



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 9th November 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 12th October, 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th October 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Finance meeting held on 3rd November, 2015.

The Minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 3rd November 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations



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Congratulations were extended to:

- Paul Monahan, former Administrative Officer in Dunshaughlin Electoral Area, on his recent retirement.
- Curraha football team.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

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

The report was noted. It was confirmed that NPPR funding had been expended in Stamullen and on the pedestrian crossing on Castle Street, works were due to start in Kentstown in January and that tenders were due on Friday for Garden City.

4.2 Planning

- 4.2.1 Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

4.3 Corporate Services

- 4.3.1 To discuss Town Twinning proposal.

A short discussion followed on possible options that could be explored for 2016 including baseball and cultural linkages. It was confirmed that EU funding opportunities were being examined and that Councillors should consider the community and festival grants for some of the suggestions being made. Additional funding had been allocated for 2016 but all proposals must be brought to the Protocol Committee. It was agreed that information on the protocol and procedures would be brought to a future meeting for consideration.



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5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can I ask Meath County Council for an update to a motion from July 2014 regarding Municipal District flags and the installation of flag poles at Ashbourne Civic Offices?”

Response:

Fiona Lawless provided a response to the meeting confirming that the area in front of the Civic Offices was not in charge and therefore flag poles could not be erected at that location. Furthermore, the resources to comply with the guidelines in relation to the national flag were not available. It was also pointed out that the County flag could be used as required.

Councillor Alan Tobin referred to the motion previously adopted in July 2014 and the need for a Municipal District flag for use at 1916 commemorative events. He also suggested that the national flag be raised at certain times only and suggested that flag poles could be erected on the building. It was agreed that this suggestion would be looked at and an update sought from the Protocol Committee on the original motion adopted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Claire O’Driscoll

“Following the flooding which occurred on the R150 in Kentstown last November, a team was deployed from the Navan Municipal District to ascertain the cause of the flooding. A culvert which runs under the R150 was reportedly damaged and whilst some remedial works were carried out to increase the size of the channel, I was informed further works would be necessary.

Has there been transfer of information from the Navan engineering section to our engineering operational team in Ashbourne regarding this issue and what is the current plan or need to remediate this issue?”

Response:

Ashbourne engineering operations team has spoken to the Navan section about the extent of the remedial works that were carried out last November. This involved mostly

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ditch cleaning and the culvert being jetted. This area needs more investigation as it seems there may be an obstruction in the culvert section under the road. Meath County Council will carry out an assessment of what work needs to be done next to determine the extent of the problem. Based on that survey, we can ascertain what course of action needs to follow.

The response was noted.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“To ask the number of houses allocated in the first 10 months of this year and for a breakdown of same by Municipal District and by scheme (i.e. council housing, RAS, social leasing, Housing Association).”

Response:

Municipal District	Social Housing	No. of new RAS Tenants (new Signings)	No. of Transfer RAS Tenants	Voluntary Housing Associations
Ashbourne	2	6		1
Kells	19	8	1	1
Laytown/Bettystown	14	2	3	
Navan	20	13	1	4
Ratoath	2	1		6
Trim	11	13	1	
TOTALS	68	43	6	11

The response was noted. Councillor Darren O'Rourke suggested that this response be circulated to the Chief Executive and Housing & Community SPC as it suggested that allocations in the Ashbourne Municipal District need to be increased.



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6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To call on Meath County Council to include the L1007 from Ratoath, through Kilbride to the Dublin border at Mulhuddart and the Rathfeigh Cross to Skryne section of the L1002 /L1005 in the Winter gritting programme.”

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

Meath County Council salts over 580kms of roads across 10 routes in the county each time icy roads are predicted. All National Primary (120km/h – Priority 1), all National Secondary (80km/h – Priority 1) and approx. 80% of all Regional Routes (80km/h – Priority 1/2) are salted. Approximately 15% (by length) of all roads in the county are treated.

The M1 (Dublin - Belfast), M2 (Ashbourne By-Pass), M3 (Clonee - Kells) and M4 (Dublin - Sligo - Galway) are taken care of by private entities.

The NRA provides full funding to the Council for the salting of the National Road network. There is however no central funding for the Non-National (Regional & Local) Road Network. The Council makes limited resources available from its maintenance funds towards the salting of the regional routes. The Council's resources are fully utilised at present and the only way to add a new route to the Winter Maintenance Plan is to drop an existing route. Meath County Council are not in a position to increase resources or to drop an existing route. However Meath County Council carries out full reviews during and at the end of each season for the preparation of the following season's Network.

*The Salting Network is agreed with the Members and represents the best prioritised extent of coverage based on road classification, historic weather data, available funding and resources. A map of the salting routes is available on the Council's website **www.meath.ie**.*

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

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A discussion followed on the current Winter Maintenance Plan, how it was developed and the changes required to include the two locations identified in the motion. It was agreed that signage would be erected at the location identified indicating that salting was discontinued beyond that point.

The motion was adopted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“That the members be informed of all proposed improvements to be made at the crossroads in Curragha village which were arranged for in line with the increase in size of Tayto Park and any that the Council may be independently arranging and that the post box and wall at the junction be moved in from the roadside to improve the line of vision for motorists coming from Tayto Park.”

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

As part of the Planning Permission for the development of Tayto Park, one of the conditions was for the improvement to the junction at Crickstown (Curragha). Meath County Council officials are presently in discussion with the Consultant regarding the improvement works to the junction and concerns that the Members raised will be investigated as part of the design.

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

A short discussion followed which included the possibility of moving the wall and post box and it was agreed to check the land ownership at this location. It was also requested that the signage and road markings at the junction in Curraha be reviewed, the flooding issue at Swan's Pub be addressed during the junction upgrade and that Tayto Park be encouraged to progress works quickly. The options for any additional funding received were also discussed.

The motion was adopted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll



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“That the Council arrange a meeting for the Elected Members with a Bus Éireann representative regarding proposed improvements to bus services in Kentstown, similar to the meeting arranged with a representative for the Ashbourne town area in early 2015.”

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

The motion was adopted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Darren O’Rourke

“That Ashbourne Municipal District supports and advocates the implementation of the Congress Charter for Fair Conditions at Work that seeks a societal consensus as to what constitutes fair conditions of employment. The charter identifies five key principles which, as a minimum, should be respected by every employer: a living wage, fair hours of work, the right to representation and collective bargaining, to be treated with dignity when at work and fair public procurement.”

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

The motion was adopted.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence received from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Co-ordination of Construction in response to notice of item 7.2 – Notice of Motion as passed at September monthly meeting.

The correspondence was noted.

- 7.2 Correspondence received in regard to the Proposed Linear Park, Ashbourne, Co. Meath.

The correspondence was noted. A short discussion followed on the process being pursued in relation to the potential lands identified for the proposed linear park and the



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role of the Department of Education and Skills within the community. It was agreed to add an item on the proposed linear park to the agenda of the December meeting.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Festive Lighting Allocations 2015.

It was agreed that an annual allocation of €1,000 would be made over the next 5 years to Ashbourne Chamber of Commerce for festive lighting in Ashbourne and that a letter would issue to the group confirming same.

8.2 Councillor Joe Bonner raised the following issue:

8.2.1 Councillor Joe Bonner referred to situations whereby Meath County Council staff are being subjected to unacceptable treatment by customers arising from failure by certain utility companies to abide by agreements in relation to road opening licences, including delays. It was agreed that the Transportation Department would be asked to review the process of granting licences to utility companies and notifications to those companies would be issued as required. It was also requested that a letter be issued on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal Districts to two companies, Eir and Gas Networks Ireland, requesting that they fulfil their role as agreed and communicate clearly with their customers.

8.3 Councillor Darren O'Rourke raised the following issues:

8.3.1 Reminded Councillors of the meeting next Tuesday regarding broadband and the Development Contribution Scheme.

8.3.2 The report presented at the last meeting of Meath County Council concerning Variation No. 3 to the County Development Plan and the need to secure the position of Ashbourne in terms of economic development.

8.4 Councillor Suzanne Jamal raised the following issues:

8.4.1 Update on traffic calming works outside rural schools, including Rathfeigh – it was confirmed that some works had been undertaken and additional works at Rathfeigh would be considered.



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- 8.4.2 The responsibility for maintenance of ESB sub-stations – it was confirmed that any maintenance works required should be reported to the ESB for attention.
- 8.5 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:
- 8.5.1 Update on the Municipal District Cathaoireach’s chain of office – it was agreed to seek an update from Corporate Services.
- 8.5.2 Update on the completion date of refurbishment works at Alderbrook as Christmas approaches and the potential impact on businesses. It was also agreed that information signage could be erected to indicate that businesses were trading as usual.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach