



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

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

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

***10:00 a.m., 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Ashbourne Civic Offices***

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

**Councillors Present:** Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal and Amanda Smith.

**Apologies:** Councillor 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 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Amanda Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

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

Councillor Alan Tobin requested an update on the provision of temporary traffic management measures at the top of the R135 – Johnswood Road.

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

Sympathy was extended to:



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- David Jones, Housing Department on the death of his father, Gerry;
- The family of the late Fergus Duffy, former Meath County Council employee.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Former councillor Darren O'Rourke on being recently elected to represent the Meath East constituency;
- Deputies Helen McEntee and Thomas Byrne on being re-elected;
- Councillors Joe Bonner and Sharon Keogan for their performance in the elections.

### **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. Reference was also made to resurfacing works to be carried out, which may cause delays to traffic exiting Garden City. It was suggested that, as a temporary measure, the bollards be removed, opening up Alderbrook Road, and allowing traffic out by the R135 and exiting Garden City at the Deerpark junction. A short discussion followed, with concerns being expressed at current traffic volumes at the Deerpark junction and the potential opposition to such a move by local residents. It was subsequently agreed not to proceed with this proposal.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried whether the presence of Japanese Knotweed on private lands is recorded – some locations on private property, if close to public roads, are logged. The contractor must treat the vegetation twice and return a third time later in the year for further treatment. Access to private lands can be problematic.



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- The possibility of installing plastic bollards at Millbourne to prevent parking – these have been ordered for a number of locations, including Nine Mile Stone and Millbourne.

### **4.2 To consider and adopt the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works.**

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section outlined the schedule of works as they relate to housing, including the service categories, funding allocations per municipal district, the centralised budgets and updates on the previous year. Reference was made to a pilot programme to commence in Navan to facilitate a proactive preventative maintenance works programme being carried out on tenanted housing stock.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried how maintenance works are carried out and information available – the works are subject to an annual tender process, with data available on, for example, the number of maintenance calls received annually. The maintenance charter determines timeframes for response and a Clerk of Works monitors these works to ensure quality control.
- Queried the BER rating that applies following the energy upgrade works – whilst there is no specific BER rating target, all necessary works are carried out.

Des Foley, Director of Service, Transportation referred to the roadworks element of the report circulated. It was pointed out that the information presented today refers to the revenue programme, with the capital programme, being separate, dealing with works such as footpaths, public lighting, etc. It was pointed out that the increase in funding does have implications on the available resources and tender prices have also increased.

John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation Section outlined the information provided, including funding sources and the proposed works for 2020.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the options available if works carried out by third parties are not completed to standard – the road opening licence system allows for required



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repairs to be specified, with a two-year maintenance period. The local authority can instruct that repairs be carried out, if required.

- The possibility of providing a lay-by at Fourknocks, if resurfacing works are being carried out, to facilitate tourists – whilst it was agreed to look at this, road restoration funding from the department does not include land acquisition.
- Queried the allocation of funding for estates – an additional footpath programme is also being carried out.
- Queried the sustainable transport projects to be undertaken – whilst the NTA funding allocation has not yet been confirmed, it is likely to be increased and is generally for projects such as traffic calming, pedestrian crossings, footpaths and cycling facilities.
- Queried the lack of funding for footpaths and road safety measures on the R125 at Baltrasna and from the Nine Mile Stone to Donaghmore, where subsidence is occurring at the road verges, and the possibility of planning for an alternative route from Ashbourne to Swords as part of the County Development Plan to facilitate economic development and access to the airport – it was pointed out that, whilst the Part 8 for the footpath and bus stop at Baltrasna was completed, it was never the intention to proceed unless funding could be secured. A flashing radar sign and additional standard chevrons are to be installed. An allocation has also been made in 2020 and 2021 for works on the R125 from Ashbourne to the Fingal boundary.
- The plans to upgrade older lighting to LED in areas such as Kentstown, Skyrne, etc. – a national retrofitting programme is being rolled out over two years with the aim of upgrading all public lighting. The focus of the Council's public lighting programme, for which an allocation has been made in the capital programme, is to upgrade existing lights, with a small number of locations identified for new lighting in 2020.
- Queried the process relating to the low cost safety schemes – applications must be made to the department in September.
- The provision of speed ramps on regional roads – it was pointed out that, generally, speed ramps are not anticipated in rural areas, with a speed limit of



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80km/h. In areas with a 60km/h speed limit, public lighting is also required. Different measures appropriate to the area must first be considered.

- Referred to the establishment of a Park & Ride office within the NTA and requested that a meeting be requested.

The Schedule of Municipal District Works was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Amanda Smith**.

### **5 Notice of Question**

There were no Notices of Question.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.

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

- 7.1 To note the report from the Planning Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC meeting of 19th December 2019.

The report was noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 22nd January 2020.

The report was noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **9 Any Other Business**



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9.1 Fiona Lawless raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Confirmed that the Community Department intended to complete all works in the park and playground prior to the mid-term break but if not fully complete, will suspend all works until after the schools return.

9.2 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Requested that sub-titles be added to video content on meath.ie regarding important matters, such as the County Development Plan, to facilitate members of the deaf community.

9.3 Councillor Suzanne Jamal raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Requested that high-visibility bollards be installed at George's Cross, Skryne.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**