

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

10.00a.m. 7th September 2023, Duleek Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Paddy Meade, Sharon Tolan, Wayne Harding

Councillors Present via Zoom: Elaine McGinty, Tom Behan, Geraldine Keogan

Apologies/Absent:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Eoin McNally

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Staff Officer: Triona Keating and Ann Monaghan.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 6th July 2023.

Councillor Stephen McKee welcomed Eoin McNally EE and wished him all the best in his new role. Cllr McKee also congratulated Triona Keating in her new role and welcomed Ann Monaghan on board.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th July 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations.

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Sympathy was extended:

- To the family of the late Sheila Rafferty, Lobinstown, grandmother of Matthew Rafferty, EE Transportation
- To the family of the late Evan Reynolds, Mornington who died tragically in the USA.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Local Heritage Groups who participated in Heritage Week.
- Stephen Lynch on running from Malin Head to Mizen Head on behalf of SOSAD.
- Evan Ferguson on his first Premier League hat trick against Newcastle.
- Red Cross for assisting in the Eastham Road flooding.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Corporate Services

- 4.1.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

The allocations were noted. Members were reminded to submit completed applications by the end of September.

4.2 Transportation

- 4.2.1 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:

- Enquired when repairs will be carried out in the playground – advised that it is going to tender now.
- When will works be carried out to ramps at Inse Bay- advised meeting the contractor to confirm works.
- Referred to street sweeping programme and if it could be extended to Donacarney, Mornington and Donore, advised that this is an annual tender and other towns can be considered but not housing estates as they are not included.
- Enquired if hedge /verge cutting can be carried out on the Piltown Road – advised that this is a matter for the landowner and Council can issue notices for

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overgrown verges/hedges to landowners.

- Enquired when Duleek lower main street works will commence – advised no timeframe yet as at tender stage.
- Referred to McEvoy's Lane which is overgrown – advised that this can be considered in next year's programme.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

I ask that a community based CCTV surveillance system be looked at in Slane village that would incorporate cameras on the Hill of Slane and the existing cameras along the N2 through Slane village.

Response:

The Community CCTV policy sets out the process and criteria for considering towns and villages for the installation of CCTV. The CCTV Steering Group are tasked with considering all requests for CCTV in Co. Meath and as set out in the Community CCTV policy, schemes will be prioritised on the basis of:

- Policing need as determined by An Garda Síochána with the use of crime statistics
- Feasibility of the location taking into account connectivity, suitable location for data storage
- Range of local groups/community groups who support the new CCTV scheme.

Slane Village and the Hill of Slane will be considered in the above context.

The response was noted.

The members were advised that there is a separate process to go through for Community CCTV and that the TII cameras are for traffic issues only.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

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“What progress has been made in relation to the removal of outdated and defunct old road upgrade signage and “funded by” signage littering our county.”

Response:

This work is being progressed on a county wide basis, data is being gathered from all MDs and this will inform whether removals will be progressed by an external contractor or through MDs. Typically, these signs are supported by 2 or 4 tubular steel posts with sizable foundations to prevent over-turning, part of the assessment will include how the foundations will be dealt with.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Paddy Meade

“I call on Meath County Council to remove the traffic calming chicane from the entrance road of Inse Bay housing estate in Laytown.”

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

The existing traffic calming regime in Inse Bay Estate is operating adequately, as such the removal of the chicane on the main entrance road to the estate would be contrary to the safe and effective operation of the traffic calming regime.

The motion was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Elaine McGinty**.

Cllr Meade said that the level of traffic has led to a backlog to the main road and is a road safety issue. He suggested that the chicane could be relocated further back from the main road. Cllr McGinty said that it wasn't working properly.

Cllr Harding stated that he was opposed to the removal of road safety measures and cannot support the motion. He said that if an accident happened it would be the Council's fault.

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Cllr Behan said he couldn't support the motion as residents are always looking for traffic calming measures within estates. He said that he hasn't seen any traffic backlog here and that the chicane is serving its purpose.

Cllr Tolan said that we cannot support the motion as 1000 people live in the estate. She said that the residents want it to remain as there is speeding in the estate to the entrance.

Cllr McKee supports the sentiments of the motion. He said he feels the chicane is not working and that ramps would be better. He suggested that an audit of the chicane be done and if it's not working then it could be removed, and ramps installed.

Cllr Meade stated that he did not want to change his motion and called for a roll call with the following results:

Cllr Meade and Cllr McKee voted for the motion.

Cllr Harding, Cllr Tolan, Cllr Behan, Cllr McGinty and Cllr Keogan voted against the motion and therefore the motion did not carry.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

"I call on Meath County Council to give a commitment to deliver the footpath from Rathmullen to the river Boyne boardwalk during the closure of the Obelisk bridge.

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

The proposed new footpath cycleway linking the Rathmullen road to the boardwalk along the L-16014-0 is currently at planning application stage. An Bord Pleanála requested additional information for submission by 25th September 2023. As the proposed works are currently awaiting further consideration by An Bord Pleanála it is not possible to give a commitment on completion of the proposed footpath cycleway within the timeframe of the Obelisk Bridge road closure.

The supporting information and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

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6.3 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

“To call on the NTA and Irish Rail to deliver a new train station in Bettystown as part of the DART + Coastal North Project.”

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

The Notice of Motion is consistent with MOV OBJ 7 in the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 which is ‘To facilitate the provision of a train station at Bettystown (in addition to the existing station at Laytown) as part of the DART expansion works to Drogheda through the planned electrification of the Northern rail line by Irish Rail.’

However, please note that the Executive previously raised this issue with Irish Rail at an early stage of the consultation process and were told that the provision of the Bettystown Station was outside the scope of the Dart+Coastal North Route project.

The supporting information and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

Clr Tolan stated that this is an opportune time to deliver the infrastructure here with the new commuter zones being introduced. Members supported this as people want improved public transport in this area.

It was agreed to liaise with Planning and Transport sections, to raise this matter at their next meeting with the NTA and to include Colpe Cross in the discussion.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

“In light of the devastating impact of the recent flooding event in August on homeowners in Bettystown, I call on the OPW and Meath County Council to deliver the flood protection works necessary to ensure this does not happen again, and to carry out a comprehensive analysis of the entire East Meath area with a view to ensuring future events can be avoided.”

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

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The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the national authority for the implementation of the EU Floods Directive and are the lead agency for flood risk management in Ireland. In 2018 the OPW completed the largest study of flood risk ever undertaken by the State to establish those communities that are at risk from significant flood events -this provided the roadmap for the delivery of Government investment in flood relief schemes and €1.3 billion has been committed over the lifetime of the National Development Plan to 2030 to protect approximately 23,000 properties in threatened communities from river and coastal flood risk.

This study known as the Catchment Flood Risk Management Programme (CFRAM) resulted in the production of indicative flood maps and catchment-based Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) and involved extensive public consultation and engagement with local authorities, the Environmental Protection Agency and other relevant departments and bodies in accordance with national flood policy and the EU Floods Directive.

Meath County Council work closely with the OPW when they are designing and delivering major flood relief schemes and examples being such schemes in Ashbourne and Northlands Bettystown. In addition, the OPW also provide funding to Local Authorities under Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Schemes and Meath County Council have identified a number of projects and have ongoing discussions with the OPW about future projects that can be delivered from this funding stream.

The OPW have engaged Consultants to carry out an analysis of the recent flood event which will inform any flood protection measures to be taken in the short to long term for the general area. Meath County Council have also engaged Consultants to carry out coastal erosion and coastal flood risk analysis which will inform future projects in our coastal zone.

The supporting information and motion were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan**.

Cllr Tolan stated that the flooding was devastating for residents and could happen again. She said that some landlords will not be carrying out repairs to homes affected.

The members supported the motion and acknowledged the council's assistance to residents who were affected. They said that flood defences are required to prevent this happening again.

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Dara McGowan advised that the OPW carried out a comprehensive analysis nationally in 2018 and identified areas that have frequently flooded around the country. Funding has been allocated to progress flood relief schemes with 3 schemes in East Meath at design stage. He said that he would bring the members concerns to the OPW as they meet the Council regularly and will revert back with updates when they become available.

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

7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 23rd July 2023.

The minutes were noted.

7.2 To note the Protocol Committee minutes of 30th June 2023.

The minutes were noted.

7.3 To note the minutes from the Draft Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC of 6th July 2023

The draft minutes were noted.

