



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 8th February 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 18th January 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18th January 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillors were reminded of the informal meeting taking place with representatives from the Planning Department next Monday at 10.00am in Ashbourne Civic Offices.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.



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4 To meet with Adrian O'Loughlin , Bus Éireann to discuss the timetables for the 103 and 105 routes.

Adrian O'Loughlin, Services Manager, Bus Éireann provided an update on the 103 and 105 routes, provisional timetables for which will be available and circulated when available with a proposed implementation date of mid-March, subject to the resolution of issues relating to the provision of bus stops and negotiations with unions. He outlined the key elements of the new routes/route changes and confirmed that a full communication process would be undertaken in the areas affected.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The change of terminus from Beresford Place to Townsend Street/Poolbeg Street/Essex Quay/Wood Quay and the proximity of the Phibsboro Shopping Centre stop to the Mater Hospital.
- The capacity of the 103 route from Ratoath to serve those passengers in Ashbourne travelling to Dublin – it was confirmed that the proposed service was designed based on the information gathered on the demand for the service and that the service would be monitored on its introduction and sanction sought from the NTA to increase the service if that is proved to be required. It was also confirmed that the NTA would be made aware of the concerns raised by Councillors in this regard. It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith** that a letter should be submitted to the NTA on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors outlining their concerns.
- The need for bus stops on the routes - it was confirmed that discussions were ongoing with Meath County Council in relation to this.
- The possibility of reducing fares and the reliability of the digital signage – it was confirmed that the NTA were unlikely to adjust fares and that work was underway in relation to the signage.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Adrian for attending once again. Adrian confirmed that he would return within 2 months of the introduction of the route changes to obtain feedback on their effectiveness.



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5 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

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

6 Statutory Business

6.1 Corporate Services

6.1.1 Declaration of result in the plebiscite for the proposed renaming of Broadmeadow Street to Thomas Ashe Street.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services attended the meeting and declared the results of the plebiscite for the proposed renaming of Broadmeadow Street to Thomas Ashe Street, which had been circulated in advance. As the roundabout at Rath Cross required NRA approval, it was proposed that the unnamed roundabout, at the GAA grounds and under the remit of Meath County Council, be named the 'Thomas Ashe Roundabout' and the process was outlined, with the intention that this be brought to the Protocol Committee and full Council meeting on 7th March. A show of hands indicated that four were in favour and two against. This was therefore agreed. *(See Item 10.1.1).*

A short discussion followed on the need to review all street names and signage in Ashbourne and it was agreed that this would be included as part of the Urban Design Statement being prepared by the Planning Department. It was agreed to provide an update on this at the next meeting.

6.2 Community

6.2.1 To consider the Draft Local Economic Community Plan (LECP).

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department delivered a presentation to the meeting, including the background to and overview of the plan, an outline of the sections and objectives, and the next steps. The plan was endorsed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.



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

Joe Fahy, Project Manager, and Gwen Tierney, Landscape Architect, attended the meeting and provided a verbal update on the project, including the stages and status of the project, the actions and consultation undertaken to date, and an update on the lands owned by the Department of Education & Skills.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Welcomed the progress to date.
- The challenge with regard to the land needed to fully progress the project – it was confirmed that works will focus on the zones where progress can be made.
- The need to ensure that developers deliver on their obligations – it was confirmed that discussions had taken place with relevant developers.
- Suggested that a dedicated webpage and email address be set up to encourage public submissions to be made – it was agreed to consider this.
- The need to clarify the specific issues that impact on each of the zones and develop solutions to each and set objectives and performance targets around the project delivery.

It was agreed that a site visit with Gwen Tierney would be arranged for Councillors.

6.4 To consider and adopt the 2016 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

David Jones, Housing Department outlined the categories for housing maintenance and repair and explained the background to the allocations, including those managed centrally. It was pointed out that the 2016 budget for Housing had increased significantly on 2015.

Matters raised by Councillors included:



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- The installation of stoves instead of open fireplaces – it was pointed out that oil or gas central heating with high efficiency boilers was preferred and that open fireplaces/stoves would not be provided in new builds.
- The process of reporting housing issues to the Council – it was pointed out that issues should be reported through customer service, allowing these to be tracked.
- The number of social houses in Ashbourne, Ratoath and Laytown-Bettystown in comparison to Navan, Trim and Kells and the need to redress the balance through acquisitions.
- The implementation of the Part V requirements – the new legislative requirements were outlined.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department provided an overview of the breakdown of funding relating to transportation, the sources of funding and how these can be spent, the rationale for the allocations to the Municipal District and the central budgets that are allocated over the six municipal districts. The three year road programme for the restoration improvement grant was also outlined.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need to ensure the provision of infrastructure, such as footpaths, as part of larger developments.
- A number of individual projects requiring attention – responses were provided to individual queries.

