



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9.30am, 10th November 2014, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Claire O'Driscoll, Darren O'Rourke, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin.

Officials in Attendance:

A/Director of Service: Joe Fahy

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Administrative Officer: Paul Monahan

Senior Executive Engineer: Adrian Hobbs

Clerical Officer: Fiona Casserly

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 13th October 2014.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th October 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

1.2 Confirmation of Minutes of Special Finance Meeting held on 8th October, 2014.

The Minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 8th October 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Seán Smith raised the issue of staffing and pointed out that figures for the outdoor staff available to the Ashbourne Municipal District had still not been provided. Joe Fahy pointed out that the budget meeting on 24th November would provide Councillors with an opportunity to consider the cost implications of the proposed operational unit to service the six Municipal Districts. He also pointed out that negotiations were ongoing with regard to the workforce planning exercise and that a Senior Engineer had been appointed to head the new operational unit. Councillor Joe Bonner



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proposed that the concerns of the Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors be expressed to the Chief Executive in advance of the budget meeting and this was seconded by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll.

Councillor Darren O'Rourke enquired as to whether the additional information in relation to the Housing presentation at the October meeting was available; it was agreed to follow this up with the Housing Department.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Ashbourne Historical Society on their 20 years in existence and the progress made by the group, resulting in the recent launch of the Ashbourne Heritage Trail.
- Skryne Under 13 girls team on winning the county final.
- Councillor Alan Tobin and all involved in the fireworks display held on Halloween night, where over 600 people attended without incident.

4 Statutory Business

Councillor Joe Bonner enquired as to whether planners attended any of the meetings of Municipal Districts to discuss significant planning applications that arise within that Municipal District. Joe Fahy confirmed that planners did not attend Municipal District meetings to discuss individual planning applications and offered to present the relevant legal advice to Councillors at the December meeting. He reminded Councillors of their role within the statutory planning process in terms of the forward planning process and, specifically, determining the zoning objectives within the County Development Plan and Local Area Plans. All planning decisions, which are an executive function, are taken based on the merit of the application, based on proper planning and development and consistent with the development plans. He also reminded Councillors that they can make representations separately to the Planning Section on behalf of applicants.

Councillor Darren O'Rourke asked if the weekly planning lists could be made available on a Municipal District basis; it was agreed to refer this to the Planning Department.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Sean Smith



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“Can Meath County Council provide an update on a skate park for Ashbourne, a commitment given to Niamh McGowan during her term as Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council?”

A verbal response was provided by Joe Fahy, Director of Services, and Adrian Hobbs, Senior Executive Engineer, as follows:

A number of sites were considered and one site, belonging to a developer, was identified as being suitable, being adjacent to the playground at Broadmeadow River. In order to progress this, a Part 8 planning process would be required and funding would need to be identified. Discussions were ongoing with the developer concerned with regard to the taking in charge of a number of areas. Correspondence from the Planning Department in September 2014 had indicated that whilst most issues had been addressed, a number of issues were outstanding and needed clarification. Meath County Council had requested a letter of consent from the developer in order to proceed to Part 8 and this had been provided. A number of factors now needed to be considered, including the type of skate park to be developed, the demand for such a facility, the costs involved and the funding of same.

A presentation earlier this year by Gorey Skate Park had outlined their experience in developing a similar facility, including the specialist nature of the design, expertise needed and the use of a co-funding approach with the user group having accessed grants for its provision. It was pointed out that the skate park in Dunboyne had been subject to vandalism.

Councillor Smith sought clarification as to whether the funding allocated towards a project identified by a former Cathaoirleach was still available. It was agreed that this would be clarified.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“To ask what plans are in place to provide a public playground in Stamullen; if it is the case that monies were ring fenced for the delivery of same previously but have been used elsewhere in the meantime.”

A response was provided by Paul Monahan, Administrative Officer, Transportation, as follows:



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Meath County Council does not have any current plans to provide a playground in Stamullen as it does not have any available lands or funds for the provision of a playground. The Council did previously try to provide a public playground at Mountain View, Stamullen but there were a large number of submissions received against the site proposed.

Councillor O'Rourke sought clarification as to whether the funding ringfenced for this project was still available. Paul Monahan confirmed that, as the project did not proceed, the funding was no longer available.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

"Ashbourne Municipal District rejects any monies raised through the Local Property Tax being used to repay the current Land Aggregation Scheme Loan and calls for that money to be used to deliver much needed local services."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

A lengthy discussion followed, which included the possible options for funding the loan repayments, the use of the land concerned, the need to avoid accumulated debt and the need for central government support.

It was agreed to hold a roll call vote on the motion, as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Cllr. Joe Bonner	FOR			
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal		AGAINST		
Cllr. Claire O'Driscoll	FOR			
Cllr. Darren O'Rourke	FOR			
Cllr. Seán Smith	FOR			
Cllr. Alan Tobin		AGAINST		
RESULT	4	2		



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The motion was therefore adopted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“Recognising that the Ashbourne Municipal District area has historically been a very significant net contributor to Meath County Council in terms of rates, Local Property Tax, development levies and other payments, we call on Meath County Council to introduce a fair mechanism of Municipal District funding which reflects this and which includes an element of ring fencing of locally sourced revenue”.

Supporting information was provided by Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, as follows:

The draft revenue budget for 2015 will be presented to the members on the 24th of November where the allocation of funds will be decided by the members. The Meath County Council Development Contribution scheme is a county wide scheme. A three year major capital investment program covering 2015-2018 in accordance with section 135 of the Local Government Act will be presented to the full council.

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

Following a short discussion, which included the need for fairness and equalisation between urban and rural areas, the motion was withdrawn.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Sean Smith

“That Meath County Council proceeds with traffic speed control measures at Donaghmore Church. This is to include measures to reduce the speed limit and the erection of illuminated signage to warn drivers on approach.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll**.

Following a short discussion, which highlighted the considerable traffic calming measures already installed at this location, the motion was withdrawn.



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7 Correspondence

7.1.1 Department of Social Protection – Community Welfare Service.

The correspondence was noted.

8 Any Other Business

- i. It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Joe Bonner and seconded by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll that Ashbourne Chamber of Commerce be invited to deliver a presentation at a future meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District.
- ii. The Municipal District allocation of €1000 towards festive lighting will be included on the agenda of the December meeting for discussion and agreement.
- iii. Councillor Seán Smith enquired as to the progress being made in delivering the Linear Park as part of the Killelland West Ashbourne Area Plan 2003; it was agreed to refer this to the Planning Department.
- iv. It was confirmed to Councillor Darren O'Rourke that the timeframe for the delivery of the programme of works would be made available after the budget meeting on 24th November.
- v. Councillor Joe Bonner expressed reservations at the Municipal District Members Allocation being available individually and expressed his preference for a collective fund. It was agreed that Councillors would meet separately to discuss this in advance of the budget meeting on 24th November.
- vi. Councillor Alan Tobin requested an update on the works on Main Street, Ashbourne; it was agreed to invite Jonathon Ryan, Senior Resident Engineer to the next meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District to provide an update.
- vii. Councillor Alan Tobin requested support for the events taking place as part of Enterprise Week, 18th – 20th November inclusive.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach