



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

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

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Conor Tormey**, 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 11th February, 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th February 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O’Rourke**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Darren O’Rourke referred to the Terms of Reference for the Ashbourne Greenspace Working Group agreed at the February meeting and queried as to when the initial meeting would take place – it was agreed that an update would be requested from the Community Department with a view to the initial meeting taking place following the April municipal district meeting.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- The family of the late Micheál Ryan, formerly of Lahinch, who died in the Ethiopia air crash and who had dedicated his life to humanitarian work.

4 To meet with representatives from Irish Rail regarding issues in Gormanston.

Joe Beardmore, Infrastructure Department and Eddie Fitzpatrick, A/District Manager – Northern District, Irish Rail attended the meeting and referred to the points previously raised in relation to the train station at Gormanston. It was confirmed that there were no current plans to install additional wheelchair facilities at the station, which currently is accessible on both sides, with priority for such works being given to stations with higher footfall and subject to NTA funding. Following a site visit, the viaduct is to be included in the bridge painting programme, with works to commence in July 2019 and be completed in January 2020. It was agreed that the car park, with a capacity of over 100 cars, is under-utilised and issues exist with parking outside the car park, which may be addressed through the introduction of double yellow lines. The weekly parking fee is €10 and the daily fee €4, with the annual contract cost for management and maintenance being approximately €10,000, resulting in little return.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The possible removal of car parking fees at the train station – it was pointed out that all station car parks charged a fee and that the management and maintenance costs had to be covered.
- The charges that apply in the M3 Parkway and Dunboyne car parks – it was conceded that these were free for a time but that charges now applied.
- The absence of a Leap Car scanning machine in Gormanston and other Meath stations – it was pointed out that the cut-off point for the Leap Card zone was Balbriggan but that it would be checked to see if this might be extended.
- The need for Gardaí to approve the introduction of double yellow lines and enforce these subsequently.
- The need for lighting and prior warning signage to indicate the bridge height at Cock Lane.



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- The possibility of surveying rail users at Balbriggan to ascertain how many are travelling to that station to avoid higher rail fares in Meath – it was agreed that this could be done and the results submitted to the NTA, who decide on rail fare zones. It was confirmed that a weekly ticket from Gormanston was €54.40 and from Balbriggan was €47.00. A daily return ticket from Gormanston is €18.95 and from Balbriggan is €11.20.
- The need to ensure adequate signage to highlight the park and ride facility.
- Complimented the services provided, e.g. the Drogheda/Newry service.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Joe and Eddie for attending and for the information provided.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Environment

5.1.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Flood Relief Scheme.

David Keyes, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment provided an update to the meeting via video link, outlining the works progress. In response to queries raised, it was confirmed that the water pressure in Racehill had been raised with Irish Water and that no additional complaints had been received since works were carried out on Racehill Lane. The plan to implement a one-way system as part of the traffic management plan and to tailor works with a view to minimising disruption, particularly at peak times.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the progress being made.
- The water pressure issues for one house closest to the restriction in Racehill.
- The need to prevent illegal dumping at Archerstown – it was confirmed that complaints had been received and that this would be looked at.



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- The timescale for works on the culvert – it was pointed out that it was hoped to be finished by the summer school holidays.

5.1.2 Investigative assessment of Broadmeadow River, Ashbourne.

Councillor Alan Tobin outlined a presentation on the investigative assessment of the Broadmeadow River prepared on behalf of Ashbourne Tidy Towns Committee. This included the project background, scope of work, assessments and surveys, associated issues, and required actions.

Matters raised by councillors included commending all those involved in undertaking this work and suggesting that this could act as a template for other areas, the need to highlight the issues raised, the impact of building self regulation and certification and the role of Irish Water.

5.2 Transportation

5.2.1 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:

- Welcomed the installation of the gate at Deerpark, the works in Skryne and on Castle Street and the tree cutting in Kentstown.
- The request by residents for further traffic calming measures on the Millbourne Road – a road safety audit is to be carried out in the coming weeks, the recommendations of which will be included in a snag list to be agreed between the council and developer.
- The need to review measures at the Grange, Stamullen to address continued speeding despite the flashing speed signs – a speed survey can be undertaken to ascertain the most appropriate measures, e.g. signage, lighting, etc. but certain criteria must be met before ramps are provided.

