



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:30 a.m., 15th January 2018, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Leas-Chathaoirleach, **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**, presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Claire O'Driscoll, Darren O'Rourke, Alan Tobin.

Apologies: Councillor Seán Smith

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: 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 11th December, 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th December 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Darren O'Rourke requested that a letter issue to all Meath Deputies referring to the correspondence received from TII in relation to Primatestown junction and requesting their support in progressing this initiative – this was agreed.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Councillors Darren O'Rourke and Maria O'Kane on the birth of their son, Art;



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- Fiona Lawless on being appointed to the Board of the Housing Agency.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

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

The report, circulated in advance, was noted. Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The trees at Tara – it was confirmed that these had been cut and that the stumps would be treated to ground level.
- The gravel at the sides of the road at Tara following road resurfacing works – it was agreed to get the roadsweeper out.

- 4.1.2 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation confirmed that Meath County Council has received an allocation from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for 2018 to prepare a preliminary business case for upgrading the N2 route between Kilmoon Cross and Ashbourne.

Councillors welcomed this progress and requested that all existing and future developments in the area be taken into account. It was agreed that the consultants would attend a meeting of the Municipal District to ensure Councillors can feed into the report.

4.2 Planning

- 4.2.1 Matters Arising

Matters raised by Councillors included:

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- Update on the County Development Plan review – it was confirmed that a briefing would be provided to the full Council in February and that the review was still due to be completed by the end of the year.
- The timeframe for An Bord Pleanála to decide on planning applications – it was agreed to refer this to Planning.
- The disposal of soil and construction waste from large developments and the possibility of ensuring that this waste is disposed of locally – it was pointed out that this was raised at the Environment SPC and that the Environment Department was involved in pre-planning meetings.

4.3 Corporate Services

- 4.3.1 To discuss proposals to be considered by the Protocol Committee in relation to the allocation of the 2018 Twinning budget.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services confirmed that of the €30,000 2018 allocation for Town Twinning, €15,000 was being allocated for a trip to Cary, with a balance of €15,000 for the six municipal districts. All proposals will be brought to the Protocol Committee for approval.

One proposal had been received on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District, relating to a trip to Spain and a return trip by the Spanish delegation. It was proposed that approval for funding be sought for the transportation of the Spanish delegation to/from their hotel on 20th April 2018, a civic reception in the civic offices, a day trip to a venue to be agreed and evening dinner, totalling €2,500.

This was unanimously agreed.

- 4.3.2 To receive an update on the use of lands at Gormanston by North Dublin MX club Ltd.

Dara McGowan provided a summary of the background to the lands at Gormanston, which are in both Ashbourne and Laytown-Bettystown municipal districts. Reference was made to the High Court decision in 2005, which affirmed the usage by the motocross club and with which the club had

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complied. The Council however could not apply any provisions or conditions due to the absence of any agreement being in place. Negotiations have been ongoing for nine months with the club, residents and local community groups and, whilst the residents wish for the activities to cease, the Council cannot go against the court decision and an agreement is the only option. Residents had requested the inclusion of a number of conditions, some of which can be included. It was pointed out that the club was affiliated with Motocross Ireland and complied with all relevant codes of practice. It is proposed that a S183 be brought to the February meetings of both Ashbourne and Laytown-Bettystown municipal districts for a 35 year lease with conditions for approval prior to being brought to the March full Council meeting. It was also confirmed that residents would have an opportunity to review the draft agreement.

A short discussion followed with Councillors commending the work undertaken in negotiating the outcome. The benefits of the club were acknowledged as was the position of residents. Queries were raised in respect of the lane accessing the site, illegal dumping at this location, rights of way and the possible replacement of the wooden steps and responses were provided.

4.4 Community

4.4.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

The update, circulated in advance, was noted. It was confirmed that Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer would attend the February meeting to provide an update on the archaeology and tendering process and was also meeting the group as per the adopted motion from the November meeting later today. Councillors expressed concerns that they had received no or short notice in relation to this meeting and were unaware of who had been invited or would be attending. Queries were also raised as to what the role of this group was vis-à-vis the Municipal District. It was pointed out that all decisions would be taken by Councillors and that, whilst the executive had advised against the motion being adopted, a majority of Councillors had voted in favour of it.

It was agreed that Councillor Alan Tobin, who was chairing the meeting later today, would explain the issues that had arisen and would defer any further meetings until after the February municipal district meeting where this could be discussed and concerns resolved.

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5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Sean Smith

“Does Meath County Council have a mechanism to gather and promote information on locations of Defibrillators in towns?”

Response:

Meath County Council currently do not have a mechanism to gather and promote information on locations of Defibrillators in towns. This could probably be done by an app or link on websites/social media showing a map of locations to Defibrillators. However the difficulty with providing this information is that any map identifying locations is making at least two assumptions that can't be verified or supervised by Meath County Council. If the information is not accurate, it creates a risk that could be more of a hindrance than a benefit. These assumptions are (1) that the defibrillators are available to the public. Some defibrillators are stored internally in clubhouses, businesses, public buildings or may even move with club events and may not be available when needed and (2) are the defibrillators serviced regularly and batteries checked. If not, this could result in someone in an emergency situation being sent to a location with a non functioning defibrillator.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“I call on this council to look at all suitable pedestrian and cycle route options to the rugby and soccer grounds at Archerstown, Ashbourne and allocated funding to ensure young people can access the grounds safely. On passing this motion I would also like the Transportation Department to survey the Archerstown road and cost the upgrade of the road from Milltown to the Rugby club.”

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

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Suitable pedestrian and cycle route options to the rugby and soccer grounds at Archerstown, Ashbourne are being looked at as part of the upgrade works on the Milltown Road. The only funding currently available from Meath County Council's own resources as per the Capital Plan for works in this vicinity is for the upgrade works on the Milltown Road. If a survey of the Archerstown road and costing of an upgrade of the road from Milltown to the Rugby club was to be undertaken then funding would have to be taken out of this funding.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

A short discussion followed with Councillors highlighting the important role of the clubs and facilities at Archerstown, the benefits of improving safe access to these and also underlining the need for this project to be given dedicated funding and resources. It was agreed that funding for the survey, as referred to in the supporting information, would be included in the next capital programme review, due to be published in April.

The motion was adopted.

7 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

7.1 To note the report from the Environment SPC meeting of 15th December, 2017.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Alan Tobin raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Long-term parking by commercial vehicles.

9.1.2 The need for a park & ride facility.



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- 9.1.3 The possibility of broadcasting a meeting live with Irish sign language – it was pointed out that broadcasting meetings was previously raised and that this would have to be first approved by the Protocol Committee and the IT requirements would also need to be reviewed.
- 9.1.4 Invited Tóla Collier, Battle of Ashbourne Commemorative Committee to speak – Mr. Collier presented a Thomas Ashe plaque to Ashbourne Municipal District for display in the Civic Offices. He also referred to the second phase of the decade of the centenary. Dara McGowan confirmed that the Battle of Ashbourne video had been nominated for a LAMA award.
- 9.2 Dara McGowan raised the following issue:
 - 9.2.1 Whilst agreement had previously been reached in relation to the purchase of the Department of Education lands, subsequent staff changes had resulted in the issue being reviewed and the process would continue until an agreement had been reached.
- 9.3 Councillor Darren O'Rourke raised the following issue:
 - 9.3.1 Update on the site at DeLacey College and negotiations with the Department of Education & Skills.
- 9.4 Fiona Lawless raised the following issue:
 - 9.4.1 Suggested that Ashbourne 2020 be added to the meeting agenda and informal workshops be arranged to advance preparations – this was agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach