



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

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

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

***10:15 a.m., 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020, County Hall, Navan***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Conor Tormey**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Aisling O'Neill, Amanda Smith and Alan Tobin.

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Senior Executive Officer:** Dara McGowan

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Executive Engineer:** Mel Cronin

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

**Clerical Officer:** Edita Zolotuchina

**Apologies:** Fiona Lawless, Director of Service

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Amanda Smith** 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:



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

- Fiona Lawless on the death of her sister, Siobhan Rooney;
- Councillor Conor Tormey on the death of his wife, Kathleen, and mother-in-law;
- The family of the late Monica Holmes, former Meath County Council employee;
- The family of the late John King, Ashbourne who had stood for election a number of times;
- The family of the late Robbie McCormack who was involved in the New York Meath Association;
- All those in Meath who had died, having contracted the Coronavirus.

Councillor Conor Tormey expressed his gratitude to his councillor colleagues and officials for their support during his recent bereavements.

### **4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

#### **4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of Land at Greenogue, Kilsallaghan, Co. Meath.**

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Amanda Smith**.

It was suggested that eircodes be included in the information circulated with each proposed disposal brought to future meetings.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Housing**

##### **5.1.1 To discuss the proposed Social Housing Scheme (Department of Education Site, Ashbourne).**

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer and Paul Barrell, Executive Engineer, Housing Department attended the meeting and outlined the report, which had been circulated in advance, with specific references to the proposed play/recreation areas in the development.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The proposed access to the areas identified – it was confirmed that these would initially be accessible by residents only and that, as the



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

area may be subject to flooding, it is intended to provide a raised walkway and more formal pitches may be considered in the future.

- Requested that all play areas and landscaping be completed prior to the release of units – it is intended that all works will be completed before the units are released, with the landscaping costs being included in the funding application to the department.
- The plans for the portion of land adjacent to the site – this is in private ownership and efforts to secure it were not successful.
- Queried whether adequate provision was being made for play/recreation areas – the council is satisfied that adequate provision is being made, also taking into account the play facilities available in the nearby Linear Park.
- Acknowledged that each unit also has access to private garden space and welcomed the provision being made.
- The possibility of reinstating the wetland habitat in one of the areas identified.
- Queried as to the responsibility for the future management of the development- the Council will be responsible for its management.
- The possibility of providing dedicated cycle lanes – the footpaths planned for the site are of different widths, to facilitate pedestrian access to the proposed school site, but there is insufficient space for segregated cycle lanes.
- Queried the next steps in the process- the Part 8 will be published next week, with a view to returning to the October municipal district meeting with the Chief Executive's report. Following the subsequent six week period, the tender documents will be prepared with a view to being on site in Q1 2021.

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

- The impact on the development on the housing list in Ashbourne Municipal District- there are currently 537 applicants, of which 464 have indicated a preference for Ashbourne.
- Welcomed the amendments to the proposed site plan, following previous discussions with councillors.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** that the support of councillors would be conditional on the full completion of the site, including the play areas, fencing, landscaping, etc. prior to the units being released.

### **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:

- Acknowledged the work of the outdoor staff in recent times, including disinfection, grass cutting, etc.
- Queried the timeframe for grass cutting in Deerpark – tenders were recently submitted with a view to starting this work shortly.
- Queried the plan to rectify issues identified in the Linear Park playground – this has been raised by the Community Department with the contractor. Preparations are underway for its re-opening, taking into account public health guidelines. Clarification had been received regarding supervision in playgrounds and it has been confirmed that this would be the responsibility of parents. Signage is being prepared, with numbers to be limited, and playgrounds should re-open next week.
- The need for signage at the Linear Park playground directing cars to the multi-storey car park.



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

- Queried the provision of hanging baskets in Ashbourne – the contract was not carried out this year and the code is no longer available.
- The proposals for additional stop signs and at the old N2 – advance warning signs have been provided and some minor hedge-cutting took place at R135/L10092 junction.
- The need for the reinstatement of the grass at Killeghland following the footpath and boundary works and also to repair the grass damaged by bonfires.
- The need for public lighting at Newtown Cross, following a recent fatality – this has been approved with works due to be undertaken in July/August.
- The need for markings and surfaces to be renewed on disabled parking spaces.
- The need to complete works at Curragha.
- The need for additional outdoor resources in Ashbourne to deal with the increasing need for services.
- The possibility of central government funding to comply with national public health requirements related to COVID-19 – confirmation has been received confirming funding relating to three months commercial rates only but every business in the country is facing additional costs to comply with requirements.
- The possibility of removing the bollards to re-open Gormanson beach – this is to be reviewed at SPC level at the end of June.

### 5.1.2 To receive an update on the R125

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation provided an update on the R125, including the Baltrasna/Harlockstown Road and Nine Mile Stone to



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

Swords. He also referenced the integrated public transport solution for Ashbourne.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Pointed out that this was an ideal opportunity to review public transport provision with fewer commuters taking up available spaces.
- The need to consider pedestrian access to and the provision of public lighting at bus stops.
- The role of the NTA in identifying routes resulting in the need for bus stops – it was pointed out that the 197 route did not originally include a bus stop and the extent of works now required was being considered at Greenogue.
- The need for a taxi rank in close proximity to public transport and queried the process involved – this is a reserved function, requiring a byelaw and following consultation with the Gardaí and NTA. The proposal goes on public display, with submissions invited. Generally, it is preferable to reach consensus in advance to avoid issues later arising. It was suggested the proposed locations be submitted and these would form part of the required consultation. It is possible to provide a loading bay during the day, with a taxi rank at the same location at night. It was pointed out that compliance would be voluntary. It was agreed to consider this further at the July meeting.
- The need to consider improved linkages to the airport in the new County Development Plan and also an outer relief road to alleviate traffic congestion in Ashbourne.
- The need to consider all options to reduce speed and improve pedestrian safety at Baltrasna.

## **6 Notice of Question**



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

There were no Notices of Question.

### **7 Notice of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.

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

- 8.1 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC virtual meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020.

The report was noted.

### **9 Correspondence**

- 9.1 Correspondence received from Mr. Jack Holmes on behalf of the Ashbourne Public Greenspaces Group.

It was agreed to receive the deputation, as requested, when safe to do so and in line with public health guidance, and also that the group would be requested to submit their presentation in advance.

### **10 Any Other Business**

- 10.1 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:

10.1.1 Requested that regular updates on the provision of a park be provided at municipal district meetings, to include available funding – it was pointed out that Meath County Council remain committed to the provision of a park, a funding allocation is included in the capital programme and that updates will be provided when appropriate and available.

10.1.2 Requested an update on Zone 3 of the Linear Park, including the skatepark, nature area and walkway.



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

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**