

## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

### ***Ratoath Municipal District***

***9:45 a.m. 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices***

Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Nick Killian, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Brian Fitzgerald, Gillian Toole.

**Councillors Present via Zoom:** none.

**Absent/Apologies:** none

**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 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Cllr Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Cllr Nick Killian**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes.**

- Incorrect information from planning/transportation on Clonee to Ongar footpaths, no response received.
- Update on School Wardens for Ratoath and Rathbeggan schools.
- When will resurfacing of Dunshaughlin and Ratoath occur as some bad potholes – resurfacing will be part of Public Realm works and potholes can be patched up.
- Dip in the road approaching Cabin Hill junction, difficult to see this.
- How are the solar farm community funds for Kilbride to be managed.
- Update on the Part 8 for Batterstown Traffic Calming scheme- To discuss with Cllr Fitzgerald as he had sent apologies for last meeting prior to progressing to Part 8.



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### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended, The family of Tony Hand on the death of their father John.

The family of Paul Beggy on the death of their mother Margaret (Maggie)

Congratulations were extended to:

- Gillian Mangan, Engineer Ratoath MD on her recent promotion
- Welcomed Stanley Arellano as the new Engineer to Ratoath MD
- Age Friendly event for Older Persons in Fairyhouse Racecourse
- Commended outdoor crew on the distribution of bottled water to residents.

There was a suspension of Standing Orders at 10.05am to discuss the trunk main works to Ratoath.

Members raised the following:

- This is an Uisce Eireann issue, but the public do not realise this and therefore blaming the council and members.
- Uisce Eireann need to communicate with the council on the matter.
- Businesses lost out in Ratoath due to having no water over two weekends.
- Need an updated timetable on the completion of works.
- Request bottled water and water tankers to be on standby.
- Request that Uisce Eireann compensate businesses for loss of business and compensation for residents for plumbing costs – this is a matter for Uisce Eireann
- New housing units do not have extra storage tanks for water as per planning permission.
- EPA reported that water levels on the Boyne have dropped, therefore reservoirs have dropped.
- Historical issue with deficits in infrastructure in certain areas.
- There is dispute with staff moving over to Uisce Eireann.
- Man-made lake needed along the Boyne, so can extract from here when water levels are low.
- There are two boreholes available where developers could finance these for 100k to bring online.

Dara McGowan advised members that Uisce Eireann do communicate by email and hold clinics. He said he would seek the timelines for completion of works of the new trunkline. He advised that Uisce Eireann was set up in January this year with staff having the choice if they want to transition from the LA to UE from July 2023. He referred to compensation and advised that this would be a matter for Uisce Eireann. Extra tankers and water will be available.

D McGowan advised that he'd correspond with Uisce Eireann and will raise their issues.



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The meeting resumed accordingly at 10.38am.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Corporate Affairs and Governance**

4.1.1 To receive a presentation on the newly acquired lands in Ratoath.

Dara McGowan advised the members that BDP have been appointed consultants to prepare an initial design for public consultation and to get feedback on the options presented.

Pat Shore, Town Regeneration officer and BDP gave a presentation on a concept design prepared for public consultation with the members raising the following:

- How will the consultation stage take place.
- Want photos of Ratoath in the concept design.
- Would like to see a park here as do not own land in Ratoath.
- 96 parking spaces seems a lot.
- Like the idea of a community hub with space for other agencies to use.
- There's an older community living in the area, need more housing for them.
- Who would upkeep the open space.
- Could have a park and ride located here with EV charging points.
- Location of age friendly housing is not suitable due to noise and anti-social behaviour.
- Suggested moving some parking to the front and the community hub beside the independent living.
- The site is too small to host a playground.
- Concerns for the traffic coming out onto a busy junction.
- Concerns about the access onto the Wells Road as its busy road.
- There needs to be to be good communication with the locals as some are unsure of what's going on.
- Should a playground go in, needs to be secured.

Dara McGowan advised that the plan is a concept to start a consultation. He referred to potential three access points off the site. He said that EV points are installed as the norm in parking spaces. He advised that if the hub is larger



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then more parking spaces will be required. He said that the building could be three stories high, but would need to discuss with the Planning Department. He referred to the next round of URDF funding due to open by year end and stated that a design needs to be completed as part of the application process.

