



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Ashbourne Municipal District***

#### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***9:30 a.m., 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, Chamber, County Hall, Navan***

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 Ordinary Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O’Rourke**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

Councillor Darren O’Rourke requested an update on the Ashbourne Public Park – it was confirmed that two sites were currently being assessed and compared under a number of headings, a process that is due to be completed in the coming weeks.

Councillor Darren O’Rourke referred to the limited interaction between Councillors and the Planning Department to discuss issues of concern within the Municipal District – Whilst Councillors were reminded of the restrictions that applied to discussions that can take place around specific planning issues, it was agreed to request again that the Planning Department meet with Councillors to discuss broad issues.



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Councillor Darren O'Rourke referred to issues identified in The Briars development – it was confirmed that the Assistant Chief Fire Officer had offered to mediate between residents, the management association and the building contractors and that any such meeting was to be arranged by the residents.

### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Dan O'Connell, Fianna Fáil's Chief Strategist in Meath.

The centenary of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Thomas Ashe was also acknowledged.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Hugh Maguire on winning the Great Taste Supreme Champion Award for his smoked black pudding in London;
- Meath Fire Service Rescue Team who came 3rd in the World Rescue Challenge 2017;
- Councillor Alan Tobin and the Ashbourne Youth Café for organising the recent Fun Run;
- Meath County Council staff for their efforts during recent water disruptions;
- Maggie Randle, Meath Camogie Team;
- Ashbourne & District Community Council on completing and opening the community centre;
- Ashbourne Cricket Club on being promoted;
- Ashbourne Giants on winning the Little League and Division 2 Championships.

It was agreed that any formal acknowledgement of individual or group achievements should be incorporated into the Municipal District Pride of Place event.

### **4 Statutory Business**

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### 4.1 Transportation

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

The report, which had been circulated in advance, was noted. Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The Part VIII for the Milltown Road;
- The junction of Johnwood Road and Castle Street;
- Water and wastewater capacity in Ashbourne, water disruptions and infrastructure, and wastewater effluent from pumping stations entering the Broadmeadow River – it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith** that two letters would issue to Irish Water, one requesting that Ashbourne be included in the plans for the Greater Dublin Area in terms of future water supply and the second referring to the need to ensure an adequate alarm system is in place to prevent effluent entering the Broadmeadow River from various pumping stations. It was also agreed to invite the Senior Engineer, Water Services to a future meeting to give his views on water and wastewater infrastructure in the Municipal District.

4.1.2 To receive an update on the proposed Housing Estate Special Speed Limit Bye-Law statutory process.

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

4.1.3 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions.

An update had been circulated in advance and Councillors expressed concerns at traffic safety and increased traffic volumes and delays at these locations. It was confirmed that the HD15 schemes, focusing on road safety, would provide signage, road markings, etc. but would not impact on traffic volumes. Other measures being implemented, including traffic loops, were outlined.

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Councillors proposed a number of possible measures that could be implemented to alleviate the situation but it was pointed out that many of these had already been reviewed and were not considered feasible. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed further with the Transportation Department and an update provided at the October meeting.

### **4.2 Planning/Heritage**

- 4.2.1 To consider taking in charge of Tudor Estate, Ashbourne, and the making of a declaration that the roads within the development shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2017.

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

- 4.2.2 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Public Realm Plan.

John Kelly, Brady Shipman Martin delivered a presentation to the meeting on the assets and challenges in Ashbourne, the current situation, the themes and vision, and specific proposals. It was confirmed that the draft plan would go on public display and a number of information workshops held prior to the document being finalised. It was also pointed out that the plan would contain a menu of actions for all relevant stakeholders, with funding to be secured as appropriate, and community buy-in needed to ensure its implementation.

A number of queries and issues were raised, including street names and identity, the extent of the proposals in terms of the town centre, the need to consider linkages in all areas, and streetscapes, with responses being provided.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked John for the work undertaken to date and welcomed the proposals contained in the draft document.

- 4.2.3 To receive a report on progress of the Tara Conservation Management Plan.

A report had been circulated in advance and Councillors expressed their dissatisfaction at the delay in finalising the plan, which had led to other proposals by groups such as the Friends of Tara Committee being stalled, and



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referred to the need for urgent remedial works at the site. It was agreed that the Heritage Officer would be requested to attend the October meeting or alternatively that a separate meeting would be arranged if she was not available on that date.

### **4.2.4 Matters Arising**

Councillor Seán Smith referred to the Mass Path in Ashbourne, where the Archerstown Wood development was taking place, and referred to his request to the Planning Department to clarify whether a public Right of Way existed at this location.

## **4.3 Environment**

### **4.3.1 To receive an update on the Flood Alleviation Scheme.**

An update had been circulated in advance and Councillors queried why the scheme had not progressed further as funding was available and that more engagement was needed with those affected in terms of timeframes, etc.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** to extend the meeting by thirty minutes.

