



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 7th September 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: Martin Murray

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Clerical Officer: Edita Asaciova

Apologies: Fiona Lawless, Director of Service

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 6th July 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 6^h July 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** 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

Sympathy was extended to:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The family of the late Gráinne Bray, Bourne View, Ashbourne, to whom tributes were paid.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Meath Minors and Ladies GAA teams on winning their respective All Ireland Finals.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Planning

4.1.1 To discuss the Ashbourne Public Realm Plan.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner delivered a presentation, providing an update on the public realm plan prepared in 2018, including an overview of the four themes, the vision, the project examples and the next phase of implementation.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested that the public realm plan be reviewed to take account of changes that have occurred since its preparation in 2018.
- Requested that a retail strategy be prepared for Killegland Street, which reflects the need for investment and the de-prioritisation of vehicular traffic.
- Requested that the delivery of the different elements of the public realm plan be discussed further at the October meeting.
- Underlined the need for dedicated street cleaning resources to maintain areas within the town.
- The need to work with businesses to improve signage within the town and the possibility of accessing grants for bilingual signage – it was pointed out that



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

shop front guidelines are in place and it is intended to increase awareness of these.

- The need to improve connectivity between residential and retail/business areas – it was agreed that the Transportation Department would commit to assessing connectivity and the options available.

4.1.2 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.

- Rath Lodge, Ashbourne

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The need to renew the stop lines at the junctions in the estate in the interim - it was agreed to look at this.
- Queried whether the cobble lock in the parking areas would be replaced or reinstated.
- Queried the extent of works to be undertaken by the council and whether the bond in place was adequate for these works - it was pointed out that once the resolution had been passed to take the estate in charge, a detailed information gathering exercise would commence to determine the extent of works required and the cost of same. If the bond was inadequate to cover the works required, these works would be prioritised and the shortfall addressed, if required.
- Queried whether grant funding was available from the department to cover any funding shortfalls as the estate was affected by pyrite.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by Councillor **Conor Tormey**.

4.2 Transportation



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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

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

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the zebra crossings at schools.
- Queried whether the ramps, to be provided under the URDF scheme, would be as high as those already provided as there have been some reports of damage to cars – the ramps, which comply with current guidelines, provide a continuous level crossing for pedestrians, being level with footpaths. Measures are in place to warn motorists on approach, including flashing cats' eyes, red paint and red slow markings. Any damage sustained may be as a result of excessive speed on approach. Traffic lights, rather than ramps, are proposed as part of the URDF scheme. A presentation on that scheme will be made at the October meeting.
- Queried whether red boxes with speed limits can be provided before the bend at Harlockstown – it was agreed that this will be considered as well as red slow signs.
- Referred to a previous Notice of Motion adopted requested that that the council liaise with TII to address the safety issues for motorists exiting the M2 at the Nine Mile Stone roundabout – it was agreed to check this.
- Referred to traffic congestion in Killelland Estate as a result of the Covid Testing Centre – it was agreed to raise this with the HSE later this week.
- Queried whether double yellow lines can be provided on both sides of the road at Gormanston – the provision of double yellow lines facilitates parking enforcement by the Gardaí and it is proposed to assess the



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

current arrangement prior to commencing the process for additional double yellow lines.

- Referred to the breaking of the locks at Cock Lane, allowing vehicular access onto beach – the barriers in place are not high security barriers and, if the full council decides to adopt more permanent parking restrictions, more appropriate measures will be considered.

4.3 Corporate Services

- 4.3.1 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 submission of completed application and deferral forms.

5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey

“Can Meath County Council provide bollards on the footpath at the entrance into Milltown Council Estate and some traffic calming measures. Since the new measures were put in place a lot of traffic is parking on footpaths and using the entrance of the estate to turn their vehicles which is very dangerous for pedestrians using this estate.”

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

Meath County Council and Ashbourne Municipal District have arranged a site meeting with representatives of Milltown Residents to listen to their concerns regarding parking



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

and traffic issues in and around the junction area with the intention of resolving or mitigating the issues raised.

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

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey

“Can Meath County Council provide a Pedestrian Crossing at the following junction to Hunters Lane/Milltown Council Estate/Maple Grove (outside Corks Restaurant) as it is a very dangerous junction for the elderly and children crossing.”

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

Meath County Council have recently completed major safety improvement works along approximately 1km of the Milltown Road. The scheme initially went through public consultation via the Part VIII Planning Process allowing the Public to make comment or observations on the proposed design. The proposed works included improvements at the Milltown Road/Hunters Lane junction, specifically a raised table (ramp) on the T-junction, new line-marking, public lighting, new footways with tactile paving for pedestrians, road re-surfacing and drainage. The completed works were designed in accordance with the guidelines in place at design stage and a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit was carried out for that design – this audit did not indicate the need for a signalised crossing at the Milltown Road/Hunters Lane junction. The new scheme will also go through a Stage 3 Road Safety Audit which reviews the as-constructed scheme for issues that may not have been apparent at the design stage.

Ashbourne Municipal District currently have no plans to install traffic signals (Zebra/Pelican type crossing) but the location has now been added to our new works request list. It should be noted that there are already a number of proposed new works already on the list and that any new works would be subject to funding, resources and approvals.

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

7 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillor Joe Bonner raised the following issue:

8.1.1 Queried the reasons for the delay in making the traffic lights on the Milltown Road/Broadmeadow Bridge operational – it was agreed to check this.

8.2 Councillor Amanda Smith raised the following issue:

8.2.1 Queried the timeframe for the provision of the fencing at Kilbreck – it is hoped to include the fencing at Kilbreck with the Castle Street works to optimise value for money. However, if these are unduly delayed, the fencing at Kilbreck will be arranged.

8.3 Councillor Suzanne Jamal raised the following issue:

8.3.1 At a meeting of the National Monuments Service last week, regarding the draft Hill of Tara Conservation Management Plan, a commitment was given to finalise the plan by the end of the year. Councillor Jamal had stressed the urgent need to address traffic management issues following a number of incidents over the summer and it had been agreed to include a sustainable access plan - it was pointed out that Meath County Council was committed to working with the OPW, who have responsibility for managing the site, to ensure sustainable access can be provided once the relevant plan is finalised.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Cathaoirleach