

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

### **Ordinary Meeting**

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

***9.30am, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices***

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

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

**Councillors Present via Zoom:** Deirdre Geraghty-Smith

**Absent/Apologies:**

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Dara McGowan

**Executive Engineer:** Philip Traynor

**Meetings Administrator:** Áine Bird

**Staff Officer:** Ann Monaghan

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

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

There were none.

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

Expressions of sympathy was extended to the family of late John Bruton, former Taoiseach and Meath TD.

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

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There was none.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 To consider and adopt the 2024 Schedule of Municipal District Works**

The Schedule of Municipal District Works includes two service divisions Transportation and Housing. The SMDW is prepared based on identified needs and priorities throughout the local authority area and where possible a multi annual approach has been adopted.

Caroline Corrigan SE Transportation gave a presentation on the schedule of Municipal District Works for the upcoming year. She advised that this is the final year of the three-year, 2022-2024 Restoration Maintenance and Improvement scheme. She said that last year had been a challenging year due to impacts from energy and fuel costs, inflation, and the availability of materials. She said that the weather also affected works with July been the wettest month causing flooding and damage to infrastructure. She gave a breakdown of funding allocated and said that the allocation from the council own resources of €18,561,460 is an increase on last year's allocation. She advised that the allocations from the Department have yet to be announced.

The members raised the following:

- Commended the works being carried out.
- Referred to the poor quality of work being completed under some road opening licences.
- Enquired if contractors dovetail into other works ongoing in the same area.
- Enquired to the criteria used when surveying the roads.
- Enquired if Cul de Sacs can be included under the programme.
- Referred to gully covers which are causing blockages/flooding and could new types be looked at.
- Enquired if there are penalties imposed on utilities who do not comply with the road opening licence conditions.
- Sought clarification on how CIS applications are dealt with.
- Referred to the lack of communication from the Utilities when completing works.

Caroline Corrigan SE responded to the above accordingly:

- Advised that works under a road opening licence must comply and are monitored.
- CIS schemes are funded by the Department where strict criteria is set down.

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- Advised that the road survey is based on usage and the condition of roads.
- Referred to gullies and looking at technology to send alerts when full.
- Advised that contract works are completed in tandem with other works being done in the area.
- Referred to the Ratoath Cycle scheme which will commence once funding is approved.

On the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Caroline O'Reilly** the members agreed to the Schedule of Municipal District Works for Transportation as presented.

Corrina Elder SE Housing gave a presentation on the schedule of Municipal District Works for the upcoming year. She outlined the proposed works of maintenance and repairs to be completed during the year in the Municipal District. She said that funding is sourced from both the annual revenue budget of the council and central grant allocation from the Department of Housing which has yet to be announced.

The members raised the following:

- Complimented the housing maintenance team on all the work being done.
- Enquired if acquisition costs are included in the maintenance budget.
- Enquired if Kilbreena estate is included in the retrofit programme.
- Referred to the heat pumps and that tenants need instructions on how to use them.
- Enquired how the planned maintenance will be rolled out.

Corrina Elder SE responded to the above accordingly:

- Referred to the current roll out of the national data collection survey on housing units, which will assist in allocation of funding towards programmes.
- Tenants are advised at pre-tenancy meetings on the operation of systems in their home.
- Acquisitions are not included in the maintenance budget.
- Referred to the replacement of windows which are replaced only if needed.

On the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy** the members agreed to the Schedule of Municipal District Works for Housing as presented.

### **5.2 Transportation**

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

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

- Commended the outdoor crew on all works being done in the area.

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- Enquired if the positions for outdoor staff been advertised – advised awaiting sanction from the Department to proceed.
- Referred to the playground in Dunboyne where a mat sank due to the rain – engineer advised that a final snag has to be completed.
- What happens if works are not completed properly following a road opening licence – advised if the works fail within two years of completion the contractor will have to complete works again.
- Referred to public lights required at Mulhussey School- to refer to PL section.
- Sought an update on the Batterstown Traffic Calming scheme – Dara McGowan advised that a detailed design and procurement would have to be undertaken and said he was unsure if fund was available but would seek clarification on the scheme.
- Referred to the tree works being carried out in which the contractor seems to be doing works in an ad hoc manner – advised will check the works out.
- Referred to old trees on private property at Batterjohn & Dunsany, that need to be removed – engineer advised that property owners need to look after trees on their property.
- Enquired if the reflectors on ramps can be updated as some have worn away- noted by the engineer.

5.2.2 To receive an update on proposed Traffic Calming at Kilbreena Estate and Dunboyne Castle Estate in the Ratoath Municipal District.

Gillian Mangan, EE Transportation, updated the members on the proposed Traffic Calming measures in Dunboyne.

On the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** the members agreed to the proposal.

### 5.3 **Community**

5.3.1 To receive details of the recommended grant allocations by the Skane Valley Community Council under Round 1 of the Swainstown Grant Scheme following their meetings in September 2023 and if in agreement to forward to the Full Council of Meath County Council for approval.

Fiona Fallon Director of Services, Community Section outlined the scheme details. She said that the community section will oversee the scheme on behalf of the Skane Valley Community Council. She said that the fund will see the distribution of €240,000 over 10 years with the first tranche of funding along with

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2024 funding paid in, totalling €90,000. She advised that Skane Valley Community Council has prioritised funding to 4 groups under this round.

On the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** the members agreed to the recommendation.

### **5.4 Corporate Affairs and Governance**

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

The allocations were noted.

## **6 Notice of Question**

### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole**

What discussions were had around repairs to the Church of Ireland premises in Kilmessan. Were Heritage Grants Repair/Remediation grants for Council own stocks sought/applied for?

#### **RESPONSE**

Funding has been allocated in the Capital Works Programme 2023-2025 for renovation works to the Old Church in Kilmessan. Subject to resources, the Council will review plans for the building and seek grant funding for same as appropriate. There has been no recent discussions or applications for funding.

**The response was noted.**

## **7 Notice of Motion**

### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole**

I call on Meath County Council to undertake a community needs assessment prior to the spending of monies allocated in the Capital Plan for Kilmessan community amenities.

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

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Prior to spending any money allocated as part of the Capital Plan, a Capital Appraisal is to be undertaken and approved. This appraisal includes details on funding, purpose of the project, as well as the justification for the project.

Any monies allocated to a potential Kilmessan community amenity project in the Capital Plan would require a capital appraisal to be completed and approved, prior to commencing.

Cllr Toole suggested that a survey be carried out to identify the community needs which would determine the type of building required.

Dara McGowan DoS stated that the Council own the Old Church in Kilmessan and its priority is to restore and protect this asset. He said that the Council will not be acquiring a second building and suggested that the group buy the building from St Finian's Diocesan Trust and the council could support the group.

Cllr Killian said that the group need to do more to acquire a building. The members agreed and proposed that a letter issue outlining the options available to the group to pursue the building and/or look for a greenfield site.

The motion and response were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

### **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> December 2023

The minutes were noted.

#### 8.2 To note the Protocol Committee minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

The minutes were noted.

#### 8.3 To note the Draft Minutes of Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

The draft Minutes were noted.

### **9 Correspondence**

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There was none.

### **10 Any Other Business**

The members raised the following:

- Referred to the new graveyard, Dunboyne where no items can be placed on new burials, asked that this be reviewed – Dara McGowan, DoS advised that as it's a grass graveyard whereby the council maintain it, it would be difficult to manage.
- Referred to the Travellers on the outer relief road, Ratoath which the gardaí are dealing with.
- Referred to the Affordable Housing Scheme, Ratoath and noted that houses are now being offered.
- Requested that the process of declaring a road a public road be progressed for Clowenstown Road, Dunshaughlin – advised that this will be referred to transport section.

The meeting concluded at 11.30am

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach