

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Ashbourne Municipal District

10.00am, 14th January 2025, Ashbourne Civic Offices

Cathaoirleach, Councillor **Alan Tobin** presided.

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

Apologies/ Absent:

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

1.0 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 03rd December 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd December 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Amanada Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were none.

4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

4.1.1 To receive an update on the proposed Housing Estate Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws Statutory Process

Gillian Mangan EE, Transportation updated on the proposed housing estate special speed limit bye-laws statutory process. **Cllr. Tobin** queried whether or not Crickstown Manor has been 'Taken in Charge' and asked could Kilcloon/Brownstown be checked as they may not be in the Ashbourne MD. Gillian will respond via the 'Meetings Administrator'.

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

The report circulated in advance was noted and the following raised:

- Can gully cleaning happen in Tudor Grove Ashbourne?
- Can the equipment in the Ashbourne playground be painted?
- Commended the MD Engineer, Mel Cronin, and the outdoor staff on all the works undertaken over the cold snap period at the beginning of 2025 and welcomed the use of the new gritter.
- Enquired if the car park space at 'Corks junction' could be swapped with a disability space across the road with the hope it will not be used as often and thus increasing visibility at the junction.
- Sought an update on Ashbourne Skate Park
- Can the wheelchair sign outside the Dry cleaners in Ashbourne be painted?
- Decking outside of Paddy Power on Ashbourne high street. Can it be removed?
- Pedestrian Crossing at Tudor Grove – when will it start?
- What is the update on the Arborist report?
- Asked for an update on the proposed Bollards for Batchelor Walk
- Is there any update on Ned Nulty's Cottage?
- Additional bins in Johnswood are having a positive impact on the area.
- Is there any further development on the Pedestrian crossing in Stamullen?

The Executive Engineer responded accordingly saying that the Arborist has been appointed and the programme of works has been given to the Arborist. Trees that are considered dangerous will be prioritized. A preliminary design will be explored for the car park space at Corks Junction. With regards to Pedestrian crossings, preliminary designs are complete and are awaiting contractors to start. All other maintenance issues were noted.

Barry Lynch, Director, responded and said that the position regarding all decking erected during Covid is currently under review. With regards to 'Ned Nulty's Cottage' An inspection of the building had been completed prior to Christmas and the Council will now proceed to have the ownership transferred.

Cllr Bonner raised concerns regarding the car park below the library and particularly for the safety of Meath County Council staff using the car park. Cllr Bonner suggested that car park spaces could be fenced off, or the use of CCTV introduced to combat potential antisocial behavior that takes place in the car park. Cllr Tobin suggested that a task force be set up to address such issues. Cllr Tobin will explore this further. Barry Lynch, Director, explained that this is also a matter for the Gardaí and other stake holders to address and perhaps could be reviewed by the Local Community Safety Partnership internally. Barry also referred to the response given to Cllr Tobin's Notice of Question regarding CCTV in November 2024 and explained that the relevant legislation had not yet been commenced. An Garda Síochána will have to develop a new code of

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practice which will determine how CCTV is rolled out.

5.0 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

"There was a lot of damage done to the trees at Balrath Woods during Storm Darragh, this resulted in quite a few trees being damaged and then removed. Is Balrath Woods managed entirely by MCC or in conjunction with Coillte and has an arborist done a formal assessment of the remaining trees?"

Response:

Although Balrath Woods is under the ownership of Coillte, it has a steering committee made up of the Tree Council of Ireland, local stakeholders and Meath County Council Community Department/Biodiversity Officer. The steering committee provide updates and feedback regarding any current or ongoing issues and make recommendations on how to resolve or make improvements to the woods. Most maintenance/upgrade works are then carried out by Meath County Council/Ashbourne Municipal District. These works included approved tree felling and clearance of fallen trees from the footpaths, etc, and the MD have carried out such works after Storm Darragh. It should be noted that Balrath Woods has among other things, an educational and biodiversity ethos which is led by and uses the expertise of the Tree Council of Ireland and Meath County Council's biodiversity officer. In some cases, it is recommended that where not causing an obstruction, dead- wood is to be left in place to enhance biodiversity.

The response was noted

6.0 Notice of Motion

There were none.

7.0 Correspondence

7.1 Response from Uisce Éireann re water pressure query

Thank you for contacting Uisce Éireann's Local Representative Support Desk. I wish to acknowledge receipt of your representation on behalf of residents in Millenium Park and Milltown areas of Ashbourne, regarding low pressure. I understand this issue is a source of concern for your constituents.

To investigate this matter further, I have opened a query on our system on your behalf. Your Uisce Éireann reference number for same is 85149 am currently liaising with my colleagues in our Operations Department to progress matters further. As soon as further information becomes available, a member of our team will be in contact with you.

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Please be advised that we aim to respond to your query as efficiently as possible, however, due to the complex nature of some of the queries raised, we may require input from various Uisce Éireann departments to obtain full aspects of responses. As you can appreciate, this may extend our response times in certain scenarios.

Uisce Éireann aim to resolve reports of low pressure in a number of days. Your continued patience and understanding is greatly appreciated whilst we investigate your query.

Yours sincerely,

Tanya Doyle

Local Representative Support Desk Uisce Éireann

Bosca PO 860, Oifig Sheachadta na Cathrach Theas, Cathair Chorcaí, Éire

8.0 Any Other Business

Members requested that a letter be sent to Uisce Eireann, highlighting the following issues;

- Possible wastewater overflow into a stream at Broadmeadow
- Water pressures at Race hill Manor.
- Are we reliant on just one pump at Windmill Pumping Station?

The meeting concluded at 10.55am

Signed:

Cathaoirleach