

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

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

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

***10:00am, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Duleek Civic Offices***

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

**Councillors Present:** Wayne Harding, Paddy Meade

**Councillors Present via Zoom:**

**Apologies/Absent:** Councillor Tom Behan, Geraldine Keogan, Elaine McGinty, Sharon Tolan

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Fiona Lawless

**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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

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

Councillor Meade thanked the Broadband Officer for his update on broadband within the Lobinstown area.

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

Expressions of sympathy was extended:

- To the family of the late John Bruton, former Taoiseach and Meath TD.
- To the family of the late Jimmy Somers, former Labour Party, Dublin City Councillor.

Congratulations was extended to Holly Dunnion, Duleek on winning, in Mondello Park.

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

There was none.

### **5 To receive an Introduction to the Biodiversity Officer, Ben Malone.**

Ben Malone introduced himself as the new Biodiversity Officer for the Council. He said that he will be commencing the preparation of a local biodiversity strategy and that a working group will be set up to develop the plan accordingly.

The members welcomed Ben and look forward to working with him on the preparation of the plan.

### **6 Statutory Business**

#### **6.1 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 traffic congestion in South Drogheda and in Julianstown.
- There have been several incidents on the Beamore road due to speeding.
- Stated that the main road through Bettystown, Church Road and Triton roads are in poor condition.

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- Referred to housing estates with no driveways, where residents want to charge their EV's.
- Normally get a breakdown of funding allocated to the other municipal districts.
- Referred to a number of roads in north Meath that have not been surveyed and should be included on the list.
- Referred to traffic calming measures needed in Donore and Carranstown.
- Requested a roundabout at Beamore road cross.
- Enquired if Duleek can be included in the safe routes to school programme.
- Suggested that the road needs to be realigned from Slane to Dollys pub on the N51.
- Enquired when the oral hearing for Slane by-pass will take place.

Caroline Corrigan SE, responded accordingly to the above:

- That this schedule is for maintenance and improvement works only.
- That each Municipal District allocation varies as it reflects the roads in those areas.
- 97% of the roads in the county are surveyed and rated.
- Advised that will review the roads not surveyed and include on the list for next year.
- Still awaiting a date for the oral hearing for Slane Bypass.

**Councillor Paddy Meade** proposed that the roads maintenance budget should be increased by €281,000 and should include the following roads: L56004, L56026 and L50057, he noted that the proposal should be funded by way of a reduced roads budget in the other 5 municipal districts. The proposal was not seconded.

On the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee** the members agreed to the Schedule of Municipal District Works for Transportation as presented. **Councillor Paddy Meade** dissented.

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:

- Commended on the works being done by the maintenance team.
- Raised concerns regarding easy access to the heat pumps in apartments.
- Enquired if tenants have a choice if they want a heat pump installed.
- Enquired about the maintenance costs of heat pumps.
- Referred to the low number of adaptation grants approved and the reason.
- Asked if the recycled goods that are removed from units are recycled.
- Referred to the replacement of windows and doors and when is this done.

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Corrina Elder, responded accordingly to the above:

- Heat pumps are located within a cage on an apartment balcony due to health and safety and maintenance purposes.
- Heat pumps is the only option available under the energy retrofit programme.
- No increase in maintenance costs for the heat pumps.
- There is no waiting list for the adaptation grants, numbers are correct.
- Contractors carrying out works must comply with guidelines and recycle goods.
- Repairs only, are carried out on windows and doors as costly to replace them.

On the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding** the members agreed to the Schedule of Municipal District Works for Housing as presented.

### 6.2 Transportation

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

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

- Enquired if street sweeping can be carried out in South Drogheda- area engineer advised that the street sweeping tender is up for renewal in May and can include then.
- Sought an update on the Donacarney cycleway scheme- to seek an update from active travel section.
- Enquired when the playground works will commence- area engineer advised that the tender submitted is being assessed.
- Referred to trees in Coney Hall that need to be included on list – engineer advised will refer these to the Arborist for inclusion on their report.

#### 6.2.2 To receive an update on proposed Traffic Calming at Millmount Abbey in the Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District.

Paul Phelan SEE, Transport updated the members on the proposal and advised that the council is not proceeding with the installation of chicanes as there were 39 submissions received against chicanes.

The members noted the update and suggested looking at other road safety options that might be available. **Councillor Sharon Tolan** noted that she would not support any further installations of chicanes until a maintenance programme was put in place for existing chicanes in the Municipal District.

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- 6.2.3 To receive an update on proposed Traffic Calming at Riverview, Slane, in the Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District

The members agreed to the proposed Traffic Calming measures.

### **6.3 Planning**

- 6.3.1 To consider taking in charge of Whitefield Manor, 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 Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Tolan** the members agreed to the taking in charge of Whitefield Manor, Bettystown.

### **6.4 Corporate Affairs & Governance**

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

The allocations were noted.

## **7 Notice of Question**

There was none.

## **8 Notice of Motion**

There was none.

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

- 9.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

The minutes were noted.

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9.2 To note the Protocol Committee Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

The minutes were noted.

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

The draft minutes were noted.

### **10 Correspondence**

There was none.

The members agreed to an extension of time for the meeting.

### **11 Any Other Business**

Bernard Cooney SEE Transportation updated the members on the non-statutory consultation scheduled for next week regarding the proposed traffic safety scheme for the Duleek/ Station Road junction. He said that following this consultation it is intended to bring an update to the March meeting.

The members raised the following:

Cllr Wayne Harding:

- Referred to accidents at Beamore cross where urgent works are required.
- Enquired if bollards could be placed at the cul de sac at Slane Castle gates on the N51.
- Asked that signs be erected at the Ros na Rí road off N2 to deter HGV's using this road to Donore.
- Referred to trees hanging opposite Noone Transport on the Monknewtown Road.
- Requested that the condition of the road at Rushwee Church be looked at.
- Referred to the N51 before Wiggers cross, where cars must stop in the middle of the road to turn right onto a cul de sac, if this could be looked at.

Cllr Ger Keogan:

- Enquired when traffic calming measures will commence at Carranstown Lodge.
- Asked when traffic calming works will commence in Donore.
- Update when a garda station will be in East Meath.

Cllr Paddy Meade:

- Raised the issue of signs stolen from graveyards if these can be replaced.



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CLlr Stephen McKee:

- Enquired about getting a skip for Duleek graveyard.
- Requested bike stands for Bettystown.
- Can wheelchair access be provided on Duleek main street.
- Asked for dog bins to be provided along Southgate Road and Donacarney footpaths.
- Enquired on an update of the public realm plan for Duleek.
- Referred to Avourwen/Lagavooren Manor where a footpath is needed.
- Asked that potholes be filled ahead of a road race around Duleek.
- Requested Duleek be included when clearing blocked drains.

Eoin McNally Area Engineer responded:

- That the potholes will be included on the list.
- Referred to the stolen signs from graveyards which can be replaced.
- Advised that skips are not given out for graveyards.
- Will follow up on bike stands and public realm works and revert.

The meeting concluded at 12.25pm

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach