



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

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

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

***10:00 a.m., 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 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

The Leas-Chathaoirleach and councillors welcomed Councillor Conor Tormey to the meeting and wished him well in his role as councillor, having served in the position previously. Councillor Tormey acknowledged the good wishes and confirmed that he was looking forward to working with councillors in the future.

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O’Driscoll**.

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

It was confirmed that the contract signing for works in Zone 4 of the Linear Park would take place at 11.30am, with works due to commence in January. The Leas-Chathaoirleach and councillors welcomed the progress made and thanked the executive for their efforts in bringing it to this stage. The ancillary works taking place in other parts of the Linear Park were also acknowledged.



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

Sympathy was extended to:

- The families and colleagues of the late Larry Campbell, Navan Municipal District and Stephanie Martin, Library Service.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Garden City on winning the national Pride of Place award;
- All involved in the lighting up of the Ashbourne Community Christmas Tree.

Councillor Alan Tobin referred to the proposed civic event to acknowledge the achievements of Garden City and Ashbourne Tidy Towns – it was agreed that this would take place as per the proposed arrangements.

### **4 To receive a presentation from the Ashbourne Public Greenspace Working Group.**

Claire Milner, Chair, and Jack Holmes, Vice-Chair, of the Ashbourne Public Greenspace Working Group delivered a presentation to the meeting on the background to the group being formed, its proposed role, objectives, plans and interaction with the council in terms of its objectives. They expressed their preferred outcomes around information exchange, the delivery of the linear and community parks and overall green space provision.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Confirmed that the executive were doing everything possible to acquire land for the community park.
- Welcomed the approach in establishing the group using the PPN.
- The need to ensure that infrastructure, including green space, is provided in tandem with developments as they occur and referred to the upcoming county development review.



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- The need to consult with local clubs to see what future space they require and to explore their contribution in providing these facilities.
- The possibility of using this opportunity as a model for participatory planning at community level.
- The possible role of the group in highlighting the need for funding for facilities at central government level.

The level of public consultation, in excess of the statutory requirement, with regard to the Linear Park was highlighted, as were the challenges in identifying a suitable site for the community park. It was also pointed out that, in many other towns, land had been provided for parks at no cost to the local authority. It was confirmed that the site search would continue but that resources would be focused on completing the works in Zone 4 of the Linear Park in the coming months. It was agreed that the Community Department would be requested to draft Terms of Reference for community engagement, through the working group, and this would be brought to the municipal district initially. Updates on the Linear Park would be sent to the group by email.

### **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:

- Complimented the work of the outdoor staff throughout the year, including during the adverse weather, and acknowledged the significant progress and improvements made throughout the municipal district.
- Referred to noise disruption as a result of works recently undertaken at night – it was pointed out that, in issuing a road opening licence for a private site, consideration must be given to minimising traffic disruption, resulting in a night works licence having been issued. Due to



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unforeseen circumstances, the works required did cause significant noise but works were nearing completion with the remaining works to be carried out during the day with traffic management in place.

- Plans in place to deal with severe weather – it was confirmed that a number of meetings had been held to discuss the appropriate plans/approach to be taken. In addition, two additional salting units had been acquired for the municipal district.

### 5.1.2 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions

Whilst there was no further update available at present, it was agreed to keep this item on the agenda.

## **5.2 Community**

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

The contract signing for works in Zone 4 took place, with commencement of works confirmed for 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Potential delays due to archaeology – it was pointed out that, whilst some archaeological monitoring may be required, the project design took account of the archaeology.
- The possibility of reusing the playground equipment – it was pointed out that many of the pieces had been in place for some time and would need to be assessed and certified before being reused.
- Progress regarding the acquisition of land to the rear of Lidl – it was confirmed that negotiations with the contractor were to take place first.
- The possibility of reinstating the walkway along the river in Zone 5 if the OPW required access for maintenance – it was agreed to review the documentation relating to this.

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- The potential impact of works on flooding.

The Leas-Chathaoirleach thanked Emmanuel Mwadiwa for his work on the project.

### **5.3 Planning**

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

An update on the variation of the County Development Plan was sought for the January meeting.

- 5.3.2 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within the developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2018

- Churchfields, Kentstown.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

- Silverstream, Stamullen.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

Councillors referred to the expectations of residents when estates are taken in charge, particularly older estates. It was agreed to request a list of works due to commence within the municipal district. Reference was made to the various community grants available for local groups to maintain green areas, etc. and the funding allocation for footpaths in estates that require remediation works.

### **5.4 Corporate Services**

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



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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 Environment SPC meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2018.

The report was noted.

8.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> November together with Low Cost Private Site Scheme.

The report was noted.

### **9 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **10 Any Other Business**

10.1 Councillor Joe Bonner raised the following issue:

10.1.1 Acknowledged the work of volunteers in maintaining the graveyard at Kilbrev and requested that the overgrown vegetation, preventing access to an area within the graveyard, be cut back and queried who is responsible for maintaining the two pillars at the entrance.

10.2 Councillor Darren O'Rourke raised the following issue:



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10.2.1 Requested an update on the proposal to secure a playground site in Stamullen.

10.3 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:

10.3.1 The need to address the safety issues at the entrance to Johnstown.

10.3.2 Requested an update on the funding allocation from the Department of Education & Skills to provide traffic calming measures on Castle Street.

The Leas-Chathaoirleach wished everyone a very happy Christmas and thanked everyone for their assistance throughout the year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**