



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 13th November, 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

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 9th October, 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th October 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Finance Meeting held on 2nd November, 2017.

The minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 2nd November 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Alan Tobin referred to a question submitted regarding the provision of additional housing on available space within council estates and asked when the information would be available.



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Councillor Seán Smith acknowledged the assistance of Councillor Stephen McKee in translating a letter that issued to Corcubión, Spain.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The families of those who recently lost their lives in road accidents within the Municipal District, on the N2 and in Kentstown.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Curraha who won the intermediate championships for the second year;
- Ashbourne Baseball Club on securing the European Championships to be held next July;
- All local groups who participated in and received awards in the local and County Pride of Place competitions.

4 To receive a presentation from the Friends of Tara Committee.

Luke Bowden and Michael Slavin delivered a presentation to the meeting covering the background to the group, their activities and interaction with Meath County Council, their concerns and proposals to address these, focusing primarily on traffic management and car parking improved outcomes.

It was agreed to take Item 5.2.2 at this stage, with Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer providing an update on the Tara Conservation Management Plan, including the ongoing contact with the Department and the OPW, an overview of the issues dealt with in the plan, the updating of the plan which is currently underway, and the commitment made by the Department that the plan would be published in early 2018. It was confirmed that the critical nature of the parking issues at the site had been highlighted and that the proposal made by the Friends of Tara Committee were welcome. However it was also pointed out that the Council did not own any land at the site and would need to work with the relevant stakeholders to develop a plan to progress these or other appropriate measures to deal with the issues outlined. It was also



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confirmed that the issue relating to the trees referred to in the presentation would be dealt with shortly.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need to develop bye laws to manage parking and casual trading at the site – it was agreed that the issue surrounding bye laws would be examined.
- The possibility of dealing with the parking and traffic management issues in isolation of the management plan – it was affirmed that the urgency in dealing with these issues had been highlighted to the Department and that action was required. It was agreed that relevant consultants would be appointed to examine the available sites and identify the most suitable site for parking, following which the issues relating to acquiring such a site would be examined.
- The other facilities required, including toilet facilities – it was pointed out that the feasibility study planned could look at this issue also.

It was agreed that an update would be provided at the January meeting, following which bi-monthly updates would be given.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

5.1.1 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:

- The replacement of the large swing in the playground and the need to let the community know of the cost of repairing this equipment – it was confirmed that a replacement part had been ordered.
- The possibility of cutting back the hedging, etc. to improve visibility into the playground.

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- Update on the pedestrian crossing in Stamullen – it was confirmed that works are due to commence in the coming weeks.
- The planned road closures affecting the R150 and R153 – it was pointed out that was being managed centrally but that a circular detour would be put in place. The concerns regarding bus access would be raised with Transportation Planning & Design.
- The timeframe for the provision of information on the locations of proposed works on footpaths – it was agreed to check this with Transportation Planning & Design.
- The installation of a container at the site in Ardcath – it was confirmed that a small temporary storage container was in use at the sewerage treatment plant.
- The possibility of removing the railings at the Deerpark junction if not needed as these were damaged and had been referenced in the Tidy Towns report – it was agreed to check this.

5.1.2 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions.

The need for lighting to alleviate road safety issues at the Brink junction on the N2 and in Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District – it was pointed out that a public lighting programme had recently approved by the Transportation SPC but that the N2 was the responsibility of TII and their consent would be required. It was agreed to refer this to Transportation Planning & Design.

5.2 Planning/ Heritage

5.2.1 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5.2.2 To receive an update on progress of the Tara Conservation Management Plan.

See Item 4.

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5.3 Community

5.3.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

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

- Welcomed the progress regarding the continuation of the footpath at Lidl.
- The need to provide the gate at Deerpark to ensure buy-in from local residents.
- The need to advance as many aspects of the project as possible within the control of the local authority.
- The pace of progress on the project.

It was agreed that Fiona Fallon would be asked to attend the December meeting to provide a further update on the project.

It was agreed to take Item 7.3 – Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Seán Smith at this stage.

“That a working committee for Ashbourne Linear Park be formed to comprise of members of a Community Group, a Councillor and the Linear Park Project Manager. The group will meet monthly with a single objective: to collaboratively progress forward the delivery of Ashbourne Linear Park.”

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

A discussion followed on the benefits of local expertise and information feeding into the project, the appropriateness of setting up sub-Committees rather than dealing with issues at Council meetings, the wording of the motion in terms of representation, the potential impact of such a committee on the project progress and the alternative means of providing updates to Councillors. It was



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also pointed out that all decisions relating to the project would be brought to the Municipal District.

An amended motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** as follows:

“That a working committee for Ashbourne Linear Park be formed to comprise of members of the community, Councillors and a Linear Park Project Manager. The group will meet monthly with a single objective: to collaboratively progress forward the delivery of Ashbourne Linear Park.”

Following a show of hands of vote, with five in favour and one against, the amended motion was adopted.

Councillor Seán Smith suggested that these meetings would take place following the scheduled monthly meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District.

Councillor Joe Bonner wished it noted that he opposed this motion as he felt that business should be conducted as part of the statutory meeting framework and that any such committee would be more appropriate to deal with the management and maintenance of the park once delivered.

5.4 Corporate Services

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted. Councillors were reminded of the 30th November deadline to submit allocations and deferral forms.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“Once a housing estate has been taken in charge by the Local Authority, can recreational amenities, such as a playground, be planned in an area of the estate?”



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Response:

The provision of a playground within an estate that has been taken-in-charge is required to go through the Part 8 process.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Is there any update on a previous motion adopted in November 2016 to ask for a roundabout in Kilbride village?”

Response:

We have reviewed the available accident history at this junction and there would not appear to be a history of injury accidents at this location. We have been made aware of a potential speeding issue at this location and the Transportation Department propose to carry out some further speed surveys on the approaches to the junction. The matter will be considered further following the completion of these speed surveys.

The response was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“To ask Meath County Council the number of houses secured in the past 24 months in the Ashbourne Municipal District arising from Part V obligations; the number of Part V properties outstanding/yet to be secured based on existing commitments; and the number of these properties that remain vacant.”

Response:

Sixteen units have been delivered though Part V in the Ashbourne Municipal District over the past two years, with each unit now tenanted.

Five units are outstanding under historic Part V agreements (pre September 2015) and are yet to be delivered to Meath County Council.



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In terms of the scope of future Part V delivery, 43 units are due to be delivered through this mechanism based on current discussions/agreements with developers.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“That the following be included in any new contracts for road, cycle lane and path sweeping when the next road sweeping contract is put out to tender: To have a fair, transparent rotation of the road sweeper into estates, industrial areas and streets currently in charge.”

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

The street sweeping contract allows for scheduled cleaning of Ashbourne Town Centre as the main centre of population in the District. There is flexibility within the contract to allow periodic sweeping of other estates, Industrial/retail parks, towns and villages within the Municipal District where a particular need for sweeping is identified subject to the cost of the works remaining within the available budget.

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

Councillor Alan Tobin referred to an email he had circulated relating to this motion, with a suggested schedule of street cleaning but it was pointed out that flexibility was required to deal with issues arising.

The motion was adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To ask Transport to look at the realignment of the junction L 5018-22 (Ballymadun Road) and L-5018-16 (Ballybin Road). The Ashbourne Business Park has been extended



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extensively in recent times and the junction is no longer fit for purpose. There is an opportunity to realign the junction presently.”

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

There are no current proposals to realign this junction but notwithstanding this, the Transportation Department will arrange to carry out traffic surveys at this location.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

Councillor Alan Tobin referred to an email he had circulated in relation to this motion with proposed solutions to the issue highlighted. Councillor Joe Bonner asked that the junction serving the retail park also be assessed.

The motion was adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Seán Smith

“That a working committee for Ashbourne Linear Park be formed to comprise of members of a Community Group, a Councillor and the Linear Park Project Manager. The group will meet monthly with a single objective: to collaboratively progress forward the delivery of Ashbourne Linear Park.”

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

Since the project management of the Linear Park has been transferred to the Community Section in 2016, a number of milestones have been achieved:

- Publication of the concept design for the Linear Park
- Appointment of Consultants for detailed design of Zone 4 of the Linear Park
- Completion of the Part VIII Planning Process for Zone 4 of the Linear Park



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- Appointment of consultants for detailed design of Zones 6 and 7 of the Linear Park

Full public consultation with the residents of Ashbourne has taken place and it is their opinions/views that have determined the concept design for the Linear Park. There was also a further opportunity for consultation during the Part VIII Planning process.

The current delays relating to Zone 4 of the Park relate to compliance with the Planning Conditions and approval from the National Monument Service is a requirement prior to commencing the procurement process. The appointed consultants are currently carrying out preparatory work for zones 6 and 7 which will determine the feasibility of a number of key design elements of the project.

The Elected Members are provided with detailed monthly updates on the project in an agreed format.

The establishment of a working committee is not likely to deliver the project at any greater speed given that the delays to date relate to other agency approvals and are outside the control of the Council.

See Item 5.3.1.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“That Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors commend the work of the 'Stamullen Needs a Playground' group on their efforts to secure a suitable playground facility for their growing community and call on Meath County Council Planning Department to meet with representatives of the group to help and advise them.”

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

The group should make contact with Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner who would be happy to meet the group and to provide any assistance in relation to planning matters.

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



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Councillor Darren O'Rourke welcomed the positive response and acknowledged that progress had since been made with such a meeting. He suggested that expressions of interest be sought to identify an appropriate site and an update from the meeting planned was requested by Councillors.

The motion was noted.

8 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

- 8.1 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 5th October, 2017.

The report was noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 18th October, 2017.

The report was noted.

- 8.3 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise SPC meeting of 25th October, 2017.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 Councillor Seán Smith raised the following issues:

10.1.1 The location options for the Ashbourne Community Christmas Tree – a map identifying a number of proposed locations was circulated, with each ranked in order of feasibility. Following a short discussion, it was agreed to proceed with the area identified as part of Option 1 and also that, once confirmed and in place, an event would be arranged locally for the Cathaoirleach to switch on the



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lights.

10.1.2 Requested that an update on the Public Realm Plan be provided at the December meeting.

10.2 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Requested an update on the OPW plan regarding the flood alleviation scheme – it was pointed out that a further update was due to be provided at the December meeting.

10.3 Fiona Lawless raised the following issues:

10.3.1 Confirmed that a site had been identified for a public park with a proposal to be brought to the Management Team and subsequently to the Municipal District in December or January with a view to progressing the acquisition process.

10.4 Mel Cronin raised the following issue:

10.4.1 Referred to the information circulated on the ownership issues affecting the boundary wall and gate at the old church in Skryne and pointed out that either the community group carry out the works or the OPW take it in charge but that Meath County Council cannot do any works. It was agreed that a letter would issue to the OPW requesting that they take it in charge.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach