

## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

#### ***Ashbourne Municipal District***

***10:00am, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Civic Offices***

**Cathaoirleach**, Councillor **Conor Tormey** presided.

**Councillors Present:** Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Amanda Smith, Helen Meyer, Suzanne Jamal, Alan Tobin.

**Apologies/ Absent:**

**Councillors Present via Zoom:**

**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 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Helen Meyer**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There was none.

#### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to the family of the late Danielle Doyle, Garristown.

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

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There was none.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Transportation**

5.1.1 To consider the Chief Executives Report on the Part 8 Application P8/230011 Greenogue Rural Bus Stop Scheme.

Brian Murray, EE Transportation updated the members on the Part 8 application for bus stops at Greenogue. He advised that a tender pack for construction works is being prepared with the tender process due to commence shortly. He said that the funding is available from the NTA, and that construction works may commence from April.

Barry Lynch, Director of Services advised members that planning permission would be granted six weeks from the date of the Chief Executive's Report, unless the members passed a motion to either modify or reject the Part VIII proposal.

The members welcomed the news and thanked staff involved.

5.1.2 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 staff and outdoor crew on all the works that have been done.
- Thanked the crew who assisted with recent water and drainage issues.
- Enquired about the supply of new bins and advised new bins will be installed in Castle Street at Dunne Stores and in Stamullen outside the takeaway. Bins have been removed from some housing estates as domestic waste is being deposited into them.
- Referred to surface water on sections of the Kilbride Road-noted by engineer.
- Referred to overflowing drain in Tara Court, Ashbourne- noted by the engineer.
- Advised on a road collapsing at Ballymagarvey- referred to engineer to review.
- Requested a new "no entry sign" and lock at the Delvin River area- advised on order.
- Enquired when the pedestrian lights will be energised at Baltrasna crossing- to follow up with transportation section.
- Requested a rep from the ESB to attend a meeting to give an update on their programme of works and any delays to these works- to follow up.

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### **5.2 Environment**

5.2.1 To receive a presentation in respect of the inspection programme for septic tanks and other wastewater treatment systems.

David Keyes SEE, Environment gave a presentation on the scheme. He advised that there's a National Inspection Plan in place which is overseen by the EPA. He said that the plan is broken into 4 risk zones with zone 1 identified as a risk area to surface waters, zone 2, risk areas to household wells and zone 3, lower risk areas with zone 4 an overlap of the first two zones. He advised that the plan sets out the number of minimum inspections that must be undertaken per annum in each zone area by a Local Authority.

Larry Whelan SEO, Environment advised that there has been an increase in requests for inspections due to the grant increase from €5k to €12k and the removal of the registering of a septic tank. He said that the priority is to carry out inspections in the at-risk areas where a minimum per annum of 38 inspections is required in zone 1 and 16 inspections in zone 2 with non-priority requests put on a waiting list.

The members raised the following queries:

- Does the council work with other LA's where a river flows into other counties.
- What is the process for applying for a grant.
- Referred to inspections and who carries these out, is there a waiting list and the waiting time to get an inspection and works completed.
- Enquired if someone could get an inspection done in a low priority area.
- Enquired to the number of staff available to carry out the inspections.
- Referred to group water/sewerage schemes and does the council submit recommendations for a scheme to Uisce Eireann.

David Keyes SEE, responded to the above queries:

- Advised that the council co-ordinates testing of rivers flowing into other counties with the LA's which is done annually and published by EPA.
- A small team of scientists, technicians carry out inspections.
- To apply for a grant, the applicant needs an inspection completed by the LA, they will be notified of the works to be done, a final inspection will be carried out whereby a compliance cert will then issue for submission for the grant.
- Advised that there is no guarantee that an inspection will be done in a low priority area unless it is urgent works.
- Currently 80-90 requests on a waiting list, where these are prioritised.
- The council does make recommendations for group schemes to Uisce Eireann

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- Advised that there's a quick turnaround on inspections for urgent cases with completion of the works a matter for the applicant to do.

David Keyes SEE gave a brief update on the OPW flood alleviation works scheme and said that the completion date is at the end of March. The members welcomed this update.

### **5.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance**

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

The report circulated in advance was noted.

- 5.3.2 To approve the Arts, Festivals, Festive Lighting Allocation 2024.

The members were advised that the allocation for 2024 remains at €7,500.

On the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner** the members agreed to allocate the funding similar to 2023 as follows:

- Kentstown and Stamullen Christmas Lights-€2,000
- Ashbourne Chamber of Commerce, St Patrick's Day Festival -€1,000
- Ashbourne town centre Christmas lighting - €4,500

## **6 Notice of Question**

### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey**

In relation to the ongoing roadworks on the North side of Ashbourne and the overrun of approx. 60 weeks, can Meath County Council confirm what penalties, if any will be applied for this massive failure?

#### **RESPONSE:**

Penalties in relation to delays on the R135 Ashbourne Cycle Network Scheme are currently being dealt with in accordance with the Public Works Contract. Both the Council and the Contractor are following the proper procedure in relation to delay incidents and

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are not at liberty to disclose specific details in relation to delay events while this procedure is being implemented.

**The response was noted.**

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer**

What are the barriers to purchasing land for the purpose of delivering a Community Park in Ashbourne?

#### **RESPONSE**

The specific lands that can be considered for the provision of a park are determined by the zoning decisions made by the elected members as part of the development plan process. The availability of those specific lands for a park, is in turn dependent on the willingness of the owner to sell those lands to Meath Co. Council and availability of funding. It should be noted that the Council has made a provision of €1.5 million in the capital plan for this purpose. The Council has engaged with landowners of appropriately zoned lands but to date this engagement has not proven fruitful.

**The response was noted.**

## **7 Notice of Motion**

### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey**

That Meath County Council install a footpath from Swans Pub, Skryne to Skryne GAA pitch for pedestrian safety.

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

Ashbourne Municipal District have no current plans to construct a footway along the L-1003 from Oberstown Cross to Skryne GAA grounds. However, following a recent similar Notice of Motion and past requests for footpaths to other community and amenity sites, the Transport SPC is to discuss the prioritisation of projects on the footpath programme and how this type of infrastructure ranks relative to other competing priorities for the funding that is available.

The motion and response were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Amanda Smith**.

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### **7.2 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer**

That Meath County Council calls on the Chief Executive to only grant planning permission in Ashbourne if Uisce Éireann can provide a guarantee that they can meet the increased demand for water.

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

At preplanning stage, all developers are urged to engage with Uisce Éireann through their Pre-Connection Enquiry (PCE) process and to secure written Confirmation of Feasibility (CoF) for the proposed development. Where a CoF is not submitted as part of the original planning application, it is requested under a request for Further Information. Submission of written Confirmation of Feasibility from Uisce Éireann is a **prerequisite** to the granting of planning permission.

Where a Local Authority is not satisfied that all necessary infrastructure and services are available at the site, the proposed development will be refused planning permission with appropriate reasons for refusal detailed in the decision.

The motion and response were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Conor Tormey**. Cllr Tobin was not in agreement to the response.

### **7.3 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer**

To ask the council to provide a monthly update, including this month, on the progress of the R135 Cycle Network Ashbourne, including the updated estimated completion date.

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

“MCC will continue to provide monthly updates on the R135 Cycle Network Ashbourne via the monthly newsletter, a copy of which is attached for February. The anticipated completion for the works is Q3 2024.

The motion and response were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Amanda Smith**.

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

8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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The minutes were noted.

- 8.2 To note the Protocol Committee Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

The minutes were noted.

- 8.3 To note the Draft Report from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

The minutes were noted.

- 8.4 To note the Draft Housing Community & Cultural Development SPC Meeting Minutes 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

The minutes were noted.

- 8.5 To note the Draft Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

The minutes were noted. The members asked that a councillor from each MD sit on the sub-committee being set up for the winter gritting programme. It was noted that Cllr Amanda Smith sits on this SPC and would raise this at the next meeting.

### **9 Correspondence**

There was none.

### **10 Any Other Business**

The members raised the following:

- Sought an update on the Stamullan playground and burial ground- to follow up.
- Enquired on a pedestrian crossing outside St Mary's NS, Ashbourne- to follow up with transportation for update.
- Referred to the vacant OPW compound site and if this can be developed as a playground – advised that the site is currently not available for development.
- Asked for an update on the Ashewood housing scheme regarding the inclusion of affordable units– Barry Lynch advised that no response in relation to approval for an increased amount of subsidy under the Affordable Housing Fund has been issued from



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the Department, and said that in the meantime Consultants are preparing the necessary documentation for the planning process in relation to the scheme.

The meeting concluded at 11.25am

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach