

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

10.00 am, 6th February 2024, Ashbourne Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, Councillor **Conor Tormey** presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Amanda Smith, Helen Meyer,

Apologies/ Absent: Councillor Suzanne Jamal

Councillors Present via Zoom: Alan Tobin

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Barry Lynch

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Staff Officer: Ann Monaghan

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 9th January 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th of January 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Amanda Smith**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There was none.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There was none.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

There was none.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 To consider and adopt the 2024 Schedule of Municipal District Works

The Schedule of Municipal District Works includes two service divisions Transportation and Housing. The SMDW is prepared based on identified needs and priorities throughout the local authority area and where possible a multi annual approach has been adopted.

Caroline Corrigan SE Transportation gave a presentation on the schedule of Municipal District Works for the upcoming year. She advised that this is the final year of the three-year, 2022-2024 Restoration Maintenance and Improvement scheme. She said that last year had been a challenging year due to impacts from energy and fuel costs, inflation, and the availability of materials. She said that the weather also affected works with July been the wettest month causing flooding and damage to infrastructure. She gave a breakdown of funding allocated and said that the allocation from the council own resources of €18,561,460 is an increase on last year's allocation. She advised that the allocations from the Department have yet to be announced.

The members raised the following queries:

- Commended the staff and outdoor crew on all the works carried out.
- Referred to the bad weather last summer which has impacted on the condition of roads and will these roads be resurveyed.
- Enquired how tests and trials on road conditions carried out.
- Enquired if wildflowers or small shrubs can be planted instead of grass when reinstating roads.
- Referred to EV chargers and the need for public EV points in Ashbourne.
- Enquired if a list of the Road Opening Licences granted can be circulated.
- Referred to the road sweepers and if the housing estates could be included.
- Referred to the Map Alert which should be available to the public.
- Enquired if a list of the road sweeping areas could be circulated.
- Referred to the condition of the roads which have improved over the years.
- Enquired if the department gives guidance on technology to use.
- Enquired about the public lighting upgrading and when it will commence.
- Referred to regional roads that require investment to upgrade them.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Referred to recent accidents at the nine mile stone roundabout and awaiting a response from the TII regarding the removal of vegetation on the roundabout.
- Referred to the location of the park and ride at the nine mile stone roundabout and said that landowners have land available for this.

Caroline Corrigan SE responded to the above:

- That road surveys are continuously carried out.
- Roads are tested for strength and durability as part of the survey.
- Can look at low maintenance planting when restating roads.
- Referred to EV chargers where a local plan is being prepared with Louth, Kildare and Wicklow to identify location points and installations may commence next year.
- Regarding a list of road opening licences, will review on how best to circulate.
- Road sweeping is an operational function that can be looked at, on a local level.
- Referred to regional roads which are continuously upgraded.
- To look at communicating the map alert system through the media.
- Advised that showcased at a conference on how we've used technology for our schemes.
- Referred to the public lighting upgrading scheme which is ongoing with nine counties and that Meath is scheduled to commence at year end.

On the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Amanda Smith** the members agreed to the Schedule of Municipal District Works for Transportation as presented.

Corrina Elder SE Housing gave a presentation on the schedule of Municipal District Works for the upcoming year. She outlined the proposed works of maintenance and repairs to be completed during the year in the Municipal District. She said that funding is sourced from both the annual revenue budget of the council and central grant allocation from the Department of Housing which has yet to be announced.

The members raised the following queries:

- They commended the team on all the works being completed.
- Enquired how units are selected for energy upgrades.
- Enquired why there was only 6 adaptation grants allocated last year in the district.
- Asked if plumbers are contracted to complete works.
- Enquired how often maintenance is carried out.
- Asked how often council houses are inspected.
- Enquired if the council continues to sell houses to tenants.
- Referred to selling a house to a tenant and if its income based.

Corrina Elder SE responded to the above:

- Energy upgrades are being carried out on voids to bring them up to a BER rating of B2.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Referred to the low number of adaption grants approved and advised that there's no waiting list for the area.
- Advised that plumbers are contracted in to do works.
- Referred to heat pumps and said that B1/B2 is the standard for them to work efficiently.
- Referred to planned maintenance which is carried out every four years and based on the conditions of the unit.
- Advised that units are sold to tenants in situ for 10 years and not based on income.

On the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Helen Meyer** the members agreed to the Schedule of Municipal District Works for Housing as presented.

5.2 Transportation

- 5.2.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne Municipal District.

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

- Commended the outdoor crew on works done during the recent storms and flooding.
- Referred to the road opening licences which are managed well in this district.
- Thanks to the works carried out at the Delvin Bridge where there was a recent landslide.
- Enquired about money granted towards a coastal erosion study and if Gormanston was included – advised will follow up.
- Seeking a list of the road sweeping areas – engineer advised that it is tendered out and set routes are in place, if housing estates were included, it would triple the cost.
- Enquired if the flooding issue on Castle Street has been sorted – engineer advised that works were carried out and no flooding occurred since.
- Sought an update on the skate park- advised will refer to Community for an update.
- Enquired when the Baltrasna pedestrian crossing will be connected – engineer advised will follow up.
- Sought an update to pedestrian crossings for Garden City and St Declan's School- engineer advised that documents are being prepared for these and other crossings.
- Referred to the removing of graffiti in the playground- noted by engineer.

5.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance.

- 5.3.1 To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

These were noted.

6 Notice of Question

There was none.

7 Notice of Motion

There was none.

8 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 1st December 2023

The minutes were noted.

8.2 To note the Protocol Committee Minutes of 1st December 2023.

The minutes were noted.

8.3 To note the Draft Minutes of the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC of 23rd January 2024

The draft Minutes were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was none.

10 Any Other Business

The members raised the following:

- Sought an update on the Skate Park and linear park- to seek an update and circulate.
- Completion date for the works on the main street, Ashbourne- to seek an update and circulate.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Enquired when the 74 houses in Ashbourne will be advertised on the Choice Based Letting (CBL) portal. Advised that the houses are due to be delivered in Q3 of 2024. Once the likely delivery date is known, the Allocations Team advertise on CBL a number of weeks in advance of this with a view to having applicants lined up for each property.

The meeting concluded at 11.25am.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach