

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ANNUAL AND JULY MEETING OF THE
COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH, ON
TUESDAY, 11TH JULY, 2017**

Present - Councillors, A. Barry, C. Rasmussen, S. Sheppard, G. Keohane, K. McCarthy, P. O'Sullivan & D. Ó Cadhla.

Officials Present:

Mr. G. O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Mr. Paraig Lynch, Cobh Municipal District
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

Apologies were received from Mr. Sean O'Callaghan.

1. ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, Cllr. P. O'Sullivan was elected Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. O'Sullivan then took the chair.

2. ELECTION OF LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH:

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, Cllr. G. Keohane, was elected Leas-Cathaoirleach.

3. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Sullivan, it was agreed to suspend standing orders in order to discuss the issue of CCTV for Nash's Boreen. G. O'Hora confirmed that the dumping of rubbish and abandoned cars were a serious issue in the Nash's Boreen area. On the proposal of Cllr. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan, it was agreed to write to the Environment Department to enquire about funding for CCTV at this location.

4. PRESENTATION ON REPAIR & LEASING SCHEME

On behalf of the Housing Department of Cork County Council, Mary Fitzgerald gave a presentation to the members on the Repair and Leasing Scheme which forms a key component of the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. The members questioned Ms. Fitzgerald at some length about how the scheme would operate and outlined various scenarios, to which Ms. Fitzgerald gave comprehensive

answers. The members thanked Ms. Fitzgerald for her presentation and she then withdrew.

5. DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Councillor A. Barry, seconded by Councillor G. Keohane, the Minutes of the Cobh Municipal District held on 13th June, 2017 were adopted.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Road Lining for Cobh

G. O’Hora confirmed that this work is ongoing.

Litter Plan

P. Lynch confirmed that the Environment section has reverted to him in relation to the Litter Plan and that he would follow up in relation to finalising a draft Plan to go on public display

Camper Van Parking Area, Cobh

R. O’Sullivan confirmed that the lining has been completed and the barrier will be installed within the next few weeks. P. Lynch stated that the Chief Executive had sanctioned the employment of an additional Traffic Warden for East Cork to provide cover for holidays and Saturdays.

Speed bumps in Glanmire

G. O’Hora stated that it may be possible to provide build outs in this area and that he would seek funding for Low Cost Safety Measures for 2018.

Buck Learys Cross & GAA Pitches

G. O’Hora stated that following a preliminary assessment, the main issue would appear to be parking associated with the G.A.A. pitches and he would put additional signage in place.

Tay Road, Cobh

G. O’Hora stated that the Tay Road was not suitable for speed bumps. The reduced speed limit from 60KM to 50KM will come into force on 1st September, additional road lining and signage have also been provided for this road.

Pearse Place, Carrigtohill

G. O’Hora stated he recognised that sections of this footpath need repairs, the works have been included in the Footpath Programme for 2017 and this work is ongoing.

Eastcliffe Road, Glanmire

P. O'Donoghue, Senior Engineer, Traffic & Transportation Section, Cork County Council, replied that the works required in this area can be considered in the development of the preliminary design of the improvement measures required to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development of lands at Dunkettle and Ballinglanna. Following assessment, a decision can be taken as to the most appropriate method of dealing with the concerns raised. It is hoped that this process would commence in October 2017.

Fota Road

The contractor has been appointed to carry out the necessary works.

Lights at the Pedestrian Crossing, Sallybrook

G. O'Hora stated that the works have been completed and that the council was waiting on the ESB to provide power to the lights.

Coolamber, Cobh

G. O'Hora stated that the trees would be removed, if they were considered dangerous.

Cobh Town Centre

G. O'Hora confirmed that this work is ongoing.

Cuskinny, Cobh

G. O'Hora stated this work had been completed.

Bayview Estate, Cobh

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that this work had been completed.

Carrig Eoin & Ballynoe, Cobh

G. O'Hora stated that the trees at Carrig Eoin have been listed for work, however as the estate in Ballynoe has not been taken in charge, responsibility for this lies with the developer.

Carrig Downs & West End, Carrigtwohill

G. O'Hora stated that the trees in these areas had been cut back.

Ballyseedy, Carrigtwohill

G. O'Hora stated that the bollards had been ordered and will be put in shortly.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

P. Lynch stated that two letters had been received both from Gillen Joyce of Titanic Experience. One of the letters sought permission from the Council to use part of John F. Kennedy Park to provide access to a new exhibition involving the Titanic Pier to the rear of the Titanic Experience building, prior to submitting planning permission for same. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that a letter allowing the submission of a planning application would issue to Mr. Joyce. Members noted that planning permission and an appropriate leasing agreement in relation to the site would be required prior to any works taking place.

The second letter was in response to the Councils proposed amendment to the bus parking area outside of the Titanic Experience. Cllr. Rasmussen and Cllr. Sheppard had met with Mr. Joyce to discuss the implications of changing the bus parking space to set down only, following this meeting, Cllr. Rasmussen stated that it was now his proposal to impose a three hour limit on buses parking in this area, that the owners of the road train were in agreement with this change and that the three hour limit would be reviewed next year. Cllr. Sheppard agreed that a three hour limit would be in order as long as it was monitored. It was noted by the members that any decision in relation to this area may be affected by the proposed streetscape works to be carried out on foot of the Lower Harbour Drainage Scheme project. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. Sheppard, it was agreed to impose a 3 hour time limit for in the bus parking area adjacent to the Titanic Experience Building and that the matter would be reviewed in the context of the proposed streetscape works.

Cllr. Sheppard queried whether the ice cream van which currently has a Casual Trading Licence could be moved to another location as it parked directly outside a premises trading as an ice cream shop. P. Lynch replied that the property has only been in use as an ice cream shop for the last couple of years, but that the van has had a licence to trade at this location for the last twenty years. He also stated that the Casual Trading Byelaws were under a county wide review, but difficulties in West Cork were impacting on revising the Cobh bye-laws and that currently there was no other location to move the van to.

8. OFFICERS' REPORTS

G. O'Hora outlined traffic calming measures for the Castlejane Road in Glanmire, including reducing the width of the road. The changes were proposed by Cllr. C. Rasmussen and seconded by Cllr. A. Barry.

9. 10 HARBOUR HILL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Planning & Development) REGULATIONS 2001.

Report in accordance with Article 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended by Article 17 of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2006) in relation to the proposed development of a 4 storey, 3 bedroom house at 10, Harbour Hill, Cobh, together with associated site works, below ground services, connection to

public utilities and ancillary works by T. O'Farrell. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy, it was agreed to recommend the proposal to full Council.

10. DRAFT CORK COUNTY COUNCIL (COBH) APPOINTED STANDS (TAXI) BYE LAWS, 2017.

This matter had been raised at the June meeting and a further discussion ensued amongst the Councillors in relation to the proposal, the location of the proposed waiting area for taxis was of particular concern. Cllr. K. McCarthy and Cllr. C. Rasmussen both objected strenuously to the placement of parking spaces in front of the mural. Cllr. Rasmussen also stated that in his opinion there was no need for any more than 3 or 4 waiting spaces, and that these could be accommodated on the southern side of the road, immediately adjacent to the existing pay parking spaces on the Lower Road. Cllr. Ó'Cadhlá queried if there had been any public consultation, P. Lynch replied that only one formal submission had been received. It was proposed by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, that a decision be deferred to the September meeting when the exaction waiting location has been defined and marked. P. Lynch stated that he would refer the matter, including the comments of the members, to the Traffic & Transportation section of the Council for a report.

11. To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:

“That this municipal district write to all the business houses in Cobh asking them to brush up outside their premises daily and also to ensure that when leaving refuse out for collection that it is done so in a proper manner to avoid spilling onto the road and also to avoid being disturbed by birds.” Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the bins in the squares were still a problem and requested that flaps be tried out on a trial basis and that business owners should be encouraged to secure their bins and refuse. G. O'Hora stated that he would look into providing flaps on the bins. Proposed by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard.

12. To consider the following the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:

“That we now make plans to reduce the width of the footpath on Harbour Row and to have it included in the tender for the lower harbour drainage scheme which will help to improve the traffic flow on that road.” G. O'Hora stated that there was minimum of 2m required for footpaths, Harbour Row was only 2.5m wide and reducing the footpath by 500mm would not improve the situation, there was also a health and safety issue as the front doors of the houses opened directly onto the footpath. A proposal for pull-in bays would reduce the parking spaces available. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that Harbour Row would be included in any streetscape proposals for the town.

13. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:

“That we as a municipal district agree a plan to resolve the issue of the opening times for the public toilet in the town centre to coincide with the opening of the promenade and not have members of the public stranded after 6 p.m. each evening and also that we agree a plan to ensure that all of street drains are cleaned out again before the end of the summer season.” On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy it was agreed that the public toilets would not be closed until the park closed. G. O’Hora agreed to put this in place.

14. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Padraig O’Sullivan.

“Due to reoccurring odours at Carrigrenan that this Council seek a written report from the management of the wastewater treatment plant seeking an assessment of the operational status of the facility and possible explanations of the odours.” On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that P. Lynch would write to Irish Water.

15. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Padraig O’Sullivan:

“Owing to the excessive speed and long approach roads that speed ramps would be considered for the Fairways and Castlewood housing estates in Little Island in the interests of public safety.” Proposed by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan and seconded by Cllr. A. Barry. Cllr. O’Sullivan is to submit a petition for same. G. O’Hora is to examine the possibility of placing speed ramps in this area and also to conduct a traffic survey.

16. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Padraig O’Sullivan:

“After a series of serious accidents in the area of Glenmore Bridge, that this Council would consider traffic calming measures in the area to prevent any further serious accidents.” Proposed by Cllr. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry. G. O’Hora replied that the bridge had been damaged and works had been carried out recently, he would examine the road junction and signage in the area.

17. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Diarmaid Ó Cadhla:

a) “That Council note the offer made by a local construction company to complete the groundwork in relation to the Playground free of any charge, that they be thanked and their community spirit be commended, and that this offer be discussed with whoever is responsible at County Hall.

- b) That Council members are encouraged to participate in and to help promote the sponsored Climb of Carrantuohill in Aid of Cobh Playground, which takes place on August 19th. ”

P. Lynch stated that the offer made by the local construction company had been brought to the attention of the Council engineer in charge of the project, who had raised issues in relation to health and safety and insurance.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. D. Ó Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy.

18. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Diarmaid Ó Cadhla:

- a) That we seek a report from the Director of Services for housing informing us in regards to the total numbers on the housing list in Cobh Municipal District, the total using CBL, the number of void Council owned properties and the number of properties (new or renovated) expected to become available by the end of 2018.
- b) The report to include demographic data on those who are on this list, e.g. geographic area, age profile, family status, children, special needs etc.
- c) That this Council notes that house prices are currently rising at the rate of €2,000 per month and that homelessness continues to rise. That this Council write to the new Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government to inform him that we have nearly 1,500 on our waiting list and asking that additional capital funding be made available for the direct provision of social housing on our own lands.
- d) That we note the resolution of Cork County Council inviting the Municipal Districts to identify at least one site, on Council owned property, which might be suitable for the development of social housing.
- e) According, this Council identifies the lands at Ballynoe, identified as CH-R-13, CH-R-15 and CH-R-16 on the Draft Cobh Municipal District Local Area Plan as suitable for social housing. We note that these lands are already nominated for ‘*Medium B*’ density residential use, yielding between 12 and 25 housing units per hectare, the total area of the lands identified is 11.7 Ha (nearly 30 acres).
- f) In addition, we note that the adjacent lands at CH-0-08 are already assigned for ‘*active open space*’, for the provision of playing pitches and sports facilities.
- g) That members of the Municipal District Council be invited to collaborate in the creation of a proposal for the development of the lands identified in section ‘f’, and that the plan be to draft level, including maps, drawing of housing scheme layout and use of the open space.
- h) The plan should include estimated costs for the completion of the work and options on how the work might be financed, whether through capital funds provided by Government or through ‘*off-balance sheet*’ methodology, possibly with Credit Unions or other source.
- i) That this Council seeks to identify other suitable sites on Council owned property for development of Social Housing, looking to include the areas of Great Island, Carrigtohill, Little Island, Glanmire and the north environs of Cork city – and consider the possibility of developing plans for those also.

P. Lynch reminded the members that the above had already been discussed at full Council level and directed them to the reply issued by the CEO, Tim Lucey.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that 37 acres of land at Ballynoe had already been allocated for social housing and that once the Local Area Plan was approved that this land would be developed by the housing section and that he was not sure of the role of the Municipal District for land that was already included in the Master Plan. Cllr. K. McCarthy stated that the area was attracting anti-social behaviour. Cllr. P. O'Sullivan confirmed that lands in Glanmire were also being considered under this plan. The above motion was proposed by Cllr. Ó Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- 19.1 Cllr. A. Barry requested an update regarding the Municipal Awards scheduled for September. P. Lynch replied that no names had been submitted to the office for consideration.
- 19.2 Cllr. A. Barry raised the issue of the bollard at the junction of Main Street and Station Road in Carrigtwohill. Engineer to examine.
- 19.3 Cllr. A. Barry stated that the footpaths at Brookvale Estate required attention. Engineer to examine.
- 19.4 Cllr. D. Ó Cadhla requested that Cobh Municipal District initiate Town Twinning with Sydney, Australia. Proposed by Cllr. Ó Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy.
- 19.5 Cllr. D. Ó Cadhla enquired as to whether a Community Noticeboard could be erected at Belvelly and the Cross River Ferry to advertise local events. G. O'Hora replied that this type of signage would require planning permission and he would not be in favour of same at such a busy junction as it would cause a distraction to motorists.
- 19.6 Cllr. D. Ó Cadhla stated that keeping visitors in the town should be a priority of the Council and to this end he proposed that the Council subsidise music in the local pubs, as was the case in Cork City. Cllr. Ó Cadhla also proposed that the Council meet with Cobh Tourism to work on strategies to retain visitors in the town.
- 19.7 Cllr. K. McCarthy requested that the Council write to Corporate Affairs to schedule the September Development Committee at the Commodore Hotel and he would provide a free walking tour. Proposed by Cllr. K. McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry.
- 19.8 Cllr. K. McCarthy stated that no. 11 Glenanaar Place had recently been purchased by the Council and the hedge needed to be cut back. P. Lynch stated that the matter should be taken up directly with the Housing Department.
- 19.9 Cllr. C. Rasmussen enquired about the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Coláiste Mhuire, Cobh. G. O'Hora stated that he was arranging for a traffic survey to be carried out.
- 19.10 Cllr. C. Rasmussen wished to offer congratulations to Cllr. Pádraig O'Sullivan and Bernie Healy on their forthcoming wedding, to which the remaining Councillors and staff added their best wishes for the future.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.