



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Municipal District of Ashbourne

Ordinary Meeting

14th July 2014, Ashbourne Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Councillors Joseph Bonner, Claire O'Driscoll, Darren O'Rourke, Councillor Seán Smith, Alan Tobin

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Joe Fahy

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Administrative Officer: Paul Monahan

Executive Engineer: Philip Traynor

Clerical Officer: Fiona Casserly

Apologies: Adrian Hobbs, Senior Executive Engineer

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 10th June 2014.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 10th June 2014 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**, subject to the following amendment:

- Item 6.1: Councillor Joe Bonner proposed that Ashbourne Municipal District write to the Chief Executive of Meath County Council requesting the allocation of additional outdoor staff to the Ashbourne Municipal District and that Meath County Council write to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government requesting the allocation of additional staff to Meath County Council. This was seconded by Councillor Darren O'Rourke. Joe Fahy confirmed that this would be dealt as part of the Workforce Planning exercise being undertaken for outdoor staff and agreed to provide a report in the interim.

2.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Councillor Seán Smith pointed out that he had requested a report on the number and location of outdoor staff in County Meath and a breakdown of the machinery and equipment available to them. Joe Fahy confirmed that this would be dealt as part of the Workforce Planning exercise being undertaken for outdoor staff and agreed to provide a report in the interim.



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3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Junior and Leaving Certificate students who recently finished exams.
- The residents of Brindley Park on their recent clean-up.

Councillor Joe Bonner expressed his thanks to Adrian Hobbs and the staff of Meath County Council for their assistance in Brindley Park.

The Councillors also conveyed messages of good luck to the Meath GAA Team and Garden City Residents' Association in next week's Pride of Place judging.

4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Corporate Services

4.1.1 To consider the Standing Orders for the meetings of Ashbourne Municipal District.

A number of queries were raised including the process of changing the Standing Orders once they were adopted and the number of Notices of Motion and Question permitted. It was highlighted that staff within the Municipal District are available to deal with Councillors' queries and issues on an informal basis and in between meetings so as to ensure meetings are as efficient as possible.

It was agreed that the Standing Orders would be adopted at the September Municipal District meetings, incorporating feedback received.

4.2 Planning

4.2.1 To consider the taking in charge of the following estate and the making of a declaration that the roads within the estate shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 – 2014.

- Ashewood, Ashbourne

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

Joe Fahy agreed to investigate the following issues raised:

- Speeding on the access road through the estate and the possibility of installing traffic calming measures and the status of the T-junction;
- The exclusion of the green area at the front of Ashewood from the taking in charge.



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5.0 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Has the site on which the wastewater treatment plant is located in Deerpark, Ashbourne been taken over by Irish Water / Uisce Éireann and will the two sites adjacent to it be taken over by Irish Water / Uisce Éireann or will they remain in the ownership of Meath County Council?”

A written response to the question was provided by Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Environment and Water Services.

6.0 Notices of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Darren O’Rourke

“That Ashbourne Municipal District requests the Water Services Department of Meath County Council to provide a report on the water quality issues in the Ashbourne area, particularly water hardness and supply, and arrange a meeting between representatives of Irish Water, Meath County Council officials and Elected Members and other key stakeholders.”

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

A written report was submitted by Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Environment and Water Services.

A discussion followed that included the difference between water quality and water hardness, the high water quality supplied in Ashbourne, the adverse impact of the use of water softeners for those with certain medical conditions and infants, the cost implications of water hardness including appliance replacement, the future role of Meath County Council in water supply, the testing standards used and the possible solutions for dealing with the issues raised.

Joe Fahy reaffirmed that there was no water quality issue in the Ashbourne Municipal District and that water hardness was not a health issue, despite its impact on appliances. He confirmed that all necessary parameters were tested on a regular basis. Councillor O’Rourke requested that the meeting be set up no later than mid-September and that the ‘*Ashbourne Says No to Water Charges*’ Campaign Group be invited to attend.



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6.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“That Meath County Council / Uisce Éireann carry out a study on the serious water pressure issues in Racehill Manor housing estate: water shortages are not uncommon during hours of peak consumption. This estate is built on a height and needs a pumping station installed to increase pressure to an effective level.”

The Motion was proposed by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

A written report was submitted by Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Environment and Water Services.

A discussion followed on the future water supply in the Greater Dublin Area and its impact on economic development.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“That Meath County Council erect four flag poles outside Ashbourne Civic Office with flags to be displayed on the following days: days of Council meetings, Sundays, Public Holidays and during special occasions and festivals. The four flags to be displayed are the EU flag, the National flag, the Meath flag / crest and the fourth flag to be an Ashbourne Municipal District flag to be designed by competition in local schools throughout the district and the winning design to be selected by Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors; this flag should be all inclusive, representing all people, traditions, sports and the history of the District.”

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

A written report was submitted by Paul Monahan, Administrative Officer, Ashbourne Municipal District.

It was agreed that the Motion would be submitted to the Protocol Committee of Meath County Council.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Suzanne Jamal

“I call on Ashbourne Municipal District to look at safety measures in the vicinity of our rural schools, namely Kentstown, Lismullen and Rathfeigh, in the interest of public safety.”

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

A written report was submitted by Michael Finnegan, Road Safety Officer, Transportation.



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A discussion followed on general road safety issues at schools and the possible solutions that could be introduced. It was agreed to invite Michael Finnegan, Road Safety Officer to deliver a presentation at the September meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District on the Road Safety Plan.

7.0 Correspondence

- 7.1** Pavement Condition Survey maps for the Ashbourne Municipal District were circulated and it was agreed to issue the pdf versions by email.

8.0 Any Other Business

- 8.1** iPad Training: Staff from the IT Section of Meath County Council were in attendance to provide training on the use of the iPads provided. It was agreed to deal with any other business arising before the training commenced.

- 8.2** Councillor Claire O'Driscoll highlighted the following issues:
- the flashing lights at Kilbride National School are out of order - Philip Traynor agreed to look into this;
 - the condition of L-50461 Ardcath and that a representation would be submitted regarding same;
 - when would the special speed limits be introduced. Joe Fahy pointed out that local authorities are waiting for guidelines from the Department of Transport arising from the recommendations made in the Speed Limit Review Report, published in November 2013, and Meath County Council will proceed once the guidelines are made available.

- 8.3** Councillor Alan Tobin highlighted the following issues:
- the need to complete realignment works at Bachelors Walk. Philip Traynor agreed to check the current status of the project and whether bike stations are to be provided, in response to a query from Councillor Claire O'Driscoll. Joe Fahy pointed out that there is a procedure for the provision of taxi ranks;
 - whether households in Churchfields were exempt from water charges as residents claim that water meters have not yet been installed. It was pointed out that charges also apply to wastewater discharge and that this was a matter for Irish Water;
 - when the traffic management measures were to be installed at De Lacy College as it was due to open in September;
 - whether the tree opposite the side entrance to Ballymagarvey Village could be removed as it had been the scene of a recent car



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accident. Councillor Suzanne Jamal also pointed out that there had been recent complaints that this stretch of road surface was slippery. Joe Fahy pointed out that skid resistance testing is carried out on roads, funding is sought to deal with issues identified and roads requiring works are included in the annual surface dressing programme; this road is included in this programme. He also committed to looking at the issue of the tree removal.

- 8.4** Councillor Seán Smith requested a map of lands owned by Meath County Council in the Ashbourne Municipal District.
- 8.5** Councillor Joe Bonner pointed out that funding will need to be allocated to Ashbourne Civic Offices to ensure the upgrade of the offices and the reinstatement of the Council Chamber.
- 8.6** Councillor Darren O'Rourke enquired as to how Municipal District Councillors will input into the budgetary process. Joe Fahy confirmed that the 2015 budget will be discussed at Municipal District meetings with the budgetary process update to be provided at September's meeting of Meath County Council.
- 8.7** Joe Fahy pointed out that drainage works had commenced on Ashbourne Main Street and that, whilst there might be some inconvenience, this would be kept to a minimum.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The iPad training followed the ordinary business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cllr. Suzanne Jamal
Cathaoirleach