## **4.4 Community**

### **4.4.1 To receive details of the recommended grant offers by the Knockharley Community Liaison Committee under the Knockharley Community Grant Scheme and, if in agreement, to forward same to the full Meath County Council meeting for approval.**

These were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

### **4.4.2 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.**



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Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department provided an update in relation to each of the zones, including a delay caused by archaeological findings in Zone 4.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Update on negotiations with the Department of Education & Science – it was confirmed that there had been recent contact with the department who had sought details of the Linear Park and may wish to retain some of the lands concerned.
- Government plans for social housing on the parcel of state owned lands – it was agreed that a further letter would issue to the Minister requesting a meeting to discuss this issue.
- The possibility of using a licence agreement to provide a pedestrian walkway in Zone 5 along the river – it was agreed to check this.
- The provision of a gate at Deerpark – it was confirmed that this was included in the plans.
- The resources available to progress the project – it was pointed out that additional technical resources were now available and were sufficient to manage and deliver the project, which must comply with all procedures in place.
- The previously known archaeological remains – it was pointed out that not all aspects of the remains had been known in advance.

### **4.5 Corporate Services**

- 4.5.1 To receive an update on the planned event to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Thomas Ashe.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services outlined the series of events planned for the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup> September for Dublin, Kerry and



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Meath, including a wreath laying ceremony with refreshments taking place at 10.00am on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September in Ashbourne.

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

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

### **5 Notice of Question**

#### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith**

“Can Meath County Council provide an update on accessing lands for the Linear Park owned by the Department of Education through which the Broadmeadow River runs and outline what Meath County Council sees as the delay in gaining agreement with the Department?”

**Response:**

*Discussions have recently commenced between representatives of the Department of Education and Meath County Council with regard to progressing the Linear Park. It is hoped that agreement can be reached in due course with regard to accessing the lands.*

The response was noted.

#### **5.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

“Can I ask for an update from the OPW regarding flood alleviation works in the Racehill, Huntsgrove, Brookville and Hunters Lane areas along channel c1/7 and was an official letter sent by planning or any Meath County Council engineers to the builders of Archerstown Demesne advising the building company that the section of c1/7 that is piped under the development is too small and houses being built presently in the streams proximity could be a flood risk.”

**Response:**



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*Please refer to Item 4.3.1 of the Agenda which provides an update on the flood alleviation scheme. Meath County Council Environment Section corresponded with the Agent for the developer in Archerstown ref. Planning Permission AA/150318, informing him that emerging data indicated that areas of land included in that planning permission were at greater risk than previously suggested in other studies namely the Fingal East Meath Flood Risk Assessment and Management Plan(FEMFRAM) and in light of the emerging data that it was advisable that the flood risk assessment for the proposed development be re-assessed.*

The response was noted.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

#### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith**

“To ask Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors to support a town twinning proposal with Corcubión (Comarca de Finisterre), Galicia, Spain, the twinning to be based on the following four headings: cultural, musical, linguistic and trade.”

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

Councillor Seán Smith thanked Meath County Council and Fiona Lawless for their assistance relating to the recent trip to Spain, where a Friendship Agreement had been signed.

The motion was adopted.

#### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith**

“That Meath County Council arranges a Civic Reception for representatives of the Confederation of European Baseball during their visit to Ashbourne to review Baseball Ireland's application to host the European Baseball Championships in 2018 at the International Baseball Centre, on a date agreed with Baseball Ireland.”

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





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*If this motion is adopted, the proposal will be brought to the next meeting of the Protocol Committee for consideration. Following this, if this proposal is approved, a civic reception will be organised for a date and time to be decided in consultation with the Members of Ashbourne Municipal District.*

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

The motion was adopted.

### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*“That increased funding be allocated in budget 2018 to facilitate upgrade works and additional maintenance on recently taken in charge retail areas, Killelland and Declan Streets, to include a compilation of priorities needed on the streets and to include linkages through Killelland Street and Frederick Street as well as periodic cleaning of pavements.”*

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

*As the retail areas of Killelland and Declan Streets have been taken in charge in 2017, consideration can be given to the allocation of funding in Budget 2018 to facilitate upgrade works and additional maintenance required, as well as the periodic cleaning of pavements, as part of the Ashbourne Schedule of Municipal District Works.*

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

The motion was adopted.

## **7 Correspondence**

- 7.1 Correspondence received from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in response to the Notice of Item 7.4 – Notice of Motion as adopted at June meeting re extension of the Terms of Reference of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes.



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The correspondence was noted.

- 7.2 Correspondence received from OPW in response to the Notice of Item 7.5 – Notice of Motion as adopted at June meeting re replacing the gate at the entrance to the hill of Skyrne.

The correspondence was noted. It was agreed to check the land ownership at this location.

- 7.3 Correspondence received from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection in response to the Notice of Item 3 from June meeting re meeting in Leinster House.

The correspondence was noted.

- 7.4 Correspondence received from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government in response to the Notice of Item 7.3 – Notice of Motion as adopted at May meeting re Solar Farm planning applications.

The correspondence was noted.

### **8 Any Other Business**

- 8.1 Councillor Darren O'Rourke raised the following issue:

- 8.1.1 The need for Meath County Council to provide support to Kentstown Village Project to facilitate their access to funding and the phasing of their project.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**