

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

11.00am, 03rd December 2024, Ashbourne Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, Councillor **Alan Tobin** presided.

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

Apologies/ Absent: Conor Tormey

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Barry Lynch

Executive Engineer: Mel Cronin

Meetings Administrator: Francis Regan

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

Clerical Officer: Kathryn Fox

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 05th November 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th November 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Amanda Smith**.

1.2 Confirmation of the Minutes of the General Municipal Allocation Budget Meeting held on 05th November 2024

The minutes of the budget meeting held on the 5th November 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Amanda Smith**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathies were extended to:

- Seamus Bruton, former council outdoor employer.
- Sympathy extended to the family of Nicola Dowling

Congratulations were extended to:

- Cllr. Gillian O'Toole, Cllr. Aisling Dempsey on becoming TD's.
- On the re-election of Deputies Darren O'Rourke, Helen McEntee and Thomas Byrne

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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 the following raised:

- Thanked the Council for supplying this year's Christmas tree.
- Update requested on proposed new lighting and pedestrian crossing in for the Briars Estate Ashbourne.
- Commended the MD Engineer, Mel Cronin, and the outdoor staff on all the works undertaken.
- Enquired about removal of a fence, a car park space and possibly a utility unit for better visibility at Corks junction.
- Sought an update on Ashbourne Skate Park
- Enquired about the status of the flood remediation works and water pressure issues.
- Update requested on the Riverstown Road where it meets the R152 in relation to possible road widening.
- Sought an update to flashing signing for Cushinstown, Rathfeigh, Ardcath, Skryne and Clinstown for traffic calming measures.
- Enquired on the Arborist report and if members could be made aware of the trees being cut/trimmed.
- Enquiry made about a footpath in Gormanstown .
- Reference made to the dining area in Stamullen and who maintains it.
- Enquired about a pedestrian crossing at The Mews, Tudor Grove & Thomas Ash roundabout.
- Requested speed or traffic survey be done for at Donaghmore Church & Ballybin Road.
- Requested a list of bus shelters as approved by the NTA.
- Update required on the Columbarium Wall at Ashbourne cemetery.

The engineer responded accordingly and said there's a delay with the road marking contractor, the Arborist has been appointed and the inspection/report is currently underway – the Tree Surgeon contract will then go to tender based on the Arborist report, suggested submitting areas that should not be included for spraying and these will be referred to the contractor.

5.0 Notice of Question

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5.1 Submitted by Councillor Amanda Smith

"Can the executive please advise how 2 & 3 bedroom houses in Silverbanks Stamullen were allocated without these houses being advertised on the CBL system, and what was the criteria for these allocations?"

Response:

The 2 bed properties in Silverbanks were available for allocation prior to the introduction of CBL in January 2022. The normal allocation criteria outside of CBL was used for the 2 bed properties, namely; time on the list, family composition and areas of choice. 13 No. 3 bed and 1 No. 4 bed properties were ready for allocation in January 2022, and they were advertised and allocated through CBL.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

"Please advise how many people in Ashbourne are receiving housing assistance from Meath County Council to include council owned houses, HAP, RAS and the various AHBs (please give a total from each AHB)."

Response:

The breakdown of the provision of social housing in the Ashbourne Municipal District is:

HAP 84, RAS 39, Leased 151, Meath County 313, Totalling 587

Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) provide 140 of the Leased properties see below:

Cluid	91
Tuath	41
Oaklee	3
iCare	1
Respond	1
Steer	3
Non AHB	11
Total	151

The response was noted.

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6.0 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Amanda Smith

"I call on Meath County Council to give a commitment to the continuation of the footpath, with lighting, from Church View Housing Estate to the Junction at Goughs, to the community walking track at St Vincent's GAA club."

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

The request for the provision of a new footway with public lighting along the L-1011-15 from Church View Housing Estate to the L-50465 at Goughs Junction Ardcath is acknowledged.

The request will be added to a list of new works requests and will be considered for inclusion in future works programmes. This works programme is subject to funding and resources and is based on the prioritisation of schemes following an engineering screening/evaluation assessment.

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

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Amanda Smith

"In the interest of public safety, I call on Meath Co Council to install further traffic calming measures at Cromwells Bush Crossroads."

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

The Department of Transport undertake collision analysis to determine locations for evidence-based road safety investment, where value for money interventions such as the Low Cost Safety Improvement Works could target investment and reduce or eliminate collisions. The L-1615/L-1008 cross roads junction, known as Cromwells Bush Crossroads, just south of Bellewstown is not currently identified as a location of interest based on data from the Road Safety Authority for the period 2017 – 2023 however, following on from receipt of this Notice of Motion, Meath County Council Transport Section will carry out traffic surveys in the area and review available historical collision data to see if further traffic calming measures at this location should be prioritised.

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

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6.3 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

"I call on Meath County Council to conduct a survey detailing the community space available in Ashbourne for clubs and groups to meet as there appears to be a shortage of meeting space."

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

Subject to the motion being agreed, a survey along the lines proposed will be undertaken to ascertain the demand for community meeting spaces and the availability of such spaces in Ashbourne. This will be included in the community department work programme for 2025 and will be completed when resources can be dedicated to progress the survey.

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

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

"I call on Meath County Council, to considering acquiring land in the Ashbourne MD for the purpose of a recycling centre given the population growth in Ashbourne."

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

The provision of a Civic Amenity / Recycling Centre for Ashbourne was raised on a number of occasions previously and, including during consideration of the Council's 5 year Capital programme. However, no provision has been made in the said programme for this facility, nor is any departmental funding available. The Council do however provide financial support towards recycling days held in Ashbourne on an annual basis.

It is understood that, in addition to the use of the Bottle Bank in Ashbourne, many local residents use the 4 Civic Amenity Sites in the County (one private), as well as five such facilities located in the neighboring counties of Louth & Fingal.

The Council also note that under planning Reference 21/833 planning permission was granted in May 2022 for the development of a civic amenity recycling facility and associated facilities on the Ballybin Road in Ashbourne.

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

7.0 Correspondence

There was none

8.0 Any Other Business

There was none

The meeting concluded at 11.57am

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Signed:

Cathaoirleach