



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:45 a.m., 19th June, 2017, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Seán Smith**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Claire O’Driscoll, Darren O’Rourke, Alan Tobin.

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Janet Murphy

Assistant Engineer: Philip Connell

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 15th May, 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th May 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O’Driscoll**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Darren O’Rourke referred to the Taking in Charge item that was deferred at the May meeting and requested clarification on when these would be dealt with – it was pointed out that this would be dealt with under Item 5.2.1.

Councillor Alan Tobin referred to the response issued regarding roadside traders but also a recent incidence of a roadside trader positioned on a dangerous location at the roundabout exit at the Pillo Hotel and queried what was the policy of TII in relation to this practice and were they aware that this was occurring – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation so that they could raise it with TII.



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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Rita Hanley, Skryne;
- The family of the late Paddy Pryle, Navan;
- The family of the late Alan Bonner, Stamullen, who died at the Isle of Man TT Races.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Regina Doherty, T.D. on her appointment as Minister for Social Protection – it was agreed that the new Minister would be requested to meet with a delegation from the Municipal District, in Leinster House if necessary.

Councillors welcomed Philip Connell, Assistant Engineer to the meeting. It was then confirmed that this would be the last meeting attended by Janet Murphy, Executive Engineer, as she was leaving Meath County Council to move to Galway. The Cathaoirleach and Councillors expressed their extreme disappointment at this news and paid tribute to Janet and her work, her availability and positive attitude, the progress made since her arrival in Ashbourne and the manner in which she dealt with Councillors. They wished her well for her move and in her new role. Janet thanked Councillors for their words and best wishes.

4 To receive a presentation from Ashbourne Historical Society.

Representatives from Ashbourne Historical Society attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the background to the proposed 2020 celebrations, the 'Kickstart 2020' project, draft role of the steering group and the proposed role of the Municipal District.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked the group for their presentation and commended them on their 1916 commemorative activities and for taking the lead in this project. They recommended that the PPN be used as a resource and committed their support to the planned programme.



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5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

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

A query was raised in relation to the costs and size specifications of the hanging baskets – it was confirmed that the cost was slightly less than 2016 and that they were the same size as last year. Ten reservoir baskets were also being trialled this year.

- 5.1.2 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions.

Councillors requested that updates be provided in relation to the lowering of the speed limit at Kilmoon Cross to 60km ph and the request to TII that the traffic lights at Primatestown be turned off to monitor traffic flows.

5.2 Planning

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

- Brindley Park, Ashbourne

John Sweeney, Enforcement Officer, outlined how this taking in charge process had commenced in 2013 and that many of the issues raised at the May meeting had been reviewed, including the kerb heights. He emphasised that the planning permission conditions and specifications were applied in 1990 and that, whilst standards have since changed, these cannot be retrospectively applied. He also confirmed that works had been carried out on the green area and that there was no evidence of flooding. With regard to the footpath, the site boundary is the wall with the footpath having been there previously and the gap filled with stone.



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A short discussion followed, where the view was expressed that residents were not satisfied that these issues had been rectified and that, if taken in charge, the cost of these works would have to be met by the Council. It was pointed out, that if the estate was taken in charge, then something may be done but that the developer cannot be forced to undertake works that did not form part of the planning permission.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner** to defer this item to the July meeting and that Councillors would discuss this again with residents in the interim.

Reference was also made to Churchfields, Kentstown and the poor condition of the playground – it was pointed out that the map had to be revised to include services and that, if taken in charge, a decision would then be taken with regard to the playground.

5.2.2 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Public Realm Plan.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner, and representatives from Brady Shipman Martin attended the meeting and outlined the plan, following which a menu of actions was to be prepared, not all of which would require a Part 8 process. It was pointed out that key considerations were land ownership and available funding. It was intended to undertake consultation with the public and stakeholders commencing in early August to mid-September, with a public display period, the draft plan will then be finalised and recommendations can be included in the Ashbourne LAP if appropriate. The presentation included the key strengths and challenges in Ashbourne, the proposals including interconnectivity and civic spaces, and the phased introduction.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Parking and use of the multi-storey facility;
- The need for proper streetscapes and pedestrian linkages;
- The need for key commercial and community stakeholders to engage and participate;

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- The need for signage, street names and information boards;
- The need to include the key entries into the town, for example the roundabout at the Pillo Hotel and the sculptures – it was agreed that, whilst the brief focused on the town centre, the periphery had been included;
- The responsibility for delivering on the plan – it was pointed out, whilst Meath County Council had commissioned the plan, it would be up to both public and private stakeholders to take responsibility for its delivery;
- The inclusion of the river as a key amenity;
- The possibility of including a reference to the artistic heritage in the town, including traditional music and language.

5.2.3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5.3 Community

5.3.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

An update had been circulated in advance and a further update was provided at the meeting, including the provision of a new playground, the works required by the OPW, including a flood model, and the appointment of a consultant to undertake an archaeological assessment. It was agreed that a further update would be provided to Councillors following a meeting with the consultants.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Queried why an archaeological assessment was needed as one was completed previously – it was agreed to check this but it was pointed out that this would not affect the completion date;



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- The possible acquisition of a piece of land to open up the river and complete the path;
- Illegal dumping at the playground;
- Referred to engagement with the OPW regarding Zones 1 & 2.

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

5.4 Corporate Services

- 5.4.1 To discuss the arrangements for an official twinning visit to Corcubion.

A representative group, comprising one official and three Councillors, is to travel to Corcubion from 21st to 23rd July for a music festival. It was unanimously agreed that Councillors Seán Smith, Suzanne Jamal and Alan Tobin would travel, with the official to be confirmed.

- 5.4.2 To receive an update on Ashbourne Public Park.

Fiona Lawless provided an overview on the outcome of the request for expressions of interest, which must now be brought to its final conclusion, with one site possibly being suitable. An email had also been received from a local community group identifying other possible options. Once the process has been completed, it will be brought before the Municipal District.

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

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

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin



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“Can I ask if a preferred option has been selected for the pedestrian access in Deerpark? If not, may we see the options available and select one at the June meeting?”

Response:

The area of Deerpark referred to is included in Zones 6 and 7 of the Ashbourne Linear Park and consultants for these sections of the Park will be appointed in the coming days. As part of their brief they will be required to design a suitable access barrier to allow continued vehicular access for those who require it (Irish Water and Meath County Council staff) but restrict all other access to pedestrians. There will be further consultation with the residents and Elected Members on the proposed scheme prior to commencing the Part VIII process.

The response was noted. Councillor Alan Tobin requested that a pedestrian access be delivered as soon as possible and before the Part 8 process is completed.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O’Rourke

“To ask the Executive the number of households removed from the housing list during the most recent housing list review on the basis of 1) income threshold and 2) failure to respond.”

Response:

Work was carried out on the 2016 Housing Needs assessment between 1st June 2016 and mid October 2016. During this period 27 no. applicants were found to be ineligible on income grounds. A further 126 no. applicants were excluded from the list due to the fact that no contact was received from the applicant despite a number of attempts by the Housing Department to get in touch with them.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith



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“That Meath County Council carries out a feasibility study on the cost, design and requirement for a new bridge over the Broadmeadow River on the Milltown Road in Ashbourne.”

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

A preliminary alignment has been carried out at this location and Meath County Council will report on this as part of the works on the Milltown Road.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

A short discussion followed, with Councillors expressing the view that a new bridge was the only solution to the bottleneck at this location, but that this would result in the weight restriction being lifted. It was pointed out that funding would be required for a new bridge and that this would only be given if substantial evidence was provided as to why it was needed. It was also pointed out that public consultation would take place as part of the Part 8 process for the Milltown Road.

The motion was adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To ask Meath County Council to utilise a one acre site on Hunter's lane for a designated park & ride and overflow parking area as part of an integrated public transport system and to improve road, cyclist and pedestrian safety on Hunter's Lane. This land is designated as being on a flood plain and is not suitable for building on.”

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

The NTA are currently looking at a strategy for a Park and Ride facility for the county and Meath County Council will make them aware of this location.

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



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A short discussion followed on the need for a park & ride facility to deal with illegal parking, the need for such a facility to be close to bus stops, the alternative uses proposed for this site, including a scouts den, museum, etc.

The motion was noted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“I call for a replacement of the 4 Jobsbridge workers with 4 full time outdoor staff as soon as possible to help with basic services in the Ashbourne district.”

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

The human resource requirement for Meath County Council is driven by the workforce planning process. The Council continually reviews staffing requirements at all levels and grades on an ongoing basis with reference to overall budgetary implications and requirements. Cognisance is being taken of the cessation of the Gateway scheme in terms of the allocation of available core staff resources across the county. Since March of this year three additional full-time outdoor grade staff (a General Services Supervisor and two General Operatives) have been assigned to the Ashbourne Municipal District. It is noted and appreciated that the Gateway scheme part-time staff have carried out a valuable service for the Council and the community. This work has, in the main, been additional to the Council’s normal work programme. The review of this work is ongoing and the methodology by which same may be completed is being considered. The three recent additional core staff resources will assist with this.

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

A short discussion followed on the additional resources allocated to Ashbourne Municipal District, the labour saving initiatives being used, such as the Big Belly Bins and other efficiencies.

The motion was noted.



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7.4 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“That this Municipal District will write to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs supporting the call for the extension of the Terms of Reference of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes to include St. Clare's, Stamullen.”

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

The motion was adopted.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“That this Municipal District calls on the OPW to kindly replace the gate at the entrance to the hill of Skyrne which is in disrepair and to fix the climbing stones.”

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

The motion was adopted.

7.6 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“That this Municipal District invites a representative from the OPW to a Municipal District meeting to present their plan for the Hill of Tara.”

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

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from An Garda Síochána in response to the Notice of Item 9.3.2 – AOB from May meeting re illegal parking in Ashbourne.



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The correspondence was noted. It was agreed that an acknowledgement letter would issue, welcoming the response.

- 8.2 Correspondence received from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and the Gaeltacht Affairs in response to the Notice of Item 8.1 - Notice of Motion as adopted at April meeting re Hill of Tara.

The correspondence was noted. It was agreed that Fiona Lawless would discuss this with the Chief Executive and Heritage Officer.

- 8.3 Correspondence received from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in response to the Notice of Item 7.2 – Notice of Motion as adopted at May meeting re meeting with Minister Coveney and Deputies English, Doherty, McEntee and Byrne.

The correspondence was noted. It was agreed to wait until all appointments were confirmed before following this up.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Clonalvey Sports Day this coming Sunday.

9.1.2 Public invitation to the Prosper Meath workshop on 6th July.

- 9.2 Councillor Darren O'Rourke raised the following issues:

9.2.1 The timeframe for the completion of works at the Castle Street/Johnswood junction – it was confirmed that this was gone out to tender and was on track.

9.2.2 The increased responsibility of Meath County Council in relation to abandoned cars.

- 9.3 Councillor Claire O'Driscoll raised the following issues:

9.3.1 The role of Meath County Council in relation to fire safety issues at The Briars;



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- 9.3.2 Update on the applications being made under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme – it was confirmed that the assessment process had just been complete with formal applications to be prepared.

- 9.3.3 The poor condition of the playground in Churchfields, Kentstown and the need to remove it if the estate is taken in charge.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach