



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

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

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

***10:00 a.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, Via Zoom***

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

**Director of Service:** Des Foley

**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 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Amanda Smith**.

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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



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Sympathy was extended to:

- Councillor Geraldine Keogan and Senator Sharon Keogan on the death of their mother, Teresa.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Housing**

- 4.1.1 To receive the Chief Executive's Report (reference P820010) in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Act 2000–2020 and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001–2020 in relation to the proposed development of 74 housing units, including all site development works, at Castle Street, Ashbourne.

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, and Paul Barrell, Executive Engineer, Housing Department provided information on the scheme, including its background and design overview. The Part 8 process had been subject to a delay, arising from a referral to An Bord Pleanála in relation to whether a further EIA was required. The Board had confirmed on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 that this was not required, allowing the Part 8 process to recommence. On receipt of the Chief Executive's report, to be circulated separately, councillors have six weeks to consider the proposed scheme and, if not rejected or amended within that timeframe, the scheme can proceed.

The proposed development was welcomed and it was queried as to whether the process could be expedited due to the previous delays and the urgent need for housing. It was confirmed that the process is a statutory requirement and cannot be expedited; however, the councillors' support for the project is welcome.

The proposed design, including the layout, percentage of green space, landscaping, connectivity and play areas, was commended.

#### **4.2 Transportation**

- 4.2.1 To inform the Members of the commencement of a review of submissions



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received regarding housing estates to be considered for inclusion in an update to the current 30 km/h Housing Estate Special Speed Limit Bye-Law and seek representations in relation to any estates which the members feel should be included for review.

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation referred to the estates in Ashbourne Municipal District that had been identified for review and asked that any further suggestions be submitted by email by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

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

The report had been circulated in advance and a further update was provided at the meeting, including issues relating to flooding and gritting. Regarding the drainage issue in Stamullen, a CCTV survey confirmed a blockage, with excavation works now required, representing a substantial piece of work. With regard to the crossroads at Curragha, additional high visibility road markings on the approach roads are planned when the weather permits. Once the water main works are completed, the ramps and table can be installed.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested the timeline for pipe laying works in Curragha – works are due to take place in Q3 subject to approval and funding. Site investigation works have been carried out. Once completed, road resurfacing, the ramp and table works can be commenced.
- Referred to the reports regarding the junction at Curragha and commended the council for the amount of work carried out, including the planned interim measures, and emphasised the role of driver behaviour in relation to recent incidents.
- Queried the location of the ramps planned for Curragha – the plans were outlined, with the situation to be kept under review.
- Requested an update on the taxi ranks.



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- Referred to a blockage under the road which, during heavy rain, caused water to affect the footpath between Crestwood and Killegland Cemetery.
- Queried the possibility of implementing a natural solution to address the issue of coastal erosion at Gormanson beach.
- Referred to the ongoing issue of broken glass at the bottle banks in Ashbourne and also the overflowing bins, especially at weekends.
- Referred to the road between the Educate Together roundabout and the Thomas Ashe roundabout and queried whether an application had been made to take this road in charge, with reference to its condition, including broken lights, fencing, graffiti, etc. and if not to be taken in charge, can the Department of Education & Skills be requested to address these issues and secure the gate to the site earmarked for housing.
- Referred to potholes on the R135 at Regents Hall.
- Thanked the council crew for the removal of waste at Archerstown and Donaghmore Lane.
- Queried the provision of the HGV signs at entrance to Johnswood on the Milltown Road – it was agreed to check this.

### **4.3 To consider and adopt the 2021 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 national commitment given with regard to the Energy Retrofit Programme, which is be an annual programme of works over the coming years.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried whether the BER B2 rating was the target or the minimum to be achieved under the Energy Retrofit Programme and whether these works were to be contracted out –



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the target is B2 although this may not be possible for all units, depending on age. Works will be contracted out as there are not enough resources in-house.

- Queried the number of units included in the pre-let expenditure – works are carried out on approximately 80 units per annum with the extent of works depending on the condition of the house when returned. The programme also includes comprehensive preventative maintenance works. At a national level, the move is towards a more planned preventative maintenance works programme.

The Housing section of the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling O’Neill**.

John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation outlined the proposed programme of works as they relate to transportation, including the funding breakdown. Some grant allocations have not yet been confirmed and a contingency allocation in the Restoration Improvement Grant has been allowed in the event that grants are reduced from 2020 levels and/or inflation leads to increased costs.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried whether additional roads can be included on the surfacing programme if in poor condition – the tender prices are not yet known and costs may have increased, but roads in poor condition can be reviewed for possible inclusion later in the year.
- Queried the timeframe for the tender for works from Rath to Frederick Street – a draft NTA allocation has been advised for works to continue on the R135 from Frederick Street to the Ballybin Road with the tender to issue in Q2 and works to possibly commence in Q3.
- Queried whether further consultation was required for works at Harlockstown – the Part 8 for the bus stops at Harlockstown is in place and works should take place in the latter half of the year.
- Commended the Transportation team on the high standard of works on Milltown Road, and particularly for the extensive public engagement.



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- The need to ensure that developments cannot proceed until the necessary infrastructure is in place.
- Queried whether the planned resurfacing works at Greenogue will include the provision of bus stops – the funding for the planned surfacing works for approximately 1km from the Fingal section to Ashbourne does not include bus stops.

The Transportation section of the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Ashbourne was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

### **5 Notice of Question**

There were no Notices of Question.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.

### **7 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **8 Any Other Business**

8.1 Councillor Conor Tormey raised the following issue:

- 8.1.1 Welcomed the support of councillors which resulted in the unanimous decision of Meath County Council to zone lands as part of the current stage of the County Development Plan process, which could be used for the Ashbourne Park – it was pointed out that until the County Development Process is complete and the objectives relating to a public park in Ashbourne are confirmed, no further commitment on the delivery of a park can be made.



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8.2 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issue:

8.2.1 Requested an update on Zone 3 of the Linear Park.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**