

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

10.00am, 08th April 2025, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Alan Tobin presided.

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

Apologies/ Absent:

Councillors Present via Zoom: Suzanne Jamal

Director of Service: Barry Lynch

Executive Engineer: Peter Garry deputised for Mel Cronin

Meetings Administrator: Francis Regan

Staff Officer: Kate Lomza

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

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

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

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

As raised in the minutes from the 4th March 2025 can the below be followed up:

- Can a CIS list be provided to members?
- How is the MD discretionary allocation prioritized?
- Can an update be given either by the Director of Transport or Aecom consultants on the M2 extension?

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to the family of John V. Farrelly former Councillor on the passing of his daughter, Emma.

Sympathy was extended to Pat Shore and Family on the passing of his father Robert Shore.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Community

4.1.1 To receive an update from the Local Authority Integration Team

Brian Hora, Senior Executive Officer, Community Section and Paul Kinsella the Integration Support Coordinator, presented an update to Members on the works of the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT). Interventions raised by the Members included:

- Can the team approach schools and speak to Principals in the hope they can create more pupil spaces for clients of LAIT?
- LAIT children need help in paying fees to join sports clubs, to help with integration. This is difficult when the parents are on minimum DSP payment.
- Can clubs that help children integrate be better funded, i.e. GAA, Soccer clubs?
- More awareness is needed for local Councillors and employers regarding employment rights for clients of LAIT.
- Can a podcast be considered to promote the correct narrative on the plight of the Ukrainian story and help in the mismanagement of disinformation?
- Can Elected Members join the forum?

Brian and Paul responded accordingly to Members queries. Brian asked Members to contact him directly with any future queries.

4.2 Transportation

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

The report was circulated in advance. Interventions raised by Members were answered directly by Executive Engineer.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

5.0 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

"To ask the council how many short terms lets are approved in the Ashbourne MD, has there been a recent increase in planning requests for short term stays and if they are actively monitoring compliance with the maximum 90 day stay in one year rule."

Response:

The Planning Department does not currently have data for the number of short terms let units for which planning permission has been approved or sought. Planning applications for such use are assessed in accordance with the policies and objectives of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027. To date in 2025, 4 no. properties have registered as short term lets under exempted development provisions. There are changes proposed at national level to the registration of short-term letting properties which would require that properties advertised for short-term letting have a valid registration number provided by Fáilte Ireland who will be able to share data with local authorities. This will enable the Council to have greater information regarding the operation of short-term letting in the area and whether operators are complying with planning requirements.

This was noted.

6.0 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey

"I call on Meath County Council to upgrade the traffic lights at the Alderbrook / Deerpark junction in Ashbourne, to include a pedestrian crossing."

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

Meath County Council will review the existing Alderbrook/Deerpark/R135 junction with respect to pedestrian facilities. It is noted that there is a significant Active Travel project designed that will incorporate the junction in question, however it is not funded at this point. It is also noted that a new signalised junction is to be installed at Cherry Lane to facilitate a new development. This new junction will have pedestrian and cycling facilities crossing the R135. With that in mind, we will investigate the provision of pedestrian facilities on the Alderbrook approach to the junction to facilitate pedestrians from the residential developments to the south of the junction. Thereafter, delivery of same will be subject to requisite funding being made available.

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

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey

"I call on Meath County Council to paint and tidy up the timber fencing at the bus stops outside Baltrasna Manor."

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

Normally, Meath County Council, acting in its capacity as the Roads Authority for County Meath, does not have responsibility for the maintenance of road boundaries. As such maintenance of boundaries remains the responsibility for the adjoining landowner, as defined in the Roads Act 1993(as amended). The Council will review the landowner agreements and that were put in place when the bus stops were constructed to ascertain if any bespoke arrangements in relation to the maintenance of the fence in question were agreed. If not, then Section 13 of the Roads Act, 1993, which defines the responsibility of the road authorities for the maintenance and construction of public roads applies (see extract below from Subsection 9)

Notwithstanding the definition of "road" in section 2, nothing in this Act shall be construed as imposing on a road authority any liability, duty or obligation to –

(a) construct or maintain fences or retaining walls adjoining a public road which are the responsibility of any other person, and which do not form part of the road

The motion proposed by **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** was agreed. Councilor Tormey did not agree with the response and believes that Meath County Council had previously painted the fence. The Meetings Admin team will investigate further.

7.0 Correspondence

There was none.

8.0 Any Other Business

Cllr Amanda Smith raised the following:

- Can we have an update on the Stamullen Linear Park?
- Can we have an update on the pedestrian crossing at Silverbanks?
- Can we have an update on the crossing at the Mews?
- Is there an update on the footpath from Redwood to Stadalt?
- Is there any progress on traffic calming measures for Cushinstown and Ardcath NS?

The meeting concluded at 11.15am

Signed:

Cathaoirleach