



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 7th July 2020, Ashbourne Civic Offices

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

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

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 Annual Meeting held on 9th June 2020.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 9th June 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Amanda Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 9th June 2020.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th June 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Amanda Smith**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Amanda Smith enquired as to whether the bollards, recently removed from Gormanston beach, would be reinstated and, if so, whether a barrier could be installed to facilitate access by emergency services – it was confirmed that the bollards are to be reinstated with consideration being given to the installation of a gate with keypad access.



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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Fiona Lawless on the death of her sister;
- Councillor Conor Tormey on the death of his uncle.

At the request of the Cathaoirleach, it was unanimously agreed to deal with Item 6.1 – Notice of Motion at this point in the meeting.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Community

- 4.1.1 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 outlined the report circulated in advance and confirmed that, subject to endorsement by councillors at today's meeting, the recommendation would be brought to the September meeting of Meath County Council.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Amanda Smith**.

A query was raised as to whether any funding assistance was available to support smaller clubs, e.g. through community councils, - it was confirmed that, whilst there were no specific grants to support operational costs, details of any such grants would be circulated if they become available.



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In response to a query raised, it was confirmed that all expressions of interest in respect of the Town & Village Renewal grants should be submitted to Meath County Council by 17th July.

It was agreed to circulate a schedule of community grants available, with timelines, to councillors.

4.2 Corporate Services

- 4.2.1 To adopt the revised Standing Orders for the meetings of Ashbourne Municipal District – Sections 1 & 2 regarding meeting dates.

These were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Amanda Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling O'Neill**.

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted. It was confirmed that applications would continue to be processed during August with details to be circulated to councillors for noting by email to expedite payments being made.

As the Cathaoirleach had to leave the meeting, the Leas-Chathaoirleach, Councillor Suzanne Jamal, assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

4.3 Transportation

- 4.3.1 To discuss the proposed provision of a taxi rank in Ashbourne.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation presented a drawing that summarised the proposed locations for taxi ranks as submitted by councillors following the June meeting. He raised two related issues, i.e. that relocating a disabled parking bay is not straightforward due to the additional width and length required and also that one proposed location is on lands that were dedicated by the landowner for a specific purpose and therefore landowner agreement would be required for any proposed change.



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The next steps were outlined as being drafting a byelaw based on the agreed locations, following by a public display period, the consideration of submissions received and coming back to the municipal district for decision.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the progress being made.
- The request for loading bays and disabled parking bays at various locations.
- The need to consider usage patterns, including proximity to public transport, when deciding on locations.
- The proposed times for loading bays/taxi ranks – these would be indicated in the byelaw with signage also provided.
- Queried responsibility for enforcement – as part of the process, the Gardaí will be consulted.
- The possibility of also introducing a byelaw to introduce an axle ban at certain times of the day – it was pointed out that this can be achieved through signage and a byelaw is not required.
- The need for larger stores to provide designated taxi spaces and electric vehicle charging points at their premises – it was agreed that a letter should issue requesting that this be considered.
- Queried the timeframe for the process – the drawings will be prepared and put on public display for four weeks, with advertisements placed in the local media. It is hoped to come back to the municipal district in September or October, with the making of a byelaw being a reserved function.



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- Requested that an advertised be placed in the Ashbourne News, which is delivered to every household.

It was agreed to proceed with the process with the locations as identified, subject to any changes required as a result of today's meeting.

- 4.3.2 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne Municipal District.

The report was circulated in advance with further updates provided.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested an update on the completion of works at Milltown Road – due to delays caused by the COVID-19 restrictions, the expected completion date is now February 2021.
- Referred to the amount of works ongoing and the need to coordinate these, including those planned by other utility providers – it was confirmed that, as part of the watermain works being undertaken, utility ducting is being installed which will assist in mitigating traffic issues.
- Requested an update on the provision of a footpath from Nine Mile Stone to Donaghmore church – discussions with the landowner are ongoing and, subject to approvals, works should commence in Q3/Q4 2020.
- Referred to lines requiring renewal, e.g. disabled parking spaces with the rubberised surface also requiring attention.
- The possibility of erecting signage at the playground directing traffic to the multi-storey car park.
- The need to address parking issues on Hunter's Lane and at Applegreen.



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- The continued illegal dumping at the bottle banks and requested that any unauthorised clothes banks be removed and enforcement action be taken in relation to any related illegal dumping – it was agreed to refer this to the Environment Section.
- The options to address the dumping of grass cuttings and branches in drains and ditches, e.g. increasing awareness of the possible impacts of such activity including flooding and pollution – it was suggested that this be referred to the Environment SPC for consideration.

5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey

“I ask Meath County Council to move the outdoor gym equipment from outside Crestwood Avenue, Ashbourne as it is causing disturbance to all the neighbours in the early hours of the morning. If the equipment could be moved further away from the houses that would be great.”

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

It has been agreed to relocate the relevant pieces of outdoor gym equipment to more suitable locations. The proposed new locations will be discussed and agreed with the Elected Members prior to installation.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

The motion was adopted. It was confirmed that if the equipment is moved, it will be subject to maintenance checks on reinstatement and any issues resolved.



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7 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillor Amanda Smith raised the following issues:

8.1.1 The longer term plans for parking at Gormanston beach, which does not form part of the Beach Management Plan – it was agreed to refer this to Environment.

8.1.2 Requested any further update regarding planned water testing at Gormanston.

8.2 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:

8.2.1 The number of recent burglaries of cars parked at Station Road and the need for additional signage.

8.2.2 The funding application made previously for a proposed car park at Gormanston and the importance of the beach from a wildlife and archaeological perspective.

8.2.3 Requested an update on the request to retailers regarding the provision of recycling facilities – it was agreed to refer this to Environment.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach