



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 2nd March 2021, Via Zoom

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

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

Apologies: Councillor Aisling O'Neill.

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 2nd February 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 2nd February 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Amanda Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.



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4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

4.1.1 To receive an update on N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Cross project.

Maurice Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer and Catherine Dowdall, Executive Engineer, Transportation Department were in attendance with Eoin Greene, AECOM – Project Manager for the Scheme. The background for the scheme was outlined, for which Meath County Council is the lead authority as part of a S85 agreement with Fingal County Council. Four options had been presented as part of the public consultation undertaken in July/August 2020 and, following analysis, an emerging preferred option had been identified and this will be made available on the online public consultation site.

Eoin Greene delivered a presentation which included the background to the scheme, the work done to date, the options and alternatives considered, the indicative layout of the emerging preferred route and the reasons for its selection and the next steps, including the next phase which will include junction layouts and engagement with landowners. More detailed plans will be published on 4th March on the project website. Details of how the virtual consultation will work were outlined, with a Land Liaison Officer will be available to assist those who have difficulty with the virtual consultation.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the progress made, despite the COVID restrictions.
- Queried the number of landowners affected – the route corridor, being wider, involved approximately 100-120 affected landowners but as the design/alignment is refined, this number will decrease by 30% - 50%.
- Raised a number of specific queries relating to the route and design, including access points, and the virtual consultation - responses were provided, with many of the details to be considered in the future design stages and following greater analysis.

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- Queried the impact of the scheme planning referral corridor, and areas outside of this corridor, on planning applications for one-off rural housing – the consultation process regarding the emerging preferred option will take a number of months, during which the current scheme planning referral corridor will still be in effect. When finalised, the preferred option corridor option will form the basis for consideration as part of the planning application referrals.
- Queried the road classification, i.e. motorway or national road status – this will be determined by TII as scheme progresses.
- Queried the availability of associated reports – these will be published as part of the statutory process, probably in early 2022, with updates to be provided as the preliminary design stage progresses.

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

The report had been circulated in advance and a further update provided at the meeting.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Complimented outdoor staff on the amount of work undertaken.
- Requested that further resources be allocated to activities such as bin collections at weekends – it is hoped to make minor changes to the bin collection schedules at weekends. An additional compactor bin is to be provided, with a total of 29 such bins in the municipal district.
- Requested that the arborist report be circulated to councillors to facilitate letting people know in advance of works being undertaken – it was agreed to check with the Data Protection Unit to see if the report can be circulated.



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- Referred to the removal of trees on the walkway to the school and requested that lighting be provided.
- Thanked staff for their support and assistance with the Christmas Tree recycling initiative and also for the water cuts undertaken to mitigate flooding.

4.2 Corporate Services

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

4.3 Planning

- 4.3.1 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within the developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2020.

- Millbourne Phase 2, Ashbourne.

Councillor Joe Bonner raised a number of issues relating to the estate, including the need for proper delineation between the road and footpath, which are at the same level, to improve safety and the need for measures to address speeding, e.g. signage. He also queried if the roadway connecting to the school is to be taken in charge or is to remain in private ownership.

Councillor Alan Tobin queried if a 30km/h speed limit will apply in the estate and, if not, can an application be made to apply this lower speed limit. He also referred to the shared surface for bikes/cars from Johnswood to the school and the cars parking on the road and on courtesy crossings, despite designated car parking spaces. He requested that consideration be given to adding double yellow lines to prevent this.

It was agreed to defer this to the April meeting.



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5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can we get a detailed update in progress on the OPW works along C1/7, flood remediation work in conjunction with Meath County Council. Works complete and work still to be completed including timelines and cost to date.”

David Keyes, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment Department provided a response, which an overview of works completed and works due for completion, including costs and timelines.

The response was noted and progress welcomed. It was requested that the overhanging trees at Huntsgrove and the railings be looked at and also that the area at the golf club entrance be reinstated adequately.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“I call on the Transport Department to tender for consultants to design an upgrade to the Archerstown Road from the Milltown Road to the entrance to Ashbourne Utd, Ashbourne Rugby and the Irish Clay pigeon shooting grounds. If this piece of roadway is progressed by Part VIII, we may be able to avail of funding that will include public paths, cycle lanes, public lighting and the retention of native hedgerows.”

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

The Transportation Section is currently working to complete the detailed design and preparation of tender and contract documents for the R135 Cycling and Junction Upgrades in Ashbourne which is being funded by URDF/MCC and the NTA, with a view to commencing construction this year.

The section does not currently have resources to progress the Archerstown Road scheme at this time.



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Reference was made to the need to provide safe cycling and pedestrian access to the entrances to the facilities mentioned and requested that the necessary surveys be undertaken with a view to commencing the Part 8 process and availing of any funding opportunities that arise.

It was agreed to request information on the best way to progress the project and the process to avail of URDF funding, subject to eligibility.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**, was noted.

7 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:

8.1.1 Proposed that the new Garda Superintendent be invited to the meet with councillors on the next meeting date – this was agreed.

8.1.2 Requested that a letter issue to KN Circet seeking remediation/compensation for damage caused to the Ashbourne Utd boundary – it was agreed to contact the company and requested that they work with the club to carry out any necessary remediation works arising from work undertaken by KN.

8.1.3 Requested that all utility companies, including electricity and broadband companies, be requested to paint their junction boxes twice per year to deter graffiti – it was agreed to check which department would be in a position to request this and, if agreeable, to undertake this on a countywide basis.



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This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach