



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

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

#### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***9:30 a.m., 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Ashbourne Civic Offices***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Seán Smith**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Claire O'Driscoll, Darren O'Rourke, Alan Tobin.

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Head of Finance:** Fiona Lawless

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Executive Engineer:** Mel Cronin

**Assistant Engineer:** Philip Connell

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

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

There were no matters arising.

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

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

#### **4 To meet with representatives from Bus Éireann to discuss reported issues with the bus services in Ashbourne.**



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Whilst Adrian O'Loughlin had sent his apologies, representatives from Broadstone attended the meeting. Matters raised by Councillors included the disruption to services following changes made to the M3/N2 routes in September, the ongoing issues with reliability/punctuality of services, wheelchair accessibility on all coaches used, the possibility of new fare structures being introduced, capacity issues on the 103X service and the need for a park & ride facility in Ashbourne.

It was pointed out that fare structures were a matter for the NTA. The issues arising following the introduction of route changes in September were acknowledged, including communication issues, and the measures introduced to mitigate these were outlined, with recent improvements to services highlighted. It was acknowledged that the use of high capacity vehicles on the 103X route would be preferable. It was agreed to refer the query regarding wheelchair accessibility on contracted private coaches back to head office and it was pointed out that the provision of a park & ride facility was a matter for the local authority.

It was agreed to invite Adrian O'Loughlin to the March meeting for a further discussion.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Transportation**

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

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by Councillors included:

- The possibility of diverting funding from the road between Tayto Park and the Snailbox to road surfacing works in Ashbourne and the delay to planned works at Johnswood Drive – it was pointed out that road lining works were postponed until surfacing works were completed from Brindley Park to Dunnes and it was agreed to provide an update for the January meeting.
- Illegal dumping at Robertstown junction.
- Broken kerbing and blocked drains at Tormay Lees.



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- The timeframe for the activation of the pedestrian crossing lights at Gormanston College – it was agreed to check this.
- The list of proposed footpath works – it was pointed out that the 2017 programme had been agreed as part of the Schedule of Municipal District Works in February and that the 2018 list would be brought to the February meeting.
- Car parking on approach roads and advertising trailers at roundabouts – it was pointed out that this would be dealt with in the new year.
- It was agreed that a lighting up ceremony for the Community Christmas Tree would take place at 7pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, that the Council would arrange fencing around the tree, a speaker system, Civil Defence and promotion on social media.

5.1.2 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions.

An update was provided at the meeting.

## **5.2 Planning**

5.2.1 Matters Arising

Reference was made to issues relating to enforcement – the complexity of and the length of time to deal with such cases was highlighted. Councillors were asked to submit any related concerns to Planning Enforcement.

5.2.2 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Public Realm Plan.

John Kelly, Brady Shipman Martin delivered an updated presentation to the meeting, highlighting amendments made since the previous presentation. It was confirmed that the public consultation would commence in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in January for a period of one month, with 16<sup>th</sup> January proposed as a possible launch night. Consultation with key stakeholders would take place prior to this. The final draft proposals were outlined.



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Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The statutory process relating to changing/introducing street names.
- The funding available to implement the plan.
- The engagement of all key stakeholders, including the need for larger retailers to contribute to the community.
- The different parking options available and the need to promote the multi-storey car park.
- The responsibility for moving the plan forward – it was pointed out that an advisory group could be established to make recommendations but that all decisions would be made by the Municipal District Councillors with departmental input.
- The need to enhance the streetscape and improve connectivity.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors welcomed the plan and the approach as outlined.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** to extend the meeting by thirty minutes.

### **5.3 Community**

- 5.3.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

An update had been circulated in advance. It was requested that the committee, the establishment of which was requested at the November meeting, commence meeting in January.

### **5.4 Corporate Services**

- 5.4.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Public Park.



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Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services outlined the background to the site selection process and confirmed that discussions were ongoing in relation to the preferred site. It was pointed out that the current capital programme included an allocation to purchase the site and that the development of the site would be included in the next capital programme. The masterplan being prepared would be taken account of in the relevant development plans. Whilst it was acknowledged that this was at a very early stage, Councillors welcomed the progress to date and the location of the preferred site.

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

- 5.4.3 Town Twinning

Proposals for 2018 Town Twinning initiatives will be discussed at the January meeting, following which submissions and costings for all municipal districts will be prepared and brought to the February Protocol Committee for agreement.

## **5.5 Environment**

- 5.5.1 To receive an update on Timoole Remediation Project.

Caroline Corrigan, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment Department delivered a presentation to the meeting, which included information on the site location and plan, site investigations, waste deposits, work programme and costs, project challenges, works completed to date, PR and communications plan, stakeholders, access routes and surveys, main issues, challenges and positives to date, the next steps and administration of the project.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors complimented the approach being taken to the project, with particular reference to the communications plan being implemented. Queries were raised in respect of the history of the project and actions taken to prevent or mitigate the scale of the operation, the possible criminal or civil proceedings arising, the role and responsibility of the local authority in such cases and the role and responsibilities of others in preventing



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such cases occurring, the decision taken to landfill rather than incinerate the waste arising and the concerns of local landowners – responses were provided to each of the queries/points raised.

It was agreed that a further update would be provided at the March meeting and Councillors were invited to visit the site at a convenient time.

### **5.5.2 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Flood Alleviation Scheme**

Caroline Corrigan provided an update on behalf of David Keyes, following which concerns were expressed in relation to a number of aspects of the scheme and it was agreed that David and a representative from the OPW would be invited to attend the February meeting to discuss the scheme further.

Reference was also made to potential flooding issues at Belfield Court and Painestown/Macetown - it was pointed out that a list of potential flooding sites was being compiled for works in 2018.

## **6 Notice of Question**

### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**

“In order to draw down local funds from the Knockharley community fund, successful applicants, which are all local voluntary/sporting groups, have been asked by Meath County Council to comply with a variety of spurious requests at additional cost to the groups. What are the regulations surrounding the administration of local benefit schemes and where are these available to be viewed by the public?”

#### **Response:**

*The Knockharley Community Fund is funded through levies from the local landfill facility. In the administration of these funds, it is the responsibility of Meath County Council to ensure that value for money is achieved through appropriate procurement procedures and that grants are paid to those who are tax compliant.*

*It is clearly set out on the application form what information must be submitted together with any legal requirements, e.g., confirmation of formal lease if lands not*

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*owned by group. Further information can and is sought from groups to ensure that the grant is being spent as awarded and all costs are clearly set out. If groups are unsure what information must be submitted when drawing down their claim, they can make contact with Eugene Farrelly in the Community Section who will clearly set out the requirements.*

Councillor Claire O'Driscoll sought clarification as to why different information requirements applied to draw down funding for different Council grant schemes and pointed out that the requirements in respect of this fund were too onerous for the amounts and groups involved. It was agreed to check the reasons for any varying requirements.

### **7 Notice of Motion**

#### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke**

"That an 'expressions of interest' process will be conducted in Stamullen in an attempt to help identify a suitable site for a playground."

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

*The proposal to seek expressions of interest for a site for a playground in Stamullen can be examined and hopefully the process can be commenced in early 2018.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

It was confirmed that a meeting with the playground committee and representatives of the Planning Department would take place in the second week of January and an update would be provided following this meeting.

The motion was noted, in light of the information provided.

### **8 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes**

8.1 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise SPC



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meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

The report was noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017.

The report was noted. Councillor Alan Tobin referred to previous requests made for information on council owned lands in estates and the provision of this meeting to the SPC. He asked that this information be circulated to Municipal District Councillors also.

### **9 Correspondence**

- 9.1 Correspondence received from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in response to the Notice of item 7.4 – Notice of Motion as adopted at June meeting re Mother and Baby Homes.

The correspondence was noted.

### **10 Any Other Business**

- 10.1 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:

10.1.1 Requested that a letter issue to the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport supporting the Sports Capital Grant application made by Ashbourne Tennis Club – this was agreed.

10.1.2 Requested that the timber piece belonging to the Battle of Ashbourne Commemorative Committee be displayed in Ashbourne Civic Offices.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**





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**Cathaoirleach**