

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

10.15. am, 15th June, 2023, Duleek Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Stephen McKee** presided.

Councillors Present: Wayne Harding, Geraldine Keogan, Elaine McGinty, Paddy Meade, Sharon Tolan, Tom Behan

Councillors Present via Zoom: none

Apologies/Absent:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Christy Clarke

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Behan** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

CLlr Tolan requested that councillors be named against the issues they raise.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to the:

- Family of the late Senator Paul Coghlan

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Alison Lynch, Community Section on the death of her mother Frances Lynch.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Residents in Slane for Slane concert and showcasing the county.
- Bettystown Tidy Towns and Council on being awarded a green flag for Bettystown Beach
- Local swimmers on a recent beach clean-up.
- East Meath United Football for the all summer blitz.
- Alex Maguire on retaining the East of Ireland amateur Golf Championship.
- Requested a letter be sent to Lord Henry Mount Charles and son Alex on their recent achievement on hosting the Slane Concert

4 Disposal of Land pursuant of the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001

4.1 Agreement in principle to dispose by way of lease, of lands at Bryanstown.

Una McNamara, AO Assets section updated the members on the disposal by way of lease of 24 units to Tuath Housing agency who shall manager the units on behalf of the council to achieve social benefits.

The members raised the following:

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- Why is the council disposing of the units.
- To clarify who allocates the units, who maintains and manages the units.
- Who do the tenants report to?
- Require houses immediately, what are the benefits by leasing to a Voluntary Body
- Is there a claw back in the contract if agreement runs into difficulties.
- What are the timelines to get tenants into the units as they are vacant at present.
- Advertising first, is this not giving an expectation to tenants.
- Why did council buy units and the option to move tenants in ourselves.

Brian Hora SEO Housing updated the members:

- The council advertised on choice-based lettings seeking nominations.
- Council has the nomination rights; any future vacancies will be advertised.
- Council does not have capacity to maintain apartment buildings as it is different to maintaining houses.
- Tuath is responsible for maintaining the properties under the agreement.
- Tuath will collect rents, which is income to them.
- The council own the property and Tuath will manage units and tenants on behalf of the council.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Tuath already manage apartments in the area.
- The tenants nominated will be permanent in the units.
- Will commence moving tenants in once the S183 is approved.
- Tuath intended buying units, but issues arose for them.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Cllr Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Cllr Tom Behan**

Cllr Meade was opposed to the disposal.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Community

- 5.1.1 To receive details of the recommended grant offers by the Indaver Community Liaison Committee under the Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme following their meeting on 8th June 2023 and if in agreement to forward to the Full Council of Meath County Council for approval.

Fiona Fallon SEO Community section updated the members on the 32 recommended grant offers which were circulated in advance of the meeting.

The members raised the following:

- Why the Sensory Garden was not funded – advised they received funding from another scheme and thus withdrew their application.
- Some groups seeking large amounts, can the groups come up with the outstanding amounts to complete their projects – advised this is considered during assessment. Projects can be delivered on a phased basis.
- Would like to see funding extended into other areas in the future.
- Thanked Fiona on the work in assessing projects and allocating the fund.

On the proposal of **Cllr Geraldine Keogan** and seconded by **Cllr Stephen McKee**, the members agreed to the amounts allocated and to forward to full council for approval.

5.2 Corporate Services

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

The allocations circulated in advance were noted.

5.3 Transportation

5.3.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

The report circulated in advance was noted with the following raised:

- Commended works carried out and welcomed the extra 1100litre bins on the beach.
- Bin requested for the small beach underneath the bridge at Laytown.
- Enquired if strengthening works could be carried out to the Ballygarth road due to the edges collapsing.
- Requested that the pedestrian crossings on the Eastham Road and Golf links road be installed prior to roadworks.
- Referred to the road closure on Eastham Road and concerns that there will be no bus service for over a month.
- Referred to bin under the bridge and said it was not the issue, young people just went off and left items behind them. Could signage be put up.
- Requested road lining on bad bends at Ariosa Café, Laytown and Harrys, Mornington.
- Asked for the bus Eireann routes during the road closures for circulation.
- Suggested the erection of signage on the beach but changing the narrative like other locations. She
- Thanked the crew for the grass cutting on the Beamore road and Plaitin and advised of some bad patches that need resurfacing on the Beamore road.
- Enquired if there is a full compliment of beach wardens and lifeguards.
- Stated that fines need to be issued for littering.
- Requested that a crew should be brought in from the other MD's to repair potholes in north Meath and stated that some of the roads are impassable.
- Enquired on the policy for bus shelters.
- Asked that the verges be tidied and swept from Moorehall Lodge to the boundary and the removal of old posters from the railings.
- Stated that Donacarne square is opening soon however ramp needed to stop cars speeding from the Colpe side.
- Yellow box needed at Ard Rí and ramps in St Cianans Villas, Duleek



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Enquired on the design proposed for lower main street, Duleek.
- Referred to the dangerous junction at the Duleek graveyard.

Christy Clarke EE responded as follows:

- Advised will look at the bin already there under the bridge, might cause an issue for outdoor crew to access a new belly bin.
- Resurfacing works carried out to the Ballygarth road last year but will look at it again.
- Will look at additional signage for the beach.
- Works were completed on the bend of R150 at Ariosa, will review area.
- Not ideal to install 1100litre bins on the beach.
- Development still ongoing on the Beamore road, can assess road when works finished.
- Advised road must be closed to bring a culvert across. Will open should works be completed sooner.
- Have a crew patching up potholes continuously, hired in a crew and now ahead of repairs.
- Will divert crew to the roads with bad potholes, these roads will need to be resurfaced under the roadworks programme.
- Dara McGowan advised that there are similar issues with potholes in the other MD's, do not have crew's available in the other areas to assist.
- NTA approve requests for bus shelters, with the council co-ordinating the works.
- Colpe area has a grass maintenance contract in place and Drogheda has sweeper coming to the roundabout. Proposing to remove barriers and install cones here.
- A yellow box at Ard Rí is on the list.
- Speed table installed both sides of St Cianans Villas, will ask Transprotation to carry out a speed limit review.
- A pedestrian table will be installed as part of the design for lower main street Duleek.
- The Graveyard junction is in the Ashbourne MD.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Tom Behan

“To ask the council for an update on the 3g/4g mast which was recently installed outside Inse Bay in Laytown and for details on an appeal process”.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Response:

Section 254 of the Planning & Development Acts relates to Licensing of appliances and cables etc on public roads;

Section 254(6) states;

(6) *(a) Any person may, in relation to the granting, refusing, withdrawing or continuing of a licence under this section or to the conditions specified by the planning authority for such a licence, appeal to the Board.*

(b) Where an appeal under this section is allowed, the Board shall give such directions with respect to the withdrawing, granting or altering of a licence under this section as may be appropriate, and the planning authority shall comply therewith.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Tom Behan

“Owing to increased pressure for parking along the east coast, that this council support local business by providing 'customer parking only' signage or markings to ensure their trade is not adversely affected particularly during summer months.”

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

Laytown Bettystown MD does not designate specific customer parking spaces for commercial premises; however, consideration will be given to the provision of marked loading bays outside suitable commercial premises.

On the proposal of **Councillor Tom Behan** and seconded by **Councillor Elaine McGinty**, the motion was noted.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Cllr Behan referred to cars parking elsewhere since the decision was made to ban parking on the beach. He said that people are now parking in customer designated spaces outside businesses and thus customers are now going elsewhere. He advised the need to ensure that businesses can continue to trade and have identifiable spaces available for their customers.

Cllr McGinty said that we need to support small businesses and suggested that designated customer spaces be painted to identify them.

Cllr Meade & Cllr McKee said that parking is an issue with visitors travelling elsewhere. There is a need for more parking on the beach and this needs to be reviewed.

Cllr Tolan referred to several businesses making it difficult for customers to park by obstructing these spaces. She said that seaside villages always have parking issues during peak season. Tourism is booming here and with the ban on beach parking, visitors are now calling into local shops and eateries.

Cllr Behan referred to his motion which concerns the businesses and designated parking for their customers and not about spaces on the beach.

Dara McGowan advised that the response to the motion suggesting loading bays will not provide customers designated spaces. He said that loading bays are statutory spaces and are enforceable. He stated that the pressures on parking on the East Coast are similar in Ashbourne and Ratoath. He advised, that by erecting signs here, it would have to be done countywide and is not enforceable. He referred to the Age Friendly spaces where no one abides by them. He suggested bringing the motion back to the transport section for a review.

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

8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 5th May 2023.

The minutes were noted.

8.2 To note the Protocol Committee minutes of 31st March 2023.

The minutes were noted.

9 Correspondence

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

Cllr Tolan requested engagement with Bus Eireann with the upcoming road closures. She asked for 2 bins in Donacarney and to remove old rusty bins in Laytown and replace with newer ones.

Cllr Tolan referred to speeding on the Ballygarth road and suggested erecting signage to slow down. She asked that the signs at Gormanstown Junction be cleaned as cannot see them and that the verges are overgrown.

Cllr Tolan thanked the fire service for attending swiftly to a fire on the dunes in Mornington beach.

Cllr Meade raised his concerns around the loss of jobs in Tara Mines. Cllr McGinty said the loss has a direct and indirect impact in the area.

Dara McGowan advised that Laytown Football Club have requested to attend the July meeting to give an update. This was agreed by members.

The meeting concluded at 12pm.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach