

Miomtuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

10:00 a.m., 9th May 2023, Ashbourne Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Amanda Smith presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Aisling O'Neill, Conor Tormey, Alan Tobin

Apologies/ Absent: n/a

Councillors Present via Zoom: n/a

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Fiona Lawless

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 4th April 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4th of April 2023 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

There were no expressions of sympathy.



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Congratulations was extended to the Women's Senior Rugby team who came 1st in their division.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Planning

- 4.1.1 To consider the Taking in Charge of Archerstown Wood Ashbourne and the making of a declaration that the roads within the development shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2022"

Sean Clarke SEO, Planning outlined that the members originally had agreed to the taking in charge of Archerstown Wood, Ashbourne at their Ashbourne meeting held on 12th January 2021. In November 2022 a minor mapping error relating to the original public display map for Archerstown Wood was brought to the Council's attention where a small section of land owned by a 3rd party had been incorrectly included in the taking in charge. A revised map was prepared with the proposed area to be taken in charge and put on public display until 1st March 2023.

A discussion ensued by the members on the taking in charge process.

On the proposal of **ClIr Amanda Smith** and seconded by **ClIr Susanne Jamal**, they agreed to the taking in charge of Archerstown Wood as per the revised map that was on display.

Cllrs Tormey, ClIr Bonner, ClIr Tobin and ClIr O'Neill expressed their dissatisfaction over the matter.

4.2 Transportation

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

The report circulated in advance of the meeting was noted.



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The members raised the following:

- Commended on all the works taking place.
- Referred to works at a solar farm in Curragha, where there was a near miss between a man in a wheelchair and lorries passing each other.
- Thanked the crew in the filling in of potholes.
- Timeline for Milltown double yellow lines- advised due next week.
- Update on bus stop for Curragha – advised waiting for Bus Eireann to provide a pole.
- Enquired on seating at bus stops in Ashbourne – these are NTA funded through the Transportation section.
- Following surface dressing at Painestown, drains are still blocked.
- Enquired if road sweeper could clear stones off footpath at Baltrasna.
- Stop line at junction at Fleenstown lane, Ashbourne needs to be moved.
- Markings on Wheelchair space, Ashbourne are worn and need to redo.
- Need to put bollards back in on cycle lane, Ashbourne.
- Commended on the new mower now being used.
- Potholes on the Quarry road that need filling in.

4.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

The allocations submitted in advance of the meeting were noted.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey

“To ask Meath County Council to establish and clarify the precise position regarding the final section of the proposed preferred route for the M2 from the Pillo roundabout to Primatestown. This clarity is required for the numerous landowners and property owners whose property is located in the large square of land where there was indecision regarding this section of the preferred route. This final decision regarding this final section of the preferred route needs to be clarified in the interest of fairness to these property owners as it is unfair to leave them in no-mans land for the period that the road remains on hold.”

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Response

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) published its Grant Allocations to Local Authorities for National Roads, Active Travel and Greenways in February 2023. This included funding in 2023 to meet current project commitments for the proposed N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Cross scheme.

The deliverables for Phase 2 of the TII Project Management Guidelines have been completed for the proposed N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon Cross scheme. The project team are currently awaiting TII approval to proceed to the next phase of the process – Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation.

Within the Phase 3 process, more detail is gathered to help define the required land necessary for the project. This detail is garnered from topographical surveys, archaeological geophysical surveys, ground investigation surveys etc. Some of these surveys will be undertaken as advance works, prior to the approval to proceed to Phase 3 by TII, or in order to meet seasonal survey requirements / restrictions.

Potential junction layouts at Rath and Kilmoon are currently being considered by the project team as advance works, prior to the approval to proceed to Phase 3 by TII, in order to inform survey requirements. Following the identification of a preferred layout for the proposed junctions, the extent of the junction corridors at Rath and Kilmoon will be reduced. The extent of the planning notification boundary associated with the preferred option corridor for the scheme will also be reduced at these locations.

We note that the project website will be updated at key points as the scheme progresses. There will be further liaison with stakeholders and landowners once more information is available.

The response to the notice of question was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Following a previous motion and update on a new smarter traffic management system to replace SPOT in Ashbourne, has the council any timeframes for the installation of the new system as I note that SPOT is turned off for approximately three years now?”

Response

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Ashbourne is undergoing an upgrade and provision of a number of junctions as part of the active travel scheme. New SCATS compatible controllers are provided at the new junctions. Once the project works are completed within the town and a true reflection of normal traffic activities is determined, the Traffic Signals team intend to review the entire town holistically, configure the new SCATS urban traffic control management system and determine if the existing SPOT system can be reconfigured to provide efficiencies, or if replacement of controllers are required, subject to available funding. Notwithstanding that the SPOT system is turned off, the existing traffic controllers are running on vehicle activation, thus reacting in real time to traffic demand.

The response to the notice of question was noted.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Aisling O'Neill

"I request an update on progress in acquiring 80 acres of land in Killelland for the provision of a public park which were recently zoned in the County Development Plan."

Response

The Assets Section wrote to the registered landowner in October 2022, and no reply was received. The land in question is now in new ownership and the Council have written to the new owners recently to enquire about the potential purchase of lands for the provision of a public park.

The response to the notice of question was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey

"That Meath County Council install traffic calming measures in and around Donaghmore Church on the R125. Something similar to the traffic calming that was put in at the Swans junction in Curraghera. Since the road has been upgraded the traffic is now coming at a high speed into the blind bend at the church which makes it very dangerous for parishioners exiting the church and crossing the road."

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In order to accurately assess the vehicle speeds on the R125 at Donaghmore church, Meath County Council will carry out a speed survey using our data loggers. This data will be assessed and used to determine if a particular type of traffic calming may be appropriate, taking into account existing road safety guidelines/standards, the existing site characteristics and also any available resources. Our data loggers are currently deployed at separate locations throughout the County, but we expect a data logger will become available in the next few weeks to survey the R125 Donaghmore site.

The motion proposed by **Cllr Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Cllr Alan Tobin** was agreed.

- Cllr Tormey advised that following the upgrade of the road, motorists are now speeding.
- Cllr Tobin said that parking is needed here as it is a busy area with various events taking place at the church. He advised that a speed survey should be done. He said a footpath should have been laid from the nine-milestone roundabout to here when doing the road.
- Cllr O'Neill requested the ditches be scrapped back to allow for parking and/or pull in areas.
- Cllr Bonner referred to the amount of funding spent in this area over the years. There are still ongoing traffic issues around the church due to its location.
- DoS Fiona Lawless stated that funding could be sought for a footpath from the 9-milestone roundabout to the church.
- Area Engineer said that a speed survey and traffic count can be carried out. Signage can be installed and can review the area again.

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

7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 31st March 2023.

The minutes were noted.

7.2 To note the draft Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC Meeting Minutes of the 13th of April 2023.



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The draft minutes were noted.

- 7.3 To note the draft Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC minutes of 25th April 2023.

The draft minutes were noted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from Minister of State Jack Chambers Office in relation to noise and flight paths at Dublin Airport.

- Welcomed the positive response from the Minister's office.
- Referred to the Kilsallaghan area in which residents are affected by the Airport noise and there are no mitigation measures for residents.

9 Any Other Business

Members raised the following:

- Update on Greenogue Bus stops for next meeting.
- Who to liaise with regarding the Curragha bus link- suggested Go Ahead and/or Flexibus.
- Update when the next Twinned town trip to Corcubion, Spain will take place – advised dates to be confirmed.
- Members agreed to defer the next MD meeting and Annual meeting to June 20th to allow Cllr Tormey time to recuperate from an operation.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach