



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Laytown Bettystown Municipal District

10:00am, 11th July 2024, Duleek Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Paddy Meade** presided.

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

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Apologies/Absent:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Fiona Lawless

Executive Engineer: Eoin McNally

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th May 2024.

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee**.

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 26th June 2024.

The minutes of the Annual meeting held on 26th June 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Tolan sought an update on the timeline when works will commence in Highfield, Laytown following the recent taking in charge of the estate.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

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- The Cassidy family on the passing of Mother Dolores and son Ronan, Bettystown.
- The Lord Mayor of Dublin on the passing of his father.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh, Laytown on the relocation to their new school premises.
- Organisers of the Bettystown 5k road race.
- Launch of the Mornington beach Tidy Towns group.

4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

4.1.1 To receive an update on the Station Road & Main St Duleek Junction Signalisation

Bernard Cooney SEE, Transport updated on works and advised that the contractor was due to commence works shortly once all the documentation was finalised. He said that works on site should take ten weeks or less.

There were queries from **Councillors S McKee, G Keogan and S Tolan**. Matters raised included:

- Acknowledged the delay and welcomed the works.
- Update on carparking spaces that will be available to residents
- Traffic management works should commence after schools have started classes.
- To monitor the traffic through the village during peak times.

Responses were provided by the Senior Executive Engineer.

4.1.2 To receive an update on the Bettystown Eastham Road Cycle Facilities.

Brian Murray, EE, Active Travel gave an update on the scheme and advised that the Part 8 application will go on public display for a month from July 22nd.

There were queries from **Councillors S Tolan, S McKee, and M White**. Matters raised included:

- Welcome the scheme, will reduce speeding traffic and improve access to the schools
- Concerns with McDonaghs lane and its usage, can it revert to a closed access should issues arise.
- Is CCTV included in the scheme.
- Welcome the works to Bettystown cross, a need for a foot path to connect to the Narrowways and Pilltown roads to Whitefield.
- A redesign of the roundabout at Bettystown cross required as visibility is poor.
- Enquired if public lighting is included in the works at Bettystown cross.
- Connectivity is required from Bettystown to Donacarne.

The engineer responded and advised that the roundabout can be reviewed, he met with the guards regarding McDonagh lane and they are satisfied with the access, public

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lighting and CCTV ducting is included and connectivity to other areas can be reviewed as part of other schemes.

4.1.3 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:

- Acknowledged the works undertaken by the outdoor crew.
- Verge cutting needed along the station road, Duleek and golf links road.
- Enquired how often the public toilets, Bettystown are cleaned.
- Tree pruning needed in Coney Hall, Millmount Abbey, Bryanstown areas.
- Sought an update on repairs to playground equipment and removal of graffiti.
- Write to Duleek guards to do a patrol of the playground area on Station Road.
- Enquired on completion of line marking on roads & parking spaces.
- Contractor doing works on the Narroways leaving the road in bad condition.
- Hedges overgrown on Tower Road, Mornington, traffic driving in the centre of road.
- Enquired how often bins are emptied, and more bins needed on Mornington beach.

The area engineer responded accordingly and said he's awaiting the contractor's documentation for verge cutting, play equipment is removed when there's issues, increase in graffiti & vandalism to the equipment thus specialised contractors are required, bins are emptied daily, and public toilets are cleaned daily.

4.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance

4.2.1 To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District.

The allocations were noted. Director Fiona Lawless advised the new council members that the discretionary funding is agreed annually at the budget meeting, with the new funding allocation commencing from the following year.

5.0 Notice of Questions

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Carol Lennon

What measures are Meath County Council preparing to put in place to ensure the protection of the dunes at Mornington, and in what timeframe will this intervention be implemented?

There is an increased number of visitors, with some choosing to pitch their tent in the Dunes area, light fires, host barbecues and cause immense damage to the dunes

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structure.

Response:

The Council have been working with National Parks & Wildlife (NPWS) as well as other local interested parties including landowners in preparing a draft Visitor Access and Conservation Management Plan for Mornington Dunes which are almost entirely in private ownership.

Following an extensive public consultation process including a local information day, the draft plan is currently the subject of Ecological Assessment within the NPWS as a pre-cursor to obtaining the necessary planning consents as the area is within the Boyne Coast/Estuary SAC & SPAs.

Pending the completion of this process the Council in collaboration with the other parties have or are proposing several temporary measures which are designed to protect the dunes system from further vehicular and pedestrian traffic damage. These include:

- The placement of barriers at strategic locations to prevent vehicular access,
- Engaged Consultants to carry out the Meath Coastal Flooding and Erosion risk management study which will include measures to protect the dunes system,
- Using ORIS funding in respect of the design and provision of a boardwalk to Bettystown,
- Supporting national dune protection awareness campaigns using social media platforms,
- Communicating with sporting groups to desist from using the dunes for training purposes,
- Improved signage,
- Increased warden presence for enforcement purposes.

The response was noted.

6.0 Notice of Motions

There were none.

7.0 Correspondence

There was none.

8.0 Any Other Business

There were interventions from **Councillors W Harding, S Tolan, S McKee, M White, G Keogan, C Lennon & P Meade**. Matters raised included the following:



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- Traffic calming schemes required in Donore, Beamore Cross, Plaitin Cross and Station Road.
- Update on arborist report and tree cutting.
- Sought update to the Rathmullan Road Boardwalk.
- Referred to the Oldbridge boardwalk and if a maintenance plan in place.
- Requested a letter issue to Uisce Eireann to attend a meeting regarding water outages.
- Enquired on the Taken in Charge of Grangerath and where it's at.
- Asked that a letter issue to Louth County Council to be notified of future road closures.
- Enquired to the removal of old bins and maintenance to chicanes.
- Referred to the increase in graffiti and vandalism to the dunes and asked that a letter be sent to the Department of Justice, Minister & OPW seeking an update on garda stations and garda numbers for the area.
- Enquired if the Department of Education could update to when the road linking Tara Road to Coast Road between the two schools in Laytown be a public road.
- Referred to parking spaces in Bettystown which are a distance from the beach.
- Referred to buses pulling in at Harrys garage causing access issues for cars and pedestrians.
- Referred to L1203 where the road markings need re-instating.

Responses to queries were provided by the director and noted by the area engineer.

The meeting concluded at 11.45am

Signed:

Cathaoirleach