



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Ashbourne Municipal District***

#### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***9:30 a.m., 10<sup>th</sup> April, 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 13th March, 2017.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O’Driscoll**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

Councillor Joe Bonner requested that his strong opposition to the taking in charge of Main Street be recorded as he did not believe that this was in the interest of Meath County Council.

Councillor Darren O’Rourke raised the following matters:

- Requested clarification on the works to be undertaken in Stamullen – it was confirmed that following representations made regarding speeding, works on both sides of the bridge were being considered.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

- The lack of disabled parking spaces on Killelland Street – it was pointed out that the most appropriate location for these, close to the offices of Prosper Meath, was in private ownership and that it was intended to discuss this matter with the owners.

Councillor Seán Smith requested that representatives from the Planning Department meet with the three school principals regarding the Department of Education & Skills lands – it was confirmed that, as part of the enforcement of the planning conditions, the Enforcement Officer would meet with the school principals and work towards resolving any issues outstanding.

Councillor Claire O'Driscoll sought clarification on the planning conditions, the nature of the works to be undertaken and relevant timeline for completion by Tayto Park at Curraha – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** to suspend Standing Orders to discuss issues at Gormanston beach. Councillor Claire O'Driscoll outlined the issues on two sites owned by Meath County Council. She requested that the beach at Gormanston be included in the Beach Management Plan and that the plans for the sites be clarified. Fiona Lawless pointed out that the Beach Management Plan formed part of a statutory process and that the funding allocated did not allow for Gormanston beach to be added in this initial phase. She also provided a background to the issues at the beach and highlighted the role of the Gardaí in enforcing the Beach Bye-Laws. It was agreed that a letter would issue to the Gardaí requesting that they enforce the bye-laws and that this matter would also be brought to the attention of the JPC. Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services later confirmed that he had met with the motocross club earlier in the day and that information on the club and their activities was being collated. A further meeting with residents was to take place in the coming weeks to clarify the issues. It was confirmed that the issues raised needed to be addressed and that Councillors would be updated as appropriate. Councillors also referred to the need for a car park, illegal dumping and the possibility of extinguishing a right of way at this location.

### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Martin McGuinness, former Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland.

Congratulations were extended to:



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

- All those involved in the recent clean up works on the river.

### **4 To receive a presentation on the Proposed National Hunt Museum & Equine Centre, Ashbourne.**

Representatives from the National Hunt Museum Committee attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on racing in Ireland, the mission of the committee, the proposed role of the centre in terms of education and entertainment, the planned activities, the added value, context and significance of the centre to Ashbourne and Meath. The progress to date was outlined. The group requested that Meath County Council endorse the project.

It was confirmed that a feasibility study was to be prepared, that there were a number of site options and that meetings were planned to discuss funding options. Once the feasibility study was prepared, the group was invited to meet with senior Council officials to outline the plan and discuss what support could be provided, as appropriate.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** that a motion be submitted to the May Council meeting on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District requesting the full support of Meath County Council for this project.

### **5 To receive a presentation on the Cluid Social Housing Development in Ashbourne.**

John O'Sullivan, Colin Byrne and Sarah Owens attended the meeting on behalf of Cluid and delivered a presentation that provided an overview of Cluid's work and the services provided, including Tenant Management Services, Estate & Communal Area Management and Estate and Community Development. An overview of the Milltown Meadows scheme was also provided.

Matters raised by Councillors, and responses provided, included:

- Welcomed the scheme in helping to address the housing needs in Ashbourne.
- Concerns regarding the location of the scheme, accessibility, the provision of facilities such as playgrounds, public lighting and green space – the planned infrastructure, including a playground, was outlined.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

- The potential extra pressure on school places – it was pointed out that generally those that will be allocated the units already live in the area so significant additional pressure was not anticipated.
- The management and maintenance of the estate and the allocation process – the allocation scheme was outlined, with a mixed tenure meeting different housing needs and the management process was also referred to. It was also pointed out that a Housing Officer would be appointed to oversee the scheme.
- The timeframe for the delivery of the units – the phased release of units was outlined.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked those in attendance for the presentation.

## **6 Statutory Business**

### **6.1 Transportation**

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

The report had been circulated in advance and a number of updates were provided. It was pointed out that two new General Operatives had just commenced work in Ashbourne Municipal District.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Requested that street sweeping be undertaken in Skyrne and Kentstown.
- Requested an update on the pedestrian crossing at Skyrne School.
- The works being undertaken by Bord Gáis – the reinstatement requirements were outlined.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

- Update on the contract for hanging baskets – it was confirmed that the tender would issue this week with an assessment of all hanging baskets planned for next year.

### **6.2 Planning**

#### 6.2.1 Matters Arising

Councillor Alan Tobin referred to the number of solar farm developments being planned and the need for more public information on issues such as flooding potential – it was agreed to request the Planning Department to add relevant information to the Council website.

### **6.3 Community**

#### 6.3.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park

The update, circulated with the agenda, was noted. Fiona Lawless referred to the additional allocation made in the capital programme. Councillor Joe Bonner referred to the commitment given to the residents of Deerpark to provide a gate to the access road.

### **6.4 Corporate Services**

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

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services outlined the submissions made in respect of the available budget. Following a short discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** to allocate €2,000 to Ashbourne for festive lights/decorations and to carry the balance of €8,000 to 2018 with consideration to be given to allocating funding to a festival(s).

#### 6.4.2 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District.

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### **7 Notice of Question**

#### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sean Smith**

“What is the process required for planning and installing an Artistic structure at a roundabout or along the route of a major National Road?”

**Response:**

*For Capital Works such as road schemes, public housing projects etc. the ‘Per Cent for Art scheme’ is a government initiative, first introduced in 1978, whereby 1% (up to set limits) of the cost of any publicly funded capital, infrastructural and building development can be allocated to the commissioning of a work of art. Under the Roads Act road authorities are empowered to provide artistic features. In the case of a scheme like the N2 Finglas – Ashbourne Scheme the commissioning and construction of the piece would have been undertaken by the local authority in the course of the scheme’s development.*

*For development of art schemes on existing roundabouts or along a national road there would essentially be two elements to consider. The first of these is whether the proposal required planning permission, in which case the appropriate planning process would have to be followed. Secondly if planning permission was in place and the scheme was to progress to construction, the consent of the Road Authority would have to be obtained. As part of the consent processes matters such as the design, safety of road users, traffic management, long term maintenance and insurances etc. would have to be considered.*

The response was noted.

#### **7.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O’Rourke**

“To ask the number of homeless presentations to the Settlement Officers and the number of people placed in emergency accommodation for the first quarter of 2017, how this compares to 2016 and 2015 and for a breakdown by Municipal District?”

**Response:**



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Outlined below is the number of households placed in emergency accommodation by Meath County Council for Quarter 1 in 2015, 2016, and 2017 respectively:

	<b>SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLE HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN</b>	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS</b>
Jan- March 2015	50	6	56
Jan - March 2016	48	16	64
Jan - March 2017	62	27	89

### Summary of Emergency Accommodation Placements

Data regarding homeless presentations for the periods concerned is not readily available.

The response was noted. Councillor Darren O'Rourke requested a breakdown of the figures by Municipal District and it was agreed to refer this to the Housing Department.

### 7.3 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“What is the current estimated cost of road repair/restoration drainage etc to bring local, regional and national roads up to acceptable standard in Ashbourne Municipal District?”

#### Response:

It is difficult to provide a specific figure for a specific Municipal District, as each road has its own individual items that may require attention. However based on 2016 figures, the average cost of the road restoration/improvement projects (which includes drainage, repairs, surfacing etc.) is €80,000 per km.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

The response was noted. Councillor Claire O’Driscoll requested further information on the length of roads within the Municipal District below Category 7 and the cost of upgrading these. It was agreed to circulate this information when available.

### **8 Notice of Motion**

#### **8.1 Submitted by Councillor Claire O’Driscoll**

“That the council organises a meeting between local representatives, the friends of Tara, the Heritage Officer and the OPW about future plans regarding the site, access and parking.”

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

It was pointed out that the Tara Management Plan must first be adopted and this was within the remit of the Minister. It was agreed to write a letter to the Minister requesting an update on this matter and to invite the Friends of Tara group to make a presentation at a Municipal District meeting. It was also agreed to ask the Heritage Officer for an update and to arrange this meeting as soon as possible.

The motion was adopted.

#### **8.2 Submitted by Councillor Claire O’Driscoll**

“That the author/authors, department and contact details of responses to NOQ/NOM be identified in huge responses.”

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

*Many of the functions carried out by Meath County Council are undertaken by a number of people who would be in a position to prepare/coordinate responses to NOM’s or NOQ’s. Sometimes the supporting information needs to be gathered from different sections within a Department and, in some instances, the authors are staff assigned to coordinate the information and prepare the response. For this reason, it is not feasible to provide the author for each NOQ or NOM.*





## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

*However, it is noted that if a Councillor requires clarification, or has any follow on questions on a topic, a request for further information can be made by contacting the relevant Department's representative on the Senior Contact List, or an email request can be made to [membersreps@meathcoco.ie](mailto:membersreps@meathcoco.ie) or a written request to Customer Services, County Hall, Railway Street, Navan. These requests will be assigned to the relevant person or people, for a direct response to the Councillor.*

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

Following a short discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

### **9 Strategic Policy Committee Report – For Information Purposes**

- 9.1 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise SPC meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

The report was noted.

### **10 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **11 Any Other Business**

- 11.1 Dara McGowan confirmed that, following a request for expressions of interest for landholdings in the Ashbourne area, no queries had yet been received.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

---

**Cathaoirleach**