



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:45 a.m., 20th June 2016, 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 May 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th May 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Claire O'Driscoll requested an update on the speed monitors policy.

Councillor Claire O'Driscoll requested an update on the meeting between the Heritage Officer and the OPW in relation to the Hill of Tara – it was agreed to refer this to the Heritage Officer.

Councillor Joe Bonner requested an update on the compilation of a list of other heritage sites within the Municipal District – it was agreed to refer this to the Heritage Officer.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family and colleagues of the late Jo Cox, MP following her tragic death.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Kentstown Village Project on securing planning permission for their proposed development;
- Alan Battersby on winning a gold medal at the Bloom Festival;
- Ciarán McCallan on his performance in the All Ireland Handball Championship.

4 To receive a presentation from Stamullen Needs a Playground Association.

Fiona Lynam and Robert Purfield from Stamullen Needs a Playground Association delivered a presentation on the background to the group, progress to date, matters requiring clarification and future requirements.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The allocations to be made under the Municipal District Allocation and other possible funding sources such as Meath Partnership and the Council's Community Grants Scheme;
- The cost of land to provide the facility and ensuring that any land offer is confirmed in writing;
- The need to consult with groups in other areas that have successfully delivered similar projects, for example in Trim;
- The need to work with the forward planners to deliver the facility;



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The role of central government in providing necessary infrastructure;
- The priority projects included in the Council's current capital programme, which is dependent on levies;
- The possibility of linking with St. Vincent's GFC, Ardcath in developing a suitable facility.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked the group for their presentation and asked that they keep Councillors updated of developments.

5 To discuss issues of road safety at schools with the Road Safety Officer.

Michael Finnegan, Road Safety Officer, delivered updates on the issues previously submitted by Councillors, including:

- Skryne NS – road markings renewed and additional signage at Ross Cross; recommendation that electronic speed signs be erected on Ross Cross side; parking available at church and community centre; detections from speed checks all on western side; application made for pedestrian crossing.
- Rathfeign NS – Issue on eastern side at junction; ample parking currently available; road markings renewed and additional signage provided.
- Curraha NS – issue re through traffic; proposal to provide flashing speed signs; lot of detections from speed checks; will continue to monitor.
- Cushinstown NS – Issue with visibility at exit with hedges and grass margins to be cut back; it was agreed to check if there was an issue in relation to buses turning.
- Kilbride NS – Need for off-road parking with the possibility of using the car park at the football pitch as a suitable interim measure.
- Kentstown NS – some speeding had been detected; the traffic accessing Drogheda Port was highlighted in terms of the HGV traffic and it was pointed out that off-road parking provided at the new school in Duleek had resolved similar issues.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- School Warden in Ashbourne – it was confirmed that this was currently being reviewed to identify the most appropriate location.
- School Cycle Initiative – the initiative was outlined with approximately 8,000 students having received training.
- School Walking Initiative – it was pointed out that parental supervision is required and that it can be difficult to get parental involvement.
- Pedestrian crossings at schools – it was pointed out that flashing lights were installed at over 80% of schools, including rural schools; that a minimum standard for schools had been agreed by the SPC, including signage, road markings, and a 50km speed limit, and that these were in place; that funding was sought for individual schools where additional measures were required.
- Speed checks at schools – it was confirmed that these had been requested for problem locations and were carried out where possible, with reports provided.
- Mobile phone usage whilst driving – it was pointed out that this was a particular issue in Meath, following the results of a recent survey.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The provision of speed ramps – it was pointed out that public lighting was needed with speed ramps and that they would not be appropriate on regional roads.
- The provision of rumble strips – it was pointed out these would not be suitable in residential areas due to the noise created.
- The responsibility of the Department of Education & Skills in providing adequate car parking and other traffic calming measures – it was pointed out that planning conditions are imposed for new school developments and extensions but the role of the school management was important. In addition, where extensions are planned, there may not be adequate space to provide parking facilities. Reference was made to a Department circular which indicated that parking was the responsibility of the Parents Council.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The impact of parents' behaviour at schools and the possibility of introducing exclusion zones around school gates where needed – it was pointed out that bye-laws would be required to enforce such exclusion zones.
- The availability of the information from the speed monitors at Kilbride NS – it was agreed to check this.
- The funding contribution made by the RSA for school safety measures – it was confirmed that the RSA provided grant assistance towards the cycle training for schoolchildren and also produced a handbook for parents, which is made available through the schools.
- The number of schools with flashing speed signs – it was confirmed that this was a new concept, required funding and was currently available at around 9 schools, with their effectiveness being monitored in conjunction with the Garda Traffic Unit.
- The realignment of the junction in Curraha – it was confirmed that Tayto Park had made a contribution towards the upgrade of the junction.
- The type of pedestrian crossing to be provided at Skryne NS and the extension of the rumble strips – it was agreed to check this.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Michael for attending and for the information provided.

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

Fiona Lawless provided an update on the Linear Park project. It was proposed that Gwen Tierney attend the July meeting to provide more detailed designs for Zones 4, 6 & 7, the preliminary plans for which would result in a preliminary costing of c. €1 million. Given the cost, a Part VIII would be required. The timeframe was outlined in respect of Zone 4, which would be the initial focus, with an estimate that works would commence in April 2017. It was pointed out that works could proceed in the other zones in parallel with this.

Matters raised by Councillors included:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The possibility of looking at the entire park, rather than individual zones – it was pointed out that the Council does not own most of the land.
- The hope that works could commence this year – it was pointed out that a Part VIII process is required.
- The need to see the design detail to decide on the appropriateness of spending this amount on enhancing the existing public open space rather than providing additional public open space – it was pointed out that the design reflects the outcome of the public consultation already held and which was requested by Councillors.
- The possibility of allocating levies income – it was pointed out that the development levies income had reduced significantly and that all Councillors support would be required to increase allocations to Ashbourne Municipal District.
- Further contact with the Department of Education & Skills – it was agreed to make contact before the July meeting.

7 Statutory Business

7.1 Transportation

- 7.1.1 To consider and, if thought fit, to approve for public display the “Draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (Housing Estates) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.1) 2016.

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O’Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

A discussion followed on the possibility of applying a default limit of 30km ph to all estates taken in charge. The mandatory process was outlined, in addition to how additional estates could be added and the need for bye-laws to enforce such limits. Councillors were requested to submit by email any estates for addition.

- 7.1.2 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and was noted.

7.2 Corporate Services

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted – it was pointed out that an additional application had been submitted in respect of the CIS at Candle Hill and this was noted.

7.3 Planning

7.3.1 Matters Arising

- Fiona Lawless provided an update on the LAP review, which commenced in June, is due to go on display in Q4 2016 for 6 weeks, with the aim of adoption in Q2 2017. The scope allowed for textual changes to the existing LAP with no land use zoning changes. This would then feed into the full County Development Plan review, which is due to commence in October 2016. It was also pointed out that the Public Realm Plan would proceed in conjunction with the LAP review.
- Councillor Claire O’Driscoll referred to the permission granted by An Bord Pleanála for an animal digester on the Ashbourne Municipal District border and the need for a local EPA office to deal with potential issues arising from this and other facilities in the area.
- Councillor Claire O’Driscoll referred to cases of unauthorised developments and the enforcement process – it was agreed to request information on the enforcement process from the Planning Department.

7.4 Environment



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

7.4.1 To receive an update on the Flood Prevention Scheme for Ashbourne.

Fiona Lawless provided an update, including confirmation that no tender process was required as the OPW would be carrying out the works by direct labour and that Phase I works would commence in August 2016, with an update to be provided to Councillors following commencement. Phase II would require consultation with landowners.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can I ask Meath County Council for an adequate explanation from Irish Water as to why they are delaying the 'taking in charge' of Killegland and Declan streets Ashbourne and can I reiterate that these delays are creating huge problems with implementing basic infrastructure like disability spaces and safe pedestrian crossings.”

Response:

Following the establishment of Irish Water all planning authorities were required to complete a Memorandum of Understanding with Irish Water on the procedures to be followed when taking developments in charge.

Heretofore, the Planning Authority surveyed each estate or development and arranged for works to be completed prior to the estate being taken in charge. The Planning Department coordinated the survey with external contractors and other department of the Council. Essentially it was an “in house” process where the Local Authority controlled and co-ordinated the full process.

The establishment of Irish Water changed the fundamental scope of the taking in charge process for Local Authorities. On completion of the taking in charge process, the Local Authority takes control of roads, footpaths, open spaces, public lighting and surface water drainage infrastructure while piped water and waste water services are vested in Irish Water.

The terms of the Memorandum of Understanding require compilation of additional data on piped water services These requirements necessitate input from Irish Water and this



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

has resulted in some delays in progressing applications through the statutory process. You will be aware that the local service teams populated by former Meath County Council staff operate on the basis of service level contracts and are managed by Irish Water. The Taking in charge protocol requires engagement with these local service teams and Irish Water itself.

Meath County Council's Planning Department is in ongoing contact with our colleagues in Irish Water and we will endeavour to impress upon them the urgency of this matter. However it must be acknowledged that Irish Water is a separate utility subject to its own protocols and approvals over which Meath County Council does not have direct control.

The response was noted.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“How has the allocation of social houses changed, if at all, since the realisation of up to 40 families in emergency accommodation in Meath? Are there any further proposed changes to the allocation process?”

Response:

The allocation of social units by Meath County Council is in accordance with Meath County Council's Allocation Scheme for the Provision of Social Housing Support, as adopted in June 2011. The Allocation Scheme is currently being reviewed by the Housing, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee, to ensure the Scheme is fully reflective of the Social Housing Allocation Regulations 2011, and will go before full council in due course for adoption.

