



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ashbourne Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

9:45 a.m., 18th June 2018, Ashbourne Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Seán Smith**, presided.

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

Officials in Attendance:

Head of Finance: Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Clerical Officer: Edita Zolotuchina

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 21st May, 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st May 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Councillor Joe Reilly;
- Councillor Wayne Harding on the death of his brother, Gary;



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- Councillor Sharon Tolan on the death of her father, John Donohoe.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Special Olympics team from Ashbourne on their achievements last weekend and to their families, the volunteers and the communities that support them – it was suggested that a civic reception be arranged in the future to acknowledge their participation and achievements;
- The Together for Yes groups in Meath and south Meath on their campaign efforts;
- Councillor Darren O'Rourke on his forthcoming wedding to Councillor Maria O'Kane;
- Kentstown Boys team who won the Division 2 schools cup;
- Councillors Seán Smith and Suzanne Jamal on their election as Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach;
- Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community on the birth of her daughter, Sarah.

4 “Cad is brí leis an Ghaeilge dúinn.” – Gaelscoil na Cille and Gaelscoil na Mí.

Students and teachers from Gaelscoil na Coille and Gaelscoil na Mí attended the meeting and delivered presentations on “Cad is brí leis an Ghaeilge dúinn”. Following a number of questions, to which responses were received, Pól Ó Finn, Conradh na Gaeilge presented a prize to Aoife Ní Luasaigh, Gaelscoil na Mí and Ciarán Mangan, County Librarian presented flags to both schools in recognition of Bliain na Gaeilge.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked the staff and teachers for attending and for their presentations.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Ashbourne

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The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by Councillors included:

- Commended the outdoor staff for their efforts during recent water outages to ensure that those living in rural areas had a water supply.
- Requested an update on works at the traffic lights at the bridge at the Ninemilestone – it was confirmed that a design was currently being prepared for an interim measure which should go out to tender in the coming weeks. The longer term solution would require major works. It was also pointed out that following initial works, the lights had been subject to vandalism. It was agreed to provide an update in the coming weeks.

Mel Cronin, Executive Engineer, referred to two pedestrian crossings that had been requested and outlined drawings in respect of both locations.

1. Junction of Castle Street/Killegland Street, Ashbourne – it is proposed to construct a raised table near the junction from the Killegland Road, with two zebra crossings with flashing lights to facilitate pedestrian and cycle access to schools and Lidl/Killegland Street.
2. Skryne School – following surveys, which indicated excessive speeding, it is proposed to construct two ramps approaching the crossing, with the schools agreement, including the removal of a wall.

It was confirmed that advertisements would be placed in local papers, with 4 weeks for public submissions and consultation with the Gardaí, following which a review would be carried out and the works would go to tender. The cost, approximately €200,000, had been ringfenced with plans to carry out the works in one year.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Welcomed these works and commended the school in Skryne for their role in facilitating the works.

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- The need to commence the formal street naming process for Ashbourne.
- Issues regarding flooding at Skryne.
- The need for central government funding to carry out such works, e.g. at schools.
- The possibility of moving the flashing speed signs to different locations to improve their effectiveness, e.g. to Curragha – it was confirmed that the issues at Curragha were being reviewed centrally, including the junction and towards the village.
- The need to deal with drainage issues – it was confirmed that a report had been prepared with plans to bundle the works together.

The proposed works were unanimously approved on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

5.1.2 To discuss Primatestown/Kilmoon Cross Junctions

The update, circulated in advance, was noted.

5.2 Community

5.2.1 To receive an update on the Ashbourne Linear Park.

Emmanuel Mwadiwa, Executive Engineer, Community attended the meeting and provided a further update to that circulated in advance of the meeting.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need to reconsider the provision of a trail around the riverbank to deter anti-social behaviour with an alternative accessible trail to be provided also and the agreement that no trees were to be removed in Zones 6 and 7 – it was pointed out that the update to be provided for

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the July meeting would reflect the decisions taken with regard to the trail and trees.

- The need cut the grass and shrubs along the playground – it was confirmed that a landscape contractor had been appointed, with the sites to be agreed.
- The need to provide the gate to the rear of Deerpark – it was confirmed that a specification was being prepared and the works would be procured.
- Welcomed the update on the establishment of the working group and the provision of timelines.
- The possibility of accessing Zone 3 following the decision at the full Council meeting to acquire the Department of Education & Skills land – it was pointed out that nothing would be done until the Council owned the land in question.

5.3 Planning

5.3.1 To discuss Planning Matters arising from May meeting.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner attended the meeting and provided updates on the following matters:

1. Variation of the County Development Plan – Public Park: Work has commenced with the first draft of the variation, textual amendment and map, complete. This has been issued to consultants for assessment.
2. Public Realm Plan: the second round of editing changes has been undertaken and the implementation stage to be looked at.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

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- The proposed size of the park – this is to be confirmed, with the land to facilitate multiple uses including employment.
- The possibility of the park being ready for the Ashbourne 2020 event on 4th March 2020 – it was pointed out that the variation process takes 22 weeks, a number of assessments would be required and it may be subject to delays.
- The provision of a playground in Stamullen – it was pointed out that expressions of interest had been sought for a playground site, reference was made to variation no. 3 and the review of different land uses as part of the County Development Plan review.
- The N2 and the need for proper overall planning, enforcement to deal with unauthorised developments and the its strategic importance – it was agreed that greater cohesion with Fingal County Council would be beneficial, that efforts were ongoing to have Ashbourne included in the Dublin Metropolitan Area and the best way to deal with this would be as part of the County Development Plan review, which is to recommence after September.
- The need to commit to green space provision in developments, with Millbourne specifically mentioned, including reference to the road width in the estate – it was confirmed that rezoning lands at a number of locations would be considered as part of the County Development Plan review, following which any changes would go on public display. The road width in the estate reflected the intention to provide shared space.
- The delays to the flood alleviation works to be carried out by the OPW and the inadequate channel pipe in Archerstown.
- A planning condition applied in 2014 relating to the provision of an art sculpture, which was superseded by a second planning permission, where this condition was omitted – it was pointed out that good systems were now in place regarding compliance with conditions and that art pieces were to be provided in developments over 75 houses

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but that this particular issue would be referred to the Arts Officer. The Public Realm Plan also dealt with this overall issue.

- 5.3.2 To receive Part 8 Chief Executive Report (reference P818003) in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000-2017 in relation to development works along the Milltown Road, Ashbourne, Co. Meath.

Brenda O'Neill, Executive Planner outlined the report, which had been circulated in advance. Nicholas Whyatt answered questions in relation to the proposal.

Whilst Councillors acknowledged the need for the works to be carried out to improve safety, reference was also made to concerns expressed by some of those living in the area, including the ownership of the grass verges affected, a perceived lack of consultation, the turning area at the school, parking at the playing pitches, impact on potential flooding, and the need to address issues at Milltown estate, including the proposed removal of parking spaces and trees. It was also requested that each submission be responded to individually in future reports.

It was pointed out that the Part 8 process is not dependant on land ownership, which typically extends to the centre of the road. However, under the Roads Act, the local authority is empowered to improve/maintain a road regardless of ownership. It was confirmed that engagement with landowners is ongoing where land is required beyond the road boundary. Whilst the space is available for a considerable part of the route, in some areas it is constrained. The design aims to retrofit cycling and pedestrian facilities according to modern standards and guidance, however, due to the limited space at the eastern end of the scheme, shared facilities have to be provided. With regard to Milltown estate, the Part 8 was an opportunity to look at existing issues that had arisen in relation to uncontrolled parking. The Part 8 includes some formal parking provision at the entrance to the Milltown Estate. If trees and planting are affected, the Council will provide compensatory planting. The main trees which are to be removed are to accommodate widening and flood alleviation works. The overall purpose of the scheme is to improve safety, reduce traffic, particularly during peak times, with the promotion of cycling a key element of the NTA's smarter travel policy. An allocation for the works has been made under the Council's capital programme. It was highlighted that consultation formed part of the formal Part 8 process, with previous iterations of the scheme

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having been presented to a council meeting and put on public display, with the proposed plans largely as agreed but with minor changes to parking arrangements and ramps/crossings, etc.

The Part 8 process was outlined and the next steps, if it proceeds. The report dealt with all 43 submissions received, summarised into 35 points, having been referred to the department with the relevant expertise. Any accommodation works required would be dealt with outside of the Part 8 process and by agreement with relevant landowners.

It was agreed that the matter would be discussed again at the July meeting in terms of the issues raised, including clarity regarding land ownership/acquisition, issues in Milltown estate, the wall at the football pitch and cycleways.

Separately it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith** that a speed survey would be carried out in Milltown estate to determine any safety measures required.

5.4 Corporate Services

5.4.1 To discuss the Town Twinning Initiative with Corcubion.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services confirmed that the representatives travelling to Corcubion were now confirmed as being Councillors Suzanne Jamal, Claire O'Driscoll and Tom Kelly, as Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, and two officials would also travel.

5.4.2 To discuss the 2018 Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal Budgets.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services confirmed that, following the May meeting, two proposals had been received from Councillors, i.e. €1,000 to Ashbourne Chamber of Commerce for festive lighting and €2,000 for bunting, flags and banners for the European Baseball Championships. It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** that an allocation of €1,000 would be made to European Baseball Championships.

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It was also agreed that any further proposals in respect of the balance of €2,500 would be submitted for agreement at the July meeting and that a quotation for the repair of the Christmas lights would be sought from Ashbourne Chamber of Commerce.

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Can I ask who owns the road from the Thomas Ashe roundabout to the roundabout at Donaghmore/Ashbourne GAA and schools campus and what must Meath County Council do to take it in charge if we have not already done so?”

Response:

The road appears to be registered to the Department of Education and Skills. An application would have to be made by the Department to Meath County Council to have the road taken in charge.

The Council would have to

(i) satisfy itself that the road is of general public utility,

(ii) consider the financial implications for the authority of the proposed declaration,

(iii) publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area where the road which it is proposed to declare to be a public road is located, a notice indicating the times at which, the period (which shall be not less than one month) during which and the place where a map showing such road may be inspected and stating that objections or representations may be made in writing to the road authority in relation to such declaration before a specified date (which shall be not less than two weeks after the end of the period for inspection),

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(iv) consider any objections or representations made to it under paragraph (iii) and not withdrawn.

The response was noted. Councillor Alan Tobin requested that the process to take the road in charge be commenced.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"I call on Meath County Council to put an immediate plan in place, survey and bring a Part 8 planning application for a children's playground on the 1 acre Ashewood site. I ask that this site is surveyed before the OPW uses the site temporarily for flood alleviation works. Monies raised through planning conditions in the recent past for 'social infrastructure 'and 'benefiting development in the area' should be sufficient (folio MH61505F)."

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

Under the Capital works programme 2015-2020 and as part of the Ashbourne Linear Park scheme of works which is currently underway a playground is being provided and when completed this playground will benefit the local community of Ashbourne and surrounding areas.

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

The motion was adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"I call on Meath County Council put an immediate plan in place, survey and bring a Part 8 planning application for a children's playground on the greenspace adjacent to Tudor Heights and St. Mary's N.S. Monies raised through planning conditions in the recent past for 'social infrastructure 'and 'benefiting development in the area' should be sufficient (folios MH62968F & MH63804F)."



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

Under the Capital works programme 2015-2020 and as part of the Ashbourne Linear Park scheme of works which is currently underway a playground is being provided and when completed this playground will benefit the local community of Ashbourne and surrounding areas.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

The motion was noted.

8 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

- 8.1 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise SPC meeting of 29th May, 2018.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

- 9.1 Correspondence received from the Department of Health in response to the Notice of Item 9.2.1 from February meeting re Primary Care Centre in Ashbourne.

The correspondence was noted.

10 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



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Cathaoirleach