



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 14th September, 2015, Ashbourne Civic Offices

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

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

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Jim Colwell

Executive Engineer: Janet Murphy

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 13th July 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th July 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

2.1 Councillor Darren O'Rourke requested an update on the wall at Donaghmore Church and the claiming of insurance where damage was caused - it was confirmed that a costing had been received for works and that these will proceed.

2.2 Councillor Joe Bonner pointed out that the parapet of the bridge on the Milltown Road had collapsed following damage caused by a lorry.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- 2.3 Councillor Alan Tobin requested an update on the junction at Primatestown – it was confirmed that the traffic survey was to commence this week, taking account of school traffic and that any necessary decisions would be taken by Transportation Strategy & Design.
- 2.4 Councillor Claire O’Driscoll requested an update on the CIS in Hayestown, the cataloguing of water pumps and removal of pump and the capital investment plans for the Hill of Tara – it was pointed out that no definite detail was yet available for plans at the Hill of Tara.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Meath County Council and the staff in the Municipal District, particularly Jonathon Ryan, Senior Resident Engineer, on the completion of Main Street and associated community engagement – it was proposed by **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** to issue a letter to Jonathon Ryan on behalf of Councillors in appreciation of the work undertaken.

4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

A short discussion followed on the information provided to Councillors when deciding on land disposals. It was agreed that a Protocol for Land Disposals would be prepared and circulated, to include the provision of additional information when the land to be disposed of exceeds €1,000.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services

A short discussion took place around the proposed official opening of Frederick Street, provisionally arranged for Friday 18th September as representatives from the NTA were available on that date. Some Councillors expressed reservations at the manner in which the event had been arranged and whether this constituted an official opening as not all Municipal District Councillors had been involved. It was agreed to defer the opening



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

and to discuss the matter further at the October meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District.

- 5.1.1 To consider and, if thought fit, to recommend to Meath County Council the making of the Polling Scheme in accordance with the Draft and subject to such amendments as are considered necessary. The Scheme, if adopted, will come into operation on 15th February 2016.

A presentation was delivered by Olive Falsey, Administrative Officer and Sheila Sheridan, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

It was agreed to recommend to Meath County Council the making of the Polling Scheme in accordance with the Draft on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

- 5.1.2 To receive a presentation on the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015.

A presentation on the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 was delivered by Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, who responded to a number of queries raised.

5.2 Planning

- 5.2.1 To receive a presentation on urban design options for Ashbourne.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner delivered a presentation to the meeting. The presentation and initiative was strongly welcomed by Councillors.

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

- Forgehill, Stamullen



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

5.3 Transportation

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

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need for gully clearance, repair or replacement and the damage caused by tree roots in Garden City – it was confirmed that a review of gullies was to be undertaken and the Jetvac machine would be deployed in the area.
- The deployment of Gateway staff to prune trees that are obstructing public lighting.
- The works undertaken to address the issues identified in relation to flooding – it was agreed to request a report on this from the Environment Section for the October meeting and to request information on what measures were undertaken in this Municipal District from the capital budget allocation for flood relief works.
- The allocation of the additional funding allocation of €40,000 for footpaths – following a discussion, it was agreed that one third of the money would be allocated to the footpath in Kentstown whilst the remainder would be allocated to Garden City.

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

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Dricoll



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“Can officials in the Transportation Section clarify if they support the positioning of a pedestrian crossing in Skyrne to connect the school with the car park which is across the road?”

Response:

This office supports the request for a pedestrian crossing at Skyrne School / Church/ Car park. We will apply for funding from the NTA for this next year 2016.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can I ask Meath County Council for a progress report for the "taking in charge" of Brindley Park and Rathlodge housing estates?”

Response:

Brindley Park

Meath County Council has been in contact with the developer to address outstanding works and we understand that the developer will complete those works in the coming weeks. On completion of same Meath County Council will commence the statutory taking in charge process.

Rathlodge

Meath County Council has received a request from residents of Rathlodge to take that estate in charge. Inspections have been carried out and a schedule of work prepared. The Council have placed a call on the bond which is held by IBRC. The surety has sought further information which was supplied on 13th August. The Council now awaits a decision on release of the bond.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“That Ashbourne Municipal District, in advance of the upcoming consideration of the Local Area Plan, holds an "Ashbourne Economic Development think-in" with local stakeholders, in order to best inform the Local Area Plan, to best take advantage of the Meath Economic Development Strategy 2014-2022, and to best enable Ashbourne reach its full economic and social potential.”

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

Variation No 3 of the Meath County Development Plan is at an advanced stage of preparation.

This variation seeks to align the County Development Plan including settlements contained therein with the main tenets of the Economic Strategy for County Meath as they relate to land use planning.

Upon completion of the drafting process it is intended that each Municipal District will be briefed by planning staff of the content of the variation as it relates to their area.

The local area plan review will commence following completion of the variation process. Public consultation as set out in planning legislation will be undertaken at that stage.

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

The motion was adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“That Ashbourne Municipal District calls on the Minister for the Environment to immediately address the crisis in the private rented sector which, due to issues of supply, demand and inadequate controls, is having a devastating effect on families in this area.”



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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

The motion was adopted.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Suzanne Jamal and seconded by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

"In light of the planned expansion of bus services through the village that the Meath County Council will initiate and pursue proceedings with Bus Éireann to ensure bus stops are erected in the village of Kentstown."

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

We will talk to Bus Éireann about any new services in Kentstown. If new bus stops are required this must go through a Section 85 process in conjunction with ourselves and the NTA. If funding is then made available from the NTA, MCC will construct proper pull-in for bus stops.

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

The motion was adopted.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

"That the provision of a further pedestrian crossing on the main thoroughfare in Stamullen be a priority for the village when the budget for 2016 is being considered."

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

We will examine the need and best location for a crossing in the village. If warranted we will include it for consideration in next year's budget.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

The motion was adopted.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can I ask that Meath County Council writes a letter to Alan Kelly, the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government on behalf of all Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors requesting that with immediate effect, Irish Water continue the level of customer service that was previously carried out by Meath County Council, specifically with regard to waste water blockages in common public drains and shared public sewers on private lands, until infrastructural defects are surveyed and rectified. Can I also request this motion is shared with all local authorities if adopted.”

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

An amended motion was proposed by **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** as follows:

“That Meath County Council writes a letter to Alan Kelly, the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government on behalf of all Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors requesting that Irish Water, or the local authority, accepts responsibility for all sewerage mains and infrastructure maintenance, including those running through non-public property and that appropriate funding be made available and that this motion is shared with all local authorities if adopted.”

It was agreed to hold a roll call vote on the amended motion and the result was as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Clr. Bonner, Joseph	FOR			



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Cllr. Jamal, Suzanne		AGAINST		
Cllr. O'Driscoll, Claire	FOR			
Cllr. O'Rourke, Darren	FOR			
Cllr. Smith, Seán	FOR			
Cllr. Tobin, Alan		AGAINST		
RESULT	4	2	0	0

The amended motion was therefore adopted.

7.6 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can I ask that Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors support a motion calling on all roads classified as local roads or "L" roads have their speed limits reduced from 80km/h to 60km/h.”

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

In February 2012 the Minister for Transport announced plans for a nationwide review of speed limits to ensure that all speed restrictions are both safe and sensible. This review was driven by an inconsistency in approach between different counties in deciding appropriate limits. Part of this review included an evaluation of a proposal to change the default speed limit of the Local Road network to 60 km/h from the current 80 km/h.

*Following on from the review the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has decided that the application of a default 60 km/h speed limit to all Local roads is not appropriate and in March 2015 the Department published the new Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland. These Guidelines, having regard to Section 9(9) of the 2004 Road Traffic Act, constitute a direction of the Minister for Transport and state that “the use of these Guidelines, a statutory document, is **mandatory** when setting and managing speed limits.”*

These Guidelines contain a speed assessment framework for rural single carriageway roads to take into account a number of factors to be considered in assessing a potential change to the default speed limit for a road and notes that “If a speed limit is being



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

raised or lowered whereby the new limit may be inappropriate for the section then appropriate engineering measures should be adopted.”

The automatic application therefore of a 60 km/h Special Speed Limit on all Local Roads would not be considered to be in accordance with national Guidelines.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Economic & Enterprise Development

9.1.1 Caroline Power, Administrative Officer, Economic & Enterprise Development played a short video on business in Ashbourne. Councillors made a number of suggestions on items that might be included.

9.2 Pride of Place

9.2.1 Councillor Claire O’Driscoll outlined the background to and plans for the local Pride of Place event, due to take place on 8th October, and asked for any ideas on the event. It was agreed to request the Community Department to circulate information on the event and the groups invited. It was also agreed that the date for the local Pride of Place event should be agreed by the Municipal District in July.

9.3 Councillor Alan Tobin asked if works could be undertaken on the roads in Ashbourne Industrial Estate - it was agreed to see if Economic Development had any funding available.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach