



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 16th January 2017, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Alan Tobin**, presided.

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

Apologies: Councillor Claire O'Driscoll.

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Janet Murphy

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 12th December, 2016.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th December 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- All involved in helping Ashbourne improve its ranking in the IBAL 2016 Litter League and the nomination of the Main Street Refurbishment Scheme in the LAMA Awards.



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Particular acknowledgement was given to the outdoor and Gateway staff and all community groups and volunteers involved.

4 To receive a presentation in respect of the operations of the Local Authorities Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO) and an update on the preparation of the 2nd Cycle Draft River Basin Management Plan.

Aoife McGrath, Community Water Officer, Local Authorities Waters & Communities Office (LAWCO) delivered a presentation on the Water Framework Directive, water quality and significant water pressures, an introduction to the LAWCO, progress to date and future plans. Reference was also made to the issues affecting the Broadmeadow River.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The River Biodiversity Plan prepared by the Tidy Towns Committee and it was agreed that this would be circulated to Councillors if the Tidy Towns Committee agreed.
- Welcomed the establishment of a committee/trust to look after the river.
- The amount of material removed from the river during the annual clean-up.
- The potential of the river in the community.
- The need to liaise with all stakeholders to protect the river amenity.
- The potential to deliver a walkway along the river to Ratoath.
- The possibility of erecting signage to highlight biodiversity.
- The need to consider other rivers within the municipal district – it was confirmed that the Broadmeadow was the initial focus but that contact information on other local community groups would be welcome.
- The role of angling groups in protecting river amenities.



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- The responsibility of state agencies, including the local authority, OPW, Irish Water and rivers authorities in maintaining and protecting the river – it was confirmed that LAWCO did have coordinators in place to liaise with the relevant agencies.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Aoife for her presentation, welcomed this initiative and committed to working with the LAWCO in its future plans.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services

- 5.1.1 To consider a schedule of twinning activities for Ashbourne Municipal District for 2017.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services attended the meeting and reminded Councillors of the protocol adopted in 2016. It was pointed out that a submission for funding had been received from the committee involved with the community twinning initiative with Corcubion, Spain, support for which had been agreed at a previous municipal district meeting. Following a short discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** to support the funding request made and it was confirmed that this would be brought forward when the funding decisions for county twinning proposals were being considered.

5.2 Planning

- 5.2.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Public Realm Plan and Local Area Plan.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner and John Kelly, Brady Shipman Martin, attended the meeting and outlined the possible issues that the public realm plan could address, confirming that it was intended to complete the plan by March, including public consultation. Councillors were requested to identify the issues they wished to see the plan address and these included:

- Connectivity, including safe pedestrian and cycling networks and between streets;



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- Sustainable transport;
- Street and directional signage;
- Public space requirements, including green space, play facilities;
- Other facilities, including park and ride, civic amenity centre, etc.
- Relief roads to relieve traffic congestion;
- Branding of Ashbourne;
- Culture and heritage;
- Streetscapes and shopfronts;
- Planning consistency and enforcement;
- Highlighting the river;
- Retaining a community feel and integrating new communities;
- Parking availability and enforcement, including wheelchair accessible parking facilities.

It was confirmed that an initial consultation with key stakeholders, including the commercial and community sectors, would take place on a date to be confirmed and to be followed by wider public consultation.

Councillors were also reminded that a pre-draft public consultation session in relation to the review of the County Development Plan would take place in Ashbourne Civic Offices on 31st January from 5-7pm.

5.2.2 Matters Arising

There were no other matters arising.



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5.3 Transportation

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

The report had been circulated in advance and updates were given as appropriate. It was confirmed that a draft list of roads to receive surface dressing as part of the roadworks programme would be compiled based on the condition ratings index and circulated to Councillors for feedback.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** to transfer the remainder of monies outstanding from the R153 section in Kentstown to the R155 at Curraha, from the Primatestown junction to the Tayto Park roundabout.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need to restore the section of road at Primatestown that has collapsed.
- The replacement of the flower garden on the Milltown Road following flood relief works – it was confirmed that the OPW would replace this in the Spring.
- Works at Donaghmore church – it was confirmed that the road markings would be done in the next couple of weeks.
- Update on the footpath from the school in Gormanston.
- The need for speed signs from Gormanston to Stamullen – it was confirmed that road markings and signage would be provided but that certain criteria must first be met before flashing speed signs can be installed.
- The replacement of trees in Garden City – it was confirmed that the trees would not be replaced to their previous location but that alternative locations would be considered.



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It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** to extend the meeting by thirty minutes.

5.3.2 To discuss the Primatestown Junction.

A breakdown of the expenditure on the junction improvements was requested. It was pointed out that delays still occurred at peak times and it was agreed to submit any feedback to Transportation.

5.4 Community

5.4.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

An update had been circulated in advance and it was agreed to refer the queries raised to the Community Department. With regard to the provision of a large public park, it was agreed that this should feed into the County Development Plan review process and that the capital plan review would be presented to Councillors once the AFS was complete.

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Questions.

7 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

8 Strategic Policy Committee Reports

8.1 To receive the report from the Environment & Emergency Services SPC meeting of 16th December, 2016.

The report was noted.

8.2 To receive the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural SPC meeting of 21st December 2016.



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The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

- 9.1 Correspondence received from Minister Regina Doherty TD re leasing of lands for a public park in Ashbourne.

The correspondence was noted.

- 9.2 Correspondence received from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in response to the Notice of Item 6.5 – Notice of Notion as adopted at December meeting re solar farms.

The correspondence was noted.

- 9.3 Correspondence received from NTA in response to the Notice of Item 6.4 – Notice of Motion as adopted at December meeting re Gormanston rail Station.

The correspondence was noted.

10 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach