



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

9:30 a.m., 8th October 2018, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Leas-Chathaoirleach, **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**, presided.

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

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Assistant Engineer: Philip Connell

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Mel Cronin, Executive Engineer

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 10th September, 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th September 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Both councillors and the executive referred to the departure of former councillor, Seán Smith, and acknowledged his work, enthusiasm and achievements during his time as councillor, wishing him and his family best wishes for the future.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- The families of those who died recently as a result of suicide – reference was made to the need for the mental health unit to be made available as soon as possible and the establishment of ASAP, Ashbourne Suicide Awareness & Prevention. It was agreed that the group would be invited to attend a future meeting to provide information on the services provided and to examine ways in which the local authority might engage with the group to increase awareness.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Ashbourne Tidy Towns, who won a national award , the Scoop the Poop award;
- The Meath ladies team, including local players, on reaching the intermediate final.

4 To meet with Garda Superintendent Fergus Dwyer.

Superintendent Fergus Dwyer thanked the Cathaoirleach and councillors for the invitation to attend the meeting and outlined his career to date. He provided information on the issues submitted by councillors for discussion, including cycle lanes, traffic volumes, parking byelaws, anti-social behaviour, plans to deal with Halloween bonfires, rural crime, additional resources, community policing and working with the local authority.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Acknowledged the success of the recent Open Day, which attracted considerable interest.
- The need to clarify the issue of byelaws in Ashbourne with regard to parking on cycle lanes.
- The possibility of undertaking checkpoints for drink/drug driving in different locations - the requirements in setting up checkpoints were outlined, as were the court challenges in relation to mandatory disqualifications.
- The incidents that occurred at Halloween in 2017 and the possibility of relocating the bonfire in Kentstown from the community owned facility, where pitches were being developed – it was suggested that the organisers be approached with a view to



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identifying an alternative location and it was agreed that Meath County Council would assist in dealing with this issue.

- The use of bodycams by Gardaí – it was pointed out this was being considered by a national working group but that data protection issues had to be considered.
- The issues unique to Ashbourne, e.g. criminal gang access arising from the motorway network – it was pointed out that some professional criminals avoid the motorway network in many cases.
- The allocation of resources to the Ashbourne District compared to other areas – it was conceded that resources were allocated based on being a rural area, despite the proximity to Dublin and associated issues. It was pointed out that additional resources were being requested/made available and were being maximised for the benefit of the community.
- How the local authority can work with the Gardaí – it was pointed out that an open, honest and transparent relationship would benefit the community.
- The need for additional speed checks – it was confirmed that the speed enforcement vans were widely deployed.
- The need for improved pay and conditions for Gardaí – it was pointed out that morale was good within the local force.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Superintendent Dwyer for attending and wished him well in his role.

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:



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- Thanked the outdoor staff for their work during the adverse weather conditions, particularly on damaged/fallen trees, which prevented any damage/injury.
- Requested that information be put on the council website urging the public to be cautious of using chainsaws on fallen trees/branches due to dangers posed by concealed powerlines.
- Queried whether the graveyard in Stamullen is in charge.

Jim Colwell, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the proposed three year roadworks programme 2019-2021, which had been prepared based on the pavement condition survey and consultation with councillors and which must be submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport by 9th November. In response to specific queries, it was confirmed that the proposed programme was a draft and could be subject to change. It was pointed out that the earlier the programme was agreed, the sooner the procurement process could commence, resulting in preferable rates and earlier commencement.

Matters raised by councillors, and responses provided, included:

- The basis for the amount allocated – it was pointed out that the amount for 2019 would be the same as for 2018, i.e. €8.64million, with the funding for storm/snow damage being dealt with by a different department.
- Requested information on the condition survey results for the roads selected.
- The impact of roadworks on flooding of adjacent properties – it was explained that if driveways were previously above the road level, works would be carried out.

5.1.2 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions

An update had been circulated in advance and matters raised by councillors included:

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- Requested that the traffic light sequence give priority to traffic travelling north/south.
- Welcomed the trial at the junction of Phebblestown Road, queried as to the duration of the trial and whether local residents had been consulted.

- 5.1.3 To receive a presentation of a Proposed Footpath and Bus Stop Scheme on the R125 from Harlockstown Lane to the Nine Milestone roundabout, prior to going on public display as a Part 8 application.

Pat Shore, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the proposals and drawings for the proposed footpath, which is approximately 1,250m in length and includes two bus stops and two signalised pedestrian crossings. The Part 8 would involve the detailed design, determining the amount of land required, and it was hoped to put the plans on public display before at the end of October/beginning of November.

Councillors queried the potential cost and source of funding, the need to secure the agreement of affected landowners, the development along this road and the need to encourage walking and use of public transport.

5.2 Community

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

Emmanuel Mwadiwa, Executive Engineer, Community Department provided an update on the tender process and the efforts to expedite the process were outlined.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The possibility of including the skatepark in Zone 3 and proceed with Zone 4 – it was pointed out that any skatepark provided would need to be well managed, lockable and supervised access provided. Additional funding would be required but a space in Zone 3 could be designated.



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- The allocation of available resources – it was confirmed that Zone 4 represented the most expensive element of the project, with the bridge and playground.
- The provision of the gate at the rear of Deerpark – it was confirmed that this was being progressed.

5.3 Corporate Services

5.3.1 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 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

8.1 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 14th September, 2018.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

9.1 Correspondence received from the Minister for Health Simon Harris in response to the Notice of Item 3 from September meeting re Mental health Unit in Ashbourne.

The correspondence was noted.



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10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Claire O'Driscoll raised the following issue:

10.1.1 Update on the gate and wall at the Hill of Skryne – it was pointed out that an update had been circulated and it was agreed to seek a further report on the next steps, funding, etc.

10.2 Councillor Darren O'Rourke raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Requested that a standing item be added to the agenda of future meetings to deal with the provision of the community park – it was agreed that any related progress update would be provided by different departments, including Planning and Housing, and that these updates would be provided as appropriate.

10.3 Councillor Suzanne Jamal raised the following issues:

10.3.1 Referred to the visit to Gormanston arranged for today.

10.3.2 Requested that consideration be given to revising the meeting hours - it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** to revise the Standing Orders (Section 5) to amend the hours of future meetings, to commence at 10.00am and finish no later than 12.00pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach