



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:15 a.m., 15th June 2021, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Aisling O'Neill, Amanda Smith, Alan Tobin and Conor Tormey.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Clerical Officer: Edita Asaciova

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11th May 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th May 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Aisling O'Neill** and seconded by **Councillor Conor Tormey**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The Under 16s girls team from Donaghmore/Ashbourne GAA on their recent match win;
- Dara McGowan on his appointment as Director of Services.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

- 4.1.1 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, including the ramps in Curraghera with a speed survey to follow.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Thanked Mel and his team for all the work carried out in the municipal district.
- The safety issues from Millbourne to the Thomas Ashe roundabout, which is still in the charge of the Department of Education & Skills, including the need to move the pole towards the fence on the cycle lane and for a pedestrian crossing – the snag list is being prepared in conjunction with the Planning Department, with cost estimates, as part of the initial stages of the taking in charge process.
- Commended the works in Curraghera, including the standard of works and their impact on slowing traffic, and acknowledged the investment made on improvement works in the village – the speed survey, to be carried out, will measure the impact of the works undertaken.
- Referred to the poor road condition in Tudor Grove and requested that the cones and signs be collected – these will be collected.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Referred to the need to repair the fence at the green in Racehill Manor, which is allowing access to the river and facilitating illegal dumping – the fence will be repaired this week or next.
- Requested a timeline for the provision of the pedestrian crossing at the pumping station in Tudor Grove – the tender will issue soon, with plans to have this provided before the schools return in September.
- Requested that the synchronisation of the lights on Main Street be reviewed.
- Referred to the requests being made for ramps and the need for speed checks first to determine if these were justified.
- Queried whether estates can be still be added to the housing estate speed limit review – councillors were advised to submit locations to the Transportation Department.
- Welcomed works in Balrath Woods and referred to the need for additional car parking – double yellow lines and bollards have been installed and a steering committee has been established, which is looking at extending the car park.

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.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“Following the local authority SEAI grant scheme, how many EV charge points were applied for in the Ashbourne Municipal District?”

Response:

Meath County Council has not applied for any of the funding to date under this scheme. The Council is waiting for guidance documents from the EV working group to be issued.

The response was noted. Councillor Tobin sought clarification on when EV charge points will be provided in Ashbourne.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Aisling O’Neill

“At what stage is the plan for the Linear Park and the Skateboard Park?”

Response:

The consultants appointed by Meath County Council, Fehily Timoney & Co., are currently preparing the documentation for the Part VIII application for the Skate Park. It is envisaged that this work will be completed in early July allowing the Part VIII process to commence during July. It is hoped that the Chief Executive’s report on the Part VIII application will be presented in early Q3 of 2021.

The response was noted. It was requested that consideration be given to putting in boulders at the former Department of Education & Skills land, now owned by Meath County Council, to prevent unauthorised access.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To ask Meath County Council to review the public realm plan (to take in new standards and emphasis on outdoors in recent years) and initiate a new retail strategy for Ashbourne Town Centre. The resulting actions to include part 8 planning of necessary.”

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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

The Planning Department is currently dealing with a large programme of works with respect to public realm plans and the review of the Ashbourne Plan will be added to the programme. The Retail Strategy is a matter for the County Development Plan, which is currently in its final stages of the process. The County Development Plan will be reviewed constantly to ensure policies and strategies are kept up to date with local and national initiatives and needs.

A short discussion followed on the challenges facing businesses, particularly arising from COVID, and it was agreed to invite Planning to attend a meeting to present the Public Realm Plan again.

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

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“To relocate the traffic warden to the unofficial crossing point between Ashbourne Credit Union and the pathway at Racehill from the current signalled junction at Bridge Street.”

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

An assessment of the proposed Traffic Warden changes will be made. It is likely that modifications will be required at the proposed new crossing point which may include signage, line-marking and minor footway repairs. Works would be subject to funding, resources and crew availability. Any changes undertaken will also need to be notified to the schools so parents/guardians can be made aware of any changes. It is also worth noting that this section of the R135 is due for major upgrade in the near future and that the proposal outlined in the Notice of Motion may need further alterations during the R135 construction phase.

Following a discussion, the supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling O’Neill**, was noted.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Aisling O’Neill

“That Meath County Council provides traffic calming measures on Bourne Avenue.”

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

Regarding request for traffic calming along Bourne Avenue, Garden City, Ashbourne, this location has now been added to the proposed new works list for suitable traffic calming measures. The feasibility, type and extent of traffic calming deemed suitable for this location will be compiled, designed and costed. If funding is secured, the proposed scheme may need to go through a non-statutory Section 38 process which will allow for representations and consideration of any proposed scheme by the Municipal District Members and members of the Public.

The proposed scheme may then proceed to final design and implementation. It should be noted that there are already several proposed traffic calming projects listed and awaiting funding and approvals within the Ashbourne Municipal District.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Aisling O’Neill** and seconded by **Councillor Conor Tormey**, was agreed.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Aisling O’Neill

“That Meath County Council seeks approval from the Department of Education to enable Castle Street to be taken in charge.”

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

The Housing Section are in the process of finalising the contractual details for the purchase of lands on Castle Street from the Department of Education. The taking in charge of the road forms part of these discussions, and the state and suitability of the road condition is currently being assessed by Transportation. If remedial works are required, then these will be required to be carried out before the taking in charge is completed.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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

7 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

- 7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 7th May 2021.

The minutes were noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC meeting of 12th April 2021.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from Neil Holohan, Commercial Director, Gormanston Park.

The correspondence was noted.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Joe Bonner raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Requested that the bus stop opposite Hickey's be reviewed.

- 9.2 Councillor Amanda Smith raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Queried the process of taking an estate in charge – the process was outlined.

- 9.3 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issue:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- 9.3.1 Referred to the utility box installed on Broadmeadow Street, which is obstructing access on the footpath, and asked that the service provider be requested to relocate it.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach