



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9.30a.m., 13th July 2015, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**, presided.

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

Apologies: Councillor Suzanne Jamal.

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Jim Colwell

Executive Engineer: Janet Murphy

Clerical Officer: Edita Zolotuchina

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 15th June 2015.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15th June 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 15th June 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th June 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

In relation to Item 7.2, Councillor Seán Smith confirmed that he had not made a submission to An Bord Pleanála based on advice received. However, the developer had appealed three of



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the planning conditions and Councillor Smith had made a submission on this appeal last Friday. The Cathaoirleach thanked Councillor Smith for following up on this matter.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Corporate Services

4.1.1 To receive an update on the Municipal District Members Discretionary Fund.

A report was circulated at the meeting, indicating the allocations made to date by Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors. Councillors were reminded that applications should be submitted no later than 30th September, otherwise allocations would be deferred to 2016.

4.2 Transportation

4.2.1 To receive a progress report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne Municipal District.

A report had been circulated in advance.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The damage to the road surface following the CIS works in Hayestown;
- The Tidy Towns group had received a lower quotation from the supplier of the big belly bins.

4.3 Planning

4.3.1 Matters Arising



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There were no matters arising. Fiona Lawless suggested that, for future meetings, the planning application list relating to the Ashbourne Municipal District could be circulated in advance of meetings for Councillors information. However, it was confirmed that it would not be appropriate to discuss live applications and no planner would be in attendance.

It was also suggested that the Planning Department would be requested to consider an urban design statement, to include street signage.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“Can Meath County Council provide an update on the enforcement of Planning Permission Condition 3 on Planning reference 94/1258, which refers to an area of 3.21 acres of green space at Tudor Heights, an action from a Notice of Question at the February meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District?”

Response:

The “Tudor” development as a whole is one of the older estates in Ashbourne having been granted permission in the 1990s. The development companies that built these estates are no longer trading and have been dissolved. The Council holds cash deposits in the sum of €15,236.80 and €49,519.79 in respect of all phases of these estates. The Council does not have a taking in charge request from the developer and would encourage the residents to hold a plebiscite and request the Council to take the estate in charge. The standard request form for is attached. The Council will require the estate to be taken in charge before it can access the lands and apply any cash deposits held.

Please be aware that in the event that there are deficiencies in the estate infrastructure and insufficient funds to address all such shortcomings, the Council will apply the security in accordance with its taking in charge protocol. For the avoidance of doubt, that protocol mandates the infrastructural priorities to be as follows: services, public lighting, roads, footpath, open spaces.

In summary, the Council advises that the taking in charge process is the appropriate mechanism to achieve control over the lands in question. However the Council cannot confirm at this stage if the securities held are sufficient to address all estate



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infrastructure deficiencies that may exist, as well as improvement work to the open space identified by Councillor Smith.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“In light of the management company/bank that owns the playground in Ashbourne town giving notice that they will no longer be maintaining the facility, can I ask that Meath County Council give their assurances that they will take on the responsibility to maintain the upkeep of the park?”

Response:

Meath County Council confirms that the “NAUS development” open space, abutting Castle Street, forms part of the land and services requested to be taken in charge by that development. The Council will publish notice of its intention to take that area in charge together with elements of the roads infrastructure serving the town centre development in the 3rd Quarter of 2015. When the lands are in charge, the responsibility for their maintenance will rest with the Local Authority. It is the Planning Authority’s understanding that the Council is currently responsible for the maintenance of the playground at this location.

The response was noted.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Darren O’Rourke

“To ask for, in tabular form, 1) the total number of people on the social housing list in the Ashbourne Municipal District at 30th June 2015; 2) the number of people newly housed in social housing in the Ashbourne Municipal District between January 1st and June 30th 2015; 3) the number of people newly housed in RAS housing in the Ashbourne Municipal District between January 1st and June 30th 2015; 4) the number of people newly housed in Housing Association housing in the Ashbourne Municipal District between January 1st and June 30th 2015.”

Response:



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There are currently 1,084 applicants on Meath County Council’s Housing List that have indicated their preference (1st, 2nd & 3rd) to be accommodated in the Ashbourne Municipal District area (first preference only is 457).

Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the Ashbourne Municipal District for the period 1st January – 30th June 2015.

	Local Authority House	Voluntary Housing	RAS	Total
No. of Households with Accommodation Needs Met by Meath County Council (Jan - June 2015)	3	4	3	10

The response was noted.

5.4 Submitted by Councillor Claire O’Driscoll

“Following a motion adopted by the Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors in January 2015 calling on the Council to initiate the process of cataloguing restoring and retaining old roadside water pumps, can the Council please give an update on any progress to date, especially in light of the fact that one pump has been inadvertently been removed by a private individual developer in the district in the meantime?”

A verbal response was provided at the meeting and was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“That Meath County Council initiates a process to develop a 'Connect and Invest' video for the South East Meath region to be promoted to the IDA and International networks with engagement with local Chambers of Commerce.”



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

Meath County Council's Economic Development Strategy 2014-2022 outlines a series of eight actions, with Marketing being one of these actions.

The Council is currently working towards processing a video showcasing County Meath. The video will be tailored to the IDA and international networks setting out the unique selling points of the County for economic development including the South East Meath area.

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

Fiona Lawless confirmed that she would discuss this with the Director of Services for Economic Development.

The motion was adopted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

"That Meath County Council approves a list of submitted projects to be completed on a weekly basis by Meath County Council Town Enhancement staff for Ashbourne, Stamullen and Kentstown. "

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

Ashbourne MD Operations cannot commit to all items on the list submitted as it currently does not have specific Town Enhancement staff available.

With the staff available, Ashbourne MD Operations has extended its street sweeping to Kentstown and Stamullen. The street cleaning general operatives are spending time in Kentstown on road edge scuffling and verge cutting is ongoing. Grass is being cut weekly in Ashbourne on the north and south approach roads. Hanging baskets will be watered as necessary on advice from the supplier.



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The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

A short discussion followed on the role of Councillors in determining the work programmes of staff, the allocation of staff resources throughout the county and its implications, and the new approach to operations.

The motion was withdrawn.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“I ask Meath County Council to rename the Public Participation Network (PPN) to the District Community Forum, for example: Ashbourne District Community Forum, Ratoath District Community Forum, etc. “

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

Section 46 of the Local Government Act 2014 replaced section 127 of the 2001 Local Government Act with a new section which enables local authorities to take all appropriate steps to consult with and promote effective participation of local communities in local government. One of the principal provisions of achieving same is the establishment by each local authority of a Public Participation Network (PPN).

In summary, the PPNs replace the former Community Fora (established under the auspices of the County Development Board), as set out in the aforementioned legislation and accordingly, it is not possible, nor appropriate to rename same.

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

A short discussion followed on the operation of the PPN and its benefit to community groups. It was agreed that the success of the PPN would depend on resources allocated to it.

The motion was adopted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Darren O’Rourke



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“That Meath County Council would recognise that the housing crisis has different and unique characteristics in different parts of the county and that the Ashbourne Municipal District, and Ashbourne town in particular, is experiencing some of the worst effects of the crisis; that the council would, therefore, actively pursue the possibility of purchasing land to build houses in the District, as well as pursuing creative alternatives to increase the level of social housing in the District.”

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

Meath County Council is pursuing a number of approaches under the Social Housing Strategy, to increase the supply of social housing units in the County. These mechanisms include direct construction, acquisitions, Part V, RAS and long term leasing. In addition, liaison and co-ordination with the voluntary housing associations has continued so as to maximise their delivery through the Capital & Lease Finance and Capital Assistance Scheme. The possibility of land purchase will be considered, in particular in those Municipal District areas where Meath County Council currently have no land bank, but this option will be dependent on Departmental funding and the overall parameters of the Social Housing Strategy, which we are subject to. In addition, opportunities to deliver social housing in partnership with the private sector will also be explored.

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

A short discussion followed on the housing needs in Ashbourne Municipal District, the need to consider alternative housing provision and the impact of increased rents.

The motion was adopted.

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Darren O’Rourke

“That Meath County Council would liaise with the relevant parties to repair the bridge along the R125 before Donaghmore Church and, separately, the wall and junction across from the church.”

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



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Meath County Council are currently tendering the design of the remedial works to Donaghmore Bridge with tenders due to be submitted on Friday 10th July 2015.

A tender document is currently being drafted for the repair works to the stone wall outside the church and it is hoped to have this out to tender by the end of the month. Once the value of the repair works are costed, Meath County Council will be in a position to ascertain if funding can be allocated to the works this year.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

A short discussion followed on how bridges are managed and it was agreed to seek an update from the Transportation Department.

The motion was adopted.

6.6 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

"That the Transportation Section would provide the members with an update on the traffic plan for Curragha including the junction at Primatestown in light of the new development in Tayto Park and the company's objective to attract up to 700,000 visitors to the park this year."

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

The NRA is providing an allocation to carry out a traffic study on the N2 from Rath to Kilmoon including the signal junction at Primatestown. The proposed Consultants for the scheme have submitted a quotation for the study and Meath County Council are currently liaising with the NRA with regard to appointing the Consultants. The study will take approximately 10-12 weeks to complete. However the Consultants have recommended not commencing the study until September so that any traffic surveys carried out would be representative of commuter and school traffic.

The TIA for the current permission included for an increase in visitor numbers. Also it considers junction capacities in the design peak hour for this projected increase. Notwithstanding this, the Council has met with Tayto Park and the Gardaí about special



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traffic management measures that could be put in place to deal with exceptional events like bank holiday traffic. This is being considered in addition to the study above.

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

A short discussion followed on the issues at the roundabout, including signage, and it was agreed to seek an update from the Transportation Section for the September meeting. The Terms of Reference for the traffic study was also requested. Other matters raised included the need for utility companies to cause minimum disruption during works and the litter on the N2.

The motion was adopted.

6.7 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

"That a pilot project would run in this district to provide zebra/pedestrian crossings outside rural schools where the functional car park for parents is situated across the road from the school e.g. in Skyrne and Bellewstown."

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

Meath County Council could commence a programme for this next year if funding can be set aside for this in next year's budget. A survey will be carried out this year of the number of schools involved in the area and the cost for each school, as each will differ depending on ESB connection and a number of other variables.

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

A short discussion followed on the costs associated with the provision of pedestrian crossings and other traffic calming measures and the role and responsibilities of schools and parents in ensuring safety at schools. It was agreed that this matter should be discussed by the Transport SPC.

The motion was adopted.



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7 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Fiona Lawless raised the following issue:

8.1.1 The Local Government Boundary Review, which includes Drogheda, and the possible implications for Meath arising from any changes implemented, particularly in the Ashbourne and Laytown-Bettystown Municipal Districts. The review is to be completed by 30th November with the first formal meeting to take place on 31st July. It was suggested that the two municipal districts should meet in committee to discuss the issues arising with the related documentation to be circulated to Councillors.

8.1.2 The date for the workshop to discuss the Milltown Road Improvement. It was agreed that the workshop would take place at 11.30am on Monday, 14th September and will follow the September monthly meeting.

8.2 Councillor Joe Bonner raised the following issues:

8.2.1 The continuing need for the chamber to be reinstated, including the return of the table and the crest.

8.2.2 The benefits of staff being present at meetings.

8.2.3 The availability of live streaming for members of the public – it was agreed to refer this to the Protocol Committee.

8.3 Councillor Claire O'Driscoll raised the following issue:

8.3.1 The plan for the capital investment included for the Hill of Tara – it was agreed to check this and a response will issue.

8.4 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:



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- 8.4.1 Update on the motion relating to erecting flag poles at Ashbourne Civic Offices.
- 8.4.2 Update on the use of the Jetvac machine.
- 8.4.3 The finish to the road surface as part of the roadworks programme, e.g. Ballybin Road – it was confirmed that surface dressing is to follow the works undertaken.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach