

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ratoath Municipal District

10.00a.m, 11th June 2025, Dunshaughlin Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Brian Fitzgerald, presided.

Councillors Present: Fionnan Blake, Brian Fitzgerald, Gerry O'Connor, Yvonne Everard, Caroline O'Reilly & Maria Murphy.

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Absent/Apologies:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Services: Corrina Elder, Senior Engineer deputised for Fiona Fallon

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Meetings Administrator: Francis Regan

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 14th May 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th May 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

2.0 Matters arising from minutes

There were none.

3.0 Expressions of sympathy and congratulations

Sympathies were extended to:

- To the Cantwell family on the passing of Phillip.
- To the Leonard family on the passing of Noel.
- To the Cooney family on the passing of Margaret.
- To the McEnroe family on the passing of Annie.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Charlie Tully on his upcoming retirement from Meath County Council.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

4.1.1 To receive an update on the proposed R156 Mullagh Cross & Environs Road Safety Scheme

The Executive Engineer presented the proposed R156 Road Safety Scheme.

Members welcomed the scheme. However, **Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald** raised concerns that the scheme does not include Jenkinstown bridge as previously recommended. **Cllr. Fitzgerald** also raised concerns that there are bad 'S bends' between Mullagh Cross and Jenkinstown bridge and is disappointed that both projects are not being done together.

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

The report circulated in advance. Further queries raised by members included:

- Can the road sweeper go as far as Boylan Bridge to help in the efforts of Tidy Towns?
- Can additional bins be added in Clonee?
- Deep potholes are emerging on the Dunboyne-Maynooth Road. Can these be addressed?
- Can traffic calming measures be explored at Hanson Wood, Grange Park particularly at opening and closing times of the school?
- Signage at Lagore housing estate is missing. Can this be replaced?
- Can the 6 disability spaces in Steeple chase housing estate be painted blue?
- Queried placing a pedestrian crossing to Super Valu, to allow safer crossing for Arkle House wheelchair users to the Post Office.

4.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

This was noted

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

5.0 Notice of Questions

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Fionnan Blake

"Can we please get an update on the streetlights being made live, on the Bog Road, Dunshaughlin?"

Response:

The public lighting on the bog road in Dunshaughlin needs a new 3 phase ESB connection due to capacity issues at this location. A new connection has been applied for and a connection agreement has been completed. Our Public Lighting Contractor met with the ESB on site to discuss the works. The civil and electrical works will be carried out over the coming weeks for an ESB connection thereafter, in essence, this project is in progress.

This was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Caroline O'Reilly

"When will Hanson Wood be taken in charge of the council and what is the timeline for this?"

Response:

A valid taking in charge request has been received in respect of the Hanson Wood development. Meath County Council is liaising with the developer to progress this further.

This was noted.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

"Please advise if the courtesy crossing adjacent to St. Peter's NS, located within the demesne of Dunboyne Castle, will be upgraded this year."

Response:

The upgrade to the existing courtesy crossing located adjacent to St. Peter's National School will require a design upgrade to the public lighting and a new electrical connection; specialist contractors will be required to undertake the works. The detail design works are ongoing, however considering the required specialist works and acquisition of a new connection it is expected this scheme will not be operational until early next year.

Whilst the response was noted, due to the current nearly invisible line markings, Cllr. Murphy asked for an interim measure, i.e. painting of yellow lines.

This was noted.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

6.0 Notice of Motions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Caroline O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to acknowledge the urgent safety risks in Batterstown village, particularly around Rathregan National School due to speeding and inadequate traffic calming on the R154, and to immediately allocate internal funding to commence these works on a phased basis, prioritise critical safety measures including additional speed ramps and safe pedestrian access, and take direct responsibility for delivering this essential project using Meath County Council's own resources."

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

The existing traffic calming in Batterstown and adjacent to Rathregan National School includes a ramp both sides of the school and a push-button pedestrian crossing on the Trim side of the school. In advance of the proposed Batterstown Traffic Calming Scheme (subject to funding) an additional ramp will be located on the Trim side of the village, between the L-2215 and L-22091, appropriately sited adjacent to public lighting and without impacting road drainage. This will be delivered by the Roadworks Programme Team in approximately 4-6 weeks.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Caroline O'Reilly** and second by **Councillor Fionnan Blake** was agreed.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

"I call on Meath County Council to pursue the development of a dog park in Dunboyne on the land at the front of Kilbreena estate on the Old Navan Road."

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

Meath County Council is carrying out some research on dog off-lead areas in parks, to investigate possible steps required to determine the demand, feasibility and implications of the provision of a dog park.

Research and information gathering on other similar facilities has been ongoing and this information is being reviewed in the context of the identification of a suitable location, management and oversight requirements and the potential for ongoing operational costs that may be incurred. A further update will be provided when this review has been completed.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** was agreed. Cllr. O'Connor also suggested that this should be sent to Rural Regeneration.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

7.0 Correspondence

There was none

8.0 Any Other Business

- Cllr O'Connor discussed how the twinned relationship with Cary needs revitalizing, i.e. that we reach out to them to arrange a possible visit by the members. Cllr O'Connor will discuss it directly with the Chief Executive.
- Can it be identified why Macari's food outlet is losing three car parking spaces due to the Lidl development - Macari's need this space for customers to collect the food. This was not in the original plans submitted. If changes are made to a Part 8 after it is passed by members, then a discussion should take place with the Members, and the suggested changes agreed at an MD meeting.
- Can a meeting be held with the Transport department and MD Members before the next MD meeting to discuss various aspects including, but not exclusively to, R156 Mullagh Cross upgrade, late responses to CRMs, incomplete or suggested footpaths and the possibility of using own reserves to fund pedestrian crossings.
- Members believe the centre of Ratoath needs to be narrowed and a pedestrian crossing installed.
- Drumree GAA were charged €3,000 for a recent Fire Safety Certificate and Disability Access Certificate. Can this be followed up with Planning as members feel Drumree GAA should be exempt?

The meeting concluded at 11.34

Signed:

Cathaoirleach