



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 10th September 2019, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Alan Tobin**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Darren O'Rourke, Amanda Smith and Conor Tormey.

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Assistant Engineer: Philip Connell

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Mel Cronin, Executive Engineer

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on, 9th July 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th July 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Darren O'Rourke referred to the appointment of a councillor from Ashbourne Municipal District to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and indicated his willingness to put his name forward for consideration. **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** was therefore appointed on the proposal of Councillor Alan Tobin and seconded by Councillor Joe Bonner.



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Councillor Alan Tobin referred to the request made to Irish Water for information on their works programme and communications policy and it was pointed out that an email response had been circulated since the July meeting and would be re-circulated.

Councillor Joe Bonner highlighted the need to coordinate the work programmes of various utility providers in terms of road openings to avoid unnecessary disruption.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Jim Tobin, Skryne;
- Des Foley, Director of Service on the death of his father, John.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Meath Ladies team, wishing them good luck for the game on 22nd September.

4 To receive a presentation from Stamullen Needs a Playground Committee.

Robert Purfield and Lisa Mellors, representing the committee, delivered a presentation that provided information on the group, progress made to date, options regarding available lands and what is required from the council to progress the provision of a playground.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors commended the group on their efforts to date and the manner in which they had engaged the community in a positive and progressive way. The council was also acknowledged in terms of the efforts made to assist in the delivery of the playground and reference was made to the role of the County Development Plan in achieving this objective. It was confirmed that the funding remains ringfenced for this project once a suitable site has been identified and secured.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation



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- 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:

- Acknowledged the work of council staff in dealing with the recent flooding incident in Kentstown and the need to consider whether additional flood alleviation works are required, with reference made to the grants available to local authorities by the OPW.
- Acknowledged the extent of verge cutting undertaken at junctions throughout the municipal district and the works undertaken at the Broadmeadow River.
- The impact of flooding on the road network and the plans for resurfacing these – it was confirmed that, whilst pothole repair and maintenance works were ongoing, the resurfacing programme was completed for this year. However, the roads in poorest condition could be prioritised for the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

- 5.1.2 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions

An update had been circulated in advance and the progress was welcomed by councillors. Reference was also made to the need for contractors to ensure minimal traffic disruption and delays by providing flagmen instead of unmanned traffic lights.

5.2 Community

- 5.2.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

Emmanuel Mwadiwa, Executive Engineer, Community Department provided an update on works underway and confirmed that it is hoped that the playground would be handed over in early October.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- The possibility of installing CCTV to ensure the security of the equipment being installed – it was pointed out that, whilst the ducting had been installed, there were no plans to install CCTV at this time but that it could be considered at a later date subject to clarification around data protection and funding.
- The benefits of arranging an official opening, with a focus on engaging with schools and the community regarding how the facility would be managed and maintained, and the possibility of coordinating this with events planned for Ashbourne 2020 – it was confirmed that an official opening would be arranged and coordinated with councillors.
- The timeframe for the provision of the speed ramps on Castle Street near the entrance – it was agreed to check this.
- Raised queries on progress being made in other zones – it was pointed out that, until such time as works are completed in Zone 4 and the final account is available, options can then be considered in terms of priorities and available funding.

5.3 Environment

5.3.1 To receive a written update on Ashbourne Flood Alleviation Works.

A report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested that the grass be cut at the rear of Brookville, where trees had been removed and which is no longer accessible.
- Requested that the garden and hedging at the bridge also be reinstated following completion of works.
- The provision of written confirmation by the OPW to residents regarding the flood alleviation works undertaken to assist with securing house insurance/reducing premiums.



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6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“Given the major immediate and impending house building programme in the area, to ask the Chief Executive what provisions Meath County Council are making to accommodate a very significant increase in pressure on the road infrastructure in Stamullen and if she will make a statement on the matter?”

Response:

The transport vision for Stamullen is to enhance connectivity within the town and between the town and City North Business Campus and Junction 7. The priority must also be on improving pedestrian and cycle facilities within the town and between the Business Park and Gormanstown. Providing pedestrian and cycle connectivity between the residential development to the north of the town and existing community facilities on Cockhill Road remains a priority.

The response was noted. Councillor Darren O'Rourke sought further detail on the plans in place to deal with the impact of the increased development on the road infrastructure, including an alternative to the link road if this is not proceeding.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“In the taking in charge process, is it a requirement that all names of estates and roads/streets are in both official languages?”

Response:

Under the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019, (Section 11.2.2.8) there is currently no requirement to have the names of estates and roads/streets in both official languages as part of the taking-in-charge process.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion



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7.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“That an appropriate "Welcome to Ashbourne" sign be designed to replace the current brown signs for the run up to and including the year 2020, with a more up to date sign to mark the 200th year of the establishment of the town of Ashbourne.”

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

The budget for Ashbourne 2020 has already been issued and it does not include the signage as proposed in the Notice of Motion. Ashbourne Municipal District will however refer this matter to the Transportation Department for their review and comment.

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

The motion was adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“That Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors express their concerns, by way of a written letter, to Minister Murphy over the lack of proper communication and consultation with the public (their customers) by Irish Water with past, current and future planned works. Road closures and water disruption is not communicated adequately and this has led to serious distress and anger over the past 6 months.”

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

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence

8.1 Correspondence received from Event Transformers Ltd re Ashbourne Christmas Village December 2019.

The correspondence was noted and it was agreed to issue an acknowledgement.



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9 Any Other Business

9.1 Fiona Lawless raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Acknowledged the grant funding secured under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, which represented an investment of approximately €8.5 million in Ashbourne and for which a design and full consultation would be undertaken.

9.2 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:

9.2.1 The extent of work being undertaken by Irish Water in Ashbourne and the lack of information and communications with councillor and the public, including the benefits of the works being undertaken and the level of disruption to be expected – it was agreed that a representative from Irish Water would be invited to attend a meeting of the municipal district to outline planned works and that the recent issues with traffic management and congestion would be highlighted in correspondence to issue.

9.2.2 The need for the provision of the footpath and traffic calming measures at Baltrasna as soon as possible- it was pointed out that the Part 8 process had been undertaken, with the intention of being ready to go if funding became available. However, there are competing footpath proposals for limited funding and priority is given to locations with highest footfall, with speeding being the primary issue at Baltrasna – it was agreed to seek an update from the Transportation Department regarding possible funding sources.

9.3 Councillor Darren O'Rourke raised the following issues:

9.3.1 Requested an update on the Hill of Tara Conservation Management Plan and the other related proposals and plans at the Hill of Tara.

9.3.2 Requested clear guidance on the criteria for the installation of certain traffic calming measures at various locations, e.g. schools, regional and local roads, etc.

9.3.3 Expressed concerns at the delay in installing the traffic lights at Johnswood Road/Castle Street due to the works being undertaken by Irish Water.



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9.4 Councillor Joe Bonner raised the following issues:

9.4.1 The need to relocate the 'Welcome to Ashbourne' sign on the Milltown Road.

9.4.2 The need to replace the signs on Bachelor's Walk and Frederick Street.

9.4.3 The need to coordinate watermains and other proposed works in Curragha.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach