable.
- Loading bays will be required.
- Need to take account of the older community that shop local.
- Can the cycle lanes be part of the footpaths and use as a shared area.
- Is there a possibility to relocate the fire station and use site for parking – advised need station within the town for firepersons to respond within 5 minutes to calls.
- Public against the removal of trees.

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The members advised that they could not support the proposed Part 8 as presented.

Paul McKeon noted the feedback and advised that the design will be reviewed and will bring back a revised proposal to the members.

The members agreed to extend the meeting to 12pm on the **proposal of Cllr Nick Killian and seconded by Cllr Maria Murphy**

- 5.2.2 To receive an update on the proposed Batterstown Traffic Calming Scheme on the R154 at Batterstown.

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer gave an update on the scheme and advised that a public information event was held where several submissions were received.

Fergal McCabe, Executive Engineer presented the layout of the scheme and went through each of the 5 phases as set out in the drawings.

The members raised the following queries:

- Was there consultation with the Batterstown Enhancement Group – advised met with the group.
- The school needs more attention- will review this.
- Vision can be blocked when exiting Caffrey's pub.- will look at the exit.
- Were the signs removed from the Red Road – advised yes.
- Start of the speed limit signs on each side of the village are not of equal distance – advised speed limits signs are not based on equal lengths but on the condition of the road.
- Where will the scheme start from on the Trim side- advised starts 200 meters on the Trim side of Blackhall Gaels pitch.
- Enquired about the timeline and funding available – advised that €1m allocated in the capital programme and to finalise the drawings and commence the part 8 process.
- Members requested that Cllr Brian Fitzgerald be consulted prior to finalising the drawings and proceeding to part 8.

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

The report circulated in advance was noted.

5.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

The MD allocations were noted.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

“Please provide an update on plans for a proposed Meath County Council policy to deal with requests for traffic calming measures in housing estates.”

Dara McGowan advised the members that a revised response had been submitted which he updated the members verbally. He advised that the following response would circulate to the members.

‘An outline proposal in relation to a Meath County Council Traffic Calming Policy for Housing Estates was discussed at the Transportation SPC Meeting on the 29th of September 2022. A Draft Meath County Council Traffic Calming Policy for Housing Estates document is expected to be presented to the Transportation SPC later this year for agreement in advance of the Policy being formally adopted.’

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

“We call on Meath County Council to prepare a maintenance programme to trim back the overgrown shrubbery on the banks of the Castle Stream from the Maynooth Road bridge to the railway bridge adjacent to Larchfield/Beechdale.”

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

Meath County Council intend to engage with the OPW in relation to the maintenance of this section of the Castle Stream.

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

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole

“That Meath County Council will work with Skane Valley Community Council during 2023, to acquire a multi-purpose Community Facility for the communities of Dunsany, Kilmessan & surrounding hinterlands. Government Grant Schemes will be applied for, as appropriate, for the refurbishing of any suitable property acquired by Meath County Council, for long-term lease to Skane Valley Community Council.”

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

Meath County Council has included an allocation in the Capital Budget for match funding as part of a larger project to restore/maintain the Council’s current assets and there has been no allocation provided to procure additional community buildings in the requested area. This request will be saved on file and considered during future reviews of the capital programme.

The motion proposed by **Cllr Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Cllr Damien Reilly** was noted.

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

8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 31st March 2023.

The minutes were noted.

8.2 To note the Draft Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC Meeting

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Minutes of the 13th of April 2023.

The draft minutes were noted.

- 8.3 To note the Draft Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC minutes of 25th April 2023.

The draft minutes were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

Dara McGowan advised that correspondence had been received from Kildare County Council seeking an update on the timeline for the opening of the Meath section of Millerstown Road, Kilcock. He said that a response is due to issue, and this will be circulated to the members.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach