



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 10th July, 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: Mel Cronin

Assistant Engineer: Philip Connell

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 19th June, 2017.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 19th June 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O’Rourke**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 19th June, 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19th June 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O’Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Claire O’Driscoll requested an update on the letter to issue to the OPW regarding the Hill of Tara and also the boundary wall at the Hill of Skryne – reference was made to the meeting to be arranged with the Council’s Heritage Officer, the OPW and the Department of



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Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht regarding the draft plan for the Hill of Tara and it was agreed that the Heritage Officer would be invited to the September meeting to provide an update.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services provided an update on the provision of a public park and the identification of a suitable site. It was confirmed that possible sites were being assessed and that negotiations were ongoing, that an allocation in the current capital programme would contribute towards the acquisition of a site but that further funding would be needed to develop any site acquired, based on the needs of the community. Councillors welcomed the progress made and the plans to engage with the community, whilst hoping that a site could be secured as soon as possible. It was pointed out that it would be the end of the year, at the earliest, before any purchase would be finalised, following which community engagement could commence.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Rieta Vander Werff, Customer Services, Ashbourne Civic Offices on the death of her husband, Des Forde.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Mel Cronin, Executive Engineer on joining Ashbourne Municipal District;
- Ashbourne Baseball Club on their most successful international baseball festival and to Meath County Council for their support – it was agreed that letters would issue to the club and individual teams for their contribution to the event.

4 To receive a presentation by CS Consulting Group on behalf of Ashbourne Chamber of Commerce on Preliminary Pedestrian Permeability Study for Town Centre Ashbourne.

Oliver Russell delivered a presentation to the meeting on the preliminary pedestrian permeability study for Ashbourne, the study area, pedestrian linkages and constraints, signage and street names and ownership issues. It was pointed out that the group had been liaising with the consultants developing the Public Realm Plan. Fiore Macari followed this by outlining some of the challenges facing the business community in the town centre, including vacant units, pedestrian connectivity and access, street signage and mapping.



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Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The inclusion of many of the issues raised in the draft Public Realm Plan;
- The progress being made by the Council and the positive relations developed;
- The need for all stakeholders to engage – it was agreed to request Brady Shipman Martin to provide an update on the Public Realm Plan at the September meeting;
- Responsibility for the implementation of the Public Realm Plan;
- The need to engage the community, particularly those who commute to work each day, and create local employment opportunities – it was pointed out that economic development was a separate issue and should be discussed with the Economic Development & Enterprise Section separately.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked the group for their presentation.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To receive a presentation from DBFL on the Pedestrian & Cycling scheme proposed for the Milltown Road, with a view of getting elected members approval to proceed to Part VIII display.

Robert Kelly, DBFL and Pat Shore, Assistant Engineer, Planning outlined the proposed changes made to the scheme, based on feedback received. The process, including the public display period, was outlined. It was pointed out that the costs would be determined following the detailed design and the funding sources, both confirmed and potential, were outlined.

Councillors welcomed the changes made to the proposed scheme and acknowledged the public consultation that forms part of the Part VIII process. It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O’Driscoll** to proceed to Part VIII display.



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Councillor Joe Bonner wished to have it recorded that he had requested an additional fortnight for people to have their say before proceeding to Part VIII and commencing the public consultation.

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

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by Councillors included:

- The timeframe for the provision of the footpath from Gormanston college to the bus stops – it was confirmed that this was due to start in approximately 10 days.
 - The possibility of tidying up the village in advance of the Pride of Place judging, taking place over the next two weeks.
 - The need to check vehicle activated signs and the provision of these at Rathfeigh – it was confirmed that hedging was being cut back at these locations and that new signs and road markings were being provided at Rathfeigh.
- 5.1.3 To consider and, if thought fit, to approve for public display the “Draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.2) 2017, subject to there being no objection from An Garda Síochána on or before the 27th July 2017.

This was unanimously agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

- 5.1.4 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions.

The update provided was noted and it was requested that a written report by the Consulting Engineers be circulated and that the broader safety issues be addressed.

