

## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

### **Ordinary Meeting**

#### **Ashbourne Municipal District**

**10.00am, 03<sup>rd</sup> September 2024, Ashbourne Civic Offices**

**Cathaoirleach**, Councillor **Alan Tobin** presided.

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

**Apologies/ Absent:** Councillor Suzanne Jamal

**Councillors Present via Zoom:**

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Barry Lynch

**Executive Engineer:** Mel Cronin

**Meetings Administrator:** Áine Bird

**Assistant Staff Officer:** Stephen Carey

#### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Connor Tormey** and seconded by **Councillor Amanda Smith**.

#### **2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes**

Cllr Meyer enquired if there was any update regarding people parking at the Ashbourne playground and not using the playground. She suggested that signs should be erected stating "Parking for Playground Users". She enquired about the tonnage at Milltown Bridge, Ashbourne.

#### **3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Congratulations was extended to boxer Jenny Lehane on her performance at the Paris Olympics and thanked the council for their support in erecting signage for the event.

#### **4.0 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 and matters raised included:

- Thanked Mel Cronin and the outdoor crew for all the works being done.
- Enquired when roads and lanes in Milltown estate will be completed.
- Sought an Upgrade of public lighting in Huntsgrove, Ashbourne.
- Referred to traffic calming signs needed on the Archerstown road junction onto the Milltown Road, Ashbourne.

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- Asked when the traffic signs in Ardcath will be fixed.
- Referred to overgrown hedges across from Dunne Stores.
- Asked that a white line be put on the bend in Bourneview avenue to deter cars parking here, referred also to a sunken drain in this location.
- Referred to a sunken plinth outside Newlook shop which is a trip hazard.
- Referred to the Taxi rank spaces being used for bins by a local business.
- Enquired if the parklet outside Mollys, Ashbourne is to remain in place.

The area engineer responded to the queries raised.

### **4.1.2** To receive an update on the Default Speed Limit for Rural Local Roads.

Stephen Shortall, Transportation presented an update on the implementation of the new Rural Local Roads Default Speed Limit as per legislation enacted in April 2024. He said that variations to the Default Speed Limits will be permitted by way of byelaws and the creation of Special Speed Limits in accordance with the guidelines. He said that existing Special Speed Limits will remain in place.

The members were advised that a phased rollout will commence with the new 60km/h default speed signage installed by the end of November 2024 and the review of the speed limit byelaws will commence in 2025 and be finalized in 2026.

The members welcomed the reduction to the speed limits. They enquired on who would be monitoring the speed on all the local roads. It was suggested that ramps should be installed at all dangerous junctions. They enquired about special speed limits and when are these put in place.

Responses were provided by the engineers who stated that the gardai are the authority to monitor and enforce fines. The installation of ramps must follow strict criteria and that special speed limits are used for road contracts but revert to the original when works are completed.

## **4.2 Environment**

### **4.2.1** To receive a report on the Ashbourne Flood Alleviation Scheme

David Keyes SEE, Environment, presented an update on the Ashbourne Flood Alleviation Scheme.

He advised that the scheme is completed and is functioning as designed and protecting residents. He said that there are a small number of items outstanding, but these are near completion.

The members raised the following issues:

- Welcomed the works done.
- Enquired if property owners affected can let their insurance companies know the works are completed and how can this be facilitated.
- Asked if the works could have been done more cheaply with a different route chosen instead of going through private gardens.

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- Enquired if there might be overflow issues further downstream if the culvert is working at full capacity.
- Referred to the green area in Brookville and who is responsible for the area.
- Enquired if this report will assist with insurance claims as all of Ashbourne is at risk to flooding.
- Asked why this phase of works did not extend further downstream.
- Referred to overhanging trees and who is responsible for them.
- Enquired about maintenance of the culvert and the prevention of dumping into it.
- Referred to the construction in Archerstown and if enforcement has been taken against the developer.

### **Responses were provided by the engineer and included the following:**

That the works carried out were constructed by the OPW and its subcontractors. There was no formal contract.

A letter will issue to the property owners affected by flooding for their insurance company. He advised that a letter could issue to others in other areas of Ashbourne if requested.

Mr Keyes advised that alternative routes were examined. The existing route was chosen as it was considered to facilitate easier construction and to be more cost effective.

He said that the works will alleviate any overflow issues as far as the compound area beyond Hunters Lane, at Rath Lodge and on the Milltown Road.

The extents of the scheme were such as to deal with Flooding issues that had occurred on this watercourse

He referred to the OPW who had liaised with the developer regarding the Section 50 consent for the culvert development in Archerstown.

Overhanging trees and maintenance of the stream is a matter for the OPW.

Fencing has been erected in Brookville to deter any dumping into the stream there

The green area to be landscaped in Brookville is the responsibility of the Council and will be completed by our landscaping contractor in the coming weeks.

### **4.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance**

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

The allocations were noted.

An extension of time to 12.30pm was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Amanda Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

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### 5.0 Notice of Question

#### 5.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

*“To seek an update on my proposal for a public playground and if feasible at the former OPW site at Ashewood/Hunter’s Lane Ashbourne.”*

#### **Response:**

The future use of the site at Ashewood/Hunter’s Lane is currently under review and will be looked at in the context of:

1. The significant investment that has already taken place in the Ashbourne Linear Park and the planned further investment in the new skate park.
2. The overarching priority as expressed by the Members for the provision of a new park for the town.
3. The need to improve permeability within the town which will provide easier access to existing recreational facilities.
4. Future district operational requirements.

**The response was noted.**

The members sought an update on the Skatepark whereby Barry Lynch, Director said that the tender assessment process was ongoing and assuming a successful outcome a recommendation will be submitted for the Chief Executive to approve.

### 6.0 Notice of Motion

#### 6.1 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

*“That the council make provision to install high powered EV charging hubs in the Ashbourne MD.”*

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

Meath County Council, in collaboration with Kildare, Wicklow and Louth County Councils, has commenced work on the EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy for the County, this looks specifically at neighbourhood and destination charging infrastructure, to ensure EV charging infrastructure is accessible to all electric vehicle users. This plan will provide a way forward for equitably delivering future charging infrastructure at a local level, ensuring the most suitable type of charger is in the right place. This strategy is funded and supported by Zero Emissions Vehicle Ireland (ZEVl) and is expected to be completed by Q2 2025. The strategy will make recommendations regarding delivery of county wide EV charging infrastructure

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

#### 6.2 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

*“That the council increase grant funding in the next budget for the local residents’ associations for maintaining shared spaces as current funding does not cover the*

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*maintenance costs.”*

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

The Budget process for 2025 is currently underway whereby this motion can be referred to the Finance Department for discussion and review at the upcoming scheduled budget meetings.

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

### **7.0 Correspondence**

There was none.

### **8.0 Any Other Business**

The following items were raised:

- Turning on of Christmas lights in Ashbourne will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024.
- To review the name “Millrace” for the Council housing development in Ashbourne.
- Enquired if a tour of the Millrace development could be facilitated.
- Referred to the one acre of land adjacent to this council housing development and enquired what its being used for.
- Raised concerns on the weedkiller being used.
- Referred to the traffic lights on the R125 Baltrasna and asked that a letter issue to ESB networks enquiring when they will be energized.

Responses were provided by the Area Engineer and Director of Service.

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm.

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach