

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

10.30am, 05th November 2024, Ashbourne Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, Councillor **Alan Tobin** presided.

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

Apologies/ Absent:

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

Clerical Officer: Kathryn Fox

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th of October 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Amanda Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

Clr Smith enquired about the housing units in Stamullen and asked why they were not advertised on the Choice Based Letting scheme. The Director of Service to seek further information on which units were involved.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations was extended to Coláiste De Lacy, Ashbourne on winning the Meath Libraries European Debate challenge.

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 was noted, and the following raised:

- Commended on all the works being undertaken.
- Enquired when the public lighting will be installed at the Greenogue bus stops.
- Asked if any ramps will be installed approaching the pedestrian crossing on the Baltrasna road.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Asked on an update for the flashing lights at Cushionstown.
- Referred to the removal of the flower planters and that some were still in bloom.
- Enquired about the bike stands and bikes and the removal of these.
- Asked when the Arborist report will be done and if it can be circulated.
- Asked if the main streets can be power washed.
- Referred to the increase in graffiti and the removal of same.
- Enquired when the pedestrian crossing at the Briars estate on the R135 will be installed.
- Referred to the leaves on footpaths and said that a road sweeper is required.
- Asked that a dead tree in Churchfield estate, Kentstown be removed.
- Enquired if proper ramps can be installed at Rathfeigh NS.
- Referred to the increase in traffic on the Milltown Road where the traffic lights are causing issues.
- Asked that slow signs be erected on the L50161 from Swans Pub to Emerald Park to advise of children on the road.
- Potholes on the L1002 that require patching.
- Bridge over the Broadmeadow needs power hosing.
- Referred to the intersection at Corks Bistro where cars parking on the cycle lane.
- Sought an update on progress to the skatepark.
- Enquired on a visit to the Millrace housing development.

The area engineer and director responded to queries accordingly.

4.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance

4.2.1 To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Ashbourne Municipal District

The allocations were noted.

5.0 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"Can MCC give an update on the roll out of CCTV in Ashbourne, in particular the town centre and approach roads?"

Response:

Any future Community CCTV schemes will be brought forward under Sections 28 and 29 (contained in Part V) of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023. The current legislative provisions under Section 38 of the An Garda Síochána Act 2005 are due to be repealed by Section 6 of the 2023 Act. At the time of writing, Sections 6, 28 and 29 are among those sections still to be commenced by the Minister for Justice. It should be noted that Section 29 will require An Garda Síochána to develop a code of practice governing

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Community CCTV schemes and all new schemes must adhere to the requirements of the code of practice. Once the Minister has approved the new code, the Council will review its requirements and assess how any new schemes might be progressed within existing resource constraints.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

"Given the difficulty clubs and groups in Ashbourne have finding suitable spaces to meet, is there a survey or report detailing the community spaces available in Ashbourne?"

Response:

There is no survey or report detailing community spaces available in Ashbourne, however, the Council is aware of the challenges facing clubs and groups in the Ashbourne area in sourcing meeting spaces.

Ashbourne library, which is currently at capacity is meeting a large demand for the use of rooms by community groups and by some private groups including Stepping Stones (AA) to the Sister Shed, multiple language groups, Men's health groups and Music generation as well as Resident Association AGMS, Tidy Towns meetings, Red Cross & Civil Defence training all currently use meeting spaces in the Library.

The response was noted.

6.0 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"I call on Meath County Council to review security at Balrath Woods."

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

A successful funding application was made to ORIS for proposed upgrade works to the entrance of Balrath Woods. The works include new steel and timber fences to help with the aesthetics at the entrance and also help with security, etc. outside of opening hours.

These works have been agreed with the Balrath Woods Steering Committee and it is envisaged that they will be completed in Q1 2025.

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

Cllr Tobin introduced the motion and said that he recently visited the amenity with his family and said that more measures are needed to be in place to help with security and deter any anti-social behaviour that might arise.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

"I call on Meath County Council to offer a rates waiver program to offset/part offset the losses that businesses in Ashbourne have incurred due to the roadworks taking an inordinate amount of time to complete."

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

The levying and collection of commercial rates by Local Authorities is legislated for under the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019, as amended by the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provision Act 2023. Meath County Council is obliged by law to levy and collect Commercial Rates. There is no provision to provide a commercial rates waiver for businesses affected by roadworks projects.

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

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

"That Meath County Council work together with the NTA in the design phase of the R135 Cycle Network Southern Section in Ashbourne to include the Real Time Display system, seats and bus shelters at every bus stop."

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

The request to include Real Time Display systems at every bus stop on the R135 Cycle Network Southern Section in Ashbourne is noted. As part of the detailed design for this scheme Meath County Council will engage with the National Transport Authority (NTA), who are responsible for the provision of bus stop infrastructure, to agree the specific bus stops at which Real Time Display systems will be installed.

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

Cllr Meyer sought an update on the flood remediation report from the OPW.

The meeting concluded at 11.20am

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes