



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

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

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

***10:00 a.m., 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Via Zoom***

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

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

#### **1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Conor Tormey** 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**



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Congratulations were extended to:

- Meath Ladies team on winning the Division 2 final;
- Meath Men's Minors team on winning the Leinster Championship.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Water Services**

4.1.1 To receive an update on the Windmill Reservoir and Ratoath Trunk Main project.

Pat Wickham, Senior Executive Engineer, and Philip Doherty, Executive Engineer, Water Services delivered a presentation which included information on the project overview, objectives and benefits; the design route and reservoir; and expected works including sequencing and duration. The tender process is due to be undertaken at the end of 2021 and advance notifications will issue prior to construction commencing.

An update was also provided on the Ashbourne Bottleneck Project including the objectives and current status.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the works planned and complimented works undertaken to date, which has resulted in increased water pressure and positive feedback from residents.
- Queried the timeline for works in Curragha, with footpath reinstatement works also planned – construction is due to commence in April/May 2022, with works in Curragha due to be undertaken later in the year. The intention is to use additional crews to minimise the impact of works on residents and road users with consideration being given to schools and businesses. At this stage, a firm commitment cannot be given with regard to timeframes at specific locations.

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- Queried whether full road reinstatement works are to be undertaken at Racehill/Tudor Grove, where water is pooling – permanent reinstatement works will be undertaken with the intention to carry out road and footpath reinstatement works during the school holidays. The works being carried out are under licence and, following an inspection, any further necessary remedial works will be undertaken.
- Queried whether there is adequate water supply to fill the new reservoir – the water will be supplied from Staleen WTP and will provide resilience for the supply to Ashbourne and Ratoath, including if a break occurs between Staleen and the reservoir and until such time as repairs are carried out.
- Queried whether the existing reservoir and boreholes would continue to be used – these will remain in operation.
- Requested that consideration be given to carrying out works to address the breaks that have occurred between Curragha crossroads and the Rath reservoir – this was noted but not part of the present project
- Queried whether houses in Churchfields, currently on a private supply, will be able to connect – connection can be facilitated but some additional measures are required in advance to facilitate this. Works currently ongoing at the Rath Reservoir would also have to be finished and they are expected to be complete in circa October 2021.

### **4.2 Environment**

- 4.2.1** To receive a short presentation about the UN Sustainable Development Goals and how Meath County Council are integrating these into organisational culture. To receive an update on the URBACT Global Goals for Cities project (Caroline Corrigan).

Caroline Corrigan, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment delivered a presentation which provided information on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Global Goals 4 Cities, which includes Trim, the only Irish town, and examples of how to become involved.

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Matters raised by councillors included the need for training for councillors to improve understanding and awareness of the key issues involved and it was agreed to consider further online training, with additional information to be circulated. Councillors commended the Environment Department on the information shared to date.

### **4.3 Transportation**

- 4.3.1 To advise the members of the Municipal District that Meath County Council Transportation Department propose to put the draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (Housing Estates) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.1) 2021 on public display as required by Section 9 of the Road Traffic Acts, 2004 (No.44 of 2004) (Paul McKown).

Paul McKown, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the information circulated in advance, including the estates to be added for review. Consent was sought to proceed to put the maps and new byelaw on public display, following which they would be brought back to the municipal district and then to the full council for approval.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The timeframe for the new byelaw to come into effect – if approved at the October or November full council meeting, a date will then be set as a funding application will be made to the Department of Transport for signage and it will be 2022 before these can be erected.
- Queried whether it is planned to erect signage at courtesy crossings – there is no specific guidance on courtesy crossings in the current Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets, which is due to be updated and which will include a standard layout for such crossings. Some of those recently installed were reviewed and, whilst not required, warning signage was provided.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** to proceed to public display.



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

The report, circulated in advance, was noted and a further update was provided at the meeting.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Commended Mel and his team on the quality of works being carried out.
- Referred to the provision of a parklet on Frederick Street, Ashbourne, as agreed at the May meeting, suggesting that it was not being used but had resulted in a loss of parking spaces, and queried when the usage of the parklets would be reviewed and removed, if not considered of benefit – it was agreed to refer this for response.
- Queried why the parklet in Stamullen had not been completed – it was agreed to refer this for response.
- Queried whether large waste bins can be left on the street for long durations, taking up parking spaces – councillors were requested to submit the locations where this was occurring and it would be referred to the Environment Section.
- Requested that a letter issue to the Management Company responsible for the bins at Tesco requesting additional bin collections Saturday nights or Sunday mornings.
- Requested that an independent assessment of Milltown Road be carried out, in particular the junction where the utility boxes are located.

### **4.4 Corporate Services**

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



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The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted. Councillors were reminded that the deadline for the receipt of completed application and deferral forms is 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### **5 Notice of Question**

There were no Notices of Question.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

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

“Ashbourne’s traffic light system SPOT is not fit for purpose. I call on Meath County Council Transport Department to install a new fully evaluated system that is integrated with CCTV, a centre controllable command centre (at Buvinda) and can be added to, as roads investment on the R135 including Rath to Frederick street and Dublin Road to Nine Mile stone progress.”

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

*The existing Urban Traffic Control system in Ashbourne is called SPOT. It was installed in 2015 as part of the Ashbourne Main St Refurbishment. Last year as part of the R135 Ashbourne Cycle Scheme a review of the existing UTC system was undertaken. The existing system was compared to other available UTC systems on the market and a recommendation was made on whether to expand the SPOT UTC or replace it. The report recommended replacing SPOT with the SCAT system which is the one used in Navan. The proposed upgrade works between Castle Street and the Pillo Hotel will have the SCAT system installed at the signalised junctions. Upgrade of the remaining junctions in the town will be subject to funding becoming available.*

*With regards to the CCTV, a UTC system and CCTV go hand in hand for traffic management. There is a CCTV control room in the Town Hall in Navan and the existing video management system has capacity to take in cameras from Ashbourne if they were installed.*

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

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

“That Ashbourne Councillors, the Corporate Services and the Finance Departments agree to discuss options to create a local fund specifically for local projects, including the running of a locally based Parks and Amenities Department under Section 131 of the powers devolved to municipal districts and that Ashbourne Municipal District is used as a pilot area:

- Establishing a community fund for the purposes of supporting community initiatives.
- Adopting a scheme for the making of an annual contribution by the occupier of each dwelling in the area to which the scheme applies towards particular community initiatives specified in the scheme.”

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

Funding towards community projects is already provided for by both the council, including the Community Grants Scheme, the community fund allocation in the capital programme and the community allocations made within the General Municipal Allocation, and by other government departments and bodies, e.g. URDF, RRDF, Town & Village Renewal Scheme, Outdoor Recreation Scheme, etc. The introduction of a scheme requiring “an annual contribution by the occupier of each dwelling in the area to which the scheme applies” is not something that would currently be considered by the Executive, particularly in light of the review of the LPT system and the other funding sources available.

Councillor Alan Tobin, in introducing the motion, suggested that a levy be applied to each planning application, whether for individual or multiple developments and at a nominal rate, to establish a community fund. It was pointed out that the motion did not suggest such an approach and, whilst the development contributions scheme was being reviewed, this is being approached on a countywide basis. In addition, the return would have to be measured against the cost of administering such a scheme. Reference was



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also made to the provisions already included in the capital programme and the match funding provided by the local authority to support applications made under various grant schemes. It was agreed to refer this to Planning, to see if the application of such a levy would be possible and/or feasible.

A query was also raised as to whether the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme is statutory or voluntary and it was agreed to refer this to the Planning Department.

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

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

- 7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

The minutes were noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The report was noted.

- 7.3 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

The report was noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **9 Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Fiona Lawless raised the following issue:





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- 9.2 Sought agreement that the municipal district fund the outstanding balance owed by the Ashbourne 2020 voluntary group – this was unanimously agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

Councillor Aisling O'Neill thanked everyone for their support and assistance during the year whilst she balanced her work as a councillor and as a healthcare worker. Councillors paid tribute to Councillor O'Neill on her achievements in both roles.

The Cathaoirleach concluded the meeting by wishing everyone a safe summer and thanking councillors, Fiona Lawless, Mel Cronin, the meeting administration team and everyone working in the municipal district for their work and in contributing to a successful municipal district.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**