



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District

10.00a.m, 15th May 2025, Duleek Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Paddy Meade** presided.

Councillors Present: Carol Lennon, Maria White, Wayne Harding, Geraldine Keogan, Sharon Tolan

Councillors Present via Zoom: Stephen McKee

Apologies/Absent:

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 10th of April

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th April 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Carol Lennon** and seconded by **Councillor Geraldine Keogan**

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of Jim Curtis, Dowdstown, Louth
- The family of Tommy Duff, Lobinstown, Meath.
- The family of Frances Harvey, Lobinstown, Meath.
- The family and colleagues of Garda Kevin Flatley.
- The passing of Pope Francis

Congratulations were extended to:

- Duleek under 16's on the success of winning the SAFI cup.
- All those who took part in this year's 'Darkness into light'
- The Noone family on the success of the Duleek 10k cystic fibrosis run.
- To the communication team hosting the Civic Awards and recipients who received them



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4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Environment

4.1.1 To receive an update from RPS Consulting Engineers on the Meath Coastal Flooding and Erosion Risk Management Study (CFERM)

RPS Consulting presented the above to the members. Interventions included:

- What impact would the future dredging of Drogheda Port have on CFERM?
- What would be the impact of Blow outs?
- Would a board walk have a positive impact on the Dunes?
- How effective are Gabion walls and will they be used in the future?
- How quickly can this plan go to the OPW?
- Is a slant barrier preferable to a vertical barrier?

The consultants answered all interventions raised. 7 of the 9 steps of the OPW guidelines are now complete. Step 8, economic appraisal and step 9, prepare draft coastal management plan will be presented to the OPW by Mid-June.

4.1.2 To receive an update on the Bettystown / Mornington Flood project

The Senior Engineer from Environment presented an update to the members on the Bettystown & Mornington Flood project. Interventions included:

- Concerning the project, why are all the works being done together at the same time?
- Concern that the start and finish date is still some years away.
- What will the heights of the embankments wall be?
- Where will the storm water storage area be?
- Regarding the natural floodplain, have landowners been contacted to secure the land?
- Are there any interim measures that could happen now whilst the plans are being finalized and the funding sought?
- Why was the Eastham Road not started when funding was secured three years ago?
- Can Eastham Road and new road open together to mitigate cost & interruption?
- In the coming years we need to be careful of where we zone and not to zone residential lands on floodplains.
- Does it take into consideration future developments?
- It is hoped the pilot project in Cork that helps households effected by flood damage will be successful and thereafter be accessible to everyone.

All interventions raised were answered and noted. The next steps will be:

- RPS will complete phase 3 report.
- Subject to OPW funding approval, procure consultants to carry out detailed design, get planning permission and tender for flood alleviation project.
- OPW to progress Dunes Housing estate pumping station.
- MCC exploring potential for interim flood mitigation works.



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4.2 Housing

4.2.1 To receive a presentation on Housing Allocations Processes

The Senior Executive Officer and Administrative Officer presented to members the process for housing allocation. Interventions raised by members included:

- Welcomed the content of the presentation and found it usual especially in answering further constituents' questions.
- Is there help for those who find the housing application difficult to complete?
- Is there any way the length of the application can be shortened?
- Some people with a disability do not have more than one medical practitioner to complete the second part of the disability application. What can be done about this?
- Who makes the decision to remove certain properties on CBL? In particular an estate in Ashbourne.
- Can the communication between the prospective tenant and housing officer improve, particularly from when a verbal offer is made to the written offer stage.
- Thrilled to hear of the proactive measures in housing being introduced to help the vulnerable or those on disability.
- Can training be given to staff who deal with homelessness?
- There appears to be a perceived power struggle between housing and prospective tenants. Can measures be explored to reduce this?

The SEO and AO responded accordingly. It was agreed that the Choice Based Letting (CBL) log in details for individual Elected Members and a copy of the tenant handbook will be sent to the Members.

4.3 Community

4.3.1 To receive details of recommended grants by the Indaver Community Liaison Committee under the Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme, for recommendation to Full Council

The Senior Executive Officer (SEO) for Community presented to members the recommended grants by Indaver Community.

Cllr Geraldine Keogan declared a potential conflict, due to her sister's role as Chair on one of the committees, and she left the meeting.

Cllr Paddy Meade questioned what the rationale used for the five applications that were rejected?

The SEO and **Cllr Maria White** (member of the liaison committee) explained the makeup of the committee, the time taken, debate and consideration taken for each application. Furthermore, each application was based on its merits and its worth and impact on the local community they served. **Cllr. White** stated that the process was very transparent.

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On the proposal of **Cllr Maria White** and seconded by **Cllr Wayne Harding** the recommended grants by the Indaver Community Liaison Committee under the Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme was agreed.

Cllr. Geraldine Keogan returned to the meeting.

On the proposal of **Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Cllr Maria White** the meeting was extended by an extra fifteen minutes.

4.4 Rural Regeneration

- 4.4.1** To receive an update on the status of Laytown Park (Tara Rd) Scheme from the Rural Regeneration Department

The Senior Executive Engineer for Town Centre & Rural Regeneration updated the members regarding Laytown Park. Interventions included:

- The park needs to cater for the vast needs of the area, including the elderly and those who want to train to keep fit.
- Whilst the greenery looks great, can the plans be adjusted for the provision of a Garda Station? Could a piece of land be sold to the OPW to accommodate this?
- Can the park consider toilets?
- Whilst the park looks creative and ambitious and ticks a lot of boxes, a need it is felt there should be a community building within the park. This should be a priority with good bus route connectivity.

The Senior Executive Engineer and Director responded accordingly.

4.5 Transportation

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

The Elected Members raised the following queries:

- When will the deep keep clean take place in Laytown beach toilets, and how thorough will it be?
- For the summer months can the graveyard opening times be extended?

4.6 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

On the proposal of **Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Cllr Sharon Tolan** the meeting was extended by a further fifteen minutes.

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5.0 Notice of Questions

There were none.

6.0 Notice of Motions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Geraldine Keogan

"I call on Meath County Council to use some of the Irish Cement fund for a scheme design and stage 1-2 road safety audit for the provision of a public footpath from Donore village to Newgrange."

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

The County Development Plan contains an objective which supports the delivery of a Pedestrian Walkway/Cycleway connecting Donore Village to Brú na Bóinne Visitors Centre. Meath County Council is not currently progressing a stand-alone scheme for this project. Regarding the *Irish Cement Fund*, a community Liaison Committee is being established to liaise between the operator of the cement works, the planning authority, and the local community. Details of the Irish Cement Grants Scheme will be presented to the MD in Q3 2025. The community liaison committee shall have responsibility for the administration of the community gain fund account in compliance with Planning Decision PL17.PA0050 and in accordance with established protocols and similar and Community Grants Schemes adopted by Meath County Council. The motion proposed by **Councillor Geraldine Keogan** was deferred until further clarification was sought regarding who will be on the committee, how they are granted, administered and when they start. The public footpath application cannot be considered in isolation until the application process is open.

7.0 Correspondence

There was none.

8.0 Any Other Business

- Access to beach wheelchairs.
- What are the opening hours of the library toilets?
- Accessibility toilets opening times need to be increased.
- Can we have an update on the approved CIS & LIS schemes?
- Paths between Donore and Drogheda are missing ramps for wheelchairs users. Can this be addressed?

Fiona Lawless advised members that the beach wardens needed training on the use of beach wheelchairs. This is now complete. The online booking system will be delivered soon.

Director Fiona Lawless thanked the Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Paddy Meade** for his hard work and commitment during his tenure.

The meeting concluded at 12.30

Signed:

Cathaoirleach