



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

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

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

***10:00 a.m., 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Ashbourne Civic Office***

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Suzanne Jamal, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Joe Bonner, Amanda Smith, Aisling O'Neill, 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 Ordinary Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Councillor Amanda Smith and seconded by Councillor Joe Bonner.

#### **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.

#### **4 Statutory Business**



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

### **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 was provided at the meeting.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Requested that red boxes be provided at Greenogue Cemetery – a tender will the municipal district will issue next week, with slow markings being prioritised.
- Queried whether cats' eyes are added to specific roads and whether cats eyes, similar to those on the ramps in Ashbourne, could be added to the ramps in Gormanston. – cats' eyes are on national roads, most regional roads and at problem areas on local roads. Those on the ramps in Ashbourne are solar powered and are expensive.
- Referred to the need for additional warning on approaches to ramps – passive cats' eyes are reflective. It is hoped to install the flashing ramp signs at school locations.
- Queried whether the solar traffic lights at Clonalvey school, which is now closed, could be relocated to Ardcath N.S.

### **4.2 To consider and adopt the 2022 Schedule of Municipal District Works.**

Barry Lynch, Director of Service, and Corrina Elder, Senior Engineer, Housing Department 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 programme of planned maintenance to be procured by mid-year, with a budget allocated from own resources to carry out an asset survey.



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

Matters raised by councillors included a query was to whether older estates would be prioritised for the retrofitting programme – this is currently under review but older estates and units with lower BER ratings will ideally be prioritised.

Martin Murray, Director of Service introduced Caroline Corrigan, who is due to join the Transportation Department as Senior Engineer, and referred to some changes due to be implemented in the Transportation Department. John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation outlined the process and timelines for the Schedule of Municipal District Works, the funding amounts, where known, and sources, a road survey update and summary of PSCI ratings, the proposed programme of works, including the funding breakdown.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the increased investment and acknowledged the significant improvements made in recent years.
- Commended the municipal district staff on the extensive programme of works delivered.
- Welcomed the works undertaken in Curragha, Skryne and the R125.
- Referred to the planned bus stop and footpath works at Harlockstown and referred to the need to complete the works from Nine Mile Stone to Harlockstown – it was confirmed that, whilst the initial scheme is designed to Hickey's Lane, the council is working with the NTA with a view to continuing the scheme to Nine Mile Stone, thereby providing a continuous link.
- Referred to the absence of roads projects to the right-hand side of the N2, where many roads provide popular cycling routes but which are unsafe due to their condition – approximately €500k had been allocated to the R125 east of the N2 in 2021, with a further application to be made to the department for €300k over 2 years, with design work required in advance.
- Referred to the inclusion of the Ratoath to Curragha road, where watermain works are planned, and queried if the road would not be reinstated following



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

these works – the council is liaising with Irish Water regarding the road opening licences and these proposed works may change, if required.

- Queried whether pull-in areas are to be provided on the Curragha Road to Largo Foods and whether the road will be suitable to carry heavy goods traffic.
- Requested that surface dressing planned for Balrath include the section at the junction where there are a number of potholes.
- Queried whether roads in poor condition around Stamullen and Ardcath be improved.
- Queried whether the street sweeping budget includes cleaning of cycle lanes.
- Requested further information on the planned school safety schemes.
- Requested comparative figures for the other municipal districts.
- Expressed concerns at the delays in advancing the proposals for the N2 at Rath, and the related implications for planning applications, and suggested that there are improvements that can be made such as the widening of the road and the provision of a bus lane – it was confirmed that the council was working with TII in progressing this project through its phases and in line with national project management guidelines.
- Referred to deep gullies on either side of the Curragha to Kilbew road – it was agreed to examine this to determine the best option.
- Queried the process to request additional bus stops – a grant has been received from the NTA to review the need for bus stops on a countywide basis, with a view to seeking further capital funding in 2023.
- Requested that consideration be given to providing ramps at all schools.



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

- Queried the process in requesting new public lighting – as part of a national programme, the capital investment in 2022 will focus on LED replacement heads, which will result in energy savings. Applications for new public lighting will be considered under exceptional circumstances.
- Referred to deep drains along roadsides and whether these could be piped – each location would be assessed to determine the appropriate measures.
- Requested an update on CIS applications – an application has been submitted to the department for funding over the next two years, with funding yet to be announced. If adequate funding is received, two projects in Ashbourne Municipal District can proceed this year. Whilst the scheme is over-subscribed, applications can still be made and will be kept on file for the next round of funding.

The 2022 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Ashbourne was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Conor Tormey and seconded by Councillor Alan Tobin.

### **5 Notice of Question**

#### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

“To ask would it be possible, or indeed safe, to put in two separate courtesy type pedestrian crossings at the areas marked in the map below? This is to allow elderly residents, in particular from Milltown Estate and Ashdale Crescent, to cross at a designated space from the pathway exiting Milltown to Batchelors Walk safely.”

**Response:**

*As part of the Milltown Road Upgrade Scheme, Meath County Council constructed a raised table at the Milltown Road/Hunters Lane junction. This raised table includes tactile paving and kerbing flush with the level of the raised table. This facilitates pedestrians and is of particular benefit for less able-bodied pedestrians. Tactile paving and dropped kerbs were also constructed at the entrance roads to Milltown and Maple Grove Estates to provide designated crossing points. Meath County Council consider the existing pedestrian*



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

*facilities adequate and currently have no plans to introduce additional ramps or courtesy crossing points at this location.*

The response was noted. Councillor Alan Tobin sought clarification on whether this location had been reviewed by the Age Friendly team and suggested that this needed to be reviewed again in terms of the provision of a courtesy crossing, away from the junction, a ramp to slow traffic and a flashing speed sign.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.

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

7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.

The minutes were noted.

7.2 To note the report from the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC of 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

The report was noted.

7.3 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022.

The report was noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **9 Any Other Business**



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

9.1 To agree arrangements for the March meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District.

9.1.1 It was agreed that future meetings would be hybrid in nature.

9.2 Councillor Joe Bonner raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Reported issues with VPN connections and access and Councillors Amanda Smith and Aisling O'Neill also reported issues – it was agreed to refer this to the IT Section.

9.3 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Proposed that the town twinning relationship with Corcubion, Spain be re-established, with the planning of reciprocal visits.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Cathaoirleach

