



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Ashbourne Municipal District***

#### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***10:00 a.m., 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019, Ashbourne Civic Offices***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Conor Tormey**, 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 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

#### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Seán Lynch, Bellew, Rathfeigh;
- The family of the late Greg Hogge.



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### **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. It was also confirmed that results from a trial demonstration of a pothole repair machine had proven positive, with the intention being to tender out a yearly contract for a number of weeks during the year, thereby freeing up own resources. The benefits of this were outlined.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Commended the municipal district staff on the significant improvements made and substantial works carried out.
- The possibility of additional funding being made available later in the year for roads – it was pointed out that the roads allocation in 2019 represented an increase on the previous year and that, at this stage, there was no indication that additional funding would be allocated.
- Queried the planned works at the junction at the top of Johnswood under the Urban Regeneration Fund, the need to reline the yellow box and provide pedestrian lights – this is with Transportation Planning & Design team, with the traffic signals at the junction to be upgraded.
- Queried the availability of outdoor staff at weekends to empty bins, including at the Hill of Tara – it was agreed to review this, with additional bins to be provided, if required.
- The need to consider all relevant road safety issues prior to the opening of the Millbourne Road – a legal agreement is being drafted between the developer and the council to facilitate the opening of the road. A road safety audit has been carried out, following which any additional measures will be taken.



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### 4.1.2 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions

It was agreed to discuss Item 6.1 – Notice of Motion at this point.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested that a copy of the Garda report objecting to the introduction of a one way system on the L5007 be circulated.
- Referred to the road approaching the junction deteriorating at the side, with a significant drop into the adjacent field, no barrier in place and the need for a designated space for cyclists - this has been logged with TII and a survey carried out. A funding application will be made to TII for infilling the ditch and laying a pipe. Pavement upgrade works are also planned at Primatestown junction, with plans to upgrade drainage, public lighting and safety barriers. Resurfacing works are also planned for Curtis's Cross.

### 4.1.3 To receive an update on the proposed Traffic Calming Scheme on the R155 at Curragha.

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation pointed out that the scheme, which is subject to non-statutory public consultation, would go on public display later this month and the final proposal will be presented to the municipal district. The proposed works were outlined.

The proposed works were welcomed.

## **4.2 Community**

### 4.2.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

Emmanuel Mwadiwa, Executive Engineer, Community Department pointed out that, whilst the Broadmeadow River had not been listed as a salmonoid river, Inland Fisheries had since confirmed that, due to the presence of trout in the river, it was in fact designated a salmonoid river and, therefore, works cannot be carried out from the 1<sup>st</sup> July to the end of September. The contractors were currently off site and would return in June to prepare for works recommencing.



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This is not expected to cause any significant delay to the completion date, with the playground works to be completed by the end of August/beginning of September.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The need to ensure accurate information is provided to the public, e.g. through local news media, erecting information on the railings, etc., and to highlight that the delays are resulting from environmental obligations.
- Whether the delays would result in additional costs – there is no indication that additional costs will accrue at this time.
- The need to consider what works can be undertaken in the interim to minimise delays in the facility being opened.
- Expressed disappointment in the delays to the playground opening.
- The possible need for fencing along the river – the playground will be fenced off and the situation monitored to see if additional planting, etc. is required. It was also pointed out that the playground is intended as a parental supervised facility.
- The possibility of supporting other family type initiatives in the interim.

### **4.3 Corporate Services**

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

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

## **5 Notice of Question**

### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**



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“What advice does Meath County Council have for residents in Meath that now have huge amounts of sludge and sediment in their water storage tanks due to ongoing works approved locally by Meath County Council?”

### **Response:**

*The Council or Irish Water has not undertaken any works which has caused huge amounts of sludge and sediment to build up in residential water storage tanks.*

*A significant proportion of the tap water supplied by Irish Water across Meath (including Ashbourne) is sourced from groundwater. Although this water is of very good quality, it contains naturally occurring iron and manganese.*

*Over time, some of this iron and manganese settles out in the water supply network and requires the Council on behalf of Irish Water to undertake extensive scouring in order clean these pipelines.*

*Some iron and manganese can also settle out in storage tanks and water pipes within individual properties. The maintenance of such private tanks and pipelines is a matter for the property owners.*

The response was noted. Councillor Tobin referred to the lack of notification from Irish Water in relation to proposed works and water outages. He also pointed out that recent works had caused sediment issues for property owners.

Clarification was sought as to the communication policy implemented by Irish Water when carrying out flushing or other works and what works were planned and the timeframe for same – it was agreed to refer this to Irish Water.

## **6 Notice of Motion**

### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey**

“In light of the traffic situation between Kilmoon Cross and the roundabout at The Pillo Hotel on the N2, can I ask Meath County Council to look at the possibility of turning off the traffic lights at the Primatestown junction at peak commuting hours, i.e. 7:30am-8:30am and 5pm-6pm, which will help alleviate the traffic flow.”



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

*The traffic lights at the Primatestown junction were provided for safety reasons rather than to maximise traffic movement on the N2.*

*The turning off of these lights at the suggested times would be detrimental in safety terms.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

The motion was noted.

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

“That Meath County Council participate in a pilot paint scheme for businesses in Frederick Street, Bridge Street, Bachelors Walk (old quarter), Garden City Shopping Centre (1970s development), Killelland Street/Declan Street (new quarter) and Rath Cross retail centre (northern approach to town) over the period March – June 2020 with the Council arranging the provision of professional advice regarding suitable colour schemes following consultation with relevant businesses in September 2019 and contributing 20% of the paint costs, with a further agreed contribution to be made by local businesses and tradesmen.”

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

*This can only be considered as part of budget 2020 and the results of the rates revaluation process.*

*Too premature to announce this at this stage as there is no specific funding for this as part of Ashbourne 2020.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.



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The motion was noted.

### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

“Can I ask that a review of the Ashbourne traffic light system SPOT be undertaken to assess why there are serious delays for motorists at certain times of the day. The system is supposed to be a smart system and doesn’t appear to be able to handle peak times. Pedestrian lights not linked to the SPOT system are also causing delays, which is leading to heavy traffic on other roads as traffic avoids the centre of town, having a negative effect on business.”

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

The pedestrian lights at Bank of Ireland and the AIB are linked to the SPOT system and Meath County Council will arrange for a review of the full SPOT system in Ashbourne by a Traffic Signals Maintenance Contractor.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

The motion was adopted.

## **7 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes**

- 7.1 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

The report was noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

The report was noted.

- 7.3 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise PC meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2019 (CDP timetable also attached).



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The report was noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

- 8.1 Correspondence received from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in response to the Notice of Item 9.1.1 from April meeting re a new primary school in Ashbourne.

The correspondence was noted.

### **9 Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Councillor Joe Bonner requested the following information:

- 9.1.1 Requested information on how the income arising from the LPT is spent – this information is available on meath.ie.

Councillor Claire O’Driscoll thanked everyone for their support over her term as councillor, including her councillor colleagues, management and staff. The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked her for her significant contribution over the years and wished her well in the future.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**