

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

10:00 a.m., 5th September 2023, Ashbourne Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Alan Tobin presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Helen Meyer, Conor Tormey

Apologies/ Absent: Cllr Amanda Smith

Councillors Present via Zoom: n/a

Officials in Attendance: Larry Whelan, Fiona Fallon

Director of Service: Barry Lynch

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Staff Officer: Triona Keating & Ann Monaghan

1 Confirmation of Minutes

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

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4th of July 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

Nicholas Whyatt SE gave an update on the Greenogue bus stop and advised that the Part 8 process is underway and should take 3 months to complete. He advised that the tender for the construction works can be done at the same time as the Part 8. He said that funding will be sought from the NTA in quarter one next year with construction completed by mid-year 2024.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

None.

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4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

- 4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.4411Ha of land at Lismullin. The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

On the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Conor Tormey**, the members agreed to the disposal.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Community

- 5.1.1 To receive details of the recommended grant offer by the Knockharley Community Liaison Committee under the Knockharley Environmental Projects Grant Scheme and if in agreement to forward to the Full Council of Meath County Council for approval.

On the proposal of **Councillor Susanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Conor Tormey** the members agreed to the recommendation as presented by Fiona Fallon, Community section.

- 5.1.2 Proposed process for the expression of interest regarding the operation of "Neds Cottage".

Fiona Fallon, SEO Community, gave an update on progress regarding the cottage. She advised that the cottage is in the process of being transferred to Meath County Council for community use on foot of a planning condition. Works are being finalised and should be completed by October. Members were advised that the Council proposed to seek expressions of interest from community groups within Ashbourne town to manage the building by way of a licence agreement with the Council., Ms Fallon informed the members that this is similar to an arrangement in place for a community building in Kells which is working very well.

- Members raised a number of concerns regarding the capacity of community groups in the area to manage the facility and expressed a preference for the cottage to be brought under the management of the Library Service for a trial period. Barry Lynch advised that the Library Service does not have the resources to take on the management of the facility. He advised that he would have to look at costs associated

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with putting in new structures, technology and resources that would be required by the library and bring a report back to the members.

Fiona Fallon gave an update on the next phase of the linear park which includes the skatepark. She advised that Consultants O'Connor Sutton Cronin have been appointed to prepare the detailed design for the next phase. She said it had been difficult getting a consultant as there had been very limited interest from the market in the project which had contributed to the delay.

A programme of work is currently being prepared but it is envisaged that work on the detailed design and preparation of the procurement documentation will continue through Q3 and Q4 of 2023 with the procurement process to commence in Q1 2024 and work to commence as soon as possible once a contractor has been appointed. She stated that works for the bridge can only be carried out in the river during the months of July to September.

5.2 Planning

- 5.2.1 To receive the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000–2022 and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001–2022 on the proposed development which will consist of the provision of a Playground, Woodland walk, and Burial Ground constructed on two tiers with associated works in the townland of Gormanston, Co Meath.

On the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**, the members agreed to the report as circulated.

Larry Whelan SEO Environment advised that a Quantity Surveyor will be engaged to prepare the tender documents for the playground element and said it will take 40 weeks to complete.

CLlr Jamal queried if Muslims can be buried here as currently there is only one Muslim burial ground in the Country. Members were advised that this burial ground will be multi-denominational .

5.3 Transportation

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



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The report circulated in advance of the meeting was noted and the following raised:

- Members were reminded of the road closure for the Ballybin road from next Monday 11th September 9-5pm to resurface the road.
- Outdoor staff thanked for assistance to a family concerning wheelchair access.
- Members advised that playgrounds are surveyed yearly for repairs/issues, this is tendered out and a contractor appointed to carry out works. - queried if members could have copy of issues for inspection. – List to be circulated.
- Enquired if some tidying up could be done ahead of the Blessing of the Graves in Ardcaith- advised works will be completed.
- Queried when tree pruning will take place as a number of ash trees are causing problems, asked also on the protocol for tree pruning – advised that September to March is hedge cutting season where a list is collated of trees to be pruned, an arborist will assess condition of these i.e if dangerous and determine if a contractor is required to cut back the trees.
- Referred to a large pothole in the road at Nuttstown crossroads.

5.4 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

The allocations were noted. Members were reminded to submit completed applications by the end of September.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

“Can Meath County Council provide the number of applicants on the housing list for 1,2,3 & 4 beds, the number of allocations per house size for this year with the average wait time to receive keys and the number of houses and size that will be delivered over the next 2 years in the Ashbourne Municipal District Area.”

Response:-

Delivery Pipeline 2023-2025



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1 Bed	27
2 Bed	99
3 Bed	29
4 Bed	2
Total	157

Applicants on Housing List Ashbourne MD	
1 Bed	192
2 Bed	197
3 Bed	64
4 Bed	13
Total	466

Tenancies commenced in 2023 Ashbourne MD	
1 Bed	3
2 Bed	0
3 Bed	9
4 Bed	3
Total	15

The length of time it takes to hand over keys will vary depending on a number of factors e.g., whether the property is Council owned or Approved Housing Body Stock, or whether the property is a single allocation of a casual vacancy or part of a larger new scheme which is being allocated as a batch. Once properties are allocated the Tenant Liaison

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Team move to progress pre tenancy meetings as quickly as possible so that signing of tenancy agreements and hand over of keys can proceed shortly thereafter.

The response to the question was noted.,

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey

“What is the current status for upgrading the pedestrian crossing in Garden City, Ashbourne?”

Response: -

The conversion of the existing “Courtesy” Pedestrian Crossing to a Zebra Crossing is currently at design stage along with a number of other pedestrian crossing sites. It is anticipated that by grouping a number of these smaller projects together, it will achieve greater value for money and more competition at tender stage for these works.

The response to the question was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“As the summer road works program is coming to completion, that funding is made available or any leftover funding is used to resurface/repair the junction and surrounding roads of the L-50465 / L10041 near Ardcath.”

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

The 2023 Roadworks programme is nearing completion and presently all funds have been assigned to the relevant schemes across the 6 MDs. The MD will assess the area in question and complete repairs locally.

On the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Conor Tormey**, the motion and response were agreed.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"I call on Meath County Council to examine the possibility of a one-way system to Hill of Tara on the following roads: -

L-6200-0

L-6201

L-62001

L-6200-8

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to ease traffic/increase pedestrian/cycling safety and ensure that residents and visitors have an enhanced experience - this would include looking at possible route options and a public consultation for a trial basis. “

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

“Introducing a one-way system on the road network around the Hill of Tara could pose a number of difficulties; this includes local traffic having to take longer journeys to visit neighbours and agricultural vehicles accessing nearby fields having to make relatively long/time consuming detours. Problems may also arise when a driver unfamiliar with the area “misses” a house and has to then follow the one-way route “back around”.

Speeds are typically higher on one-way roads as drivers tend to concentrate less as they don’t anticipate on-coming vehicles – this can lead to less safe conditions for pedestrians/cyclists, etc.

An investigation into a possible one-way system would have to be done in conjunction with the Heritage Masterplan for the Hill of Tara, taking into account future needs alongside any potential development and encompassing the overall needs of the area.”

On the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**, the motion was agreed.

Clr Tobin advised that the area gets very busy at the weekends and during the summer months and has asked that it be referred back to the Transportation SPC and Heritage Officer for consideration.

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

8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 23rd July 2023.

The minutes were noted.

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8.2 To note the Protocol Committee minutes of 30th June 2023.

The minutes were noted.

8.3 To note the draft minutes from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC of 6th July 2023

The draft minutes were noted.

8.4 To note the Draft Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC minutes of 7th July 2023.

The draft minutes were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

- Enquired about an update on the childcare facility that closed- advised that will get an update.
- Enquired about an update on seating/ bus shelters at Racehill bus stop – advised that this will be referred to transportation.
- The members were informed that it was Triona's last meeting as she was moving to a new section due to promotion. The members thanked her for all her help and assistance over the years and welcomed Ann into the role.

The meeting concluded at 11.45am.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach