



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 11th July 2016, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Alan Tobin**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Claire O'Driscoll, Darren O'Rourke.

Apologies: Councillors Suzanne Jamal and 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 Annual Meeting held on 20th June, 2016.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 20th June 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 20th June, 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20th June 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations



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Congratulations were extended to:

- Ashbourne Baseball Club, and in particular Liam Shier and Seán Mitchell, on the recent international competition held in Ashbourne and to the Irish team, travelling to compete in Slovenia next month.

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

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department and Gwen Tierney, Landscape Architect, attended the meeting and outlined the proposals in respect of the seven sections of the park, which were developed following extensive public consultation. It was pointed out that, following this meeting and that planned with those Councillors not in attendance, it was intended to finalise the design and proceed to commence with the appropriate sections, as per the Part VIII.

Councillors raised queries and highlighted issues in respect of the design proposals for each section and responses were provided. Key issues included land ownership, funding and costs, and concerns of local residents/community engagement. It was agreed to consider the specific issues raised and review the design accordingly. It was pointed out that a number of reports must be prepared but that the aim was to present the Part VIII for approval in September, following which the public consultation would commence and the report brought back to the December meeting of the Municipal District. Subject to agreement being reached, works on the central section could commence in April 2017, by which time the relevant taking in charge process should be complete.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors welcomed the positive contribution that the park would provide to the town, acknowledged the work undertaken to date and commended Gwen and Fiona on their work and taking on board the views expressed by citizens in developing the design proposals.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner** to extend the meeting by thirty minutes.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Economic Development



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5.1.1 To receive an update on the Local Enterprise Office – Services and Supports.

Joe English, Head of Enterprise, Meath County Council delivered a presentation to the meeting, which included an overview of the Local Enterprise Officer, the services provided and key contacts.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The availability of the mentoring service for small business at convenient times and the provision of training courses/hotdesk facilities in Ashbourne – it was confirmed that the mentors and clients arrange mutually suitable times to meet and that discussions were ongoing in relation to providing satellite hotdesk facilities in Ashbourne.
- The costs in time and money for small businesses to comply with all requirements, e.g. forms – it was confirmed that the forms used resemble business plans, which every business should have.
- The ability to meet demand with a limited budget – it was confirmed that expenditure was prioritised to maximise job creation.
- The targets set for job creation – it was confirmed that the creation of 140 net jobs had been directly supported by the LEO in 2015.
- Encouragement of online retail – the trading online vouchers scheme was outlined.
- Linkages with the Meath Chambers of Commerce – it was confirmed that information sessions were planned for September.
- The need to considering expanding the export market following Brexit – it was pointed out that this was to be discussed at the next LEO Network meeting.

5.2 Housing

5.2.1 To receive a Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2016.



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Brian Murphy, Administrative Officer, Housing Department, outlined the key points in the report circulated.

A short discussion followed on how the assessment was being advertised and administered, the criteria for assessment and the means by which people can have queries answered.

5.3 Transportation

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

The report had been circulated in advance and was noted.

5.4 Corporate Services

- 5.4.1 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 St. Vincent's GFC and this was noted.

5.5 Planning

- 5.5.1 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.



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8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach