



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 9th October, 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 Ordinary Meeting held on 11th September, 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th September 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Seán Smith requested that a letter issue on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District inviting representatives from Corcubión, Spain to Ashbourne in 2018 as part of the Town Twinning initiative.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:



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- The Meath Camogie Team and, in particular, Maggie Randle, on winning the All-Ireland Final;
- Kentstown Village Project on the commencement of works in the village.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

- 4.1.1 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:

- Road markings at school in Rathfeigh indicating a bus stop – it was agreed to check this.
- The need to remove bonfire material from estates that are taken in charge to avoid damage to grass – it was agreed to check this.
- Grass cutting at the two roundabouts entering the town – it was confirmed that this remained with NRA motorway maintenance.

- 4.1.2 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions.

A report, funded by TII, and correspondence between the Council and TII on this matter had been circulated in advance and Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation outlined the views of the Council and TII in terms of the large scale investment required, the funding for which had to come from the Government. It was confirmed that this issue was regularly discussed with TII.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that a meeting request would be submitted to the Minister for Transport in order to request that initial funding be made available for the design stages with a view to including this project in the next capital investment programme. It was also agreed that a letter would



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issue to local Deputies informing them of this meeting request and ask that they support this meeting taking place.

4.2 Water Services

4.2.1 To receive an update on water and wastewater infrastructure in Ashbourne Municipal District.

Gerry Boyle, Senior Engineer, Water Services provided a comprehensive overview of water and wastewater services in the municipal district and in Ashbourne, in particular. He detailed the existing and planned infrastructure servicing the area and confirmed the capacity available for future growth and development at a macro level, whilst acknowledging that some localised issues may exist. Reference was made to the issues affecting the system and the measures employed to address these, including those both implemented and planned.

Matters raised by Councillors, and responses provided, included:

- The possible need for a new reservoir – it was confirmed that the current reservoir had in excess of 24 hours storage, which is more than sufficient.
- Queries around various boreholes, wells and pumps.
- Dealing with THMs in the supply – it was pointed out that the issue of THMs was not significant with only one or two incidents reported several years ago, that the Staleen plant was on a remedial action list for major upgrade and that water quality was monitored on a daily basis.
- The responsibility for maintaining and repairing wastewater pipes located on private property – it was pointed out that was a national issue and the position was clear and reflected in available budgets that local authorities could not deal with blockages on private property.
- The need for Irish Water to cater for vulnerable customers, provide redress for businesses and ensure greater interconnectivity during

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water outages – it was confirmed that Irish Water was aiming to move away from small supplies nationally and introduce infrastructure that would deliver greater interconnectivity.

- The incidents of effluent from pumping stations and the need to ensure that alarm systems are in operation – it was confirmed that all pumping stations are alarmed and that the incident in 2014 when the alarm system failed was atypical and resulted from a significant storm event.
- The possibility of Ashbourne being included in the water supply plans for Greater Dublin – it was confirmed that this was being considered but that it would be 2025 at the earliest before the plans to serve the Greater Dublin area from the Shannon would be realised.
- The need for new investment in addition to the upgrade of existing infrastructure – it was pointed out that, whilst the Council makes recommendations and works with Irish Water, strategic decisions are taken by Irish Water.
- Planning conditions regarding sufficient water supply – the connection agreement with Irish Water was outlined.
- The green space adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant at Deerpark – it was confirmed that this space needed to be retained to facilitate any future expansion required.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Gerry for the information provided.

4.3 Environment

4.3.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Flood Alleviation Scheme.

David Keyes, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment Department outlined the report circulated in advance of the meeting and confirmed that whilst Phase I was complete, construction works associated with Phase II were due to commence in February 2018, having been delayed as a result of the works in Northlands, Bettystown being behind schedule.



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Matters raised by Councillors, and responses provided, included:

- The adequacy of the resources allocated to the scheme – it was confirmed that sufficient resources had been allocated and that all efforts would be made to expedite the completion of works.
- The concerns of residents in the areas affected and the possibility of providing letters for insurance companies – it was confirmed that letters can be issued following the completion of works but that insurance cover is a matter for insurance companies.
- Queries on measures being carried out in various specific locations.
- Responsibility for monitoring and maintaining channels, bridges and culverts – it was confirmed that responsibility lies with the OPW but that the Council works in cooperation with the OPW to monitor and maintain these.
- Residential developments on flood plains – it was confirmed that correspondence had issued to the developers regarding information on flood levels. It was agreed that a letter would issue to the OPW expressing the concerns of Ashbourne Municipal Districts Councillors in relation to a specific site in Ashbourne and ask they deal with any outstanding enforcement issues.
- The need for ongoing communications with residents and landowners – the consultation process was outlined.

It was agreed that a further update would be provided at the December meeting.

4.4 Planning

- 4.4.1 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



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- Millbourne Phase 1, Ashbourne

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

- Elvana housing estate, Stamullen

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

- Belgree Court housing estate, Kilbride

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

- Dun an Samhradh housing estate, Kentstown

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

- Racehill Manor housing estate, Ashbourne

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

4.4.2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4.5 Community

4.5.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

An update had been circulated in advance and matters raised by Councillors included:

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- Requested that the gate be installed at Deerpark as soon as possible.
- Expressed disappointment at the slow progress of delivering the overall project and the delays caused as a result of the archaeological findings.
- The possibility of progressing works on other lands, including those on the Lidl side of the river where the bridge could be replaced and for which landowner agreement had been secured.

It was agreed that the report template would be amended for future meetings to include a timeframe in respect of each zone, an item on the works planned for Deerpark and for additional lands. Councillors were reminded of the obstacles encountered since the project commenced and were assured that significant efforts were continuing to deliver the project as quickly as possible.

4.6 Corporate Services

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

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

5 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

- 5.1 To note the report from the Environment and Emergency SPC meeting of 27th September, 2017.

The report was noted. Councillor Claire O'Driscoll expressed her extreme disappointment at the decision to invoke a Section 56 provision allowing additional waste from Tymoole landfill be disposed of in Knockharley landfill.

- 5.2 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise SPC meeting of 27th September, 2017.

The report was noted.



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6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can the Housing Department make available maps to include all open green spaces and additional sites if available for all Council owned land in council estates in the Ashbourne Municipal District?”

Response:

The Housing Department is currently completing a final review of its current land bank to inform the potential for future direct construction proposals on the balance of sites remaining within our ownership. The outcome of this review in respect to the Ashbourne Municipal District will be forwarded on completion.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“That Ashbourne Municipal District recognises the 100th birthday of a resident with the presentation of a certificate to mark this wonderful moment.”

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

Meath County Council ran a specific project for 2016, for the 100 year anniversary of the 1916 rising, where Meath residents reaching their 100th birthday received a presentation on their birthday. This scheme has ended and MCC do not currently have any project to celebrate 100th birthdays of residents of the county. However there is a national, scheme where this milestone is marked by a presentation from the President of Ireland.

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



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Following a brief discussion, where the difficulties in rolling out such a scheme were outlined, it was agreed that a letter of recognition would be issued on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors to all known residents who reach this milestone birthday.

It was also agreed that, at the end of the year, a list of individuals and groups who had made significant achievements during the year would be compiled and an event to recognise these achievements be arranged locally in April of the following year.

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in response to the Notice of Item 8.1 from April meeting re Tara Management Plan.

The correspondence was noted and it was confirmed that the Heritage Officer and Friends of Tara Group would attend the November meeting.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Seán Smith raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Queried as to the most appropriate recipient group in Ashbourne for the 2017 festive lighting allocation – following a short discussion, it was agreed that the €2,000 allocation for 2017 would be given to the Council for the provision of a large community Christmas tree with associated requirements, e.g. power supply and lights. It was agreed that the appropriate locations would be assessed and, if necessary, some of the 2018 budget allocation could be used towards this.

- 9.2 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issue:

9.2.1 The possibility of providing a walkway and playground on two green areas that have been taken over – it was pointed out that there was no additional funding to provide such facilities and that local communities could explore alternative funding sources if interested and as had occurred in other areas.



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This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach