



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 12th October 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 14th September 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th September 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family and colleagues of the late Garda Anthony Golden, Blackrock, County Louth who was killed in the line of duty;



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- The families of those who were killed and injured in the fire at Carrickmines.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Meath County Council on the successful Pride of Place event that took place on 9th October and all those who participated.

4 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park Project

Joe Fahy delivered a presentation on the Ashbourne Linear Park Project, including the background to the project, the existing facilities and open spaces, the current brief for the project, a draft schedule of activity, current status and next steps.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Land ownership and issues in accessing lands for the project.
- The growth of Ashbourne since the Linear Park was first planned and the need for a large community park – it was highlighted that much of the plan can be realised and incorporated into the urban design statement but that cognisance should be given to the limitations including the funding available in the capital programme and the impact of the delivery of the planned school campus.
- The need to encourage the relevant parties to facilitate access to and make safe the walkway at the town centre including the reinstatement of the bridge.
- The need to harness the positive community activity in Ashbourne by progressing the project as quickly as possible.
- The need to consider the maintenance and upkeep of the park in future plans.
- The role of Councillors in supporting the delivery of the project.

It was agreed that a further update would be provided in January 2016.



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5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

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

The report was noted.

- 5.1.2 Proposed M3 Motorway Service Area

To receive a presentation from Halcrow Barry Consulting Engineers (on behalf of the TII (formerly the NRA) with regard to the proposed Motorway Service Area for the M3 as highlighted in the 'NRA Service Area Policy' document (August 2014).

Gary Turley and Peter Morehan, Halcrow Barry Consulting Engineers delivered a presentation on the proposed Motorway Service Area for the M3, confirming that they were at site selection stage.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The number of jobs to be created – it is estimated that approximately 100 jobs would be created during the construction phase with 50-80 jobs created during the operational phase.
- Feasibility study needed on the impact on surrounding towns, villages and businesses – it was confirmed that the Environmental Impact Assessment would include a socio-economic analysis.
- The location of such a service area in close proximity to Dublin – it was confirmed that the site locations being considered were in accordance with TII policy.
- The process for the development of the service area – it was confirmed that the steps were as follows: public consultation (scheduled for the 22nd October 2015), the completion of the site selection process,

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preliminary design, EIA and CPO application to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission with possible oral hearing. Subject to approvals and funding, a detailed design would be prepared followed by construction with an estimated timeframe for completion late 2018/early 2019.

- The facilities to be provided – it was confirmed that the facility would be intended for use by cars, buses, tourists, hauliers, etc.
- Funding allocation – Each stage is subject to approval and funding.
- The need to ensure all sub-contractors receive payment for works undertaken.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Gary and Peter for their presentation.

5.2 Environment

5.2.1 To receive an update on the proposed Flood Scheme for Ashbourne.

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment Section delivered a presentation on the proposed Flood Scheme for Ashbourne, including the background and the work undertaken to date by RPS.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Responsibility for the maintenance of rivers and channels and issues of accessibility to certain rivers/streams for the purpose of maintenance – it was confirmed that the OPW and MCC work together to maintain the channels.
- The overall catchment area being reviewed and the inclusion of all relevant streams/channels – in carrying out the catchment assessment it was found that there were anomalies between the catchment maps and the realities on the ground. The actual situation has been surveyed and inputted into the model to ensure accuracy.



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- The need to review certain discharge locations and operations.
- The effectiveness of works proposed and the need for additional works in other locations, e.g. Garden City, Fleenstown, Baltrasna.
- The implications of the cost benefit analysis – it was confirmed that as funding was being provided under the OPW Minor Works Scheme, a cost benefit analysis was required.
- The extent of consultation undertaken – it was confirmed that extensive consultation had been undertaken and that the process to be followed would include further public consultation.
- The run-off from premises in Ashbourne Industrial Park – it was confirmed that the recently granted planning permission included for attenuation. The proposed flood scheme includes for works in the channel adjacent to Rath Lodge which will ensure the appropriate flow from the channel is directed into the storm drain.
- The drainage works being undertaken by farmers – it was agreed that an education programme was needed to highlight the impacts of land drainage and that this was being discussed with the OPW.
- The timeframe for works – it was confirmed that RPS had commenced work in May and the slowest part of the work had now been completed; a progress meeting with the OPW was scheduled for November when the next steps would be identified and that works would likely take place during summer 2016, to take advantage of low river levels.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Fiona for her presentation.

5.3 Planning

5.3.1 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.



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6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

"What progress has been made to date with advancing the commitment made by the Executive of the council to complete the linear park in Ashbourne? What are the limitations currently slowing the provision of this project? Is there a possibility of providing for an enclosed one acreage dog park as part of the project?"

Response:

There will be a full presentation at the Municipal District meeting on the progress and plans for the dog park.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

"In light of the report by Meath County Council into the Riverwalk Court complex in Ratoath, which found a wide range of fire safety issues, is the Council satisfied that similar issues or deficiencies do not exist in other developments constructed by the same developer, very many of which are in the Ashbourne area?"

Response:

Meath County Council Fire Service currently have no knowledge of any fire safety deficiencies in developments constructed in the Ashbourne area that maybe associated with the Riverwalk Court Complex, Ratoath.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

"That each Ashbourne Municipal District Councillor arranges one meeting each in 2016 with a key decision maker in a large National or International firm. The purpose of the



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meeting will be to promote Meath County as a destination for Economic Development and to show the benefits which we can offer for new businesses to invest in the area. These meetings shall be planned and carried out in collaboration with the Economic Development Department at Meath County Council utilising promotional tools available.”

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

The Economic Development Section values the ongoing commitment by Councillors to support the drive to attract additional investment to Meath. In that context the offer by Councillors to make contact with relevant national and international companies is welcome and will be supported by the Economic Development staff. It would be advantageous, when considering which companies to contact, to focus if possible on those who are planning expansion or perhaps are part of a larger group who might have a need for a new Irish or European location. Dublin based companies seeking to expand or source additional sites would also be a target.

Councillors will be aware that following the launch of the Economic Development Strategy in June we have been focussed on developing a range of marketing material using various media, including social media platforms and these will be formally launched in due course. We are also producing a summarised version of the strategy and this will be finalised very shortly. All these materials will be made available to assist marketing efforts.

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

A short discussion followed on the role of Councillors and the executive in promoting economic development in Meath and Ashbourne.

The motion was adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“That Meath County Council commences a process for the upgrade of Archerstown Road in Ashbourne. This is to include a review of current alignment, road width, the bridge and traffic volumes and for a strategic plan to be put in place for road widening,



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new bridge with footpaths and cycle lanes included. This road will become a busy artery for the growing community supporting sports grounds and further development.”

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

It is an objective (INF OBJ 2) of Meath County Council in the Ashbourne Local Area Plan “To upgrade and to pursue general environmental improvements at Archerstown Road and the junction with Milltown Road”. The Council has made a capital allocation of € 1,060,000 available to look at environmental improvement at Milltown Road. Planning permission ref no AA/141138 which has been granted to Targeted Investment Opportunities PLC provides for future realignment of the southern end of Archerstown Road & new junction with Milltown Road.

There was a workshop held with the MD members on 14th September 2015. The issue of Archerstown Road was raised at that meeting. The Council is open to broadly considering the long term upgrades on Archerstown Road as part of the design process for Milltown Road.

The Council’s capital works programme and Local Area plans inform the planning context, scope and funding of infrastructural improvements. The Ashbourne LAP is due for review in early 2016 where infrastructural constraints can be identified and be provided for in planning context. As always infrastructural investment is subject to the availability of funding.

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

The motion was adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Claire O’Driscoll

“That the council would address the following issues in the Gormanston area

- a) erosion of the traditional Delvin Viaduct car park and possible solutions,

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- b) the location of a lifebelt stand at Station road which is located on average at more than 1 km away from a likely emergency and the possibility of a more appropriate location,
- c) the presence of concrete on the beach from cliff erosion. They are of no historic or archaeological value,
- d) the roadside accumulation pile of rubbish on the Gormanston R132/M1 interchanges.”

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

- a) *Significant levels of funding would be required for the coastal erosion at this location and such works would required statutory consents bearing in mind the SAC and SPA designations which apply in this area and also the area in question is privately owned. Rock Armour would be the preferred long-term solution for the proposed works but that the level of funding required for these works is not available to Meath County Council at present and that funding at Goverement/ EU level may have to be pursued,*
- b) *The site inspection will be carried out this week to evaluate whether more Ringbuoys are required,*
- c) *Meath County Council continues to carry out maintenance works on the beach which stretches from the Delvin River to the Boyne River which represents c.10km of coastline when resources allow. We shall investigate the presence of concrete on the beach and remove when resources become available,*
- d) *Meath County Council have carried out a number of clean up at this location over the last number of years and will continue to monitor and carry out maintenance works when resources become available.*

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

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence



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8.1 Correspondence received from Ashbourne Playspace Network, Ashbourne, Co. Meath.

The correspondence was noted. It was agreed that an acknowledgement should be issued on behalf of Councillors.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Update on the development of a flag for Ashbourne Municipal District – it was agreed to refer this to Corporate Services.

9.1.2 The repairs needed at the entrance to Ashbourne Industrial Estate.

9.1.3 The €60,000 allocation from the Department of Education & Skills – it was confirmed that this had been allocated to the junction at the top of Castle Street.

9.1.4 The use of the Ashbourne Council Chamber by community groups – it was confirmed that this had been agreed at the September meeting and the decision referred to Corporate Services.

9.1.5 The use of the road-sweeper in housing estates.

9.2 Councillor Joe Bonner raised the following issue:

9.2.1 The provision of access fobs to Councillors for Ashbourne Civic Offices.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach