



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 14th January 2020, 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:

Director of Service: 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 10th December, 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th December 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Amanda Smith requested a timeframe for the commencement of water quality testing at Gormanston beach – it was agreed to refer this to the Environment Department.

Councillor Darren O'Rourke referred to further correspondence issued to councillors in relation to Item 7.4 – Notice of Motion and expressed his dissatisfaction at these responses. He asked that this be conveyed to the Planning Department.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations



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Sympathy was extended to:

- The families of those who had died by suicide in the area since the December meeting.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Councillor Alan Tobin on the birth of his baby daughter.

Councillor Joe Bonner sought a suspension of Standing Orders to raise two related matters 'in committee' and this was unanimously agreed. Following the discussion, the meeting resumed as per Standing Orders.

4 To receive a presentation from the PPN Resource Officer.

Danielle Monahan, PPN Resource Officer, Community Department delivered a short presentation, on the role and structure of the PPN, its composition and planned improvements, with the Department of Rural and Community Development to undertake a review and publish a new handbook. Of the approximate 900 groups represented in Meath, 89 are located in Ashbourne Municipal District. A Community Wellbeing Statement is to be prepared for each municipal district and at county level and a related workshop will take place in Ashbourne Community Centre on 5th February.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors wished Danielle well in her new role.

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:



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- The erection of finger posts by a large multi-national store on traffic management poles throughout Ashbourne – it was agreed that a letter should issue to their HQ to request that they refrain from erecting these again following their removal.
- The lack of space for pedestrians at Swans in Curragha, with no access to the postbox, and the need for ramps at Joe Dwyers – a chevron is to be added. The request for ramps will be forwarded to Transportation Planning & Design.
- The need to review the traffic light sequence at Deerpark as traffic is backing up to Nine Milestone – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation Planning & Design.
- The need for additional traffic calming measures, including possibly ramps, at dangerous bends in Curragha, Ballybin Road, Donaghmore and Baltrasna – flashing bend warning signs are to be installed at Baltrasna in addition to chevrons on the road sections with bends. The Cookstown Bridge parapet has been repaired on the Ballybin Road, with chevrons to be added and high visibility bollards installed at the pinchpoint. The planned alignment of the bridge includes an increased width to provide a footpath.
- The possibility of providing funding to undertake repairs on the Slí na Sláinte route.

5.2 Community

- 5.2.1 To receive detail of the recommended grant offer by the Knockharley Community Liaison Committee under the Knockharley Environmental Projects Grant Scheme and, if in agreement, to forward to the full Council of Meath County Council for approval.

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department circulated details of the committee's recommendation and it was unanimously endorsed on the proposal of **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

5.3 Library Services



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5.3.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne 2020 Civic Event.

An update, circulated in advance, was outlined and noted.

5.4 Housing

5.4.1 To meet with representatives from the Housing Department regarding the proposed Social Housing Scheme (Department of Education Site, Ashbourne)

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, and Paul Barrell, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing Department provided further information on the proposed scheme, including the proposed unit numbers and types and general site design. A decision regarding Stage II approval is awaited from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government, following which the Part 8 process can commence. Conditional approval had been received, subject to some design changes. The provision of a playground has been included in the design, with funding to be provided from own resources. An additional green area is provided for at the front of the scheme, which will include a walkway and landscaping. It was pointed out that this will be a high quality scheme, with A rated units, which will meet a substantial proportion of the local housing need. Once the Part 8 process has been completed, the local authority will closely liaise with residents in adjoining estates.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Site size and access, with reference to a flooding incident in 2014 – the site is approximately 2.6 hectares, with access from the existing entrance on the GAA road. Whilst the road does not form part of the scheme and is not in charge, the development will not adversely impact on any flooding risk. Pedestrian access to any future school site will be facilitated.
- The need to provide adequate communal storage, bin storage and outdoor laundry facilities.
- The need to ensure that all infrastructure, including lighting, landscaping and the playground, is available prior to units being occupied.



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- The guidelines which inform the proposed density – the proposed density is in line with the County Development Plan and will maximise the potential of what is an urban site.
- Queried the responsibility for construction and management of the scheme – the construction will go out to tender and, as a local authority social housing estate, will be under direct management.
- The possibility of providing units that can be easily modified to provide an additional bedroom in the attic space – the department will not fund attic conversions, the allocation of units will be based on current accommodation needs and self-modification works, without authorisation, will not be encouraged, due to the potential fire safety issues, the future need to retrofit works undertaken and the associated cost.

5.5 Corporate Services

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

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

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in response to the Notice of Item 7.2 – Notice of Motion as adopted at the September, 2019 meeting re communication from and consultation with the public by



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Irish Water.

The correspondence was noted.

9 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach