

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes
Ordinary Meeting
Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District
10.00a.m, 10th April 2025, Duleek Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Paddy Meade** presided.

Councillors Present: Carol Lennon, Maria White & Wayne Harding

Councillors Present via Zoom: Stephen McKee, Geraldine Keogan

Apologies/Absent: Sharon Tolan

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Fiona Lawless

Executive Engineer: Paul Tumelty

Meetings Administrator: Francis Regan

Assistant Staff: Kate Lomza

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 06th March 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th March 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Maria White**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

An amendment was made to the March minutes to confirm the following:

“Cllr Maria White confirmed it was Cllr Sharon Tolan and not herself who made the comment ‘disingenuous’ when referring to motion 6.4. The minutes were amended to reflect this.”

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of Ciaran Hanley
- Pat Shore and family on the passing of his father Robert.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Heidi Carolan on winning the All-Ireland boxing championship.
- Nichola Sheridan won the inaugural Dublin City Half Marathon.
- Cllr Carol Lennon on becoming a ‘Commissioner of Oaths’.

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4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 To nominate an Elected Member to sit on the Steering Group to provide oversight on the implementation of the Brú na Bóinne Management Plan

Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Paddy Meade** outlined to Members that both he and **Councillor Wayne Harding** had agreed to share this position consecutively at the January meeting, with the agreement of the Members. With the availability of a second Member position to the Steering Group, a nomination was sought to fill the role.

On the proposal of **Councillor Carol Lennon** and seconded by **Councillor Maria White**, **Councillor Wayne Harding** was elected as the second member.

Councillor Paddy Meade and **Cllr Wayne Harding** will now serve full terms with the Steering Group concurrently.

4.2 Rural Regeneration

4.2.1 To receive an update on the upcoming Part 8 Linear Park development in Fr Ryan's Estate on Station Rd, Duleek

Cathal McBride, Assistant Executive Engineer, gave the update to the above. There were interventions from the Members regarding car parking spaces and maintenance of the park.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Cathal for the presentation and asked Members to reside over the drawing provided and submit any comment directly to Rural Regeneration.

Cathal and the team will meet next with the Tidy Town Committee and residents of 'Fr. Ryan's Park' for further discussion. The next step is to start the Part 8 planning process.

4.3 Planning

4.3.1 Taking in Charge

To consider the taking in charge of:

- Berford Duleek 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 2000-2023.

The above statutory process was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria White** and seconded by **Councillor Geraldine Keogan**.

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4.4 Transportation

4.4.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District.

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

- When will the tender for the parks be finalized?
- On the Dublin Road, will the metal fence be replaced by hedging?
- Can the pier at Mornington Court be repaired and the gates located?
- The beach shelters and materials used for the shelters look great on the beach.
- Can the tree at the Rossnaree Junction be removed?

The queries raised were answered by the Executive Engineer.

4.5 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

This was noted.

5.0 Notice of Questions

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Carol Lennon

“What is the current time frame for the re marking of the parking bays in Laytown and Bettystown, specifically those intended for blue badge holders as the current markings are long worn and reducing the compliance of road users due to lack of visibility”

Response:

The MD is currently liaising with the road lining contractor to arrange dates for the refreshing of Blue Badge Spaces in Laytown and Bettystown. The remaining parking bays refreshment will form part of the annual road marking contract which will be tendered in the coming months.

Whilst the question was noted, **Cllr Lennon** would like a specific time frame on the parking bay refreshment, rather than in a number of months. The meeting Admin Team ask for clarity on this. The Executive Engineer stated the blue badge parking space will be painted in the next couple of weeks.

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6.0 Notice of Motions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Carol Lennon

“That Meath County Council trial a feeder bus service for the Summer season 2025.”

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

It is not within Meath County Council’s remit to provide transport links. The Transport Authority (NTA) who oversee the delivery of public transport services across Ireland under its **Transport for Ireland (TFI)** brand can be contacted to assess the viability of a new route. Approval from NTA/TFI would need to be sought and agreed for the expansion and viability of routes.

Transport for Ireland network is part of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan which is a major national public transport initiative. The Network is serviced by many operators Nationwide including Bus Éireann, Dublin Bus, Go-Ahead Ireland, Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail, Luas and TFI Local Link among others.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Carol Lennon** and seconded by **Councillor Maria White** was agreed.

Cllr Lennon was not completely satisfied with the answer. Connectivity is an issue regardless in East Meath and believes that a link bus between the car park and Bettystown beach should at least be trialed for the summer and stated that such a trial proved successful for Dun Laoghaire & Rathdown County Council. Members requested that the MD write directly to the NTA or TII and ask for a Local Link service to improve accessibility. If this isn’t considered, then the reopening of the beach should be considered.

Cllr Wayne Harding added that he believes there is great support from the public that cars cannot access the beach. However, the opening time of the beach is a further issue.

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6.2 Submitted by Councillor Carol Lennon

“That Meath County Council make an effort to address the lack of parking in the East Meath Villages by way of Compulsory Purchase order of lands in the vicinity of Laytown Train Station and or Bettystown Village.”

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

The Active Travel section will liaise with the NTA Park & Ride section about demand for park and ride facilities in East Meath.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Carol Lennon** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade** was agreed.

Cllr White is of the opinion that car parking space is not in keeping with the amount of new or future infrastructure. If we are building more homes, we need more car park spaces in the town and train station.

Fiona Lawless, Director, responded to Members and acknowledged that parking in the area needs a multi-agency approach. CIE and Irish Rail need to be involved.

Cllr Lennon asked that all stakeholders who can improve the provision of parking in the area should be invited to a meeting. Can a meeting be arranged?

7.0 Correspondence

There was none.

8.0 Any Other Business

- Is it possible to have a yellow box installed at the junction between Mace & Macari's takeaway? An ambulance couldn't get by due to a car being in way.
- Bins in Laytown were damaged due to being set on fire. Can these be replaced?
- Can the material used for our bins be fireproof as it may happen again?
- Members are of the opinion that the allocation of social housing in 'The Sanderling' has been poor with mistakes made and poor communication to perspective tenants. On the recommendation of the Director, Members were asked to send the examples by email to the meeting administrator. A housing member of staff will give a presentation at the next MD meeting on the allocation process.
- Vehicles are using a private road as a detour to avoid traffic lights in Duleek Centre. Can this be investigated?
- Members have received numerous complaints about the stoves in Ryans Park. Can an update of future maintenance plans be sought?
- The new beach buggies that are used for people with additional needs. When will they be operational and how will they be managed?
- Can a filter road at the entrance of the Glenside be considered?
- Can road markings be reinstated at Cruicerath between Duleek and Donore?

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- At the Belfry there is an open pipe on the Green that appears dangerous. Can this be repaired?
- Can potholes on Black Hills Crescent and New Haggards Lane be repaired?
- Parking has become an issue at Duleek Graveyard. Can this be investigated?
- Slane traffic lights – can the sequencing be reviewed as there are still tail backs. Are there any algorithms that support the light sequencing?
- Grangegeeth signs that were stolen recently, can these be replaced?
- Can traffic calming measures be considered outside Stackallen school.
- Congratulations to all staff involved in the Oral hearing of the Slane bypass.

The meeting concluded at 11.00

Signed:

Cathaoirleach