7.4 To note the Draft minutes of the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC of 7th July 2023.

The draft minutes were noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

Paul McKown SEE, Transportation presented an update on the Eastham Road, Cycle and Pedestrian facilities. He advised that the Active Travel Section in conjunction with the NTA are progressing the scheme to provide improved pedestrian and cycle facilities along a 1.4km section of the Eastham Road, from the Triton Roundabout to the Whitefield Roundabout in Bettystown.

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Jacobs have been appointed consultant and are currently progressing the Preferred Option that has been identified to progress to the Part 8 stage.

Members raised the following:

- Any acquisition of land required to widen McDonagh's lane – none required as it will be cleared back to allow for the 5 meters wide shared carriageway.
- A lot of foot fall on the lane, will there be lighting, CCTV to ensure lane is safe and secure – advised that liaising with the community guards and crime prevention unit on good design for the area and where they have no issues. Advised that increased footfall will deter anti-social behaviour.
- To secure screening for the Castlemartin residents that live along the lane to prevent public entering their lawns – houses along the laneway will be screened off.
- Will Bettystown cross be included in the Part 8 – this junction is being included for improvement and public lighting.
- Are the footpaths being upgraded along the Eastham Road – the right-hand side footpath is being upgraded.
- Members were advised that their feedback will be included in the Part 8 proposal which will be circulated to them prior to going on display.

The members had the following issues:

Cllr Wayne Harding raised the following:

- temporary structures to boardwalk that was damaged by fire and asked that the plastic bollards be replaced with more aesthetic bollards.
- asked when the footpath and public lighting will be put in place at the Silverstream Care Home.
- referred to speeding on the road to Tankardstown/Sallys Pub from Slane Castle, can signs be erected.
- asked that traffic calming measures be put in on the road from the Hill of Slane to the playground where there are two housing estates located.
- enquired when the audit of playgrounds will take place.
- said that a yellow box is required at the Highlands on the Rathmullan Road – advised to send in centrally and this will be referred to Louth County Council.

Cllr Sharon Tolan raised the following:

- to commence the T.I.C process for phase 2 of the Northlands.
- Pedestrian crossing required at the foot clinic entrance to the beach.
- New bus stops needed on the Marsh Road.

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Cllr Tom Behan raised the following:

- Centre white line in Laytown needs updating- advised will add to the list.
- Centre white line on bad bend at Harry's, Mornington needs updating – to add to the list.
- require signage on beach advising dogs to be on leads and breeds to be in a muzzle- advised will refer to the Environment Section.
- Policing of scramblers required as incident where a child was knocked off.
- Pedestrian walkway required from the carpark to Laytown train station.
- Referred to Japanese knotweed spreading to the opposite side of the road- advised will add location to list.
- Update on loading bay markings at O'Reilly's supermarket- advised waiting on a contractor.

Cllr Elaine McGinty raised the following:

- Update on the joint transport plan- advised will refer to Planning and Transport for an update.
- An Bord Pleanála's decision for the Boyne greenway, what can we do
- Speeding on the Beamore Road
- Update on footpath for Lagavooreen estate- advised the estate is not T.I.C to do footpath.

Cllr Paddy Meade raised the following:

- Enquired about the upcoming strike by Forsa and how will members contact officials- staff will not be dealing with members reps when submitted. The public can still contact the council with their issues.
- Enquired when area engineer will have more staff to assist- the structures in each area are the same, hard to get staff to fill positions.
- Commitment that the bank/ verge would be removed at the playground area in Lobinstown.
- Slane/ Lobinstown roads need maintaining. – advised works ongoing maintaining the roads.
- What are the options for the Boyne Greenway following the An Bord Pleanala's decision- await the inspectors report to review the decision.

Cllr Stephen McKee raised the following:

- Slipway required into the river between Slane and Donore- will review this area.
- Can water taps be installed in all graveyards.
- Whitefield Hall, Donacarney needs a litter bin- advised not T.I.C so cannot put in bin.
- Mill road roundabout has out of date signage and needs a clean-up- contractor to complete works here.
- Half a ramp on the road into Donacarney which needs to be repaired- contractor due back to repair.
- Bollards required at Harrys Mornington to prevent lorries parking on the footpath.
- Twelve public lights not working in Northlands estate.
- Bettystown NS, ramps required – Active Travel look after raised tables outside schools.

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- Dogs on beaches should be on leads, this needs to be looked at- advised can refer to Environment to increase awareness of this.

The meeting concluded at 12.10pm

Signed:

Cathaoirleach