Pat Shore advised that he intends holding a meeting with locals in Ratoath and will also have an online portal for submissions.

On the proposal of **Cllr Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Cllr Nick Killian** members agreed to proceed to public consultation with the concept design.

### 4.1.2 To discuss council owned lands in Drumree.

Dara McGowan advised that the lands are not suitable for housing with the current zoning and therefore cannot apply for funding from the department for housing units.

The Members requested that during the next variation to the County Development Plan, the Planning Department extend the existing boundary of the rural node in Drumree, to include the lands owned by the Council.

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

The report circulated in advance was noted.

## **4.2 Transportation**

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

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

- Commended the works carried out on lights at Culmullen, securing wall in the old Church yard in Kilcloon and verge cutting at the junctions.
- Tidy Towns judges due in, could the sweeper be brought into the towns prior to judging.



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- Big Belly bin in Dunboyne Park is too close to wall where people congregate.
- Referred to a speed ramp required in Moulden Bridge, as traffic speeding into Ratoath.
- Commended quick works on clearing the flowerpots off the work following a collision into the island at the Archway pub.
- Referred to more road lining required at turning lanes at Rathbeggan.
- Road markings required at Jamestown Roundabout.
- Enquired about tree pruning in Beechdale.

On the proposal of Cllr Nick Killian and seconded by Cllr Gillian Toole the members agreed to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

Area engineer advised members that the cost to install a pedestrian crossing is €53k. Lidl have a planning permission with An Bord Pleanála where there's a condition to provide one. Members requested that the pedestrian crossing be installed anyway.

Dara McGowan stated that the executive is not in agreement to installing a crossing whereby later it could be removed should planning permission be granted. He advised that the members should wait for the Board's decision or use the funds for a crossing elsewhere in the district. Transportation can review and advise accordingly.

## **5 Notice of Question**

### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy**

*“Given the periods of low mains water pressure experienced by residents of Dunboyne and Kilcloon over the last year and recent planning permissions granted plus planning application pending decision, what plans have Meath County Council put in place with Irish Water to improve the local water infrastructure.”*

#### **Response**

This Notice of Question has been referred to Uisce Éireann for their response. That response will be circulated to members once received.

The response was noted.

## **6 Notice of Motion**

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### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian**

*“That Ratoath Municipal District calls on the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Public Expenditure to provide the funding necessary to sustain and enhance the Dunshaughlin Fire Station and the Retained Fire Service now and for the future generations.”*

On the proposal of Cllr Nick Killian and seconded by Cllr Toole the members supported the motion.

## **7 Strategic Policy Committee, Corporate Policy Group & Protocol Committee Reports – For Information Purposes**

### **7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

The minutes were noted.

### **7.2 To note the Protocol Committee minutes of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023.**

The minutes were noted.

## **8 Correspondence**

### **8.1 Deputation received from Dunshaughlin & Royal Gaels to attend the July meeting of Ratoath MD.**

The members agreed to inviting the Deputation to the July meeting.

### **8.2 Correspondence received from Minister Simon Harris in response to Notice of Motion from the February meeting of Ratoath MD.**

Correspondence was noted.

### **8.3 Correspondence received from the DAA in response to our invitation to a future meeting of Ratoath MD.**

Correspondence was noted.

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### 9 Any Other Business

- The members were advised that following the election of a new Cathaoirleach, the Ratoath MD does not currently have representation on the CPG and therefore a nomination is sought.  
On the proposal of **CLlr Maria Murphy** and seconded by **CLlr Gillian Toole**, CLlr Nick Killian was nominated.
- Requested a follow up letter to the department of education seeking a response.
- Update on the opening of the Ratoath Outer relief road.
- Update on the request for Cul de Sac at Loughlinstown, Kildbride road, becoming a public road.
- Can the temporary signage at Cabinhill Junction directing traffic to Emerald Park be reviewed.
- The update on the Moulden Bridge artwork.
- Bin collections in the new park missed.
- To collect bin bags at the Grasshopper, Clonee left by the Tidy Towns.

This business of the meeting concluded at 12pm.

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach.