



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 12th March, 2018, Boyne Suite, Pillo Hotel, Ashbourne

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

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 12th February, 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th February 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O’Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

It was agreed, on the request of Councillor Joe Bonner, to suspend Standing Orders in order to thank all Council staff for their work during the recent adverse weather conditions, including Mel Cronin, Des Foley and all outdoor and other staff, including management. It was pointed out that this work was carried out discreetly and effectively and that all routes were cleared quickly with minimal impact on people. Recognition was also given to the civil defence and all state and voluntary agencies involved. In response to queries raised, it was confirmed that the costs of dealing with the weather issues were being collated in terms of the immediate works carried out and future repair works and that these would be submitted to the Department.

A discussion followed on the damage sustained to the Civic Offices – it was confirmed that a structural assessment had indicated that the library and community facilities would possibly reopen in April, with some refurbishment works to be undertaken in the interim. Works on the remainder of the building would be tendered and completed as soon as possible. Councillors raised queries as to the extent of the damage and the causes for same and it was agreed to arrange for them to visit



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the building on Tuesday 13th March. It was confirmed that it would not be possible to arrange alternative accommodation for community groups when the building was unavailable but that the Council was committed to funding the repair works and reopening the building as soon as possible. The structural report, when available, would be circulated to Councillors and regular updates provided.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Seán Smith referred to the expected updates to be provided in respect of the Ashbourne Flood Alleviation Scheme and the Milltown Road – it was confirmed that, due to the unavailability of staff, these would be provided at the April meeting. It was also agreed to request an update on the Hill of Tara Conservation Management Plan and other agreed actions for the Hill of Tara for the April meeting.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

4 To meet with representatives from Bus Éireann to discuss bus services in Ashbourne Municipal District.

Adrian O'Loughlin, Regional Manager, East and Lynn Cullen, Services Manager, Dublin firstly thanked Meath County Council for works undertaken during the recent storm, facilitating the operation of Bus Éireann services. Updates were provided in respect of the two main services, 103 and 105, and it was pointed out that Bus Éireann continued to work with the NTA to improve services. Specific issues mentioned included the impact of the LUAS works and increased traffic in the city centre, the need to identify a terminus location on the south side of the city, changes to the back office systems to improve information displays, increased social media usage and a peak time traffic study.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Acknowledged that services had improved but reliability remained an issue on occasion – it was pointed out that delivery was currently at 98% and that services may be disrupted on occasion and that, if so, communication needed to be improved.



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- Plans to provide services to Swords and Kilbride and from Kentstown to Navan, with the possibility of extending the Navan town service to Kentstown – it was pointed out that Bus Éireann was not aware of any plans to provide services to Swords and Kilbride but that the NTA was the licensing authority who tenders out the PSO. It was agreed to raise the suggestion regarding the Navan town service with the NTA.
- The need to provide an integrated service with Irish Rail to service Pace station.
- The provision of bus shelters – it was confirmed that the NTA now had full responsibility for the provision of bus shelters with correspondence/proposals forwarded to them for consideration, subject to available funding.
- The need for a park and ride facility in Ashbourne – it was confirmed that Bus Éireann would support this once it was of benefit to passengers and was effective, e.g. the provision of a direct service, incentives, etc.
- Issues with staffing – it was pointed out that, whilst the situation had improved, absenteeism remains high and difficulties in recruiting drivers was an increasing issue.
- The importance of the real-time information displays – it was pointed out that the NTA provide the displays, which are linked to the Bus Éireann IT systems and any gaps were currently being assessed.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Adrian and Lynn for attending and acknowledged the information provided.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

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

The report, circulated in advance, was noted.



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5.2 Environment

5.2.1 To receive an update on the Timoole Remediation Project.

Caroline Corrigan, Executive Engineer, Environment delivered a presentation to the meeting, which included information on the waste, works completed to date, project challenges, PR and communications, challenges and positives to date and administration of the project.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors commended Caroline on her work on the project, in particular the PR and communications programme and project management. Matters raised included the timeframe for completion of the project, department funding, evidence found and other similar sites with responses provided.

5.3 Planning

5.3.1 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5.3.2 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within the development shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2017.

- Crenigans Bánóg, Ashbourne.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

A short discussion followed on the possibility of including a buffer zone where lands are zoned residential adjacent to existing amenities, e.g. golf courses and also the circulation of a document to residents in estates that are being taken in charge which outlines clearly the role and responsibilities of the local authority and what is not within their remit, e.g. grass cutting. The issue of wastewater pipes on private property was also discussed and the policy of Irish Water not to undertake works on these when issues arise. It was agreed that a motion would



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be submitted to the next full Council meeting on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District requesting that Meath County Council take on this role.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith** to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.

5.4 Community

5.4.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department attended the meeting and provided a further update to that circulated. This included the plan to move the playground in Zone 4, which is closest to tender stage, and the issues relating to the provision of the path in Zones 6 and 7.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The rate of progress in delivering the project and the need to focus on the elements of the project that can be delivered, e.g. the playground – it was confirmed that it was hoped to appoint a contractor in June.
- The need to provide the gate at the rear of Deerpark.
- The possibility of placing a CPO on the strip of land at Broadmeadow Castle.
- Update on the landscaping works to be undertaken by Cairn Homes – it is understood that the planned landscaping works were not being carried out.
- The possibility of considering an alternative to a path in Zones 6 & 7, e.g. a suspended walkway – a feasibility study had been carried out and would be circulated.
- The plans to include the boardwalk.



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- Update on the Department of Education and Skills lands – it is understood that land valuations are being sought.
- Update on negotiations with the OPW regarding the provision of a path in Zone 1 – it was confirmed that the OPW had been contacted regarding access but that no response had yet been received.

It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged on site for Councillors to meet with the Consultants before the April meeting.

5.5 Corporate Services

- 5.5.1 To consider the appointment of a Councillor from Ashbourne Municipal District to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Councillor Claire O’Driscoll was appointed on the proposal of Councillor Seán Smith and seconded by Councillor Darren O’Rourke.

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

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

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from the Department of Health in response to the Notice of Item 9.2.1 from February meeting re Primary Care Centre in Ashbourne.



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The correspondence was noted.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issue:

9.1.1 The application process and update in relation to the CIS.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach