



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

9:30 a.m., 13th March 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

Executive Engineer: Janet Murphy

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Clerical Officer: Edita Zolotuchina

Apologies: Claire King, Meetings Administrator

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 13th February, 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th February 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sean Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O’Rourke**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Sean Smith raised the following:

- Whether a response had been received from the OPW with regard to the riparian strip – It was confirmed that no response had been received and a further letter would issue to the OPW.



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- Up to 8 houses had been sold in Churchfields and green space was to be delivered as part of phase 1 prior to people moving into the houses. This matter was dealt with further under Item 5.3.3 Planning matters.

Councillor Darren O'Rourke requested an update on the linkages between Stamullen Village and the M1.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to the O'Reilly family in Ashbourne on the election of their son in law, John Horan as the next President of the GAA.

4 To receive a presentation from Stamullen Community Alert Committee.

Marie O'Sullivan, representing the Committee, delivered a presentation which highlighted progress which has been made in Stamullen since their first presentation to Ashbourne Municipal District in March, 2011. Marie then highlighted speeding on the Gormanstown Road as a major issue of concern to residents, local schools, clubs and groups. The need for lighting and barriers at "The Gap" and traffic lights at Centra were also raised.

Fiona Lawless, Director of Services, confirmed that flashing signs and other signage would be provided for. It was also agreed that a letter would issue to the Gardai requesting speed cameras at this location.

Janet Murphy, Executive Engineer, confirmed the following:

- Public lighting at "The Gap" was in hand and would be provided as part of the schedule of works.
- The barrier was not brought up as part of the design, however, she will have a look to see if it is warranted.
- The traffic lights at Centra are at Design stage.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Marie for her presentation and acknowledged the hard work of the group.



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5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To receive an update from DBFL consultants on Pedestrian & Cycling Facilities on Milltown Road, Ashbourne.

Robert Kelly DBFL Consultants and Pat Shore, Assistant Engineer, Transportation Department attended the meeting. A presentation was given with an update on pedestrian and cycling facilities on the Milltown Road, Ashbourne outlining details of the scheme including the current proposals to provide segregated cyclist and pedestrian facilities, constraints and opportunities and next steps. He also provided updates on other elements of the scheme including Johns Wood and the R135 Junction upgrades.

A short discussion followed on issues including timescale for these works, funding for the scheme, public consultation and engagement, car parking spaces and the need for as many walkways and openways as possible to be incorporated.

It was agreed that the presentation would be circulated to Councillors and that Councillors would forward their input on the scheme.

- 5.1.2 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:

- An update on Lismullen Drainage – It was confirmed that further investigations were carried out to include camera work to determine where the pipe was finished but nothing was found. A further meeting is required with the landowner of the ditch for his agreement to allow water from the road go into his ditch.
- Asked if anything can be done where cars for sale are parked at the side of the road – It was agreed to refer this to the Environment Department.



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- It was understood a modification could be made to pot belly bins to prevent domestic waste being disposed into them. It was asked that this be looked at for the bin located at Millennium Garden.
- Requested that a mattress in the river near McDonalds be removed.

5.1.3 To discuss Primatestown Junction.

Dara McGowan, Executive Officer, Transportation attended the meeting and provided the following update on Primatestown Junction.

Traffic counts were carried out and the volume of traffic for 2016 show an increase of 4.0% of traffic going through the junction over 2015. The next phase being considered is widening the junction as you are going southbound turning right towards Ratoath. The Transportation Department have met with the TII twice in the last month and are trying to push for a larger scheme but there is no update on this.

Matters raised by Councillors included:-

- Money was diverted towards improving the road out to Tayto Park, money was also spent on traffic lights but there are still no improvements.
- A copy of the results of the traffic count were requested for 2016 and the volume of traffic comparable with 2015. Flow rates on a roundabout were also requested.
- It was suggested at a meeting with the TII to turn off the traffic lights and look at the traffic flow when the lights are off – It was pointed out that the traffic lights were out due to Storm Doris and the traffic flowed better but the slip roads had traffic backed up.
- Kilmoon Cross is another pinch point which was to be looked at by the TII – It was confirmed that the TII have examined Kilmoon Cross and are looking at improving the junction by putting a Stop sign on it and bringing the kerb out further. This will improve things slightly on the main road but will cause difficulty from the Duleek side.



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5.1.4 To receive an update on Speed Limit Review.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation confirmed that the Speed Limit Bye Law process had commenced and outlined the process involved in the making of Speed Limit Bye Laws. He advised that 260 submissions have been received over the last number of years and he and Paul Phelan, Executive Engineer, Transportation would be available after the meeting to go through any of the submissions received with Councillors.

Matters raised by Councillors included:-

- Would like to see discretion on National Guidelines based on local knowledge.
- Asked if Councillors will be able to discuss areas where there are issues – It was advised that comments will be taken on board and there will be a public consultation.

5.2 Corporate Services

5.2.1 To discuss the 2017 Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal Budgets.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services confirmed that a balance of €15,000 was available for Ashbourne Municipal District (€7,000 carried over from 2016 and €8,000 allocated for 2017) and asked if Councillors had any proposals on how they wished this money to be spent.

It was proposed by **Councillor Sean Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** that part of the money be allocated to the following groups:-

- Town Twinning - €2,000
- TradAsh Festival - €3,000

It was agreed that submissions would be made by Councillors for allocation of the remaining fund and these would be considered at the April meeting of



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Ashbourne Municipal District.

5.3 Planning

5.3.1 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

John Sweeney, Building Control Officer, Planning Department, attended the meeting and advised on issues which were submitted in advance of the meeting. After a lengthy discussion, where Councillors conveyed their views, it was agreed that a roll call be taken on the taking in charge of Killegland Street/Declan Street, and the result was as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Cllr. Bonner, Joseph		AGAINST		
Cllr. Jamal, Suzanne	FOR			
Cllr. O'Driscoll, Claire		AGAINST		
Cllr. O'Rourke, Darren		AGAINST		
Cllr. Smith, Sean	FOR			
Cllr. Tobin, Alan	FOR			
RESULT	3	3	0	0

As the votes were equal, the Cathaoirleach had the casting vote and voted in favour of taking Killegland Street/Declan Street in charge and was therefore adopted.

5.3.2 To receive and consider the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Act 2000-2015 and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2015 for the carrying out of Phase 1 of the Ashbourne Linear Park, Killegland, Ashbourne, Co. Meath.



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Jennifer Maguire, Assistant Planner attended the meeting and outlined the key points contained in the report.

Matters raised by Councillors included the lowering of the fence, car parking spaces, power supply to the Amphitheatre, if proposal from Brady Shipman Martin at Lidl could be considered, funding for the project and timelines.

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by Councillor **Claire O'Driscoll**.

5.3.3 Other Matters Arising

Matters raised by Councillors included:-

- Up to 8 houses had been sold in Churchfields and green space was to be delivered as part of Phase 1 prior to people moving into the houses – It was confirmed that there is a green area on the left hand side of the estate which is being completed as part of Phase 1. There are two more open spaces to be delivered as they progress into Phase 2.
- A housing estate in Ashbourne was progressing to taking in charge stage which has now been delayed as the Planning Department decided to bundle housing estates together – It was advised that there are a large number of housing estates to be taken in charge. There is a large amount of work involved in the taking in charge. Estates are bundled into groups of 10 and put out to tender. The Council identify and use sureties to finish housing estates to standard.
- Condition 36 of Tayto Park's planning permission conditioned them to do substantial works on Curragha junction and in the vicinity which hasn't been carried out. There were to be land acquisitions at Curragha where road straightening was to take place. – It was agreed that this would be referred to Transportation Department for an update.

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



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6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Would the Public Lighting Section consider taking in charge the public lighting in Ashbourne Manufacturing and Ashbourne Industrial Parks? Whilst considering this, could I ask the Department to take into consideration the commercial rates paid, the number of businesses present, their experience with management companies, safety at night, security issues and the numbers of cars, vans, trucks, etc. that use the estates and car parking facilities on a daily basis.”

Response:

The Public Lighting Section can confirm that the Public Lighting in Ashbourne Industrial Estate has been taken in charge. There is a new Public Lighting scheme being worked on for the Estate. Once the civil works are completed by Planning, new Public Lighting will be installed as Part of the Public Lighting Capital Works.

The following two business parks do not have Public Lighting in charge

- Ashbourne business park off the Ballymadun Road &
- Ashbourne Business Park off the Ballybin Road.

If the roads in these two business parks are taken in charge by Planning, the Public Lighting Section can then report on the technical aspects & costs for taking the Public Lighting in charge.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Sean Smith

“Is Meath County Council aware of the closure of the circulatory road around the new school campus at Killegland and what steps are being taken to enforce the opening of this road, as agreed at Planning stage?”



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Response:

The circulatory road in the school grounds is on private property and as noted on the sign at the entrance it closes at 4.30pm. Following a site inspection, the road was open for use during the required timeframe. The opening of this section of the road up to 4.30pm is part of the agreement; however, the two way section from the roundabout heading north will be open to the public without time restrictions. At present there is a sign at the entrance restricting access to all traffic except staff and buses. This sign is in contravention of the planning permission, and has been forwarded to the Planning Department to request its removal.

Councillor Sean Smith sought clarification in that it would be beneficial if someone from the Planning Department, Janet Murphy and the three school principals met to discuss this issue. It was agreed that a meeting would be requested.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sean Smith

“That Meath County Council communicates with the Department of Education and also a letter is written from Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors to propose maintaining ownership of the temporary site for the purpose of community playing fields for the three schools, Colaiste DeLacy, Gaelscoil Na Mi and Educate Together and as amenity for the community. It is noted there is no GAA playing field in the school campus and that Donaghmore Ashbourne GAA does not have sufficient capacity for the teams which currently represent the club.”

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

It should be noted given the ongoing housing crisis, that state owned lands including those owned by the Dept of Education are currently being examined with a view to providing accelerated delivery of housing units. This process will also take account of the future needs of the Dept. of Education as regards educational facilities. The outcome of this process is likely to influence the amount of land which could be made available for recreational facilities and any request should be framed with this in mind.



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

A discussion followed and it was confirmed that there is ongoing dialogue between Meath County Council and the Department of Education. The Department of Education have written to Meath County Council and indicated that they will most likely require some of that land for the school. With the current housing crisis every piece of state owned land has been identified to the Department of Housing and they will look and see if it could be delivered for housing.

The motion was noted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“That the relevant minister updates the Dog Control Act 1986 to further include an exemption for all disability assistance dogs from needing a licence.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

It was agreed that this motion would be forwarded to the April Meeting of Meath County Council as a joint motion from Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors.

The motion was noted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To ask Meath County Council to install a pedestrian gate at Deerpark, Ashbourne, that will allow vehicular access to the Irish Water site, emergency services, the OPW and Meath County Council staff to eliminate anti social behaviour and drug dealing in the area. If there are any right of way issues, what input would Councillors have to make sure this can be installed without further delay?”

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



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An inspection will be carried out of the site to establish whether a public right of way exists. If a public right of way exists, the potential for extinguishing this right of way and installing a gate (pedestrian or vehicular) will be considered. A report will be brought back to the MD Members after this investigation.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

Following a short discussion it was agreed that this gate would be included as part of the process for Ashbourne Linear Park and will be included in the tender.

The motion was adopted.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To ask Meath County Council Planning and Finance to look into the feasibility and discuss the pro's and con's of an Ashbourne District Community tax or levy for new builds of housing and commercial units based on either €/ square metre or property value with all funds ring fenced for the purchase of future green open space and parkland, this will include the continued maintenance and upkeep of such space.”

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

There is no provision under the Planning and Development Acts to introduce an area based Development Contribution Scheme. Section 48 of the Acts empowers the Planning Authority to introduce development contributions in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefitting development in the area of the Planning Authority.

The funding for the provision of open space is dealt with in the Meath County Development Contribution Scheme 2016-2021, adopted by the Council on 7th December, 2015. It sets out the types of public infrastructure and facilities that can be funded by the General Development Contributions and these include ‘the provision of open spaces, recreational and community facilities and amenities and landscaping works.



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

A discussion followed and it was agreed that a revised motion would be resubmitted at a future meeting.

The motion was noted.

8 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

- 8.1 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 17th February 2017.

The report was noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise CPG meeting of 23 February, 2017.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

- 9.1 Correspondence received from NTA in response to the Notice of Item 6.6 – Notice of Motion as adopted at December meeting re the upgrade of the approach roads to Ashbourne, from the Pillo Roundabout to the Nine Mile Stone Roundabout.

Councillors expressed their disappointment to the content of this letter. It was understood that phases would be delivered separately and once the project commenced it would be completed from roundabout to roundabout.

10 Any Other Business

Fiona Lawless advised that she had met with the school principal in relation to the triangular strip and has written to her advising she would like to commence the process of procuring the land and is awaiting a response.



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This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach