



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 11th February 2019, Ashbourne Civic Offices

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

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

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Election of Cathaoirleach

Councillor Conor Tormey was proposed by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll and seconded by Councillor Suzanne Jamal.

Councillor Joe Bonner was proposed by Councillor Joe Bonner and seconded by Councillor Darren O'Rourke.

As there were two nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach, a roll call vote was taken with the following result:

Councillor	Vote
BONNER, Joseph	Bonner, Joseph
JAMAL, Suzanne	Tormey, Conor
O'DRISCOLL, Claire	Tormey, Conor
O'ROURKE, Darren	Bonner, Joseph
TOBIN, Alan	Tormey, Conor
TORMEY, Conor	Tormey, Conor

Result:



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BONNER, Joe - 2 votes

TORMEY, Conor – 4 votes

Councillor Conor Tormey was declared elected and assumed the Chair.

The Cathaoirleach thanked councillors for their support.

2 Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 14th January, 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th January 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

3 Matters arising from the Minutes

David Keyes, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment circulated a report on the Ashbourne Flood Relief Scheme, which provided an update on the progress to date and planned works, including timeframe. It was agreed to provide regular updates on progress.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Water pressure issues in Racehill Lodge.
- Surveys undertaken in 2014 indicating the sewer diversion.
- The possibility of opening up the road in Archerstown to provide an alternative route, thereby enabling the quicker provision of the culvert in Hunters Lane.
- The possibility of undertaking works in Brookville and Huntsgrove outside of the summer months.
- The need to adhere to the planned timeline – it was pointed out that issues may arise that will impact on the planned timeframe.



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- Consultation with residents – it was confirmed that meetings had taken place with residents last summer and that, due to the nature of the project which was in proximity to certain properties, contact was ongoing, with further meetings to take place when the final design was available.

4 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Mel Cronin on the recent birth of his daughter, Kate.

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 providing the speed feedback signs on a rotational basis in Skryne, Rathfeigh and Lismullen – it was pointed that guidelines were in place to determine suitable locations for such signs and it was agreed to check if these could be used as a temporary measure. It was pointed out however that engineering solutions were preferable.
- The impact on traffic of the lights on the Gormanston Road out of Stamullen – it was confirmed that these were associated with watermain works, which are due to be completed soon, with reinstatement works outstanding.
- The need to engage with the community in relation to the opening of the road at Millbourne, which resulted from an open and transparent planning process as part of which submissions could have been made, and the need to monitor the impact of the road when opened. It was also pointed out that appropriate safety measures, including adequate surfacing, signage, public lighting, etc. needed to be in place prior to its opening.



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5.1.2 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions

An update had been circulated in advance, confirming that the trial to temporarily close the L5008 would not now proceed as the Gardaí had indicated their opposition due to safety concerns. It was also pointed out that design consultants would be appointed in Q2.

5.2 Community

5.2.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

Emmanuel Mwadiwa, Executive Engineer, Community Department provided a progress update, confirming that the old playground had been demolished and footpaths cleared, groundwork and drainage was being prepared, with the foundations to be poured today. It was also confirmed that the playground equipment would not be reused on site as it could not be certified for use in a public playground. Works have also commenced on the amphitheatre. The gate to the rear of Deerpark will be installed in 3-4 weeks. It was suggested that a site visit be arranged in approximately one month.

5.2.2 To review the draft Terms of Reference for the Ashbourne Public Greenspace Working Group.

The draft Terms of Reference, as prepared by the Community Department, were outlined. In response to queries raised in relation to the meeting arrangements and wording, a number of amendments were agreed.

5.3 Planning

5.3.1 To receive an update on provision of the Community Park.

An update had been circulated in advance and it was agreed that a further update would be provided at the March meeting. With regard to the Terms of Reference, discussed under Item 5.2.2, it was pointed out that the current focus was the delivery of the Linear Park and that, when land is acquired for the community park, the remit of the group and wider community engagement can be reviewed.



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5.4 Corporate Services

5.4.1 To discuss the 2019 Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal Budgets.

Robert Collins, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services confirmed that €8,000 was available for allocation in 2019, with reference made to previous allocations made, including those for festive lighting/decoration. It was suggested that proposals be submitted with allocations to be confirmed at the March meeting.

A number of proposals were made, including Ashbourne Suicide Awareness & Prevention, Ashbourne Community Centre, Ashbourne St. Patrick's Day Festival – a contribution of €2,000 was proposed, Gormanston Motocross Club – All Ireland Motocross Festival, and the 'Hooley in the Hollow', Kentstown.

It was unanimously agreed to allocate €2,000 to the Ashbourne St. Patrick's Day Festival and that other proposals would be submitted to Corporate Services for final agreement at the March meeting. Councillors were reminded that applications were being accepted for the Community Grants Scheme and that some of the proposals made may be eligible for support under this scheme. It was agreed to circulate details of the scheme.

5.4.2 To discuss proposals to be considered by the Protocol Committee in relation to the allocation of the 2019 Twinning budget.

Reference was made to the existing twinning arrangement with Corcubion, Spain with a number of exchange visits planned. It was agreed that this arrangement would continue with details of events to be provided when available.

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

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

5.5 To consider and adopt the 2019 Schedule of Municipal District Works.



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David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section outlined the schedule of works as they relate to housing, including the service categories, funding allocations per municipal district, the centralised budgets and updates on the previous year.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Commended the efforts of the council in securing social housing in Ashbourne Municipal District, which had seen a significant improvement in recent years – the number of units provided since 2017 were highlighted.
- The need to continue to focus on the provision of affordable housing, including the Department of Education & Skills site.
- The need to ensure the provision of adequate green space for the community in tandem with increasing housing provision – it was confirmed that, whilst efforts were made to maximise densities, green space requirements were also a priority.

Des Foley, Director of Service, Transportation referred to additional resources, including funding and staffing, allocated to transportation services in recent years. As funding for roads represents approximately one third of the overall council budget, the challenge is the delivery of the programme. In addition to the works outlined in the schedule, works are ongoing on footpaths, public lighting and CIS/LIS.

John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation outlined the schedule of works in detail.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the schedule of works, which includes works throughout the municipal district, and acknowledged the significant improvements in recent years, with a proactive and planned approach having been adopted.
- Welcomed the commencement of works on the Milltown Road, in particular the Johnswood and Castle Street junctions, works planned for Killelland Park, Tudor Grove and Oliver Plunkett Park, the increased allocation for street sweeping, the safety improvement works in Walterstown and Rathfeigh



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- Complimented works on the Johnswood Road and referred to the need for the ESB to connect the pedestrian crossing as soon as possible.
- Referred to the subsidence on the R125 as a result of heavy vehicles and the flashing amber lights – it was agreed to check this but that additional land may be required.
- Queried the works planned in relation to drainage – it was pointed out that there were a number of specific requirements to deal with drainage issues, with a programme of works to be prepared.
- The possibility of including a dedicated bus lane from Rath to Kilmoon to encourage use of public transport with the provision of park & ride facilities, similar to the N3, and the provision of bus stops and public lighting – it was pointed out that Rath to Kilmoon was now on the TII list of major schemes with €250,000 allocated to commence the process. The options were not yet examined but limited space was available to provide a bus lane as an interim measure.
- Reference was made to the increased heavy traffic likely on the N2 if the plans to increase the landfill capacity at Knockharley were successful and the impact on congestion. It was agreed that the views of councillors would be submitted for consideration.
- The need to start planning for an outer relief road to relieve traffic congestion in Ashbourne, to maximise on the proximity to the airport and facilitate economic development.
- The availability of the design for works at Curraha – it was confirmed that a detailed design had been prepared, with the overall works to cost in the region of €1 million, with the €200,000 allocation available to commence these works.
- Requested an update on the plans for public lighting, based on submissions made – it was pointed out that a public lighting policy had been prepared, with the 2019 programme to include Ashbourne Business Park and Rathfeigh church.
- The need for a pedestrian crossing and bus stop at Hickey's Lane.



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- The opening of the road at Millbourne.
- Timeframe for the confirmation of funding for sustainable transport projects – it was pointed out that there were four different sources of funding, with the NTA allocation to be confirmed.

It was pointed out that the Transportation SPC would receive a presentation on policies and objectives in light of the County Development Plan review and would consider issues such as sustainable transport, climate change, etc. The comments raised would be fed into this review.

The 2019 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Ashbourne was unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To ask Meath County Council to assist in the realigning, clearing of drains and the reinstatement of public lighting at Garden City shopping centre.”

Having read the taking in charge file on the Garden City development in the late 90's. It is not clear if this area was taken in charge or not. There is an ownership issue that also needs to be legally defined or clarified in relation to personal injury claims. There are currently 11 businesses in the shopping area and 3 residential apartments.”

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



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From the Council's records the area concerned has not been taken in charge by Meath County Council and is in private ownership and therefore it is not the responsibility of Meath County Council for carrying out maintenance works. It is however suggested that this notice of motion be deferred to a later meeting to enable further investigation of the issues involved.

The motion was deferred.

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

- 8.1 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise SPC meeting of 19th December, 2018.

The report was noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 1st February, 2019.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 Councillor Darren O'Rourke raised the following issue:

10.1.1 Proposed that a Notice of Motion be submitted on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District to the March full council meeting clearly stating that councillors oppose the proposed development at Knockharley – this was agreed.

- 10.2 Fiona Lawless raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Referred to a number of initiatives underway and planned for Clonalvy,



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including the formation of a community group with the assistance and advice of the Environmental Education Officer, the arrangement of a clean up day, the provision of tourist fingerpost signage, drainage works, footpath works, public lighting and additional works as included in the Schedule of Municipal District Works. It was agreed to request an update from the Environmental Education Officer and to consider any request received from the group to deliver a presentation to the municipal district.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach