



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

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

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

***9:30 a.m., 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018, Blackwater Suite, Pillo Hotel, Ashbourne***

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

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Claire O'Driscoll.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

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

Councillor Alan Tobin requested an update on the recent motion relating to the provision of a car park at Gormanston as Town & Village Renewal funding will soon be available.

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

Sympathy was extended to:



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- The family of the late Al O'Connell, Donaghmore.

The Cathaoirleach requested that Standing Orders be suspended to discuss a number of items that had arisen and this was unanimously agreed.

### (1) Emergency Notice of Motion

Following the May meeting of Meath County Council, the following motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**:

*“That any Planning Application, Part 8 or otherwise, on the Department of Education lands in Ashbourne shall comply with information presented in the passing of Motion 5.4.1 at the Full Council meeting in May 2018; that 55 homes are to be built on 6-7 acres. In addition, no houses will be occupied until Zone 3 of the Linear Park is developed and accessible to the public.”*

The motion was adopted.

### (2) Provision of the public park in Ashbourne & playground in Stamullen

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that a request to consider a variation of the County Development Plan to facilitate the delivery of the public park in Ashbourne and to examine all means of delivering the public amenity in Stamullen would be referred to the relevant departments.

### (3) Proposed halting site at Coolquay

A short discussion followed on the suitability of the site proposed by Fingal County Council for the provision of a halting site at Coolquay and the concerns expressed by local residents. The following actions were subsequently agreed:

- The Planning Department would be requested to draft a letter to be submitted to Fingal County Council on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors;
- The Housing Department would be requested to assess the social impact of this proposal on the local Traveller Community;



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- Letters would issue to Ministers Shane Ross and Boxer Moran expressing the environmental and road safety concerns of Councillors regarding this proposal;
- Representatives from the Planning Department would be invited to the June meeting to discuss a development plan for the N2 and its economic corridor.

### **4 To receive a presentation from the Ashbourne 2020 Committee.**

Jack Holmes delivered a presentation to the meeting on the timeline, context, proposed board, themes, handover work in progress, ideas, key focus until September 2018 and lessons learned from the set-up phase.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Jack and the committee for all their work to date. It was agreed that a request would be made to the Westport 250 Committee for a copy of their plan.

### **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. Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need for a pedestrian crossing at Ballybin traffic lights;
- Update on the tender for hanging baskets and landscaping – it was confirmed that these should commence in early June.

5.1.2 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions

An update had been circulated in advance of the meeting and matters raised by Councillors included:

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- An update on the possible rerouting of traffic from the L5008 and amending the lights accordingly – it was pointed out that this is likely to have minimal impact.
- The need to consider the volume of traffic in Curraha.
- The impact of the road issues on economic development, including the proposed hotel development and related jobs – it was agreed to issue a letter to TII/NTA requesting that the process of resolving the issues be expedited.

### **5.2 Planning/Heritage**

- 5.2.1 To receive an update on the Hill of Tara Conservation Management Plan and provision of facilities.

Dr. Edel Bhreathnach, Chief Executive Officer, Discovery Programme delivered a presentation on the significance of Tara, stakeholder consultation, summary of progress to date, emerging issues and ideas for consideration. It was confirmed that the draft Tara Conservation Management Plan is to be prepared by October 2018.

With reference to the feasibility study for the provision of car park and toilet facilities, Dr. Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer referred to the sensitive nature of the site and confirmed that an archaeological constraints study had been commissioned and was due by the end of May. The Planning Department had prepared a brief and scope of works, which is currently with the Transportation Department for review. A synthesis of the information from the Discovery Programme would also inform the study. The next steps were being identified and decisions would be taken based on the information available. The Steering Group would receive an update at their next meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> May and updates would be provided to the municipal district, as appropriate.

A discussion followed on the role of the community, the need for resources to ensure the protection and promotion of the site, the possibility of providing an interpretive centre and other national and European examples of approaches taken.



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It was acknowledged that all stakeholders were now involved and fully committed to the project.

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

It was agreed to circulate an updated report following the meeting. A short discussion followed where it was agreed that all possible progress should be made and the revised reporting template was welcomed. It was requested that the composition of the liaison group be revisited and meetings be arranged on a trial basis.

### **5.3 Corporate Services**

- 5.3.1 To receive a proposal to arrange a Civic Reception to welcome the competing teams in the European Baseball Championships to Ashbourne.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services proposed that a civic event be arranged for 26<sup>th</sup> July at the baseball pitch, where the four travelling teams would be playing, and this was unanimously agreed.

It was agreed to issue an invitation to Ashbourne Baseball Club to present at the June meeting.

- 5.3.2 To discuss the 2018 Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal Budgets.

Dara McGowan outlined that, of the €8,000 allocation, €2,000 had been allocated to TradAsh, with €6,000 remaining. The allocation required for the Christmas Tree would be €2,500 and this allocation was agreed.

A discussion followed on the options for the balance of €3,500 with a number of suggestions being made. It was agreed that proposals would be submitted to Dara and brought to the June meeting for agreement.

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

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

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It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.

### 6 Notice of Question

#### 6.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“To provide a breakdown of all amounts and to whom all expenditure has been made so far on the Linear Park project. A total amount of €100,000 was given at the April meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District.”

**Response:**

Contractor	Amount	Works Completed To Date
John Ryan Auctioneers Ltd	€1,845	Land valuation
Fehily Timoney & Co	€93,842.51	All drawings associated with the Part VIII planning process; Flood Risk Assessment; Appropriate Assessment Screening; Archaeological Investigation Works; Detailed Design, Liaising with all the Relevant authorities; Lighting design; amendments to the detailed design on receipt of results of archaeological investigations
Causeway Geo Tech Ltd	€7,429.25	Site Investigation Works
Rennicks Signs Ireland Ltd	€79.35	Signage when Park closed to facilitate site investigation works
Landmark Designs Ltd	€5,156.78	Concept Design, public consultation and detailed landscape design to date
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€108,352.89</b>	

The response was noted.

### 7 Notice of Motion



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### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith**

“That Meath County Council Planning Department refunds all 87 individuals who made a submission to Planning application AA/161470 (12 houses on green space at Millbourne Ave). This Planning application, which was approved by Meath County Council Planning Department, has been rejected on appeal by An Bord Pleanála, preserving the only green space in this housing estate.”

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

*Section 29 of Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2017 requires any person or body, to make payment of the prescribed fee, when making a submission or observation on a planning application. There is no provision to return the fee if the outcome of the decision is not the desired outcome of the person or body that made the submission.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

It was agreed that the issues relating to the through road would be discussed further at the June meeting.

The motion was noted.

### **7.2 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith**

“That Meath County Council provides a brief report on the steps required and budget to provide public lighting along the Slí na Sláinte pathway behind Gaelscoil na Cille.”

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

*The lands that form part of this request are in private ownership. Meath County Council’s public lighting allocation does not cover the provision of lighting on private lands, so in this instance Meath County Council are not in a position to quantify or organise the requested works.*



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The motion was withdrawn.

### **7.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

“Regarding winter gritting routes and in light of this year’s adverse weather, can the relevant authorities, Meath County Council, Fingal County Council and the National Transport Authority, ensure that County Meath's gritting routes match up and align with Fingal's Priority 1 and Priority 2 gritting routes.”

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

*Meath County Council salts over 610km. of roads across 10 routes in the county each time icy roads are predicted. All National Primary (120km/h – Priority 1), all National Secondary (80km/h – Priority 1) and approx. 82% of all Regional Routes (80km/h – Priority 1/2) are salted. Approximately 18% (by length) of all roads in the county are treated.*

*The M1 (Dublin - Belfast), M2 (Ashbourne By-Pass), M3 (Clonee - Kells) and M4 (Dublin - Sligo - Galway) are taken care of by private entities.*

*The TII provides full funding to the Council for the salting of the National Road network. There is however no central funding for the Non-National (Regional & Local) Road Network. The Council makes limited resources available from its own maintenance funds towards the salting of the regional routes. The Council’s resources are fully utilised at present and the only way to add a new route to the Winter Maintenance Plan is to drop an existing route. There are no plans at present to increase resources or to drop an existing route.*

*The Salting Network is agreed with the Members and represents the best prioritised extent of coverage based on road classification, historic weather data, average daily traffic counts, and available funding. The Winter Maintenance Plan 2017/ 2018 was presented to and noted by the members at a Full Council meeting. A map of the salting routes is available on the Council’s website [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie).*

*Currently there are no issues between MCC’s and FCC’s Priority 1 routes. There are some Priority 2 routes that are not aligned due to FCC treating some Local primary and secondary roads as Priority 2. Priority 2 routes are those routes which are desirable to be*





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*kept serviceable in normal winter weather conditions, as far as reasonably practicable which should include those routes which are important regionally, such as principle public transport routes, or the main commuter routes. Priority 2 routes are to be treated as part of the normal winter service but may have interruptions to treatment in certain severe weather events. Once key elements of the network have been identified and prioritised, it may be useful to examine traffic levels and the geographical spread of routes, as with Priority 1 routes, it must be recognised that choices may have to be made; in these instances, traffic levels on routes, the centres of population and commerce should receive priority. It is left to each local authority to determine what the threshold value should be, for the traffic volumes particular to each administrative area. MCC and FCC liaise closely prior and during each winter season in the design of and selection of treatment (timing and salt rate) of routes to assist in minimising dead-running between councils.*

*Meath County Council shall continue to review the salting network at the end of each winter season.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

The motion was adopted.

### **7.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

“To request that at least one outdoor member of Meath County Council staff in the Ashbourne district is rostered to work on a Sunday morning specifically to empty/service public bins, within the town of Ashbourne, on all bank holiday weekends.”

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

*Ashbourne Municipal District will provide a bin emptying service in Ashbourne on Sundays and Bank Holidays on a trial basis for 6 months beginning in June 2018.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.



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The motion was adopted.

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

8.1 To note the report from the Housing SPC meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.

The report was noted.

8.2 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.

The report was noted.

8.3 To note the report from the Housing SPC meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

The report was noted.

### **9 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **10 Any Other Business**

10.1 Dara McGowan raised the following issues:

10.1.1 Confirmed that the Civic Offices would reopen on Monday and it was agreed that an official reopening would take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June, following the Municipal District meeting.

10.2 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Requested that a letter issue to TII expressing dissatisfaction at their objection to the link road from Stamullen to the motorway.

10.3 Councillor Darren O'Rourke raised the following issue:

10.3.1 Requested that advice be sought from the Planning Department at how the link



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road from Stamullen to the motorway might be advanced, e.g. incorporating it into the County Development Plan.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**