The 2016 Ashbourne Schedule of Municipal District Works was unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and the three year road programme was also agreed.

6.5 Transportation

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



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The report, circulated in advance, was noted.

6.6 Planning

6.6.1 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

7 Notice of Question

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

"To ask for an update on traffic calming and public lighting works on the Navan Road in Kentstown."

Response:

There are already speed ramps and a pedestrian crossing on the Navan Road into Kentstown and it is proposed to erect public lighting on this road this year.

The response was noted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"With regard to the Department of Education & Skills school build in Killegland:

1) Has an agreement been reached for access through Johnswood Road giving access through the campus?

2) When are road safety/traffic calming works scheduled to take place?"

Response:

The road from its junction with the R135 is only partially in charge of Meath County Council. Traffic calming works are proposed to be in place to coincide with the opening of the school.



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The stretch of road immediately adjacent to the school campus is in private ownership. The agreement of the owners will have to be secured to complete the road and the proposed traffic management. Meath County Council intends to meet with the owners to seek agreement.

The response was noted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“What procedure is in place for verifying if accurate information has been submitted in a Planning Application during the pre-planning stage of the process particularly with regards to Green Space?”

Response:

*Members are advised that the **pre planning and planning application processes** are two separate functions discharged by a planning authority. At pre planning stage a prospective applicant may engage with the Planning Authority to seek its views on various aspects of the development proposal. The applicant will be advised, in general terms, of the provisions and requirement of the County Development Plan, together with any Local Area Plan or master plan / framework plan that may be in place for the development site. The applicant may materially change the nature of their proposal after receiving the advices of the planner during those consultations. It then follows that the Council does not make a binding decision on a development at pre planning stage.*

It is respectfully submitted that the Member has misinterpreted the role and function of pre planning consultations and the subsequent consideration of a planning application. Meath County Council always references pre planning advices in the planning report during the subsequent consideration of a planning application. The documentation required for a planning application is set out in the Planning and Development Regulations. There is no requirement on an applicant to provide such detail at pre planning stage, nor would the Council be in position to offer detailed advices in the course of a short pre planning meeting.

Pre planning discussions, by their very nature, are a structured interaction between the applicant and the Planning Authority. No third parties are involved and the Council would not proof, validate or certify any aspect of a planning proposal at that stage. The detailed consideration of each and every aspect of a planning application can only be



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facilitated in the consideration of a formal planning application submitted to the Planning Authority after separate pre planning discussion may have taken place. Council planners will measure the open space provision in an application to ensure it meets the minimum requirement set out in the County Development Plan.

The response was noted.

8 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“In light of the scarcity of rented accommodation in the Ashbourne area and the need to maximise the potential of the new HAP scheme and to aid the transition from Rent Allowance, that Meath County Council would contact all estate agents in the area to promote the scheme; and also, through the PRTB or by other means, explore the possibility of informing individual landlords of the merits of the scheme.”

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

It was agreed at the Housing, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting on 27th January 2016 that the Housing Department would undertake an information dissemination campaign on the Housing Assistance Payment scheme, targeted specifically at landlords, which a view to encouraging participation in the scheme.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**.

The motion was adopted.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“Recognising the existing deficiency of community and essential infrastructure in the area that, in it's further drafts of Variation No. 3 of the County Development Plan, Meath County Council would have due consideration of the legitimate concerns of many residents of Stamullen regarding the expansion of their town.”



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

Meath County Council published notice of Variation 3 to the County Development Plan in December 2015 and sought submissions from members of the public on the contents of the proposed variation. The Chief Executive is required to prepare a report on the submissions setting out a summary of each submission, the Council's position on same and any recommendations that the Chief Executive may wish to propose on foot of the submission. The Chief Executive's Report shall be presented to the Members of Meath County Council within 8 weeks of publishing notice of the draft variation (23rd February 2016).

Section 13(3)c of the Planning and Development Act places an obligation on the Planning Authority to publish notice of a draft variation and to include a statement in the notice that submissions "will be taken into consideration before making the variation".

Accordingly, the members of Meath County Council are restricted to consider the draft variation, the Chief Executive's Report on each submission, together with the "proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development plan relates, the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or any Minister of the Government".

The adoption of a variation is a reserved function of the members of the Planning Authority. While the motion seeks for the Council to "have due consideration of the legitimate concerns of many residents of Stamullen regarding the expansion of their town", the Chief Executive cannot consider this motion in the context of the variation as it has not been submitted to the Planning Authority as part of the statutory process. However the Chief Executive's report will set out a response to any issues raised in formal submissions by Stamullen residents and therefore their views will be considered in that context.

Following consideration of the Chief Executive's Report, the members of the Council may by resolution make the variation with or without further modification or they may refuse to make the variation.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.



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The motion was noted.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"That Meath County Council includes Alderbrook main trunk road in this year's work programme, as the traffic tables need to be replaced and cycle lanes extended from R135 through to Garden City linking St. Declan's National School."

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

Meath County Council regularly receives proposals for new works which are logged on a data base. The cost of the proposed works on the data base far exceeds the funding and resources available. Meath County Council proposes to draft a 3 year works programme in consultation with the members for each MD, commencing in 2016, for works such as these. This programme will be based on the prioritisation of schemes following an engineering screening/evaluation assessment.

The number of schemes on the programme will be determined by the funding available. The items raised in your correspondence will be added to the data base and considered for the schedule having regard to available budgets.

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

The motion was noted.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"That Meath County Council displays information boards with pictorial samples at all public green spaces, parks and playgrounds with information on dangerous dog breeds and clearly display the Control of Dogs Regulations 1998."

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



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In July 2014, Meath County Council adopted Bye Laws for regulating the use and enjoyment of parks, playgrounds, playing pitches, and multi use games areas owned by controlled or in the charge of the Council. The following are specific conditions in the Bye Laws relating to dogs:

- Dogs brought into the park must be on a leash and every person bringing a dog into the park shall be responsible for its conduct and shall be liable for any damage or injury which may be caused by it. Any person bringing a dog into the park must remove it from the park if so directed by an authorised person.*
- Every person in charge of a dog in the park shall prevent it from causing annoyance to any person using the park or worrying, chasing, injuring or disturbing any animals, birds or other creatures in the park.*
- If a dog defecates in the park, the person in charge of the dog shall remove the faeces. Guide dogs for the blind are exempt from this Bye- Law.*
- A person shall not cause or allow any dangerous dog, as defined in the Control of Dogs (Restriction of certain dogs) Regulations, 1991 and 1998 or any subsequent amending Regulations or Act, in their charge to enter or remain in the park unless such dog is kept on a strong lead (only up to 2 metres long) by a person over 16 years of age who is capable of controlling them. The dog/s must be securely muzzled and no person shall, in any portion of the park where a notice prohibiting the admission of dogs, (other than guide dogs or dogs used by members of An Garda Síochána in the course of their duties) is exhibited, cause or allow any dog in their charge to enter or remain there.*

Signs have been ordered and are already in place at some locations to advise dog owners and users of these facilities of the provisions of the Bye Laws and the Council will monitor their effectiveness and the need for the display of additional information on a site by site basis.

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

The motion was adopted.



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8.5 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“That Meath County Council advertises two tenders for Ashbourne Municipal District during February and March:

1. A landscape maintenance tender for works in Ashbourne Municipal District;
2. Hanging baskets tender for Ashbourne Municipal District.”

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

As part of the Schedule of Municipal District Works, a landscape maintenance work programme, which will include the hanging baskets, will be assessed within the next couple of months.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O’Driscoll**.

The motion was adopted.

9 Correspondence

- 9.1 Correspondence received from Office of Minister for Department of Transport Tourism and Sport in response to notice of item 7.2 – Notice of Motion as adopted at December monthly meeting re public transport fares.

The correspondence was noted.

- 9.2 Correspondence received from The National Transport Authority in response to notice of item 7.2 – Notice of Motion as adopted at December monthly meeting re public transport fares.

The correspondence was noted.



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10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Seán Smith raised the following issue:

10.1.1 Asked that the decision taken earlier in the meeting regarding the naming of the roundabout at the GAA grounds (under Item 6.1.1) be deferred until the meeting scheduled for next Monday, 15th February, to enable further consideration and consultation with the community – this was agreed.

10.2 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:

10.2.1 The need to prune the trees in Clonalvey graveyard – the related issues were outlined.

10.2.2 The need for kerbing repairs and a dropped kerb in Bourne Avenue – it was agreed to check this.

10.2.3 The need for two 'No Dumping' signs at locations already identified to the Environment Section – it was agreed to refer this to the Environment Section.

10.2.4 The flooding issues in Archerstown.

10.2.5 The drain on Castle Way – it was agreed to check this.

10.3 Councillor Suzanne Jamal raised the following issues:

10.3.1 The blockage caused by the footpath at Ross Cross on the old N3, where the bus stop is located and where the footpath was extended – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation Planning & Design.

10.3.2 The need to trim the overhanging hedges at Flemington Wood – it was agreed to refer this to Coillte.

10.3.3 The need to check the drainage at Swan's Pub, Skryne – it was agreed to check this.



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This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach