

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes
Ordinary Meeting
Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District
10.30a.m, 07th November, Duleek Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Paddy Meade** presided.

Councillors Present: Geraldine Keogan, Carol Lennon, Wayne Harding

Councillors Present via Zoom: Stephen McKee, Sharon Tolan, Maria White

Apologies/Absent:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Fiona Lawless

Executive Engineer: Eoin McNally

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird & Francis Regan.

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

Clerical Officer: Kathryn Fox

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th of October 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Geraldine Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Carol Lennon**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There was none.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Wolfe Tones GFC on their recent win.
- Groups who received funding under the Large-Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund.
- Laytown United football club who received funding for pitches.
- Councillor Maria White on her nomination to run in the General Elections.

4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

- 4.1.1** To consider the Chief Executives Report on the Part 8 application, PT8MH137 – East Meath Cycling Facilities - R150 Bettystown Court Roundabout to Whitefield Roundabout Scheme.

Brian Murray Engineer, Active Travel section updated on the proposed development

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

which includes developing a footpath and cycle scheme to facilitate sustainable transport modes in the Laytown and Bettystown area.

The members welcomed the scheme and asked that McDonaghs lane be included for refurbishment as part of the works.

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

The report circulated in advance was noted. Members enquired about road lining and who is responsible for cleaning muck off the roads. Members advised that it is the responsibility of the landowner and/or the person who deposited the muck.

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 report was noted.

5.0 Notice of Questions

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

"Given the high number of accidents that are occurring on a regular basis at this location, does Meath County Council intend carrying out urgent road safety measures at Mounthanover Junction on the Beamore Road and to try again at closing the top link road (L-56131-0)?"

Response:

"The Department of Transport Support Office (DoTSO), using available data from the RSA, have undertaken a Network Safety Analysis on Regional Roads and identified Locations of Interest that may benefit from low-cost interventions, the DoTSO have extended this network safety analysis to include Local Roads. The L-16111/L-56131 junction is one of 26 identified Locations of Interest under Round 2 of the Network Safety Analysis. In making the grant application under the Safety Improvement Works Schemes local authorities are requested to identify Lols in order of priority and the application may not exceed 150% of the 2024 allocation. Should additional funding become available this scheme can be considered, in the interim the signage at the junction will be reviewed and additional advance 'stop' signs will be located back from the junction, road lining and 'stop' lining at the junction will be refreshed.

It is noted the previous plan to close the L-56131 received a considerable number of objections to the scheme in 2022, in assessing low-cost safety measures all viable options will

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

be explored.”

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Carol Lennon

"Can Meath County Council provide the cost to date, and expected delivery date, of the Library situated in Bettystown Village?"

Response:

This contract is currently ongoing and under “conciliation” process. The approved cost to date including service and works contract is €6,463,700 (incl VAT).

Linked to the conciliation process, the completion date is not agreed due to challenges during the works, most notably in the increased delay of specialised material components. Again, contingencies have been put in place to accelerate what is remaining of the project and we now anticipate completion in Quarter 4 - 2024.

The response was noted.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Maria White

"To ask Meath County Council for clarification as to who is responsible for the maintenance of the stream flowing through Eastham Court."

Response:

A portion of the stream as far upstream as the bridge over the entrance road to Eastham Court is part of the local drainage district and is the Councils responsibility in terms of maintenance.

The response was noted.

6.0 Notice of Motions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

"That Meath County Council prioritise and appoint as soon as possible a School Safety Warden (Lollipop man/woman) for outside Whitecross NS, Julianstown given the school's location on an extremely busy Regional Road & the delays in work starting on the Julianstown Traffic Calming Scheme."

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

Meath County Council are focused on the whole journey to and from school. The Council has carried out an observational assessment in the vicinity of the school on the movement to and from the school. At the time of the assessment no unsafe behaviours were noted by pedestrians or traffic. The drop and go area in the school is very well utilised. Built

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Infrastructure is in place at the school with footpaths, signage and push button traffic light crossing to slow down and stop traffic in the vicinity of the school.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Stephen McKee** and seconded by **Councillor Carol Lennon**.

Councillor McKee introduced the motion and said that this road is busy road and a danger to the pupils crossing. He said that the infrastructure is not enough and that a warden is required.

Director Fiona Lawless said that safety at schools is the onus on the principal. She said that solutions have been put in place and that there are no issues here.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

"That Meath County Council take immediate action to improve road safety through Donore village to include the provision of appropriate traffic calming measures and road signage."

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

In relation to Road Safety through Donore Village, the Council will assess the current traffic calming signage approaching the village and carry out an observational study. The Council will gather data from speed surveys, and this will inform any future traffic calming measures.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Stephen McKee** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Carol Lennon

"I call on Meath County Council to introduce a rate percentage reduction commensurate with the reduction that businesses in East Meath are suffering."

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

The levying and collection of commercial rates by Local Authorities is legislated for under the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019, as amended by the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provision Act 2023. Meath County Council is obliged by law to levy and collect Commercial Rates. There is no provision to provide a commercial rates waiver for businesses affected by a reduction in business.

The motion and response were noted and agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Carol Lennon** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

Councillor Lennon introduced the motion and noted that profits were down and that businesses were struggling to stay open. She noted also that parking is causing an issue here too. There were interventions from Councillors Wayne Harding, Paddy Meade, Stephen McKee and Maria White.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Director Fiona Lawless advised that there is no provision to reduce rates however the Council continues to have a good relationship with the ratepayers. She said that the Government is very supportive of the small businesses and that there are numerous grants available.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Maria White

"I ask Meath County Council to review accessibility issues at Laytown train station."

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

The Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042 recognises that many stations in the GDA are in need of investment in order to make them more comfortable for passengers and more attractive.

The Strategy includes the following objective:

Measure RAIL7 – Station Upgrades. The NTA in conjunction with Irish Rail will upgrade, refurbish and maintain train stations across the GDA to ensure that they are of an appropriate standard and provide a good quality experience for passengers.

Meath County Council has no direct role in reviewing accessibility issues at train stations and it is a matter for the NTA and Irish Rail to continue to invest in rail station buildings and supporting infrastructure.

The motion and response were noted and agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria White** and seconded by **Councillor Stephen McKee**. It was agreed further to refer the motion to the NTA.

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Maria White

"I ask Meath County Council to explore installing CCTV in the village of Bettystown and Laytown due to persistent anti-social behaviour."

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

Any future Community CCTV schemes will be brought forward under Sections 28 and 29 (contained in Part V) of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023. The current legislative provisions under Section 38 of the An Garda Síochána Act 2005 are due to be repealed by Section 6 of the 2023 Act. At the time of writing, Sections 6, 28 and 29 are among those sections still to be commenced by the Minister for Justice. It should be noted that Section 29 will require An Garda Síochána to develop a code of practice governing Community CCTV schemes and all new schemes must adhere to the requirements of the code of practice. Once the Minister has approved the new code, the Council will review its requirements and assess how any new schemes might be progressed within existing resource constraints.

The motion and response were noted and agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Maria White** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillor White introduced the motion and noted that there is a fear amongst the public where they feel unsafe due to the ongoing anti-social behaviour.

There were interventions from Councillor Meade and Councillor Lennon whereby the issue of derelict sites was noted in the area.

7.0 Correspondence

Correspondence from the OPW was noted.

8.0 Any Other Business

There were interventions from Councillors Carol Lennon, Stephen McKee, Wayne Harding, Maria White and Paddy Meade.

Matters raised included:

- Lighting at the junction at Mornington Bridge causing an obstruction.
- Signage required at Loughanmore Stud, Duleek.
- Overgrown hedges along footpaths, Duleek
- Parking on footpath opposite Harry's service station, Mornington
- Update on the temporary bollards on Mornington Beach.
- Bike racks for all local clubs.
- Update on the path from Lagavooren Manor to Avourwen
- Cleaning of streams for flood prevention.
- Low-cost safety scheme required on the Mill Road, Mornington.
- Welcome works to the boardwalk and footpath.
- Road safety scheme needed on the Tara Road.
- Request that the OPW be invited to a meeting of this MD.

The items were noted by the engineer.

The meeting concluded at 11.25am

Signed:

Cathaoirleach