

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

10.00am, 04th March 2025, Ashbourne Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Alan Tobin presided.

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

Apologies/ Absent:

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Officials in Attendance: Brian Murray Executive Engineer Transportation

Director of Service: Barry Lynch

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Meetings Administrator: Francis Regan

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 04th February 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4th February 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Amanda Smith**

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were none

4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Planning

4.1.1 To consider the taking in charge of Milltown Meadows, Ashbourne

and the making of a declaration that the roads within these developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2023.

The above statutory process was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

Members also discussed that they would like clarification on what the Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) are responsible for in the Taking In Charge (TIC) process. On the suggestion of Barry Lynch, Director, this query will be sent to the housing SPC.

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4.2 Transportation

4.2.1 To receive a list of proposed bus infrastructure works for the Ashbourne Municipal District

Brian Murray, Executive Engineer, Active Travel, presented to the Members a list of proposed bus infrastructure works for the Ashbourne Municipal District. It was explained that this was just for noting and informing the Members. The proposed works are in conjunction with the 'Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan' issued by the National Transport Authority (NTA). It was also explained to Members how Meath County Council act as an agent for the NTA and the list of bus stops discussed here today is a priority list given by the NTA for Meath County Council to implement.

Interventions raised by Members that were answered by the Executive Engineer included:

- Where exactly in Kentstown will the new bus be going? *This is anticipated to be near the Graveyard.*
- For the 2026 bus stops, is there any forum where the Members can access to influence where we would like bus stops to go? *The NTA are the agency that approve all works to the bus service network and associated infrastructure. NTA Planners look at routes and optimum locations for connectivity across the network. The NTA, in conjunction with studies, and at times in consultation with bus users, are trying to place bus stops at cross links and inter changes to provide realistic alternate transport options to commuters, i.e. How can I get to Athboy from Ashbourne without having to go to Dublin first.*
- What is the update for the Curraha Bus stop? *This falls under a different funding scheme under the public realm and is awaiting funding. These bus stops are not currently included in the proposed BSEP works.*
- Why are there hidden and disused bus stops on the N2? – *The N2 is a National Road, and as such falls under the remit of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). TII, MCC and the NTA are reviewing options for bus stop improvement works along the N2, from Slane to Kilmoon Cross.*
- The bus stop at Gormanstown College is simply a pole. *We will aim to make this stop more accessible and official.*
- What are the plans for the Stamullen bus stop? *It is intended that during the design process these bus stop locations will be formalise.*
- Is there a method where the public can contact the NTA directly? *Yes, there are contact details available on their website.*
- Members are of the opinion all bus stops should have a bin, seats and shelter as a minimum. *MCC recognise the need for additional infrastructure a bus stops. However, MCC have to take into consideration site conditions i.e. the status of the existing infrastructure, usage pattern of the stop, lines of sight near junctions, above and below ground service locations, power supplies, etc.*

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In relation to bus shelters specifically; where possible we will endeavour to deliver the stops/stop improvements and shelters at the same time. This is of course subject to funding, and NTA approval.

4.2.2 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne Municipal District

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

- The wall at Greenogue has been hit by trucks again. Is there anything we can do?
- The installment of bollards on the N52 have made a huge impact on vehicles not being able to park. However, due to the volume of traffic they are now off colour.
- What is the update on the pedestrian crossing at Tudor Grove?
- What is the update on the pedestrian crossing at the Briars?
- Drainage at the new Millrace scheme seems to be blocked with building waste. Can these be cleared?
- In the Ashwood estate there seems to be a wastewater or sewerage issue possibly caused by a misconnecting pipe. Can this be explored?
- Cllr Helen Meyer queried if we had the same discretion as Ratoath Members regarding a €200,000 spend on work in the municipal district.

Queries were answered by the Executive Engineer and Director. Cllr Meyer's query will be followed up by the Meeting Administrator.

Further conversation took place regarding the proposed M2 extension from the Pillo hotel to Kilmoon cross. Members are of the opinion that landowners are being left in limbo whilst this proposal is ongoing. It was suggested that Aecom consultants come back to Members with an update.

4.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

This was noted

5.0 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

"To ask the council who will manage Ned Nulty's cottage and when it will become available for use by the community?"

Response:

Meath County Council does not yet have possession of the cottage. Final snagging was carried out in December 2024 and the Council's Asset Management Section is currently

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liaising with the Architects for the Developer to progress the transfer of the property to Meath County Council.

In parallel, the Council's Community Department is working to identify the optimum use for the cottage and will take cognisance of the survey of community facilities which is currently ongoing. The management arrangements for the cottage will depend on the outcome of this process.

This was noted

6.0 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"I call on Meath County Council to carry out a feasibility study on both Garlow Cross and Ross Cross for the installation of a traffic light management system to improve safety at both junctions on the R147."

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

Various options for safety improvement works and the feasibility of same will be assessed for both Garlow Cross and Ross Cross. The delivery of any proposed works/scheme will depend on the scale, the type of works/scheme which may be proposed and the detailed design. This then may be subject to various required approvals and statutory procedures, as well as competing priorities within the Council and/or the Transportation Department, and the availability of resources.

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

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"I call on Meath County Council to introduce a new 50kph speed zone in Cushinstown on the R152-91, 150m east of the L5010-0 junction to the N2."

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

- The R152 is 60km/h passing Cushinstown National School, while the L-50104 is 50km/h outside of the school.
- These speed limits are considered appropriate, although the 60km/h speed limit is proposed to be extended 200m north when new speed limit bye-laws are introduced for the county.

The Department has indicated that new guidance on speed limits for school zones will be issued in the near future and the R152 at Cushinstown National School will be reviewed

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with these new guidelines upon receipt of same.

Whilst the motion proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner** was agreed, with the following amendment of ‘that footpaths should extend either side of the road in the distance of 150 metres.’

7.0 Correspondence

There was none.

8.0 Any Other Business

- The issue of all types of Illegal waste dumping was raised and in particular oil drums that were dumped near the river Delvin, Gormanstown and also at Curtis’ Cross.
- Can we get the list of estates under review for the CIS?
- Can we have an artist’s impression of the skate park?
- Can the garages in the surrounding areas for be checked to see if they have the necessary waste certificates, as this was done previously.

The meeting concluded at 11.15am

Signed:

Cathaoirleach