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- The possibility of providing a ramp at the Seagrave apartments and at the entrance to the playground before it opens – two additional ramps are planned from the Seagrave apartments and it was agreed to review the area at the entrance to the playground.

5.2.2 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions

An update on the works in Curraha were requested – It was confirmed that a detailed design has been prepared by the central team with funding ringfenced and the works to go to tender. It is anticipated that the works at the junction will be undertaken in mid/late summer. Following a meeting with Eirgrid, the damaged drainage is to be repaired. A query was raised as to whether a community contribution had been received from Eirgrid and it was agreed to check this.

5.3 Community

5.3.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

An update had been circulated in advance and a further progress update was provided by Emmanuel Mwadiwa, Executive Engineer, Community Department, confirming that the project was approximately 20% complete.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The provision of sensor lighting – it was confirmed that a response was awaited from the consultants.
- The provision of ducting to facilitate the future installation of CCTV – this was confirmed.
- The possibility of starting advance works on the area on the opposite side of the river – it was pointed out that works on this area would commence in approximately two months and once the current programme of works was completed.

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- Requested further information on other works including the bridge reinstatement – it was confirmed that further information would be available following a meeting with the contractor to take place at the end of March.
- Requested updates on the other zones – it was confirmed that the OPW’s position remained the same with regard to the need to facilitate access by maintenance equipment, restricting the types of pathway material that can be used. Further information would be available following the meeting to be held at the end of March.

5.4 Planning

- 5.4.1 To receive an update on provision of the Community Park.

An update had been circulated in advance and matters raised by councillors included the need to progress the provision of the park in parallel with the review of the County Development Plan – it was pointed out that the inclusion of the park in the County Development Plan was key to it being progressed.

5.5 Corporate Services

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

It was unanimously agreed, on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O’Rourke**, to make the following allocations:

Festivals/Groups	Amount
Ashbourne St. Patrick’s Day Festival	€2,000 – Agreed at February meeting
Ashbourne Suicide Awareness & Prevention	€1,000
Ashbourne Community Centre	€1,000
Gormanston Motocross Club – All Ireland Motocross Festival	€1,000
‘Hooley in the Hollow’ Festival, Kentstown/Walterstown	€1,000



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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

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin (Deferred from February meeting)

“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:

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 proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

The motion was noted.

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7.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Following an extensive study on the river Broadmeadow commissioned by Ashbourne Tidy Towns and the finding that high levels of ammonia and phosphorous are entering the river at various points, can I ask Meath County Council Environment Section to investigate misconnections in the urban part of the river environs from Churchfields and Donaghmore/Ashbourne GAA to Ashbourne Golf club.”

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

The Urban area in Ashbourne is one of the priority areas of action in the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and involving an assessment and programme of measures by the Local Authority Water Sustainability Advisory Team (LAWSAT) however the Ashbourne Urban Area is not among the catchments scheduled for LAWSAT activity in 2019.

The Council are aware of grant approval being given to Tidy Towns committee from the Local Authorities Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO) to have a study undertaken on an Urban Point Source Investigative Assessment on the Broadmeadow River within Ashbourne and while it is understood same has now been completed the resulting report has not been submitted to the Council as of 01/03/2019.

The EPA Catchments Unit recently published a Local Catchment Assessment guidance document which includes guidance on investigative assessments in urban catchments however it is pointed out that the completion of misconnection surveys is extremely challenging and labour intensive involving door to door and drain checks /dye tests.

Upon receipt of the report on the Broadmeadow investigation, Meath County Council Environment Section will consider the findings and further actions which would be indicated for the purpose of achieving environmental objectives and improvements in water quality.

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

The motion was adopted.



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8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Commended the Gardaí for dealing quickly and effectively with an incident in the town on Friday night.

9.1.2 Requested that community groups participating in the Anti-Litter League be facilitated in collecting packs in Ashbourne.

9.2 Councillor Darren O'Rourke raised the following issues:

9.2.1 The need to repair signage in Kentstown.

9.3 Councillor Joe Bonner raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Acknowledged the effectiveness of the new signage on the Milltown Road in slowing traffic.

9.4 Councillor Conor Tormey raised the following issue:

9.4.1 The need to rectify the direction of the signage at Ninemilestone.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



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Cathaoirleach