As a Housing Authority, it is important to clarify the housing supports that Meath County Council has to offer, namely;

- *Provision of a social housing unit (Local Authority/Approved Housing Body), in accordance with Allocation Scheme*
- *Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)*



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- *Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)*

While an allocation of a social unit to an applicant is primarily based on the length of time on the social housing waiting list, the housing support of HAP is being utilised by many households availing of emergency accommodation, as a means of exiting emergency accommodation, and fulfilling their accommodation needs.

The response was noted.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“That a letter is written to the OPW asking them to provide lighting at Skreen church on the hill of Skyrne and inviting a representative to attend a meeting of the municipal district to discuss the issue.”

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

The motion was adopted.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“That a bus stop sign is erected on the R132 opposite Martin's road in Gormanston.”

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

The responsibility for erecting a bus stop sign rests with the operator – in this case Bus Éireann. They have been notified of this request.

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

The motion was adopted.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“I call on Meath County Council to retrofit LED lighting in all public lights in the town. I would like to see this introduced as a pilot project to see how much the county can save in the area of public lighting in a town centre with a population above 10,000. Following on from this, I ask the Council to consider branding Ashbourne a 'Smart Town' so as to initiate the process of making Ashbourne an economically and environmentally conscious district.”

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

The Public Lighting Department of the Council has retro fitted approximately 900 LED luminaires into the Council's public lighting infrastructure since 2011, which consisted of a number of pilot schemes utilising LED technology and industry best practice for external lighting infrastructure. These works have generated on average 50% per electricity savings per annum along with savings on general maintenance costs. The Council continues to undertake energy efficient public lighting upgrades to its existing public lighting stock however these works are restricted due to funding limitations. The Council is currently working in conjunction with a national steering group in relation to a long term national strategy for energy efficient retrofitting and asset management for public lighting.

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

A short discussion followed on the national project underway, an update on which is due to be given at the next meeting of the Environment SPC, the adequacy of the lighting on Main Street, the need for a lighting upgrade from the bridge to the community centre and the visibility of the cycle lanes during wet weather.

The motion was adopted.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“In light of the new pay by weight regime, I call on Meath County Council to immediately consider purchasing a site in the Ashbourne area to facilitate a dedicated public recycling facility.”

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

The provision of a Civic Amenity / Recycling Centre for Ashbourne was raised on a number of occasions and, most recently, during consideration of the Council’s 5 year Capital programme. As advised in the course of such discussions, the estimated cost of providing such a facility, and excluding site acquisition and operating costs, would be in the region of €1.2m. However, no provision has been made in the said programme for this facility, nor is any departmental funding available.

It is understood that, in addition to the use of the Bottle Bank in Ashbourne, many local residents use the 4 Civic Amenity Sites in the County (one private), as well as five such facilities located in the neighbouring counties of Louth & Fingal.

It is pointed out that, while Pay by Weight (PBW) is being introduced for kerbside household waste collection from the 1st July 2016, this charging mechanism will, subject to Regulations being introduced, also be extended to Civic Amenity Sites for residual waste (black bin waste) - there will be no obligation on Civic Amenity Site operators to charge on a per kg basis for recycling or organic waste.

The Environment Department proposes to closely monitor the usage of the three Council owned Civic Amenity Sites following the introduction of Pay by Weight.

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

An amended motion, as follows, was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**:

“In light of the new pay by weight regime, I call on Meath County Council to include the procurement and delivery of a civic amenity site in the Ashbourne area as an objective in the Local Area Plan.”



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The amended motion was adopted.

10 Correspondence

- 10.1 Correspondence received from St. Vincent's GFC re funding.

The correspondence was noted. Representatives from the club, who were in attendance, were invited by the Cathaoirleach to address the meeting.

- 10.2 Correspondence received from Irish Water in response to the Notice of Item 4.1.1 from April meeting re the foul sewer located crossing the stream between Brookville Estate and Hunters Lane in Ashbourne.

The correspondence was noted.

- 10.3 Correspondence received from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to the Notice of Item 5.2.1 from May meeting re speed limit review.

The correspondence was noted.

11 Any Other Business

- 11.1 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issue:

11.1.1 A report to be circulated on the recent trip to Spain undertaken by him and Councillor Seán Smith to progress the town twinning proposal. Councillor Joe Bonner referred to other groups who have alternative ideas for twinning and the need to seek public submissions on this. Councillor Seán Smith suggested that a timeframe would be needed in terms of seeking other submissions.

11.1.2 It was confirmed that the meeting with Tim Gaskin, Director of Public Transport Services, and Michael Warnock Smith, Head of Public Transport Regulation, NTA would take place the week beginning 27th June and this would be confirmed once agreed.



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach