



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

9:30 a.m., 13th February 2017, Ashbourne Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Claire O’Driscoll, Darren O’Rourke, Seán Smith.

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 16th January, 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th January 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Seán Smith enquired as to whether responses had been received to correspondence issued regarding the Department of Education & Skills and OPW lands – it was confirmed that no responses had yet been received.

Councillor Darren O’Rourke requested that feedback from the recent consultation sessions and an outline of the next steps in respect of the County Development Plan review process and the Ashbourne Public Realm Plan be provided to Councillors – it was agreed to refer this to Planning.



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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Ashbourne RFC on winning the All Ireland Junior Final;
- St. Patrick's N.S., Ardcah on opening their new classrooms and hall and facilitating access to the hall by the community – it was agreed that a letter of congratulations would issue to the Board of Management and Parents Association;
- St. Vincent's GAA, Ardcah on the opening of the new walkway.

4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

- 4.1 This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.
- 4.2 This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**.

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:

- Update on the footpath works in Stamullen – it was confirmed that these would commence within the next fortnight.
- Update on the footpath to Gormanstown school – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation.

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- Update on works at Donaghmore church – it was confirmed that road markings would be provided in the next fortnight.
- The completion of footpath works, including tree planting, between Kilbreck and Grace Meadow – it was confirmed that works would be completed by the end of the week.
- The need to provide linkages between Stamullen village and the M1.
- The need to provide pull in areas on the approach to Ashbourne RFC grounds.
- The need for road markings on the cycle lanes in Crestwood/Garden City.
- Update on the provision of a pedestrian crossing in Skryne – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation.
- Welcomed the road markings on Castle Street that was slowing traffic down.

5.1.2 To discuss Primatestown Junction

Des Foley confirmed that follow up correspondence had issued to TII following the meeting held in November, which focused on Slane and the N2. A TII survey had been undertaken following the lights upgrade at Primatestown junction and consultants were to undertake a review of the junction with proposals on how to address the issues at this location. It was confirmed that the Council was in regular contact with TII and there was funds available for minor works.

A short discussion followed with Councillors referring to the need for an outer orbital route for Ashbourne, the urgent need to address the issue of traffic exiting onto a national road at Kilmoon Cross, the need to ensure that works associated with developments in the area are undertaken and the need for a separate junction on the R125 at Harlockstown.

5.2 Planning

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5.2.1 Matters Arising

Reference was made to the conditions attached to Phase I of the Churchfields development, which required the provision of green space prior to housing construction. It was pointed out that the show houses were now open and houses being built but that no green space had yet been provided. It was agreed to refer this to Planning.

A discussion followed on the need to ensure that all necessary infrastructure and amenities are delivered first as part of all developments permitted and the need to ensure that all planning conditions are enforced. It was agreed to invite representatives from the Planning Department to the March meeting to discuss how this can be implemented. It was also agreed to circulate an updated list of estates to be taken in charge and those not taken in charge.

5.2.2 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within the development shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2015

- Killegland Street/Declan Street

A report had been circulated in advance and a discussion followed, with Councillors raising a number of queries in relation to this taking in charge. Issues raised included the bridge, pyrite affected buildings, water and wastewater services, the car park, the condition of the roads and footpaths, ownership issues, the impact on the Linear Park and the responsibility for any issues that need to be corrected. It was conceded that, whilst the work had clearly been undertaken in relation to the report and recommendation, Councillors required more information in order to reach a decision.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** to defer this matter to the March meeting and that a representative from Planning should be in attendance to answer any queries raised. Councillors were also asked to submit any specific issues and queries in advance to facilitate the discussion.

5.3 Community



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5.3.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

Fiona Lawless confirmed that a response was awaited on correspondence that had issued to the Department of Education & Skills regarding the timeline for the disposal of the site and that correspondence had also issued to the OPW regarding the riparian strip. It was also confirmed that the Part VIII in relation to Phase I would be brought to the March meeting.

Councillors raised the issue of providing a gate at the rear of Deerpark and it was agreed to check the status of this road to see what can be done to prevent public vehicular access. Queries were also raised as to whether a riparian strip was required behind the Irish Water site and, if so, is this area owned by the OPW and the scope for the feasibility study relating to Zone 7 was requested.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** to extend the meeting by thirty minutes.

5.4 To consider and adopt the 2017 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 agreed to circulate an update on housing activity in Ashbourne Municipal District. It was pointed out that the proposed programme of works was based on the 2016 funding allocations, as the 2017 allocations had not yet been confirmed but should be similar to that in 2016, if not slightly increased. Councillors were reminded that ongoing updates would be included in the monthly Chief Executive's Report presented at the full Council meetings.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The timeframe for maintenance and upgrade works – the timeframe was outlined;
- Welcomed the Cluid social housing development in Ashbourne – it was underlined that the Council worked closely with these bodies to increase social housing provision;



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- The Mortgage to Rent Scheme – reference was made to the changes to the scheme;
- The need to make a substantial investment in the social housing stock in Ashbourne Municipal District – the legacy issues regarding social housing provision in the municipal district were acknowledged and Councillors were reassured that these would be addressed subject to available funding;
- The cost of pre-let repairs – it was pointed out that different factors influence the associated costs;
- The need to maintain local authority estates, similar to housing bodies – it was pointed out that housing bodies generally have fewer and newer housing units, which impacts on the level of maintenance required.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** to extend the meeting by thirty minutes.

John McGrath, 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 increase in funding to Ashbourne Municipal District was highlighted.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The CIS and the number of applications in the different municipal districts;
- The allocation of funding to clean and maintain Ashbourne Main Street;
- The allocation of funding for bridges – the rationale for the allocations was outlined;
- Welcomed works on the approach roads to the Hill of Tara;
- The need for works at specific locations, including Brownstown, Hayestown, Fowlers Cross, junction at the Johnswood Road, Baltrasna and Milltown Road;



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- The contribution made by Gateway staff – it was agreed to write letters to each of the Gateway staff on behalf of Councillors thanking them for their contribution;

The 2017 Ashbourne Schedule of Municipal District Works was unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

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

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“When are repair works scheduled for the two areas in the Ashbourne Municipal District where roads infrastructure need immediate attention due to serious road safety and pedestrian risk:

- 1) Alderbrook traffic tables;
- 2) Subsidence on the L1618-19 between the R108 and Stamullen village?”

Response:

The following is an update on the locations that require work as requested as part of this Notice of Question:

- 1) *Alderbrook traffic tables project is currently with the technical staff who are in the process of finishing the tender documents. It is intended to proceed to works stage in the next 2 months.*
- 2) *There is currently no funding available to carry out repair works to deal with the subsidence on the L1618-19 (between the R108 and Stamullen village). This section of road has traffic management installed (cones and signage highlighting the subsidence to road users). This traffic management is checked and maintained twice daily by the GSS. If funding becomes available in the near future works can be arranged to strengthen the road.*



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The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors

“That the elected members of Ashbourne Municipal District:

- recognise the provision of a new community public park for Ashbourne on a greenfield site as an immediate and absolute priority*
- reaffirm their commitment to make every effort to help deliver such a facility*
- urge Meath County Council to apply all of the necessary resources to identify and secure a suitable site for development.”*

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

A discussion followed with reference to the need for a public park in addition to the Linear Park, the possible funding for same and the community efforts to identify suitable lands. It was agreed that expressions of interest would be sought in relation to appropriate lands and a special Municipal District meeting would then be called to discuss the submissions and to which the three local Deputies would be invited along with representatives from the Planning Department.

The motion was adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To ask the Executive to carry out a feasibility study on lands currently for sale, at two locations in Ashbourne:

- Location 1: Lands west of Killelland west schools campus - these lands, if appropriate, will extend the proposed Linear Park, allow for additional playing pitches, public open space, car parking, a cultural centre and council depot, which could include a recycling amenity centre (approximately 25 acres);*



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- *Location 2: Lands south of Ashbourne in Donaghmore, surrounded by the R135 and R135, and that these lands, if appropriate, would be suitable for a recreational public park (approximately 48 acres)."*

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

An assessment of location, quantum etc of open space to serve the needs of Ashbourne will form part of the development plan review process.

The motion was noted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"That Meath County Council engages with the Department of Education & Skills to immediately buy lands which have already been valued at the back of Ashbourne Community School. A number of options were submitted by me that could reduce the price and extend walkways, cycle lanes and publicly lit areas for public use. It would also ease residents legitimate safety concerns in an adjacent residential estate where there are no provisions for footpaths and increasing car dependency."

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

Fiona Lawless has agreed to look at the site on Wednesday 8th February with Cllr Alan Tobin and assess the feasibility of the request.

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

Following a short discussion, an amended motion was proposed by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**, as follows:

"That Meath County Council engages with the Department of Education & Skills to evaluate lands as identified in the map below."

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The amended motion was adopted.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“That Ashbourne Municipal District supports the Environment Section of Meath County Council, in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, taking every measure available to them to combat the illegal dumping at Soldier Hill, Blundellstown and along the N2, which has resulted in council staff being diverted from other work to remediate these areas in the past two months. In doing so we call on these bodies to clarify actions that members of the public can take to assist them in this effort. I ask for this motion, if carried, to be sent to the Environment SPC and the JPC and seek a written response from both bodies.”

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

The recent incidences of dumping at Blundelstown, astride to the N3, were the subject of numerous complaints to the Environment Department of Meath County Council and, in response to such complaints, a number of inspections were carried out and notwithstanding vehicles being parked along the access road designed to prevent Officials getting close to the material dumped thereon. The Council were in contact with



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the Gardaí in respect of activities at this location and are aware of their presence on a number of occasions.

In the interest of health and safety, it was only when the vehicles and caravans moved on, were the Officials in a position to identify the full extent of the dumping, much of which appeared to have originated from house clearance operations and households responding to leaflets offering removal services. Over the last number of days, a major clean up of the area has been affected and involving 6 operatives along with a JCB, lorry as well as PPE & cleaning equipment. In total, 9 loads of dumped material were removed, involving expenditure in excess of €10,000.

The Council appreciates members of the public's assistance in reporting such incidences, which in the first instance should be reported by contacting 046-9097000 during Office Hours or by emailing customerservices@meathcoco.ie or environment@meathcoco.ie. The EPA also operates a national environmental complaints line where members of the public can report pollution or illegal dumping via this 24 hour lo-call telephone number **1850 365 121**. The EPA has developed an iPhone and Android App, called *See it? Say It!* to help people to report environmental pollution in their town and village.

Most complaints about incidences of littering come by way of phone calls, e-mails or from other social media channels from members of the public and in most cases, such complaints come after the offenders have departed the scene. In order to avoid putting members of the public through the inconvenience of having to give evidence in court, complainants are encouraged, should they encounter bags dumped and notice evidence in litter, to leave it in situ for presentation to an authorised officer so that photographic evidence and documents can be removed by a litter warden for enforcement proceedings.

Where the complainant witnesses littering or dumping first hand, they are asked to give a statement setting out the pertinent details and may be required to go to Court where the charge is contested.

Finally the Environment Department, in accordance with the provisions of its Litter Management Plan and a National Waste Enforcement Priority for 2017, is working on a major education and awareness campaign for publication in local media in the coming weeks and one of the major focuses from this will be to warn households of the environmental risks and dangers associated with putting out waste goods for collection



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by operators who have no authorised collection permits or locations where such goods can be brought.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

The motion was adopted.

8 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

8.1 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 26th January 2017.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

9.1 Correspondence received from TII re the Nine Mile Stone roundabout.

The correspondence was noted.

9.2 Correspondence received from Battle of Ashbourne Centenary Commemoration Committee re funding.

The correspondence was noted.

10 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



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Cathaoirleach