



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

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

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

***10:00 a.m., 8<sup>th</sup> September 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

**Clerical Officer:** Edita Zolotuchina

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

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Amanda Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling O'Neill**.

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

Councillor Amanda Smith queried the frequency of water testing of the Delvin River and referred to a recent pollution incident that resulted in the closure of the beach at Balbriggan – it was confirmed that water testing would be carried out if a potential issue of pollution is identified and that this is carried out by the EPA. Issues can also be referred to the Inland Fisheries. Gormanston beach is not designated as a bathing water and therefore is not subject to regular testing but could be considered in the future if designated.



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

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

Congratulations were extended to:

- Edita Zolotuchina, Corporate Services – Meeting Administration, on her recent wedding in Lithuania.

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Eddie Bradley, Ashbourne with tributes paid on his contribution to the community, including the Tidy Towns.

### **4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 Agreement in principle to disposal of Land at Ashbourne, County Meath.**

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Corporate Services**

##### **5.1.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Park.**

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Asset Management outlined the actions undertaken to date in terms of identifying a potential site for the park, including contact with estate agents and seeking expressions of interest. The potential sites identified were outlined. Following this process, Meath County Council has not been successful in its attempts to acquire land to date.

As part of the current County Development Plan process, there has been an objective included, relating to a park in Ashbourne. However, during the current stage of the process, if any Councillor(s) would like to, they could submit a Notice of Motion identifying specific lands to be zoned for a park and this would be considered by the planners as part of the process.



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

An allocation of €1.4m has been made in the Meath County Council Capital Budget, which would cover land costs of approximately 15-20 acres and basic infrastructure provision. Further developments would then be subject to future funding applications.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Expressed disappointment that the proposed size of the park was less than what had been anticipated – reference was made to the cost of land per acre in the area and also the facilities that already exist, including sports facilities, Balrath Woods and the Hill of Tara.
- Queried the process in acquiring land – this was outlined.
- Acknowledged the efforts being made by the executive in securing land for a park and the need for central government to provide funding to support such efforts – the recent investments made in Ashbourne were highlighted.
- Referred to the need to consider the ongoing management and maintenance of such a facility.

It was agreed that councillors would collectively draft a Notice of Motion for submission as part of the County Development Plan process.

### 5.1.2 To receive a presentation from the Ashbourne Public Greenspaces Group.

Jack Holmes and Fiona Woods delivered a presentation to the meeting, which set out the aims of the group with regard to the delivery of a park in Ashbourne.

Councillor Joe Bonner expressed reservations at being involved in any discussion that would involve reference to the County Development Plan and withdrew from the meeting whilst this item was being dealt with.

Councillors thanked the group for their efforts and enthusiasm, underlined the need to be realistic in terms of what can be achieved and acknowledged the timeliness of the presentation in the context of the County Development Plan review process.



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

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted and councillors were reminded of the deadline for the receipt of completed applications, i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### **5.2 Community**

- 5.2.1 To receive details of the allocations under the Community Amenity Project Scheme 2020 and if in agreement, recommend to the full Council of Meath County Council for approval.

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community outlined the recommended grant allocations following the assessment process. These were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

### **5.3 Transportation**

- 5.3.1 To receive an update on provision of a taxi rank in Ashbourne.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation outlined the proposed locations on a drawing and confirmed that, of the locations discussed, two had been omitted for the reasons provided. If agreed, the drawings will go on public display until 23<sup>rd</sup> October and a report on the submissions received brought to the November meeting for decision, following which the byelaws can be prepared. Signage and road markings could then be installed in December.

A number of points were raised by councillors including the possibility of moving the proposed taxi rank on Killegland Street, with provision made for a disabled parking space, and the possibility of requesting the larger supermarkets to also provide for a taxi rank on their premises. It was agreed to proceed as outlined.

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



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

The report, circulated in advance, was outlined and updates provided.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The need to ensure that the paving slabs in the industrial estate are laid correctly and the obsolete lamp posts removed;
- The need to top the trees in certain estates, where they are obstructing the light, and also the lower branches, which are obstructing grass maintenance – whilst council crew can remove the lower branches, the annual programme for tree maintenance is based on recommendations made by the consultant, based on complaints received, and is subject to available funding.

### **6 Notice of Question**

#### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

“In the 2009-2015 LAP Chapter 4 Economic Strategy, 4.3 page 27, the plan quotes “Additional lands for industrial development are identified adjacent to the existing Ashbourne Business Park. The development of these lands shall also provide for a civic amenity site and lands (approximately 0.5 hectares/1 acre) for the use as a depot. These lands shall be subject to the requirements of a Framework Plan (FP 3 and section 3.4.2 refers) to ensure co-coordinated and integrated development.”

Can the council clarify the following;

- Was land identified?
- Was land purchased?
- Did previous planning conditions provide for the acquisition of the land?
- Are the sites still being sought by Meath County Council?



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

- What happened to this part of the LAP and was there ever a review of the plan during its lifetime to assess its progress?"

### **Response:**

*The provision of a Civic Amenity / Recycling Centre for Ashbourne was raised on a number of occasions. As previously advised the estimated cost of providing such a facility, and excluding site acquisition and operating costs, would be in the region of €2 m however no provision has been made in the Capital programme for this facility and nor is any departmental funding available.*

*It is understood that in addition to the use of the Bottle Bank in Ashbourne many local residents use the 4 Civic Amenity Sites in the County (one private) as well as five such facilities located in the neighbouring Counties of Louth & Fingal*

*No lands have been purchased or selected in relation to this matter.*

*Ashbourne LAP is one of 15 proposed LAPs as per the Meath CDP 2021-2027. In addition to those towns in which had previous Town Development Plans (Navan, Trim, Kells), Ashbourne is considered one of those settlements which is considered priority for the drafting of a LAP. It is anticipated that a LAP for Ashbourne would be done approximately 1-1.5 years from the adoption of the Meath CDP (April 2021). This is likely to be discussed at the Planning and Economic Development SPC later this month.*

The response was noted.

## **7 Notice of Motion**

### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

“To have proper opening and closing times for the playground at Linear Park Zone 4, Ashbourne due to its proximity to a residential apartment complex and to protect equipment. Suggested daily hours:

- Summer time (clocks go forward) opening between the hours of 8am and 8pm
- Winter time (BST) opening 10am to 5pm.”



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

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

*The design and construction of the Linear Park Zone 4 was in order to provide an “open space” available to all members of the public and to provide facilities for all age ranges (toddler and older playground as well as amphitheatre, exercise area etc. for adults).*

*Meath County Council do not intend to implement opening/closing times of the playground as there are significant costs and manpower difficulties associated with such an arrangement. Individuals intent on accessing the playground could still do so after closing hours as the existing fence is not to a high security standard as its purpose is to prevent young children from leaving the play area. Retrofitting the playground with new gates and high security fencing would also be a very costly exercise.*

A short discussion followed on the need to consider local residents and protect the equipment in the playground. It was agreed to discuss the possibility of dimming the lights at certain times with the Public Lighting Section as a deterrent. The ducting for CCTV is in place and, in line with the CCTV policy adopted by the JPC, the programme for the delivery of CCTV in Ashbourne, including the playground, is likely to be undertaken in 2021. It was also requested that signs be erected indicating the opening hours. It was agreed to review the Park Byelaws, which apply in the playground.

Reference was also made to pigeons, which pose a public health danger, in the playground and vicinity – it was agreed to refer this to the Environment Section.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling O’Neill**, was noted.

### **7.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

“I call on the Transportation Department to engage with Irish Water before resurfacing works commence on the R135 from Rath to Frederick St, so that the 20+ year old traffic calming measures that are now extremely unsafe for cyclists are removed and a shared surface with a defined painted 1.8m cycle lane is put in place.”

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



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

*Irish Water hold a Road Opening Licence for the works referred to, and under the conditions of this licence, the surface is to be reinstated to its existing condition. Meath County Council Transportation Department are currently progressing a scheme, currently at detailed design and preparation of Tender Documents stage, which will provide for a segregated cycle track on the R135 from Rath to Frederick Street. It is anticipated that works on this scheme will begin in 2021.*

The motion was withdrawn.

### **8 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **9 Any Other Business**

**9.1** Councillor Amanda Smith raised the following issue:

9.1.1 The proposed linear park in Stamullen/Gormanston which remains undelivered.

**9.2** Councillor Conor Tormey raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Referred to the provision of the gym equipment – the works are being assessed by a qualified playground contractor.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

---

**Cathaoirleach**