

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

10:00am, 14th May 2024, Ashbourne Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, Councillor **Conor Tormey** presided.

Councillors Present: Joe Bonner, Suzanne Jamal, Amanda Smith, Alan Tobin.

Apologies/ Absent:

Councillors Present via Zoom: Councillor Helen Meyer

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Barry Lynch

Senior Executive Officer: Elaine Daly

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 9th April 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th of April 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There was none.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

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Sympathy was extended to the family and colleagues of the late Ciarán Finn Station Officer, Ashbourne.

4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

- 4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.0008Ha of land in Folio MH81156F at Dunreagh, County Meath. The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

The members agreed in principle to the disposal on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded **Councillor Amanda Smith**

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

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

The report circulated in advance was noted. The members thanked Mel and the outdoor crew for all their work over the last five years.

- 5.1.2 To receive an update on proposed Traffic Calming at Garden City & Crestwood, Castle Way Road, Ashbourne, County Meath.

Gillian Mangan, Engineer, updated on the proposed traffic calming measures within the estate. She advised that a review of 30km speed limits within housing estates is currently being undertaken.

A discussion ensued and the members stated that they were not in favour of the location, or the type of measure being installed. They requested that this be looked at again. Their concerns were noted by the engineer, and she advised that it will be withdrawn and reviewed accordingly.

5.2 Planning



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- 5.2.1 To consider the taking in charge of Glenview Stamullen 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 2000-2022.

A discussion ensued and questions were responded to by John Sweeney and Neville Carolan, Building Control.

Councillor Alan Tobin proposed, and **Councillor Conor Tormey** seconded the taking in charge. The members agreed to a show of hands and Councillors Bonner, Meyer, Tobin and Tormey were in favour of the taking in charge and Councillors Smith and Jamal voted against the taking in charge.

- 5.2.2 To consider the taking in charge of Ashewood Lawn 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 2000-2022.

A discussion ensued and questions were responded to by the Building Control officials and David Keyes, SEE Environment regarding flooding queries within the location. He confirmed that the OPW flood report stated that this location was outside the 1000-year flood risk area.

On the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner** the members agreed to the taking in charge.

5.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

The report circulated in advance was noted.

6 Notice of Question

- 6.1 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey

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What is the commencement date for work to start on the Greenogue bus stop?

Response:

The Greenogue Rural Bus Stop scheme is currently out to tender. MCC are awaiting the completion of the tender process in order to determine the successful tenderer, and their availability to mobilise to site. At that point in the Council, we will be better placed to provide a construction commencement date.

The response was noted, and confirmation was sought on the closing date.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

Can the council provide an update on the Linear Park development, including the Linear Skateboard Park.

Response:

Tendering for the skate park took place in April, at the end of the tender period only 2 tender submissions were received. On assessment only 1 tender was deemed valid and far exceeded the available budget. A review of the design has taken place and some changes to the tender documents are taking place namely including a design for the bridge instead of leaving it as a contractor design element. It is hoped that by removing a large element of the contractor risk together with some other minor changes will make the project more attractive to contractors to submit a tender and provide better value for money. The second round of tendering is expected to commence in 2 weeks' time and a minimum timeframe of 21 days must be allowed for the tender to be submitted.

The response was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

To receive a response to the following items regarding Archers Glen, Ashbourne.

1. Proper mix within guidelines 49/30 mix social/affordable.

SH POL 5

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To promote social integration and the provision of a range of dwelling types in residential developments that would encourage a mix of tenure, particularly in any State funded house building programmes.

SH POL 6

To support the provision of accommodation for older people and for people with disabilities that would allow for independent and semi-independent living in locations that are proximate to town and village centres and services and amenities such as shops, local healthcare facilities, parks, and community centres.

RESPONSE:

The possibility of amending the scheme to a social and affordable scheme was submitted to the Department in early February. A response is awaited from the Department.

2. Greenspace is landscaped appropriately with outdoor exercise equipment, seating, and pathways.

RESPONSE:

The open space will be designed by a specialist Landscape Designer and landscaped appropriately in consultation with the Planning and Community Department to ensure compliance with the County Development Plan and other requirements. As this is a design build contract, the detailed design will be completed when the Contractor is appointed.

3. Ashewood residents' concerns about traffic safety are taken into consideration. This includes the recent report by Michael Finnegan which includes:

- Footpaths and kerbing on Ashewood green
- Additional signage, clearing tree cover (sightlines) and ramps at Ashewood Glen/Drive/Green
- Traffic tables at junction Ashewood Close/Close/Green, Ashewood Court/Grove/Green
- Improvements to junction at end of Ashewood Green / Archerstown Wood-Sycamore Drive
- Pedestrian crossing Ashewood Drive/Hunter's Lane for kids crossing to Brookville (St. Mary's N.S.)

RESPONSE:



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Transportation Department has re-lined 17 no. STOP lines and text in Ashewood Estate (and one in Brookville) during February. Three sets of 2-way red banner SLOW road markings will also be placed on the main access road. Vegetation issues were addressed, and these will be re-checked in case of Spring growth.

The Road Safety Officer will undertake a before and after school observational survey along Hunters Lane to ascertain numbers and how children and guardians/children permeate through Ashewood to and from Brookville and the pedestrian entrance to St. Mary's School, this and traffic/speed data will inform the requirement for traffic calming measures.

4. OPW site belonging to Meath Co Co is developed for a children's playground and a part VIII is initiated asap. How will all this be paid for? One 70 dwelling housing development is conditioned to pay a total of €446,000 in Ashbourne.

RESPONSE:

The site currently being used by the OPW will be reviewed by Meath County Council to ascertain the most appropriate use for this area when the OPW have completed their works.

5. Residents are consulted on main entrance/exit to Archer's Glen and also on their boundaries including any pedestrian/cycling entrances, hedgerows and height of walls.

RESPONSE:

The residents in the immediate vicinity (25-27 Ashewood Green) of the proposed entrance to Archers Glen will be consulted on the proposed boundary treatment adjacent to their homes.

6. No further development is allowed to come through Ashewood from lands zoned to the west of Archer's Glen or in the future to the north of Archer's Glen

RESPONSE:

All developments when applying for planning permission must be compliant with the County Development Plan. It is appropriate for this issue to be addressed at the planning stage of developments in this area during both the pre planning and planning application process.

7. Proper management of estate by Meath County Council, and not Housing agency

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RESPONSE:

It is the intention of Meath County Council that the Housing Department will manage the Archers Glen development.

The response was noted. Cllr Tobin enquired about length of time it was taking the department to respond. Barry Lynch, Director advised that there are two sections of the Department dealing with this, one section regarding the planning process and another section regarding the affordable housing query.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Amanda Smith

In the interest of public safety, I call on Meath County Council to install traffic calming raised ramps and radar speed signs at Scoil Cholmcille, Skryne.

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

Meath County Council installed traffic calming and pedestrian facilities at Skryne National School in 2019. These elements included 2 no. speed ramps, a zebra crossing with downlighters, new signage, new road markings, new footpath, tactile paving, and pedestrian guardrails. The road markings were renewed recently and new “virtual speed ramps” were also added at the zebra crossing. Recent speed surveys do not indicate a speeding issue at this site, and it does not meet Meath County Council’s policy on vehicle activated signage (radar signage).

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Amanda Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin & Councillor Suzanne Jamal

We call on Meath County Council to enact bye laws for weight (10t) and number of axles (4+) for heavy goods vehicles (HGV’s ex agricultural and rigid vehicles) on the following roads: The L50161 from N2 to R155 and the L1002 Riverstown/Timoole from R152 junction to N2. Both roads are being used excessively by HGVs to avoid

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queues on main roads and are damaging road surfaces and are a concern for public safety.

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

Due to the rural nature of this road, it would not be policy of Meath County Council to impose a weight restriction on such a public road unless warranted by exceptional circumstances such as a damaged/weak bridge etc. The road carriageway condition in this instance is quite good, but the level of heavy agriculture vehicles/Heavy Goods Vehicles on this road is damaging the verge/road-edge. It is intended that this road will be considered for inclusion in the 2025 Roadworks Programme (RWP) for works similar to those carried out on the L1002 in 2023. Also, the introduction of passing bays on sections of this road at appropriate locations will be considered as part of the RWP works. In the meantime, we intend to carry out a traffic survey to establish the volumes of traffic using this road.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Amanda Smith**.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

I call on Meath County Council to seek planning and funding for toilets and changing facilities to assist teams of young boys and girls using the Milltown pitches in Ashbourne which are now under the stewardship of Meath County Council.

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

The Milltown Road pitches are currently used by a number of sporting clubs and as such the clubs should determine what facilities they need on site to meet their needs into the future. The Council will work with the clubs and provide information on planning, available funding schemes, etc. Once all consents are in place, the clubs working together could then make an application for funding under an appropriate grant scheme.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

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7.4 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

That the council provide a full brief to the Ashbourne Councillors following the completion of the roadworks in order to ensure that lessons are learned in terms of cost-containment and project management so that we do not run into the same issues when work begins at the south end of Ashbourne.

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

For a project of this value the Council will undertake a Project Completion Review and prepare a Project Completion Report. The wider purpose of the review is to ensure lessons learned from the project translate into improved knowledge for the sector and wider public service.

The motion did not proceed as Councillor Meyer was absent.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

That the council conducts an infrastructure audit of the Ashbourne MD with an emphasis on secondary schools, childcare facilities, and primary health care facilities.

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

The Forward Planning Department have commenced work on a Settlement Capacity Audit for all 38 settlements within the county. This audit will identify lands that are serviced (Tier 1) and lands that are serviceable (Tier 2) and settlements that have the capacity in infrastructure, including social infrastructure, to facilitate development in the future. The audit will identify the future requirements for certain types of social infrastructure including schools and will zone appropriate land where required. It is envisaged that the completion of the SCA will coincide with the NPF review and provision of new housing targets in Q4 of 2024 which will be brought into the County Development Plan via Variation No. 4. As part of the Forward Planning Department's ongoing Development Plan Monitoring, social infrastructure that has been granted permission since the coming into effect of the County Development Plan on 6th November 2021 is being monitored and this data will also inform future

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requirements across the county. The Forward Planning Department also consult with the Department of Education on a regular basis in relation planning permissions for/delivery of residential units in every settlement in the county and the resultant requirement for additional school facilities.

The motion did not proceed as Councillor Meyer was absent.

7.6 Submitted by Councillor Conor Tormey

That Meath County Council install Traffic calming measures along Archerstown Demesne Ashbourne, this is one of the main access routes to Ashbourne Utd FC, therefore a lot of traffic is using this road on a daily basis.

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

The Elms/Beeches access road at Ashbourne United FC is not currently in the charge of Meath County Council and therefore we do not intend to carry out any works here.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Conor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

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

8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting minutes of 05th April 2024.

They were noted.

8.2 To note the Protocol Committee meeting minutes of 05th April 2024.

They were noted.

8.3 To note the Draft Minutes of the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise, and European Affairs SPC meeting of 01st May 2024

They were noted.

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- 8.4 To note the Draft Minutes of the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 24th April 2024

They were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was none.

10 Any Other Business

The following items were raised:

- Referred to the roadworks on the Ballybin road turning left to the Pillo Hotel where there's an issue with the sequence of traffic lights.
- Requested the traffic lights sequencing along the main street, Ashbourne be reviewed.
- The Cathaoirleach thanked the members and officials for their support over the last 5 years and wished everyone the best of luck in the upcoming elections.
- The members thanked the Cathaoirleach, officials and outdoor crew for all their work and wished everyone well in the elections.
- Barry Lynch, Director thanked the members and wished them success in the elections.

The meeting concluded at 11.30am

Signed:

Cathaoirleach