5.2 Planning



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5.2.1 Matters Arising

Councillor Seán Smith referred to planning applications being granted for developments on green spaces in Ashbourne and the need for planning decisions to take the County Development Plan objectives into account. It was agreed to refer this to the Planning Department.

5.2.2 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

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

5.3 Community

5.3.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

The update provided was noted. Councillors referred to the need for a gate at Deerpark and the timeframe for the use of the riparian strips.

It was agreed that Fiona Fallon would be invited to the September meeting to provide a further update.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner** that a letter would issue to the Department of Education and Skills, copied to the Meath TDs, regarding the shortage of playing pitches/sports facilities in the three school campuses.

5.4 Corporate Services

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



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

6 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

- 6.1 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 15th June 2017.

The report was noted.

7 Notice of Question

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“How many trips, falls and claims have been recorded on the new cycle lanes on Frederick Street (Main St), Bridge Street and the Dublin Road (R135) Ashbourne since the new street refurbishment finished in 2014 and how much compensation has been paid out?”

Response:

4 Personal Injury Claims re new cycle lanes have been received since the new street refurbishment finished in 2014. All 4 claims are currently being investigated by the Council’s insurers IPB Insurance and no compensation has been paid to date.

The response was noted. Councillor Alan Tobin sought clarification on the number of complaints received.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O’Rourke

“To ask the Chief Executive if the housing development (particularly the apartments and duplexes) at The Briars, Ashbourne were built to the standards agreed with Meath County Council at the time planning permission(s) was granted; if a Fire Certificate was issued before or after inspection; and if the Council is aware of any fire protection or other building deficiencies there at this time including arising from its recent expression of interest in property there?”

Response:



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Meath County Council, as a building control authority, had no function in the certification of works carried out at The Briars development at the time of construction. The responsibility to demonstrate compliance with Building Control Standards rests with the owner at all times. A Fire Certificate reference number FS4194 was granted prior to the commencement of the development. The Planning Department are unaware of any recent expression of interest in property at The Briars.

The response was noted. Councillor Darren O'Rourke sought clarification on the response received including responsibility to demonstrate compliance, the role of the local authority in certifying these works and/or works in new developments and responsibility for remedying any deficiencies identified. It was agreed to refer these queries to the Chief Fire Officer.

8 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To ask Meath County Council Transport Department to add to this year’s summer resurfacing road works program the R135 section between Dunnes Stores and Castle street (A), North of Frederick St and the section between the Alderbrook/Deerpark junction and the 9 mile stone roundabout (B).”

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

It will not be possible to include the roads referred to, as all available road restoration monies for the Ashbourne Municipal District for 2017 have already been allocated.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

The motion was adopted.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“That the Meath County Council Fire Officer and Ashbourne Municipal District Area Manager and local elected members would meet with representatives of The Briars



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Housing estate, Ashbourne in order to play a constructive part in resolving outstanding issues there.”

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

Following receipt of a report from the Briars Apartment Management Company on the 15th February 2017, Meath Fire Officers met with representatives of Oriel Property Management Company, the property agent for the Briars Apartment Management Company, on the 21st February. This meeting was followed up by correspondence from the Fire service on 23rd February.

Towards the end of April, Meath County Council Planning Section received an FOI request from the Fire Safety Consultant to the Briars Apartment Management Company for a copy of the Fire Safety Certificate which had been granted for the development – copies of the certificates were provided as requested.

Access was also requested to the Fire Safety Certificate compliance report and drawings however this is not provided for under FOI legislation. Oriel Property Management Company has since again requested copies of the file (compliance report and drawings) and was informed that they could be reviewed but no copies could be provided as per the FOI decision.

They have been advised that access to the files can be provided at the Fire Service offices in Navan Fire Station and any necessary clarification could then be provided. The fire safety certificates are on the way over to the Fire Service from Meath County Council Planning and Fire Service will contact Oriel Property Management Company when they have been received. Once they have been obtained a meeting will be scheduled.

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

The motion was adopted.

9 Correspondence

9.1 Correspondence received from St Vincent’s GFC re an update of the development.



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The correspondence was noted.

10 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach