

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

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

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

***10:00am, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023, Ashbourne Civic Offices***

**Cathaoirleach**, Councillor Alan Tobin presided.

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

**Apologies/ Absent:** n/a

**Councillors Present via Zoom:** none.

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Barry Lynch

**Executive Engineer:** Mel Cronin

**Meetings Administrator:** Áine Bird

**Staff Officer:** Ann Monaghan

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 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.

#### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended on the recent passing of our colleague and Councillor Damien O'Reilly.

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

Congratulations were extended to the Principal of Ashbourne Community School, Ciarán Stewart on his upcoming retirement.

### **4 To receive a presentation from EirGrid on the best performing option for the East Meath-North Dublin grid upgrade**

Grainne Duffy, Community Liaison Officer and Dara McGowan, Project Manager, Eirgrid updated the members on the best performing option which will see a high capacity 400kV underground connection built between Woodland substation, near Batterstown and Belcamp substation near Clonshaugh. She said that the option is the refinement of the chosen route along the project corridor. The proposed route has a length of 38km with an off- road section of 11 kilometres. These works are needed to strengthen the grid to cater for increased electricity demand in the region due to economic development and population growth and reduce the use of fossil fuels for power generation. She said that the next step is to prepare a planning application and submit by Q1 2024. She stated that there is a Community Forum in place that meets regularly with Eirgrid on issues that might have an impact on the local community.

The members were advised that details of the brochure and map would be circulated to them.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Transportation**

##### **5.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne Municipal District**

The members raised the following:

- Enquired when the works would be completed on the Ballybin road- advised that the resurfacing works will be completed this week and that the bridge works are being carried out by a separate contractor.
- Referred to the works on the main street, Ashbourne where there has been no communication from the contractor on the next phase which has started and that there is noise from generators which are still being used at night.
- Members were advised that a phase of works has been completed with the street cleaned up and tarred. There have been improvements to health and safety due to supervision on site. The public lighting is due to be switched on from this week so need for the generators.

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

- Enquired when an update will be presented on the speed limit review- advised that the council has written to the Department of Transport seeking details on possible updates to guidelines and await confirmation on this before continuing with the current review.
- Enquired how a decision is made on trees to prune – advised that a list is compiled from complaints received and trees that are dead and/or dangerous are submitted to an arborist for removal. Pruning of trees is carried out in January.
- Clean up of the Broadmeadow River required where there was a sewerage spillage- this was reported at the time to Uisce Eireann.
- Enquired about the pedestrian crossing for Garden City – Advised awaiting a contractor to do the works.
- Enquired about resurfacing works for Castle Park.
- Referred to a CIS scheme for a cul de sac at Garlow cross and where's its at – advised that the Transportation section will have a list of all these schemes.
- Enquired when applications will be submitted to the Department under the ORIS fund. – advised that EOI applications are currently being assessed as per the criteria set down, applications will then be considered for submission to the department.

### **5.2 Corporate Affairs and Governance**

#### **5.2.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ashbourne District**

The allocations were noted and the members were advised that their applications submitted are being processed.

### **6 Notice of Question**

#### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer**

Following the passing of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027, what work has been done by MCC to move forward on the Community Park? What action has taken place since then to move from the zoning stage to acquiring, funding and developing the Community Park? Is a written plan of action in place.

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

### **Response:**

The Council has provided an allocation for the purchase of land in the Capital Budget and the Council Assets Section will continue in its endeavours to source suitable land for a park. When suitable land has been acquired, proposals for a park can then be developed.

**The response to the question was noted.**

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

Can I request a specific timeframe when the public lighting and pedestrian crossing on the 2nd phase of the 9 Mile-Stone to Harlockstown footpath project will be energised? This path is extremely busy and school children and older people need a safe place to cross the road.

### **Response:**

The construction of the Footpath and the Pedestrian Crossing have been completed. The Transportation Department is liaising with the ESB to provide a connection for both the Public Lighting and the Pedestrian Crossing. Unfortunately, no definite timescale can be given at this time because it is dependent on the ESB and their other priorities.

**The response was noted.**

## **7 Notice of Motion**

### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer**

That Meath County Council allocate funding to power wash the footpaths on a yearly basis on Frederick Street and the High Street (link to photos of very badly stained footpaths)

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

The 2023 Street Cleaning Budget has already been allocated to cover normal street cleaning activities (litter-picking/bin emptying/graffiti removal/skip hire etc). A review of the current budget will take place at 2024 budget preparation stage to see if additional funding for power-washing can be provided.

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

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

Members advised that when the new street paving went in that it would be powered washed to keep it clean.

### **7.2 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer**

That bus stop shelters and bus stop benches be provided wherever practicable along the main bus routes with a focus on Frederick Street. This will encourage the use of public transportation – especially given the upcoming winter season

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

The responsibility for the provision of the bus stop infrastructure is a matter for the relevant bus operators and the National Transport Authority (the Authority) in the first instance. It is noted that Section 44A of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 (the “2008 Act” -please see relevant extract below) provides that the Authority has the function to secure or provide public transport and cycling infrastructure in the State in relation to, among other things, bus stops, bus shelters, bus stations, stands and bus fleets.

#### ***Extract: Dublin Transport Authority Act, 2008***

#### ***PART 3 - Transport Matters -Chapter 1***

#### ***Public Transport Infrastructure***

#### ***Functions of Authority in relation to public transport infrastructure.***

***44.— (1) In relation to public transport infrastructure in the GDA, the Authority shall have the following functions:***

***(a) to secure the provision of, or to provide, public transport infrastructure,***

Meath County Council provide aid to the National Transport Authority in respect of the delivery of the sustainable infrastructure, such as the project management of the construction works relating to bus stops and those necessary to facilitate the erection of the bus shelters by the Authority’s bus shelter installation contractor.

All requests for new bus stops at locations in County Meath should therefore be directed to the National Transport Authority. Public representatives can send queries via email to [oireachtasliaison@nationaltransport.ie](mailto:oireachtasliaison@nationaltransport.ie)

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

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

### **7.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

I call on Meath County Council to put the necessary measures in place including a speed, signage and line marking survey to justify the installation of speed ramps in Kilbride village. Specifically at Cherry Tree Drive, Priestown housing development and Kilbride N.S

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

Regarding the request for safety measures along the L1007 at Kilbride, this location will have a speed survey carried out. It will be inspected and assessed for feasible and appropriate road safety options. However, it should be noted that there are already several proposed traffic calming and road safety projects listed within the Ashbourne Municipal District and these are awaiting funding and various approvals.

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

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

To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

The minutes were noted.

## **9 Correspondence**

There was none.

## **10 Any Other Business**

The members raised the following:

- That the Transportation section contact the ESB networks requesting them to liaise with the Council on major projects that are being held up as awaiting the ESB to carry out works.



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

- Welcomed the public lighting poles in Gormanston and enquired when the lights will be energised – advised that the Public Lighting section is working with the ESB on this.
- Referred to the increase in noise and the increase in flights from the Airport and what is the Council doing – advised that Fingal County Council is the authority that deals with the noise and enforcement regarding the Airport.
- To invite in Bus Éireann to a meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11.20am

Signed:

---

Cathaoirleach