

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ratoath Municipal District

9.40 a.m. 8th November 2023 Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, **Councillor** Brian Fitzgerald, presided.

Councillors Present: Nick Killian, Gerry O'Connor, Gillian Toole, Maria Murphy

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Absent/Apologies: Cllr Deirdre Geraghty-Smith

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Staff Officer: Ann Monaghan

1 Election of Cathaoirleach

On the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**, the members agreed to elect Councillor Brian Fitzgerald as Cathaoirleach.

2 Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 4th October 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4th of October 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**

3 Matters arising from the Minutes.

To amend item 5.1.1 to Cnoc Tiarnach, Dunshaughlin.

4 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

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- The family of the late Eddie Fennelly, Ashbourne, recently retired water services caretaker.
- Sheila Harkin, on the death of her niece Alana Harkin who was killed in a road fatality in Donegal.

Congratulations were extended to the Drumree Senior Ladies on reaching the finals and to the Council on hosting the annual Mass for staff.

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

- 5.1 Agreement in principle to disposal by way of Lease of 0.1548Ha of land at Kilmessan, County Meath. The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

Councillor Gillian Toole declared a conflict of interest with this disposal and therefore abstained from the meeting.

On the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** the members agreed in principle to the disposal.

- 5.2 Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.0113Ha of land at Piercetown, Dunboyne Co. Meath. The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

On the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** the members agreed in principle to the disposal.

6 Statutory Business

6.1 Planning

- 6.1.1 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:

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- Commended all the work that has been carried out.
- Welcomed Ben Malone as the newly appointed Biodiversity officer- advised that Ben and the Heritage section will update on projects later.
- Opportunity to use the old house on the purchased lands in Ratoath for a horse museum.
- The Irish for Dunshaughlin on the signage is incorrect – advised that the council is awaiting on an appeal regarding the official name for Dunshaughlin.
- What investment is being made with the council owned heritage assets- advised that tours are carried out on some sites and practices and traditions are being documented and archived.
- Referred to the Workhouse and an opportunity to do something – advised will take into consideration.
- Enquired if there was an overlap with the OPW – advised that the section works closely with the OPW.

6.1.2 To consider the Chief Executives Report on the Part 8 application P8/23006 Application Dunshaughlin Courthouse Project

Wendy Bagnall SE Planner briefed the members on the Part 8 report and advised that the members have 6 weeks from the date of receiving the Part 8 report to decide on the recommendation.

6.2 Transport

6.2.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ratoath Municipal District

The report circulated in advance was noted.

The members commended on all the works completed and thanked the staff and crew in the clean up due to flooding on the roads.

6.2.2 To consider the Chief Executives Report on the Part 8 application P8/23005 Dunshaughlin Public Realm Scheme

Paul McKown, SE Engineer briefed the members on the Part 8 report and advised that the members have 6 weeks from the date of receiving the report to decide on the recommendation.

6.2.3 To receive an update on proposed Traffic Calming at Dunboyne Castle Estate in

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the Ratoath Municipal District

Gillian Mangan EE updated the members on the proposed Traffic Calming Measure. On the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** the members agreed to the details.

6.3 Community

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

Simon McCabe, Head of IT and Cormac McCann, Broadband Officer gave an update on progress of the current Meath Digital Strategy. They 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. They said that the next steps are to review and update the strategy accordingly.

The members raised the following:

- Commend the works done so far.
- Need to include older persons who don't have access to wifi and others who are illiterate when carrying out the review.
- Age Friendly and the Older Persons Council are doing a lot of work in training digital skills to other older persons.
- Why is there a delay in connecting households in Dunshaughlin - advised that areas are grouped together to carry out works.

6.4 Corporate Affairs and Governance

6.4.1 To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ratoath Municipal District.

The allocations were noted.

7 Notice of Question

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There was none.

8 Notice of Motion

There was none.

The members requested an extension of 15 minutes on the proposal of **Cllr Nick Killian** and seconded by **Cllr Maria Murphy**.

9 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 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.

10 Correspondence

There was none.

11 Any Other Business

- Request to include the commemoration of the late Cllr O'Reilly at the next Protocol meeting.
- Repairs required to the public carparking spaces to the front of the Dunshaughlin office due to the bricks receding between slabs causing slips.

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- Referred to a map in the previous CDP which identified archaeological sites, can a similar map be included in the current CDP.
- Referred to a field for sale across from the Arches Bar in Dunshaughlin and enquired if Town Centre zoning would be more appropriate here.
- Referred to several outages at Lagore large/ Wilkinstown and request that the MD write to ESB networks.
- Referred to Rathbeggan school who no longer have use of the adjacent carpark and have been informed that it's a matter for the council organise parking – advised that carparking at a school is a matter for the school/Department of Education.
- Enquired if the council might purchase a site for sale along the riverwalk and use for a parkland.

The meeting concluded at 11.45am.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach