



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 10th September 2018, 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

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 9th July, 2018. (See below)

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th July 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The families of those who recently died in the area as a result of suicide. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Department of Health, requesting that the opening of the mental health services unit, adjacent to the primary care centre, be expedited and requesting a timeframe for same.



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Congratulations were extended to:

- All involved in the organisation of the European Baseball Championship.

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

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

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:

- Commended the approach taken to the provision of the footpath in Stamullen, for which local residents were appreciative.
- Requested an update on the survey of the culvert in Painestown – it was agreed to provide this in advance of the October meeting.
- Requested an update on the damaged barriers at the community centre junction – it was confirmed that these would be replaced in the coming weeks.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Mel and his team for their work in the municipal district.

5.1.2 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation referred to the allocation of €25,000 made in 2018 to complete the project appraisal stage, the



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first step in advancing a plan for major infrastructure. This had been submitted to TII, comments received and had now been returned. The tender for the appointment of a consultant to consider route options and costs is due to issue next week and is due to be submitted to TII by the end of the year. It was underlined that a number of projects nationwide had received this initial allocation and these would be prioritised for the next round of funding, based on the completion of each step.

Reference was made to a recent request made by the Minister for Transport that Meath County Council submit a proposal for works relating to roads off the N2. It was confirmed that a traffic management plan for Curragha village was nearly complete, that no Part 8 was required and that consultation would be undertaken when funding announced, possibly January/February. The plan includes junction realignment and a table junction at the crossroads at Swan's pub, a pedestrian ramp at the church end of the car park and an upgrade of public lighting, signage, roadlines, drainage, resurfacing, etc. The extent of the above works proposal would be subject to funding amount and eventual procurement costs.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The request for additional ramps at the school.
- Stop signs needed on the road approaching the T-junction at Curragha Crossroads (Swans Pub).
- Queried whether the temporary speed limit signs were to remain in place – it was confirmed that these were to be removed.
- The possibility of speed ramps at Fowlers Cross – it was confirmed that signs and lines could be upgraded but that ramps were not considered appropriate.
- The estimated timeline for the larger N2 project – the process for the national capital project planning was again outlined, with no way of estimating a timeframe for this project.



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- The need for a traffic survey on the N2 and all surrounding roads – it was confirmed that traffic counts had been taken in the wider general area and that these justified the business case being made.

- 5.1.3 To receive an update on the County Meath Special Speed Limit review following on from the Statutory Public Display of the Draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.2) 2017.

Paul Phelan, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the update provided and the proposed amendments and next steps. The report was noted.

5.2 Library Service

- 5.2.1 To receive an update on the Meath County Council Ashbourne 2020 Programme.

Ciarán Mangan, County Librarian outlined the programme including planned initiatives, events, etc. and it was confirmed that a meeting with the Ashbourne 2020 Committee had been arranged, with other community groups to be involved also.

Matters raised by Councillors included the need to adopt a balanced approach to include new residents, non-Irish residents, etc. and the possibility of providing a premises for/facilitating the exhibition of the collection of a local artist, who has made a substantial contribution to the arts on a national scale – it was agreed to refer this to the Arts Office for consideration.

5.3 Community

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

An update had been circulated in advance and Fiona Lawless provided further updates on each of the zones, including confirmation that the tender for Zone 4 would issue this week and that information would be circulated to relevant groups registered on the PPN and any future updates, where relevant, would be circulated through the PPN for Ashbourne.

Matters raised by Councillors included:



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- Queried the progress made in relation to expenditure to date.
- The need for monthly updates to reflect the amended plans agreed with the consultants.
- The progress made regarding safety measures at the schools – it was confirmed that the design had been finalised and the schools consulted, with procurement to commence. The T-junction and Thomas Ashe roundabout had also been assessed by the public lighting designer.
- Acknowledged the complexity of the project due to the number of parties involved, compliance requirements, etc.
- The possible need to acknowledge the limitations of the linear park and focus on the delivery of green space in a wider context, particularly in light of increased residential development – it was pointed out that land ownership was also always a limiting factor but that Zones 3 & 4 could be progressed and that the gate at the rear of Deerpark would be advanced.

With regard to the community park, it was confirmed that, whilst funding had been committed, no site had yet been identified. Following the call for expressions of interest, one site had been identified but was zoned agricultural. The stalling of the County Development Plan review required the variation process for priority projects. The site would then have to be assessed for suitability and the next steps would be determined by the approach required with no timeframe available at this point. It was also pointed out that no design could commence until the land was acquired.

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

5.4 Planning

5.4.1 To receive an update on the Public Realm Plan.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner provided an update, confirming that the plan had been finalised with a formal launch to be arranged, followed by a

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formal awareness campaign targeted at all council departments. An implementation plan is also to be prepared, to include how the plan is to be managed and delivered, possible funding sources, etc. The plan will be included in the County Development Plan review and should be considered by other parties with plans for the town.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need for a Part VIII – it was pointed out that a Part VIII may be required for certain types of work, i.e. if the cost of works exceeds €126,000.
- The need to prioritise certain locations/actions, including signage.
- The timescale for implementation and the allocation of funding – it was pointed out that this was a five year plan, with phased implementation, and funding sources would need to be discussed further.
- The status of the plan – whilst the plan is non-statutory, it would be included as an objective in the County Development Plan and therefore would have to be implemented.

It was agreed that the formal launch of the public realm plan would take place prior to the Ashbourne Pride of Place event taking place on 1st November.

5.5 Corporate Services

- 5.5.1 To receive an update on the Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Funds.

Dara McGowan outlined two schemes being launched by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government and the Department of Rural and Community Development and the criteria for eligible projects. The application process, similar to competitive tendering, was explained, including the onerous nature of information required. Projects, under the urban scheme, had to demonstrate that they would leverage further private sector funding, if completed. 17 projects had been identified for Meath, three of which are in Ashbourne Municipal District – Milltown Road and Ashbourne Main Street



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Phase II (Category A) and Hill of Tara (Category B). 25% Meath County Council match funding is required. It was emphasised that not all local authorities would succeed in getting funding, with decisions due in November.

An update was sought on works planned for the Hill of Tara, which were to be advanced separately. It was confirmed that the conservation management plan was to be launched in October with works continuing in respect of the car park, signage, etc. It was agreed to check the status of the traffic survey. It was underlined that a preliminary archaeological survey had been sent to the engineers, as this would impact on the options available in terms of the car park.

- 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. Councillors were reminded of the deadlines for the receipt of applications and of the amount outstanding for allocation within the municipal district.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“To ask the Chief Executive how many housing units have been completed in the Ashbourne town area since 1st January 2003 and what percentage public green space has been provided in the same area during that period.”

Response:

iPlan, the national planning database, does not cater for the recording of completed units and therefore it is not possible to give an accurate response in relation to the Notice of Question. This request is made more difficult by the change of electoral boundaries in 2014 when Ashbourne was designated its own electoral area and no longer fell within what was then known as the Dunshaughlin Electoral Area. As part of an exercise carried out annually by the Building Control Team since 2016, our records show that the following units are recorded as completed in the Ashbourne Area. This is the most accurate information we have.

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	<i>Completed but not occupied</i>	<i>Occupied</i>	<i>Survey Date</i>
2015	4	42	May-16
2016	20	162	May-17
2017	32	113	May-18

In relation to the second part of the question; Section 11.2.2 of The Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 sets out the requirements with regards to open spaces. It states;

(4) Public open space shall be provided for in residential development at a minimum rate of 15% of total site area. Where residential developments are close to existing facilities or natural amenities where, in the opinion of Meath County Council, it would be in the interest of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, then Meath County Council may require a financial contribution towards the provision of public open space or recreational facilities in the wider area in lieu of public open space within the development.....'

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

"What progress is being made in the replacement of the gate and repair of stile at hill of Skyrne?"

Response:

Meath County Council is in the process of engaging a qualified heritage professional to undertake a condition survey of historic iron gates at the Hill of Skyrne graveyard to include:

- *site survey,*
- *photographic recording,*



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- *recommendation for conservations work and*
- *estimated restoration costs and method statement*

We expect the survey to be complete in the next two weeks.

The response was noted. Councillor Claire O’Driscoll requested that the results of the survey, once completed, be circulated.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To increase the street cleaning budget for Ashbourne 2019 to include the cleaning of granite, pavement and cobble lock twice per year on Declan, Killelland, Frederick, Broadmeadow, Bridge streets and Bachelors walk.”

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

The 2019 budget preparation has commenced and all budget codes will be reviewed as part of this process.

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

The motion was adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To allocate funding, over the next 3 years (2019,2020 & 2021) from the municipal district roads budget to resurface and upgrade drainage in the following estates: Garden City, Huntsgrove, Killelland Park, Milltown Estate, Tudor Grove, Tudor Close and Tudor Heights.”

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



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The Department of Transport Tourism & Sport (DTTAS) has requested local authorities to submit their multi-annual programme to the Department by the 9th November, covering the years 2019, 2020 & 2021. Whilst there is a requirement to submit the programme by the 9th November 2018, there is scope to amend the programme in the future, as in any event, the proposed programme is dependent on the funding available and may be affected by other factors such as severe weather, etc.

Meath County Council proposes to draft a 3 year works programme in consultation with Councillors for each municipal district, commencing in Q3/Q4 2018. This programme will be based on the prioritisation of schemes following an engineering screening/evaluation assessment.

There is also an allocation for Housing Estate resurfacing and upgrading drainage works in the Schedule of Municipal District Works, which can also be utilised.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

The motion was adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“That Meath County Council would assess the possibility of purchasing land in Stamullen by compulsory purchase order for the purposes of providing a playground for the area; and report back to councillors with recommendations in this regard by the November meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District.”

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

The Community Section is working closely with the Housing Department in relation to the recent expression of interest received from a land owner in Stamullen for the provision of Housing. It is envisaged that a playground may be included in the development proposals once the site has been secured. Negotiations with the land owner are currently in the early stages.

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



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The motion was adopted.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“With respect to Hayestown Road (Road Number: L50522), can a full engineer’s report be compiled on the road with a view to considering an axle ban on the road.”

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

Meath County Council are not considering introducing an axle ban on any of the rural roads in the County. In relation to this specific Notice of Motion, the following preliminary observations have been made.

- 1. The road is within two Municipal Districts, Navan MD and Ashbourne MD, therefore consultation with and approval from Navan MD would also be required before any proposed axle restrictions could be put in place*
- 2. Enforcement of the proposed multi-axle ban would be difficult and would require consultation and input from the Gardaí*
- 3. The road is the only access to Carne Hill Water Reservoir which serves the town of Navan. The reservoir frequently receives multi-axle Heavy Commercial Vehicles as a matter of routine operations*
- 4. Several businesses including a Steel Fabricators Workshop and an Agricultural Contractor operate from premises along this road. These businesses require multi-axle vehicles for deliveries/transport and day to day operations.*
- 5. 4 axle bin lorries service the bin-run on this road on a weekly basis*
- 6. Oil and other multi-axle HCV's use this road for deliveries*
- 7. There may be local opposition to alternative HCV routes, the alternative routes would have to be identified and signposted.*



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In light of the supporting information provided, Councillor Claire O'Driscoll withdrew the motion.

8 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

8.1 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 26th July, 2018.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Ashbourne Flood Alleviation Scheme

David Keyes, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment provided an update, confirming that Phase I had been completed, with works carried out in 2016/2017 having had a positive impact at Rath Lodge and Milltown. The next phase, RaceHill to Hunter's Lane, would commence when OPW staff were on site, with advance maintenance works being carried out. The works in Racehill would start first, taking 2-3 months, and then moving to Hunter's Lane and thence moving upstream. Liaison with landowners has been ongoing, with more detailed information to be given on any specific impacts and efforts made to minimise disruption. The works were expected to take approximately 12 months in total and formal correspondence on increased funding is expected shortly. Councillors underlined the need to communicate with residents and commended the engagement that had taken place to date.

10.2 Councillor Seán Smith confirmed that a meeting with the group from Gormanston would take place following the October municipal district meeting.

10.3 Councillor Joe Bonner reminded Councillors that a meeting of Ashbourne Suicide Awareness & Prevention would take place this evening.

10.4 Fiona Lawless reminded councillors that a joint meeting of Ratoath and Ashbourne Municipal Districts with the NTA was taking place on 26th September at 11.30am in the



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NTA offices.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach