



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 18th May 2015, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Claire O'Driscoll, Darren O'Rourke, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin.

Officials in Attendance:

A/Director of Service: Joe Fahy

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 20th April 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20th April 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Darren O'Rourke asked that the minutes be amended, under Item 7.3 – Notice of Motion, to reflect that he had seconded this motion for the purposes of debate.

Councillor Seán Smith pointed out that Ireland is to host the 2017 Women's Rugby World Cup and suggested that a letter be sent to the IRFU on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors, congratulating them on this achievement and offering any assistance required in Ashbourne – this was agreed.



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Councillor Alan Tobin requested details on the schedule for the road sweeper for circulation to the public – it was pointed out that such information would be shared on Meath County Council platforms but Councillors can use these links to forward the information.

Councillor Joe Bonner requested that information relating to the works on Main Street be circulated to Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors in the first instance.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to Joe Fahy on his retirement and to Fiona Lawless on her new role.

4 Update by the Ashbourne & District Community Council Ltd, Development Project Committee on current status of the redevelopment of the Ashbourne Community Centre.

Tom Mulvaney attended the meeting on behalf of the Committee and delivered a presentation on the background to the centre, the facilities available, the groups that use the centre, funding and future plans. Joe Fahy confirmed that he and Kevin Stewart had recently met with the committee and offered assistance to them; with Eugene Farrelly having been nominated as the contact to liaise with the committee and ensure that the development proceeds as per the specifications.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- Acknowledged the importance of the centre for the people of Ashbourne;
- Commended the committee for having run the centre debt free for many years;
- The need for the centre to be refurbished;
- The provision of additional space for meeting facilities and the role of the centre as a recreational amenity;
- The need for proper oversight and accountability in relation to the expenditure of public funds.



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It was agreed that further updates on the development would be provided as appropriate.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Tom Mulvaney for this presentation.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To receive further information on the delivery of objectives INF OBJ 1, 2, 7 and 9 from the Ashbourne Local Area Plan in relation to improvements on the Milltown Road.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, attended the meeting and provided information on the plans for the Milltown Road. He provided maps that indicated the extent of the planned works and outlined the stages involved, including the design process. He confirmed that a preliminary design would be available in mid-June, following which a consultation workshop was planned, with the various parties proposing their visions for the area and enabling stakeholders to have an involvement. He stated that this project would probably be subject to Part VIII to commence in September with a presentation to Meath County Council in December. This would enable the works to take place over two years, commencing in 2016. He also confirmed that a package would be presented to the NTA, with the hope of securing additional funding and the possible presentation of Ashbourne as a model cycling town.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The need to address the safety and flooding issues in the area;
- The need to get all sectors of the community involved, including schools;
- The need to include the road from Archerstown to Donaghmore Church;
- The land required to accommodate the works needed – it was confirmed that the final design would determine the land required;



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- The need to consider the road network in Ashbourne generally – it was pointed out that this should be considered in the context of the Local Area Plan review;
- The opportunity to consider all the issues raised at the consultation workshop.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Nicholas for the information.

5.2 Community

5.2.1 To receive a presentation on the Meath Age Friendly Initiative.

Áine Bird, Community Department, Meath County Council, attended the meeting and delivered a presentation to the meeting. The presentation included information on the background to the initiative, membership, the strategy and its review, information on the Age Friendly Business Town initiative and the next steps planned.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The relatively young population in the urban areas in Ashbourne Municipal District but the different age profile in rural areas – it was confirmed that the Business Town initiative would be rolled out in the towns first and following that, there may be further initiatives for rural areas;
- The similar needs of those with disabilities, e.g. wheelchair users, for certain infrastructural improvements, such as dropped kerbs;
- The possibility of Flexibus running a route in Ashbourne – it was confirmed that the numbers using the service needed to be adequate to sustain its continuation.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Áine for attending and for the presentation.



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6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“To ask for an update on the BigBelly solar bin pilot to include the annual cost of these bins, the projected benefits and savings, and the experience to date.”

Response:

Meath County Council has requested this information from the supplier and we hope to be able to present this at the May Municipal District meeting.

A report was circulated to Councillors at the meeting, which was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“With respect to the provision of lighting at Skreen Church and Cross on the hill of Skyrne, has the council been in communication with the OPW about progressing such a project and what are the ways that the council may become involved in realising such an initiative?”

Response:

No specific funding is currently allocated for these works. These works could be included on a list of proposed works should funding become available at a later date. In the meantime we will discuss these proposals with the OPW.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“That Meath County Council explores all options to take ownership of two derelict sites linking Bachelors Walk to Bridge Street in Ashbourne and present findings to the Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors.”



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

Following a discussion with Councillor Smith, which included the identification of the two sites referred to in this motion, it was confirmed that one of the sites had previously come to the attention of the Environment Section as being a potential derelict site. The Environment Section has been in contact with both the estate agent and owner regarding this and other sites in his ownership during the last year. The dereliction issue in this case refers only to the hoarding, which was broken and subsequently fixed following discussions with the owner.

Under the derelict sites legislation, Meath County Council has never as yet compulsorily purchased a site in Meath and there would be a significant process to undergo before we would get to this point, not least having an allocated budget for this and for works to site thereafter. There is no budget set aside for this and if there were, unfortunately the question would be which of the many derelict sites to choose to buy.

The main concern regarding derelict sites is that the site becomes non-derelict and if as an offer has been made to the bank to purchase these sites, this would, from the perspective of Meath County Council, be considered a positive step towards closing the relevant derelict sites file.

During discussions on the derelict sites, Councillor Smith raised an issue around the potential of these sites to provide a link road / car park to ease traffic congestion in Ashbourne. However this would be a matter for the Planning and Transportation Departments. Such a proposal would need to be fully considered and funding for any plans would need to be identified.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

Councillor Seán Smith pointed out that he considered this location suitable for the possible provision of a public car park and link road, thereby providing a facility and strategic transport link. It was agreed that this matter should be raised at the consultation workshop discussed under Item 5.1.1.

The motion was adopted.



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7.2 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“That Meath County Council applies yellow lines at Bachelors Walk along where the new footpath has been recently laid.”

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

These works are included in the Ashbourne MD overall roadwork's programme procurement process, and we presently anticipate that these works will commence in July 2015.

It was noted that the works had been completed and the motion was therefore withdrawn.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“That a comprehensive review of street names and signage in Ashbourne be undertaken with a view to ensuring consistency, ease of reference and ease of access and in addition and subject to appropriate approval, that this would include the naming/renaming of a selected street ‘Thomas Ashe Street’.”

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

I refer to previous responses to Councillor O'Rourke's call for street name changes in Ashbourne. The appropriate statutory mechanism to give effect to place name changes are set out below. Proposals should be for a change of name for a specific location or street. It is respectfully submitted that there is no mechanism for the executive of a council to review street names generally under this legislation.

The mechanism for the changing of a place name is informed by Section 79 of the Local Government Act 1946, as amended by the Local Government (Changing of Place Names Regulations) 1956, Section 67 of the Local Government Act 1994. Subsequent provisions of the Local Government Act 2001, the Environment Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2011 and the Local government Reform Act 2014 also refer to this issue.



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It would appear that the provisions of the Acts of 2001, 2011 and 2014 have not yet been commenced in respect of the changing of the name of a street and that the function remains a reserved function of the full Council.

The Acts of 1946 and 1994 define the requirement to obtain the consent of the majority of electors on the Council's register of electors or if not so registered, then the rated occupiers of premises in the street or locality.

- 1) The Council shall resolve to commence the changing of a place name process.*

- 2) It shall further resolve to approve a list of qualified electors and the extent of the geographic area to be polled under a plebiscite. The list shall be published and submissions invited.*

- 3) On consideration of the submissions the Council may resolve to initiate the procedure for conducting a plebiscite.*

- 4) The plebiscite shall be held and the returning officer of the Council shall make the declaration.*

- 5) The change of name may be subsequently noted by the full Council .*

Councillor O'Rourke is therefore advised to propose a place name change for a specific street or streets and to place such a request before the full Council for its initial consideration.

The review of signage is a separate matter and may be informed by the decisions of a plebiscite.

In the event that such a resolution is brought before the full Council, the executive may consult with its law agent in respect of any or all elements of the process outlined above.

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

A short discussion followed on the possible streets or roundabouts that could be named after Thomas Ashe and the mechanism and timescale to do this. It was proposed by



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Councillor Darren O'Rourke and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner** to propose the place name change of Broadmeadow Street to 'Thomas Ashe Street' and to submit this to the next meeting of Meath County Council for consideration, thereby commencing the process for the place name change. Councillors Alan Tobin and Seán Smith expressed their reservations at the street selected and lack of public consultation respectively. Councillor O'Rourke highlighted the need to commence the process as soon as possible and pointed out that the process allowed for public consultation and that the street selected could be subject to change.

It was agreed to hold a roll call vote and the result was as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Cllr. Bonner, Joseph	FOR			
Cllr. Jamal, Suzanne	FOR			
Cllr. O'Driscoll, Claire	FOR			
Cllr. O'Rourke, Darren	FOR			
Cllr. Smith, Seán	FOR			
Cllr. Tobin, Alan		AGAINST		
RESULT	5	1	0	0

The motion was therefore adopted.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

"That Ashbourne Municipal District supports the initial costing and subsequent provision of the following in Kentstown: 1. A footpath between the national school and the old school hall on the R150 with and without lighting 2. A protective railing on the footpath to the school between the pedestrian lights and the school on the R150 as requested by Kentstown N.S. Parents Association, and 3. Street lighting along the R153 between the church and the entrance to Slan Duff View".



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

1. *Meath County Council's Engineer has examined the location and has estimated the cost of the works at €80,000 plus VAT. No specific funding is currently allocated to these works. These works could be included on a list of proposed works should funding become available at a later date.*
2. *Meath County Council's Engineer has examined the location and has estimated the cost of the works at €42,000 plus VAT. No specific funding is currently allocated to these works. These works could be included on a list of proposed works should funding become available at a later date.*
3. *Meath County Council proposes to erect public lighting along the R135 between the church and the entrance to Slan Duff View in 2015.*

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

The motion was adopted.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“That the residents of the townlands of Gerrardstown and Oldtown, Navan be allowed to vote in a nearby polling station, be it Johnstown N.S., Lismullin N.S. or Kentstown N.S., rather than having to travel the 20km round trip to Senchalstown GFC to exercise their right to vote. “

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

The Polling Scheme for County Meath was reviewed in 2010 and came into effect for the General Election in 2011. As part of this review, it was noted that there were no suitable buildings to accommodate voting in the Polling District of Ardmulchan AK.

It is now the situation that electors are required to travel to Seneshalstown Hall which is outside the Polling District and outside the LEA (Laytown/Bettystown).



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The option of setting up a polling station in Navan to accommodate the electors was explored but, at the time, it was decided that it would be better to keep the rural and urban electors separate in order to avoid any confusion on polling days. In addition, travelling to Navan may not have suited electors living in the upper end of this Polling District e.g. Hayestown or Carnuff Little.

The option of setting up a portacabin at the post office in Beauparc was also explored but this was not considered a viable proposal at the time.

In light of the recent boundary changes and the abolition of Town Councils, it is acknowledged that the urban and rural boundaries are no longer an issue.

For the Referendums in May 2015, it was suggested to the County Registrar that it might be possible to facilitate electors from the lower townlands in the Ardmulchan Polling District to vote in St Mary's Special School in Johnstown, and move the electors currently voting in St Mary's S.S. to St. Stephen's School. However, the County Registrar was of the opinion that no change should be made prior to the next review of the Polling Scheme.

It is proposed to undertake a review of the Polling Scheme for County Meath in 2015, and during the review process there will be an opportunity to make formal submissions. The Polling Scheme review will be advertised in the local media and also on the Council's website, www.meath.ie and the submission dates will be highlighted.

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

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issue:



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9.1.1 Information on plans for the refurbishment and redistribution of bins removed as part of the trial of the new bins.

9.2 Councillor Claire O’Driscoll raised the following issue:

9.2.1 The possible removal of bollards between Garden City and Alderbrook and the creation of a link road to the N2.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors expressed their thanks and best wishes to Joe Fahy on his retirement. They acknowledged the progress that had been made over the past year, the assistance that he had provided to Councillors at all times and his commitment and dedication during this time. A presentation was made to Joe, following which he outlined Ashbourne’s potential, particularly in terms of economic development, and acknowledged the efforts of all for the benefit of Ashbourne. He thanked the Councillors and staff for their support and assistance, wished Councillors well for the remainder of their term and wished Fiona Lawless well in her new role.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach