



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 18th January 2016, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Darren O'Rourke, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin.

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Jim Colwell

Executive Engineer: Janet Murphy

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 14th December 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th December 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Seán Smith requested that the minutes of the December meeting, as it relates to the discussion with Bus Éireann, be circulated to Ratoath Municipal District Councillors for their information.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- Conor Tormey, former Meath County Councillor, on the death of his brother, Christopher.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Corporate Services

- 4.1.1 To receive the design proposals on the 1916 commemorative garden.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services attended the meeting and confirmed the location of and design for the 1916 commemorative garden in Millennium Park. It was confirmed that works should commence by the end of February/beginning of March.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The possibility of having the paving cleaned and the area weeded/tidied up – it was confirmed that this would be looked at.
- The benefit of meeting with the residents' association – it was agreed that Councillor Seán Smith would facilitate this meeting.

4.2 Environment

- 4.2.1 To receive a presentation on the flood scheme for Ashbourne and, if thought fit, to resolve to commence the Part VIII Planning Process for the proposed works.

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment Section delivered a presentation to the meeting, which outlined the overall scheme, optioneering summary, Part VIII process and next steps.

A lengthy discussion took place on various issues relating to the flood scheme including the importance of keeping channels clear of debris, the funding and extent of the scheme, the implications for planning and development, the additional measures being undertaken in other locations and the need for public education to ensure issues such as illegal dumping and backfilling ditches to not contribute to the problem. Responses were provided by Fiona Fallon.



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It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner** to commence the Part VIII Planning Process for the proposed works.

4.3 Transportation

4.3.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne Municipal District.

The report was circulated in advance and Councillors commended the works undertaken and all staff involved.

4.4 Planning

4.4.1 Matters Arising

- The need to ensure that planning decisions have regard to the objectives of development plans, such as provision of green space, infrastructure, etc.
- The need to ensure that advertisements relating to significant planning issues, such as development plans and other important issues highlighted on meath.ie, are publicised in media that is widely available in south east Meath, including online media, social media, etc. It was also suggested that a notice board be placed in Ashbourne Civic Offices to highlight such issues. It was agreed to refer this to the Communications Officer and the Planning Department.
- The responsibility for enforcement of illegal commercial activity – Councillors were advised to report such concerns through customer service.
- It was agreed that a separate meeting be held, in committee, in February with representatives from the Planning Department to discuss issues such as the local development plan review, green space provision and the need to ensure that necessary infrastructure for certain developments be provided by developers, rather than the local authority.

5 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park Project.

Fiona Lawless provided an update on the progress with the Department of Education and Skills in terms of their land and the procurement of a landscape designer. The selected



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landscape designer is being assessed under Health & Safety and this should be concluded in the coming weeks. It was agreed that the landscape designer should attend the February meeting to discuss the plans for the park.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need for progress to be made as quickly as possible – the requirements and time involved under the various headings, including procurement and health & safety, were outlined.
- The expenditure to date – it was confirmed that no expenditure had been accrued to date.
- The role of the project manager – it was confirmed that discussions were ongoing with the community and developers.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“What is Meath County Council's plan for the delivery of the Community Park for Ashbourne should the Department of Education lands not be released to the Local Authority?”

Response:

The only plans for a park in Ashbourne are the current plans as discussed with the members.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Why did the alarm system not work when there was a malfunction at Millennium pumping station recently (30th September 2015)?”



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Response:

Any fault in the alarm system would now have been repaired.

In relation to any future Water Service issues raised, Councillors are reminded that they should log the matter directly with the Irish Water Local Representatives Support Desk.

These would include:

- *Blocked Sewers and other sewerage issues.*
- *No Water.*
- *Low Water Pressure.*
- *Water Leak.*
- *Burst Watermain*
- *Water Quality*

The attached document provides contact details (phone & email).

As Irish Water is now the statutory authority in relation to the delivery of water services this is a procedure that they now require.

All calls logged via the Local Representatives Support Desk are then directed by IW to the Council for investigation and the results of same will be reported back to the Councillor by the IW support desk.

One of the main purposes of this to ensure that IW have visibility of all calls received by the local representatives.

Only queries regarding water service activities such as Well Grants, Group Schemes & Water/ Waste Water applications should be referred to the Water Services Department for a direct response.



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The response was noted. In response to issues raised by Councillor Tobin, it was agreed to submit a reminder to Water Services in relation to the issue with the overflow.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“That the monies budgeted for the Members Discretionary Fund be pooled within the Ashbourne Municipal District and that the decision on the distribution of the funds be taken monthly by the Members at the Municipal District meeting.”

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

A report on the 2015 Municipal District Members Discretionary Fund was presented to the December 2015 meeting of Meath County Council and a draft Protocol for the 2016 scheme presented to the January 2016 meeting of Meath County Council. The proposed Protocol refers to the possibility of funds being pooled at Municipal District level and also includes the provision that proposed allocations are presented for final approval at scheduled Municipal District meetings.

The motion was withdrawn.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To ask Meath County Council to consider the introduction of a 'no right turn' when exiting Castle St (North) onto the R135 to aid traffic flow at peak times until the junction has signalled traffic light system.”

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

Meath County Council proposes to prioritise the installation of the traffic signalisation system in 2016 at the junction of Castle Street North and the R135.

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



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The motion was adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To ask Meath County Council to consider creating a one-way system on part of the Milltown/Donaghmore Road from the school drop-off point before Milltown Bridge to the Rathbeale Road (R125) - this would have to include public consultation with local residents, the golf club and farmers in the area.”

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

Meath County Council understands that the purpose of this motion is to stimulate debate at the January Municipal District meeting and a formal response is not required at this time.

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

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that safety was a priority at this location and that Nicholas Whyatt should be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the possible solutions at this location.

The motion was noted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Fiona Lawless referred to correspondence just received in relation to the works at the roundabout at Tayto Park – it was agreed to circulate this by email to Councillors.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Claire O’Driscoll raised the following issues:

- 9.1.1 Update on the junction at Curraha – it was confirmed that this would be progressed in February.



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- 9.1.2 Update on bin collection in Stamullen – it was confirmed that this would be included as part of the general bin collection and a meeting would be arranged with the Tidy Towns group to agree a collection schedule.
- 9.1.3 Flooding in Stamullen, including the crossroads – it was confirmed that this was being investigated and that some of the issues were caused by ditches and drains being filled in by landowners.
- 9.1.4 Update on the speed limit review – it was confirmed that this was being reviewed by Transportation Planning & Design.
- 9.2 Councillor Suzanne Jamal raised the following issues:
 - 9.2.1 Update on the Primatestown junction – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation Planning & Design.
 - 9.2.2 Commended works undertaken on the N2 and asked that works continue on the R150, particularly with regard to overhanging trees – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation Planning & Design.
- 9.3 Councillor Joe Bonner raised the following issue:
 - 9.3.1 Update on the next phase of the works in Ashbourne – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation Planning & Design.
- 9.4 Councillor Darren O'Rourke raised the following issues:
 - 9.4.1 Safety concerns at the junction at the community school and the need for railings and a pedestrian crossing.
 - 9.4.2 Update on the bridge at Donaghmore – it was confirmed that works would proceed at this location.
- 9.5 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:
 - 9.5.1 The possibility of erecting a sign for Ashbourne Civic Office/Ashbourne Municipal District above the sign for Ashbourne Library.



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- 9.5.2 The need to ensure that necessary infrastructure is provided by project developers, including footpaths.
- 9.5.3 The red traffic light at the roundabout in Curraha, coming from Slane, is out of order.
- 9.5.4 Update on dealing with the flooding issues at the Primatestown junction.
- 9.6 Councillor Seán Smith raised the following issue:
 - 9.6.1 The possibility of progressing the list of town enhancement projects previously submitted for Kentstown, Stamullen and Ashbourne and the provision of hanging baskets in Ashbourne – it was pointed out that this type of activity will be considered as part of the 2016 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach