

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH ON MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 2018.**

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

**Officials Present:** Mr. S. O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer  
Mr. G. O'Hara, Senior Executive Engineer.  
Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer  
Ms. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District  
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

The meeting commenced with a moment of reflection, all standing.

It was agreed by all the members to extend a Vote of Condolence to the family of Noel Lambe, Council employee RIP.

**1. PRESENTATION BY COBH4FOOTBALL GROUP:**

Mark Farrell of Cobh4Football, an umbrella group representing four soccer clubs in the Cobh area, outlined plans for a full sized All-Weather Pitch to be located at the Cobh Wanderers grounds at Old Church Park, Ticknock, in response to the growing numbers interested in participating in soccer, particularly at under-age and by women and girls of all ages. Frank McCall, Cobh Wanderers, stated that planning permission had been submitted and was looking for the members support for the application and that there would probably be a request for funding from the Municipal District in the future. Willie O'Hanlon, Springfield Ramblers, stated that he had met with David Stanton, T.D., and had received his support for the project.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen responded pledging his support for the project and wished the group all the best. Cllr. K. McCarthy stated that it was a fantastic idea and commended the work. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that it was a great to see the various clubs coming together and that this sets a precedent for other clubs to follow and thanked the group for coming to the meeting.

Cllr. A. Barry queried who would own the facility once it was completed and asked how it would be funded and run going forward. Frank McCall replied that Cobh Wanderers would continue to own the land but that a long-term lease would be put in place to facilitate the running of the facility. Trustees would be appointed from the four clubs involved, together with several independent trustees. Revenue would be generated from the lease and from rental income, from the clubs involved and other sporting bodies would also be accommodated. Mark Farrell stated that it was estimated that the facility would cost in the region of €580,000 to build and it is anticipated that it would be debt-free when it opened as a result of a concerted fund-raising campaign. The annual running cost was estimated to be in the region of €14,000 and a business plan had been prepared which projected that this cost would be covered by the rental from the four clubs as well as rental income from the general public, business leagues, schools etc. It was also envisaged to build in an annual surplus to cover long-term

maintenance such as the replacement of the Astroturf. Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated that it was good to see a long term business plan in place for the facility and gave his support to the project.

2. **DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen queried the minutes as presented, seeking an amendment to include the fact that he had raised the issue of the toilets at the Five Foot Way.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September were adopted subject to that amendment.

3. **MATTERS ARISING:**

**Joint Cobh/East Cork Municipal Meeting:**

P. Lynch stated that it had been agreed to hold a further joint meeting of the Cobh and East Cork Municipal Districts before the proposed works would go out to public consultation. He had been advised that the consultants were now ready to meet with the members again and that Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October in County Hall was being suggested. He stated that the matter had been discussed that morning at the East Cork Municipal District meeting and that the majority of members were happy with the suggested date. He stated that one member had asked if it would be possible to meet on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>. However, he stated that he would be proposing to the members later in the meeting that the Budget meeting take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. Barry to hold the meeting at 9.45 a.m. on October 15<sup>th</sup>. P. Lynch stated that the Agenda would issue at a later date.

**Irish Rail:**

P. Lynch confirmed that a letter had issued to Irish Rail requesting that the vegetation adjoining the rail line be cut back so as not to infringe on the adjacent footpaths. Cllr. Rasmussen asked if direct contact had been made with Irish Rail in addition to correspondence, the engineer confirmed that he has spoken to a representative of Irish Rail and that the work would be carried out. Cllr. K. McCarthy again raised the issue of trains not running due to a lack of staff and was concerned that the rail line was being downgraded, particularly as the Cobh Connect bus service was introducing several late night services. Cllr. C. Rasmussen agreed with Cllr. McCarthy and on the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, it was agreed to request a meeting with Irish Rail to discuss the future of the rail line.

**Planning & Housing Section, County Hall:**

P. Lynch confirmed that letters had been sent to both the Planning and the Housing section of Cork County Council as requested by Cllr. C. Rasmussen. P. Lynch will also follow up the issues raised with the Planning Policy Section of the County Council.

**Camper Van Area, Cobh:**

P. Lynch stated that the report requested by the members at September's meeting, would be available at the November meeting. Cllr. Rasmussen again raised the issue of toilets at the Five Foot Way, P. Lynch confirmed that a new architect had been appointed to deal with this and a meeting was to be arranged.

**Battery Strand & Waterfront, Cobh:**

Cllr. D. Ó'Cadhlá stated he had been advised that the Fire Brigade could not access the area recently. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that he had also raised the issue at the Southern Committee. P. Lynch confirmed that he had contacted Coastal Management and was awaiting a response to the issues raised by members.

**Sydney City Council:**

P. Lynch informed the members that a letter had been sent to Sydney City Council.

**Pilot Boat Pier, Cobh:**

P. Lynch stated he had written to Irish Water regarding the sewage leak and confirmed that the leak had been repaired and that Coastal Management had been contacted regarding the breakwater, however no response had been received as of yet.

**Whites Cross Planning Issues:**

P. Lynch stated that a letter had been issued to the Planning Section of Cork County Council.

**Disabled Spaces:**

The engineer confirmed that works were listed at St. Josephs Place, Glanmire, Wolfe Tone Street and Assumption Place, Cobh.

**Rosemount Estate, Kilcully:**

The engineer confirmed the drains had been cleaned at this estate.

**Footpath at Coolamber Estate, Cobh:**

The engineer confirmed that the footpath was listed for repair.

**Harper's Island, Glounthaune:**

P. Lynch stated that a letter had issued to the Glounthaune Community Association.

**Station Road, Carrigwohill:**

The engineer confirmed that the road lining had been completed at this location.

**Carrigaloe, Cobh:**

The engineer stated that the wall at this location had been listed for repair and works would begin shortly.

**Fota Emergency Route:**

The engineer reported that works on the emergency route had commenced and would shortly be expanded to include the estate road, it was envisaged that the road would be ready for the end of October. Cllr. Rasmussen sought clarification on how it was proposed to trigger the use of the road by emergency vehicles.

**Sarsfield's Court Hospital:**

G. O'Hara stated that a review of the speed limits in the Municipal District had been carried out last year and suggested that the area could be re-examined when the speed limits are due to reviewed again in three years.

**Copper Valley Fence:**

The wall at this location has been listed for works following an examination by the engineer.

**Glyntown Close:**

The drains at this location have been listed for works following an inspection.

**Oakfield Estate, Glanmire:**

G. O’Hora stated the maintenance of trees within an estate should be treated by residents in the same way as grass cutting; the Council unfortunately does not have the funding or resources to deal with such trees unless they are in a dangerous condition. Cllr. G. Keohane indicted to the engineer that the tree in question was on Council owned land, the engineer to investigate further.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- (a) P. Lynch stated that a reply had been received from the Housing Department of Cork County Council, which outlined that the motion in relation put forward by the members of Cobh Municipal District had been passed by full Council with an amendment to widen the motion to include a request that income limits be raised across the entire County.
- (b) Rushbrooke Rowing Club had written to the Members to thank them for their recent support of the Rowing Championships. Cllr. S. Sheppard queried whether additional funding was available to the Rowing Club, as their initial allocation had been re-directed to funding the Championships. P. Lynch replied that it would be next month before he was in a position to clarify whether any additional funds were available.
- (c) Truly Scrumptious had written to the Members to express concern that under the proposed new County wide Casual Trading Bye-laws it would not be possible for them to continue to operate a Coffee Stall in the Promenade or the Farmers Market. P. Lynch stated that the new byelaws would only cover trading on public roads and did not apply to the Promenade, however there was nothing to stop the members from facilitating this group or any other by amending the Parks Use Policy and he would revert to the members with a full report outlining the options open to them at the next meeting. Cllr. Sheppard queried whether the process to amend the Parks Use Policy was the same as amending the Byelaws, P. Lynch replied that as the policy was not a byelaw, the same process did not apply.

**5. OFFICERS REPORTS:**

G. O’Hora invited suggestions from the members for CIS or LIS schemes for 2019. Cllr. S. Sheppard took the opportunity to thank the engineers for the work undertaken to date at College Manor, Cobh. Cllr. P. O’Sullivan reminded the members of one LIS in Killeens which didn’t go ahead this year and asked that it would be included for 2019. Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked whether improvement works for Roches Row were going ahead and was assured that they were. The members will revert to G. O’Hora with any further suggestions for schemes for 2019.

G. O’Hora stated that under the Safety Improvement Scheme it was proposed that works would take place at the following locations in 2019:

- (a) Kilcully Junction
- (b) Killard
- (c) Upper Glanmire
- (d) Carrigtwohill

Mr. O’Hora stated that he would be seeking funding from the Department to fund these schemes for next year. Cllr. Rasmussen requested that electric signs for the other half of the Tay Road in Cobh also be considered under this scheme. Cllr. Sheppard again brought up the situation at Ahern’s Place, Cobh, the Pedestrian Lights are too close to the corner and there is excessive speed at this location. Cllr. Sheppard also raised the issue of speed at O’Sullivan’s Place, as cars gather speed coming down the hill. G. O’Hora replied that any improvement works at these locations and others were subject to funding. Cllr. O’Sullivan sought electronic speed signs at Knockraha and Little Island. Cllr. Barry requested the same for Carrigtwohill. G. O’Hora stated that these works were funded under a different scheme and will be examined again in light of the funding received for 2019.

**6. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER REPORT:**

P. Lynch presented the MDO report for October. Claims continue to be processed under the General Municipal Allocation, to date 37 claims have been finalised, totalling €58,540.00. In addition 7 claims, totalling €11,000.00 have been processed under the Town Development Fund. The Camper van facility continues to generate income, to date in excess of €20,000.00 has been collected. The number of Casual Trading and other Licences issued to end October is 25, however at least an additional 8 interested parties were unable to be accommodated. Cllr. Sheppard asked if the Casual Trading requirements could be reviewed and amended by the members. However S. O’Callaghan stated that new county wide Casual Trading Byelaws had been prepared but were being held up by a legal challenge, in the meantime the byelaws introduced by Cobh Town Council in 2014 remain in force and cannot be reviewed or changed.

**7. DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN 2019:**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that the meeting to discuss the Draft Budget Plan for 2019 would take place on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 at 10 a.m.

**8. DRAFT PLAYGROUND BYE LAWS:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen welcomed the introduction of the byelaws but queried how they will be enforced. P. Lynch replied that the byelaws allowed for the appointment of an ‘Authorised Person’ by the Council or the Gardaí. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to recommend that the byelaws be put on public display and revert to full Council.

**9. PART 8 PLANNING APPLICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SERVICE BUILDING CONSISTING OF 2 NO. PUBLIC TOILETS, A MAINTENANCE/STORAGE ROOM AND A CARETAKER ROOM ON**

**HAULBOWLINE ISLAND PUBLIC RECREATIONAL AMENITY,  
HAULBOWLINE, CO CORK**

P. Lynch stated that three submissions had been received in relation to the above Part 8 development at Haulbowline, one of which had recommended a flood risk assessment. It was noted that the original planning application for the Remediation works included a flood risk assessment. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy it was recommended that proposed development proceed as advertised.

**10. PART 8 PLANNING APPLICATION FOR INSTALLATION OF FLOATING JETTY (PONTOON AND GANGWAY SYSTEM) TO EXISTING PIER, WHICH IS A PROTECTED STRUCTURE, AT KENNEDY PIER, KILGARVAN, COBH, CO CORK**

P. Lynch stated that 5 submissions were received in relation to the above Part 8 Development at Kennedy Pier. Two of the submissions proposed that the facility should be available for amenity use; the Port of Cork stated that while the primary use is to facilitate the ferry service to Spike Island, it may be possible to make the facility available to other users on a short term basis subject to prior approval. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy it was recommended that proposed development proceed as advertised.

**11. PART 8 PLANNING APPLICATION FOR INSTALLATION OF JACK DOYLE STATUE AT WEST BEACH, KILGARVAN, COBH, CO. CORK**

P. Lynch stated 7 submissions were received in relation to the Part 8 development at West Beach. A number of submissions either in their entirety or partly raised issues outside of the scope of the planning process and therefore could not be considered. Both the County Architects Department and the Conservation Officer raised concerns in relation to the location, referring to the area as ‘cluttered’, the proposal would restrict universal access and that the proposed location would be subject to disruption during the public realm improvement works. In view of the reports received, P. Lynch recommended that the development not be proceeded with. If the members wished to proceed with the installation of the statue at another location, P. Lynch recommended that the views of the Conservation Officer and the County Architect’s Department be sought in advance of any formal Part 8 process commencing.

Cllr. D. Ó’Cadhla stated he was astounded at some of the comments submitted, particularly those from Cobh Tourism who were one of the bodies which had organised the mural to Jack Doyle and had not expressed any opinion on the alleged accusations of domestic violence against Jack Doyle at that time. Cllr. Ó’Cadhla did not agree with the view that the area in question was ‘cluttered’, he stated that the footpath was very wide at the point and expressed surprise at the use of this term by professionals.

Cllr. K. McCarthy also expressed surprise at the negatives comments contained in the submissions and stated that there was no evidence to back up allegations of violence against women by Jack Doyle while he was alive and that that the man was not now in a position to defend himself. Cllr. McCarthy stated that Jack Doyle had put Cobh on the map and that the negative comments should not be taken into consideration.

Cllr. A. Barry asked if the local engineers were happy with the location from an engineering point of view, which they were.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that there were already three locations with tributes to Jack Doyle in town and queried whether another was warranted. Both Cllrs. Rasmussen and Sheppard stated that they did not wish to comment on the merits of the application but wanted the application to run its course and be decided on by full Council.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Ó'Cadhlá, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy it was agreed to recommend the proposal to full Council.

**12. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. GER KEOHANE:**

**“That this Municipal would install a zebra crossing between the Copper Valley & the Ashington Housing estate in Brooklodge.”**

Cllr. Keohane stated that a bus regularly dropped children off in this area and that it was dangerous. G. O’Hora pointed out that there was a pedestrian crossing further up the road however he would consider additional signage as an interim measure. On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed to accept this proposal.

**13. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. GER KEOHANE:**

**“That this Municipal extend the parking area opposite the grotto in Glanmire.”**

Cllr. G. Keohane stated that cars parked in this area regularly however some of the vehicles were impinging on the roadway and wanted to deepen the parking area to prevent this. G. O’Hora was not happy that cars were parking in the area in the first instance and was therefore reluctant to make any improvements to the area. On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that the engineer would examine the issue further.

**14. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. GER KEOHANE:**

**“That this Municipal erect a fence in Copper Valley (20ft long approximately) next to main road as a matter of health & safety”**

Cllr. G. Keohane agreed to withdraw the above notice of motion as the matter had already been dealt with by the engineer.

**15. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. CATHAL RASMUSSEN:**

**“That this Municipal District would conduct a proper review of the pay for parking machines in Cobh from an operational point of view. That details would be furnished on the number of times in the past year that each one has been out of**

**order, the cost of repairing them and details of the tracking method for ensuring that they are operational. Also could we have an estimate on the cost of replacing some if not all of them to a newer more modern type of meter”**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the machines keep breaking down and that the system appears very inefficient. He queried whether the issue was the age of the machines or the model being used. He was not happy with the service being provided by the operator and stated that the Tourist office was bearing the brunt of the complaints. He said that tourists wanted to pay but were being prevented by the inefficiency of the machines. Cllr. S. Sheppard asked if new machines could be brought in on a phased basis, as both she and Cllr. Rasmussen acknowledged that the cost of replacing all the machines at once would be prohibitive. R. O’Sullivan stated that some machines were scheduled to be moved for locations with low demand for parking to where the need for a greater density of machines was indicated. P. Lynch stated when the office had been notified of difficulties with a number of machines, then the wardens were instructed not to issue tickets. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard it was agreed that P. Lynch to revert to the members with a full report at the next meeting.

**16. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. CATHAL RASMUSSEN:**

**“That this Municipal would give an updated report on possible new parking locations outside of the town centre itself as was raised months ago and which we are still waiting on”**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the tourist season was entering a quiet time now and the Council should be proactive and address the problem of additional parking spaces now rather than later. It was hoped that the schools would be in a position next year to provide additional parking once the school holidays began. P. Lynch responded by saying that he and the engineer had examined several locations earlier in the year to identify additional parking. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard it was agreed that P. Lynch would revert to the members with a report on where additional parking could be provided.

**17. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. CATHAL RASMUSSEN:**

**“That this Municipal District look at means of resolving the dumping of Rubbish in the Harbour Row area of Cobh and that steps are taken to prosecute the offenders. That we look at installing CCTV in the area and that any support that is needed by the residents in the area to combat this serious problem is given to them”**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen said in effect that the Council were rewarding the people dumping rubbish by removing same. Cllr. S. Sheppard asked if it would be possible to write to all the residents/landlords in the area to remind them of their responsibilities in relation to waste disposal. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that P. Lynch would contact the Environment Department seeking the installation of temporary CCTV cameras at this location.



**18. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. DIARMAID Ó'CADHLA:**

**“That this Municipal District Council notes that current road access, Belvelly Bridge and the internal road network are grossly inadequate to service the needs Great Island.**

**Council notes that this limitation is preventing the development of the local community and the required housing, industry and tourism in the area, and at times it has left Great Island isolated and, consequently, put people’s lives in danger.**

**Noting that the County Development Plan is due for review in the coming months we request that a plan for the resolution of this strategically important issue be included in the Issue Paper expected to be published in June 2019 and in the Draft CDP due in June 2020.**

**In advance of, and in order to assist this process, we request that draft drawings/plans showing potential new access routes for Great Island be drawn up for consideration by this Municipal District Council as soon as possible.”**

Cllr. Ó’Cadhla stated that it would be impossible to acquire funding for improving the access to the Great Island without a plan and he was seeking a meeting with representatives from County Hall to obtain a copy of any draft proposals for improved road access to and within the Great Island. G. O’Hora stated that the R624 from Slatty’s Bridge to Belvelly had been looked a numbers of years ago but any improvements had been shelved through lack of funding. These plans were now being re-examined which included a detailed analysis of the route and a submission to the Department was currently being prepared. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that a similar motion had been brought the Southern Committee and that prior to his retirement, Mr. T. Stritch had confirmed that the matter was in hand and that County Hall were liaising with the Department to upgrade the R624 to a National Route, which would improve the prospects of receiving funding. Cllr. Ó’ Cadhla asked if it would be possible to get copies of drawings prepared in relation to this issue. G. O’Hora stated that it may be possible to get these drawings. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Ó’Cadhla, seconded by C. Rasmussen it was agreed to formally request that members be provided with drawings showing the proposals for the road access onto Great Island.

**19. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. ANTHONY BARRY:**

**“That Cork County Council design a detailed Streetscape for Carrigtwohill. This design would be an automatic follow on to the 2009 transportation study and last year’s Strategic plan both funded by Cork County Council”**

Cllr. A. Barry stated that Carrigtwohill now had a population in excess of 5,000 and that the population was scheduled to doubling in 10 years. He stated that Carrigtwohill needed to redefine the town centre and was in need of a plan to develop the streetscape, similar to one developed for Cobh. S. O’Callaghan stated that an upgrade of Carrigtwohill town centre was an objective of the County Development Plan and that a plan would be put in place. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. K.

McCarthy, it was agreed to request the Planning and Architects Departments to look at this issue. S. O'Callaghan agreed to talk to both Departments in this regard.

**20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS/AOB GHNÓ EILE:**

**Retirement:**

Cllr. K. McCarthy wished local businessman Danny Corcoran well in his retirement and requested a letter be sent to him thanking him for his service to the community for the last 55 years.

**Congratulations:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen requested that a letter of congratulations be sent to Cobh Tidy Towns, who won a 4<sup>th</sup> Gold Medal in this years' Tidy Towns Competition. Cllr. Rasmussen expressed his thanks to the outdoor staff of the Council who support the work of the Tidy Towns Committee on a daily basis.

**St. Marys Close, Cobh:**

Cllr. Rasmussen raised the issue of grass cutting at this County Council estate, he stated that the residents, many of which were elderly, were employing a contractor to cut the grass and queried why the Council were no longer cutting the grass here. Engineer to investigate.

**Pedestrian Crossing at Coláiste Muire, Cobh:**

Cllr. Rasmussen requested an update. Engineer to supply report at November meeting.

**Local Area Plan:**

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired when the Local Area Plan was due to be reviewed. P. Lynch stated that the Cobh Town Council plan was still in force until 2020.

**Church Car Park, Carrigtwohill:**

Cllr. Barry stated that the potholes were very bad at this location. Engineer to examine.

**Roches Row, Cobh:**

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired when the road resurfacing works would be taking place at Roches Row. The engineer confirmed works would begin in October.

**Rockgrove, Little Island:**

Cllr. Barry stated that the road surface was very bad. Engineer to examine.

**Drains Top of the Hill, Cobh:**

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the drains at this location badly needed to be cleared. G. O'Hora replied that Cork Drain Cleaning were scheduled to begin works shortly.

**Footpath, Top of the Hill, Cobh:**

Cllr. Rasmussen stated the footpath outside of the Youth Centre at Top of the Hill was damaged. Engineer to examine.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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**Cathaoirleach**

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**Municipal District Officer.**