

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Laytown Bettystown Municipal District

10.00 a.m. 9th November 2023 Duleek Civic Offices

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

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

Councillors Present via Zoom: Tom Behan

Apologies/Absent:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Eoin McNally

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Staff Officer: Ann Monaghan.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 5th October 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th of October 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Geraldine Keogan**

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There was none.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Sheila Harkin, on the death of her niece Alana Harkin who was killed in a road fatality in Donegal.

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- The family of the late Geraldine (Geri) Reilly, Bettystown
- The family of late Denise Morgan, Tullyallen who died tragically in the USA.
- Declan Grimes, former employee on the death of his mother-in-law Patricia Carroll, Wilkinstown.
- Ian Watters, Journalist, Drogheda Leader on the death of his mother-in-law.

Congratulations were extended to Rathkenny FC on their recent win.

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

- 4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal by way of Lease of 2.9546Ha of land at Slane Castle Demesne. The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

On the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding** the members agreed in principle to the disposal.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Planning

- 5.1.1 To receive an update on County Meath Heritage Strategy 2023-2030.

Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer, gave an update on the new proposed Strategy and the seven themes agreed. She advised that the next steps are to carry out an Environmental Assessment and finalise the plan to present to the Full Council for approval.

The members raised the following:

- Commended the works being carried out.
- Welcomed Ben Malone as the newly appointed Biodiversity officer- advised that Ben and the Heritage section will update on projects later to each MD.
- What funding is available to carry out heritage projects – funding is available through the Community and Heritage sections and the Heritage Council.
- Referred to carrying out a genealogy survey in the old graveyards – advised that the County Archivist is collating information on graveyards.

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- Enquired how monuments in private ownership can be protected – advised that funding is available for both private and public sites.
- Enquired when the Brú na Boínne management plan is being reviewed – Advised it is due for review in two years.
- Referred to the wall at Cushenstown cemetery that needs to be looked at.

5.1.2 To consider taking in charge of Dun Eimear, Bettystown, and the making of a declaration that the roads within these developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2022.

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

The members enquired why one phase of Dun Eimear is paying management fees whilst the 2nd phase isn't.

Enquired why the Council Houses in Dun Eimear, do not pay management fees whereby the other residents have to pay.

5.2 Community

5.2.1 To receive an update on the Digital Strategy and National Broadband Plan progress report.

Cormac McCann, Broadband Officer gave an update on progress of the current Meath Digital Strategy. He advised overall that good progress has been made despite encountering several challenges which included the pandemic thus switching to remote working and moving to digital services, staff changes and a small number of actions which could not be progressed. He said that the next step is to review and update the strategy accordingly.

The members raised the following:

- Commend the works completed so far.
- Referred to some areas that won't get broadband until 2026.
- Some businesses losing out due to poor broadband.
- Referred to the Community Hubs and some are not performing as well.
- A need to spread out the free Wifi to other areas.

5.2.2 To receive an update from the Carranstown Grant Scheme Committee

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regarding their meeting on 27th October 2023.

Cllr Geraldine Keogan, Chairperson of the Committee gave an update on the meeting held on 27th October. She advised that the following was agreed by the committee.

- Minutes circulated and published.
- Conflict of Interest recorded, and the members abstains from the meeting.
- New marking sheet and criteria will be used for applications.
- Marking sheets will be circulated to the councillors.
- The application form will be amended to include the above.

The members raised the following:

- Welcomed the review of the scheme.
- To include groups who submit applications that are unsuccessful.
- Referred to the community reps on the committee and said that they should be nominated by the community.
- Requested that the selection of the public reps be addressed ahead of the new council next year.
- Referred to the increase in trucks travelling through the village due to the increase in tonnage.
- The committee should not be setting their own Terms of Reference.
- Referred to the cheque issued by Indaver and said that the Council logo should be similar size and on top of the cheque.

Dara McGowan advised that the unsuccessful groups can be noted. He said that the nomination of vacant community rep positions will come through the PPN process and the selection process for new councilors' can be agreed prior to the new council next year.

He referred to the committee which was set up by Indaver as per a condition of planning permission and that the funding is a levy and not a donation which is administered by the Council. He stated that the terms of reference is drafted by the council for agreement by the committee and that any issues raised at an MD meeting regarding Indaver can be referred by the Elected Representatives to the Carranstown Committee.

Cllr McKee clarified the situation around his social media press release regarding funding under the Carranstown grant scheme and apologized for using the word donation in his original press release.

5.3 Transport

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- 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:

- Enquired when the lights at the pedestrian crossing at Donacarney will be energised.
- Asked when the banks along the road in Lobinstown will be done.
- Referred to street sweeping and to include south Drogheda in the schedule.
- Referred to the drains in Laytown village which need to be cleared.
- Enquired why the lower main street project is being retendered – advised that issues arose for the contractor who tendered.
- Referred to the traffic flow at the junction at the graveyard which needs a review – advised need to follow up internally on the matter.

5.4 Corporate Affairs and Governance

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

The allocations were noted.

6 Notice of Question

- 6.1 Submitted by Councillor Elaine McGinty

Given the increased flooding along the coastline can the council provide an update on any coastal protection plans/ mitigation measure currently being worked on and a possible timeline for delivery.

RESPONSE

Meath County Council have engaged RPS consultants to carry out the 'Meath Coastal Erosion and Flood study'. This Study will identify locations on our Coastline where flooding and erosion are critical and will recommend mitigation measures to be taken. The study will be completed in Q2 2024, and it is envisaged that several projects will be identified and commenced thereafter.

The response was noted.

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7 Notice of Motion

There was none.

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

1. To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 29th September 2023

The minutes were noted.

2. To note the Protocol Committee Meeting Minutes of 1st September 2023.

The minutes were noted.

3. To note the Draft Minutes from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise, and European Affairs SPC 20th October 2023

The draft minutes were noted.

4. To note the Draft Minutes of the Transportation SPC 28th September 2023

The draft minutes were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was none.

10 Any Other Business

There were queries raised from **Councillors Elaine McGinty, Sharon Tolan, Wayne Harding, Paddy Meade and Stephen McKee** which included completion of path at Lagoveereen, speeding on the Beamore road & at Newtown NS, traffic calming at Millmount, widening of link road at Lagoveereen, removal of graffiti, date for playground repairs, grass cutting at Lobinstown playground, road slippy with leaves at Eastham Road, completion of pedestrian crossing on Northlands/Golflinks road, lighting not working at Triton Roundabout, Voyager and school road Duleek, Workers vans parking in the EV spaces on Tara road, loose shore & dips on

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the Narrowways road, subsidence on French Lane, Slane, road lining for L5603, bins needed Julianstown & Duleek.

Responses to queries were provided by the area engineer where he advised that playground repairs will be completed, leaves will be cleared on the Eastham Road, contractor to remove graffiti, repairs to ducting at Triton roundabout, public lights to follow up, to contact developer regarding EV spaces, review shore and dips on the Narrowways, bins reviewed annually, Lagoveereen link road too narrow to widen.

Dara McGowan advised that the Eastham Road culvert works could commence as early as Quarter 1, 2024 and would take approx. 4 weeks to complete. A road closure will be required for this period.

The meeting concluded at 12pm.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach