

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

### ***-Ordinary Meeting***

#### ***Laytown Bettystown Municipal District***

***10:00am, 5th October 2023, Duleek Civic Offices***

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

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

**Councillors Present via Zoom:**

**Apologies/Absent:**

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Dara McGowan

**Executive Engineer:** Eoin McNally

**Meetings Administrator:** Áine Bird

**Staff Officer:** Ann Monaghan.

The **Cathaoirleach Stephen McKee** paid tribute to the late Councillor Damien O'Reilly RIP. He said that he will be sadly missed and will be a big loss to his family, friends, political colleagues and his local community. Tributes were paid to Councillor O'Reilly by **Councillors Paddy Meade, Sharon Tolan, Wayne Harding, Elaine McGinty, Tom Behan, Geraldine Keogan and the officials**. Condolences were offered to Councillor O'Reilly's fiancée Lisa, daughter Carly, stepson Kyle, Mother Phil and extended family, friends, and colleagues.

A minutes silence followed.

The members agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Elaine McGinty** to suspend the standing orders.

A discussion ensued that there is a perception given that the Indaver funds are a donation as opposed to a levy on annual tonnage which is a condition in the company's planning permission. Some members said that an article has been shared on social media giving the wrong impression that the levy is a donation. Some members raised concerns around the lack of transparency of the committee, little involvement with the MD members and have requested a review of the scheme and the terms of reference.

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Dara McGowan stated that any public funds allocated follow the proper procedures and governance as set down. He said that an invite can be extended to Indaver to attend an MD meeting. He referred to the Community section who administer the funds and will enquire if a review has taken place and the outcome of this. He would come back with an update for the next meeting.

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Behan** and seconded by **Councillor Geraldine Keogan**.

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

There were none.

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

Sympathy was extended:

- To the family of the late James Duff, Drumconrath, retired GSS
- To the family of the late Patsy McKenna, Lobinstown, father/father-in-law of Carol & Stephen O'Hare.
- To the family of the late Eamonn Walsh, Brookside, Bettystown
- To the family of the late Brendan Wall, formally from Slane.

Congratulations were extended:

- To all football teams in the finals
- Laytown race committee
- Julianstown drama group.

### **4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

4.1 The agreement in principle to dispose of 0.1212 Ha of land at Donacarney Little, Garra Road, Mornington. The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

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On the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan** the members agreed in principle to the disposal of land.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### 5.1 Planning

##### 5.1.1 Taking in Charge Cearnach Close Donacarney

On the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Elaine McGinty** the members agreed to the Taking in Charge.

##### 5.1.2 Taking in Charge Lagavooren Manor Drogheda

**Councillor Elaine McGinty** declared a conflict of interest with this estate and abstained.

On the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade** the members agreed to the Taking in Charge.

##### 5.1.3 Taking in Charge Hazel Lane, Drogheda

On the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding** the members agreed to the Taking in Charge.

#### 5.2 Transportation

##### 5.2.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Laytown Bettystown Municipal District

The report circulated in advance was noted.

##### 5.2.2 To receive an update on proposed Traffic Calming at Riverview Slane and Millmount Abbey Estate, Drogheda, in the Laytown - Bettystown Municipal District

Paul Phelan SEE, Transport updated the members on proposed traffic calming at Riverview Slane and Millmount Abbey Estate, Drogheda which were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

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### 5.3 Corporate Affairs and Governance

#### 5.3.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Laytown Bettystown District

The members were advised that the applications submitted by them were being processed.

## **6 Notice of Question**

### 6.1 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

Can I please ask what road safety measures, if any, Meath County Council intend to put in place on the Beamore Road, Drogheda given the serious safety issues along it and furthermore, if the Council will strongly consider putting in a roundabout at Beamore Cross to help improve the situation.

#### **Response:**

The Council previously implemented safety works to provide additional signage and lining at the R108/L-16111 junction, to address safety concerns. As part of the Council's submission to An Bord Pleanála regarding the SHD developments on the zoned lands to the north of the junction, the provision of a special contribution towards future improvements to this junction was proposed. However, this particular provision was not included as part of the final determination by the Board. The Council have compiled a draft appraisal document for this junction, to discuss an application for funding with the Department of Transport.

**The response was noted.**

### 6.2 Submitted by Councillor Tom Behan

To ask Meath County Council that given the recent closure of the Health Centre in Laytown and the HSEs intention to sell the building if the Council has any ambition to acquire the building with the aim of utilising the space for community use.

#### **Response:**

Following Meath County Council's recent purchase of Community zoned lands in Laytown Bettystown the priority is to develop these lands in a bespoke manner based on community need.

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Dara McGowan stated that the council's own funds are being utilised for the development of the new Library in Bettystown and the recently purchased 5 acres for community facilities and therefore there are no plans to acquire further facilities.

### **7 Notice of Motion**

#### 7.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

"I call on Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District to revisit the delivery of a playground at the Battle of the Boyne site at Oldbridge".

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

If the Councillors are agreeable, the Council will contact the OPW and request that consideration is given to the provision of a playground at the Battle of the Boyne site at Oldbridge.

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

#### 7.2 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

"That Meath County Council engage with the OPW to make provision for a playground at Oldbridge with immediate effect for the benefit of families and to complement the huge investment already made at the site".

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

If the Councillors are agreeable, the Council will contact the OPW and request that consideration is given to the provision of a playground at the Battle of the Boyne site at Oldbridge.

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

#### 7.3 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

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“In the interest of public safety and to enhance the prospects of a Blue Flag award for Bettystown beach, that Meath County Council fully enforce its’ own Foreshore Bye-Laws regarding the proper and responsible control of animals, and dogs in particular, and furthermore improve signage and public awareness on this issue”

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

The Meath County Council Foreshore Bye-Laws 2010 (As Amended) set out the requirements relating to the bringing of dogs, horses and other animals on to the Foreshore and Shoreline and these bye-law’s provisions are enforced by the Council and particularly by the Beach Wardens during the summer months and by the Community and Dog Wardens at regular intervals and as their County wide remit and hours of work permits.

The Council when making application for Blue Flag status will take cognisance of the criteria relating to the access to the beach by dogs and other domestic animals and the necessary controls to be put in place. As part of the application process a study of the adequacy of existing signage has commenced and with a view to enhancing animal control signs as well as directional and vehicular signage.

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

The members discussed the issue of dogs on the beach without a lead and suggested improvements to the existing signage. It was stated that an education and awareness campaign was needed.

Dara McGowan said that this is an issue nationally. He advised against having too many signs and said that education and awareness would be more ideal.

#### 7.4 Submitted by Councillor Tom Behan

“In the interest of health and safety, owing to the large volumes of traffic and ever-increasing footfall I’m calling on Meath County Council to install a pedestrian walkway that would provide safe passage between the car park and the train station in Laytown.”

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

In 2018 Meath County Council engaged with Irish Rail regarding the installation of a footpath under the bridge to provide pedestrian connectivity to the train station. The proposed design utilised traffic signals as a ‘give and go’ system which would create the

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space for a footpath of the required width. Irish Rail were not satisfied that the design would reduce the potential for bridge strikes and the Council were not able to agree a design with Irish Rail at the time. As the NTA funded the scheme and were dealing with Irish Rail across the region on a number of similar projects, it was agreed that the NTA would liaise with Irish Rail to try to agree a design. The Council has sought an update from the NTA on how the matter is progressing.

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

The members discussed the issue and enquired about the NTA funding being available. Dara McGowan advised that Irish Rail did not agree to the design submitted at the time and that the funding is no longer available.

### 7.5 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

“To call on Meath County Council to urgently address the many road safety issues in the village of Laytown, where cyclists and pedestrians are seriously at risk every day, and to deliver traffic calming measures, a walking and cycling plan, and install safe pedestrian crossings at Inse Bay Estate, Highfield Estate and the Laytown Car Park as a matter of urgency.”

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

‘The Laytown and Bettystown Walking and Cycling Study was updated and presented to the Councillors in the Laytown-Bettystown MD at the Ordinary MD meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The Transportation section are currently working to deliver walking and cycling infrastructure on the Eastham Road, Bettystown, between Donacarney and Bettystown and the footpaths in the rehabilitation and footpath programme. Two pedestrian crossings are in the process of being installed on the Eastham Road and the Golf Links Road. The Transportation section will liaise with the MD Engineer and consider the projects listed in the Notice of Motion in the context of the overall list of requested works and priorities for the MD.’

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

### 7.6 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

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To call on Meath County Council to take in charge Phase 2 of the Northlands Estate in Bettystown, and to switch on all public lighting in the estate as a matter of urgency.

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

The Council is in receipt of a valid TIC application for this development in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 - 2022 and it has been added to the list.

This development has not been completed to the required standard and as such remedial works need to be carried out to bring the development up to the TIC standard. Given the foregoing we cannot give a timeframe for commencement of the required remedial works and subsequent completion of the formal TIC process.

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

The members discussed the issues and said the residents are living in the estate without public lighting for a number of years. They enquired if the public lighting could be looked at separately so that the lighting could be switched on coming into the winter months.

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

8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

The minutes were noted.

## **9 Any Other Business**

The members had the following issues:

Cllr Tom Behan

- Potholes at the entrance to Preston Park estate.
- Resurfacing works needed at St Partick's square, Highfield as water pooling here – advised that estate is not Taken in Charge and will look at the drainage on the road.

Cllr Wayne Harding:



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- Safety measures required at the junction of Tubberfin and Battle of the Boyne.

Cllr Sharon Tolan:

- Water running down the lane as drain missing at St Patricks Square – not in charge and will look at drainage on R150.
- When will windows be replaced in the Toilets in Laytown – advised that temporary repairs are completed.
- Safety concerns at Sevitt Hall, Bettystown where a crossing is required here.
- Mucky road at building site on the Narrowways road.
- Minnestown road needs repairs.
- Wildflowers on the Tara Road need to be cut back.
- Lighting issue of the art piece on the Triton roundabout – advised issue with the ducting.

Cllr Elaine McGinty:

- Issue with traffic speeding on the Beamore road – advised there are funds in the capital programme to carry out a study but council does not have funds to do a scheme.
- Require an update on the joint Transport Plan – advised will get update.
- Need tolls suspended whilst works on the Obelisk Bridge are completed –advised that the Council does look after tolls.
- Tree cutting needed on the Beamore road.

Cllr Paddy Meade:

- Potholes in North Meath – to forward on locations to the engineer.
- L1603 requires line marking in places.
- Road Lines are worn at the junction beside St Olivers secondary school.

Cllr Stephen McKee:

- Junction at Duleek graveyard is very dangerous.
- Update on Duleek main street works.
- Potholes at Donacarney school
- Update on public realm plan for Duleek – advised it is a heritage plan and to get an update.

The meeting concluded at 12pm.



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Signed:

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Cathaoirleach