

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH, ON TUESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2017

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

Officials Present:

Ms. M. Ryan, Director of Services
Mr. S. O’Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. G. O’Hora, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. R. O’Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

Apologies were received from Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer.

1. DEIMHNIU MIONTUAIRISCI – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. Barry, the Minutes of the Cobh Municipal District Meeting held on 11th July, 2017, were adopted.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Carrigtwohill

G. O’Hora stated that the bollard at the junction of Main Street and Station Road in Carrigtwohill had been listed for replacement.

Brookvale Estate

G. O’Hora stated that the footpaths in the area were listed for repair.

Sydney, Australia – Town Twinning

S. O’Callaghan stated that Town Twinning was a reserved function of the Council which could be performed either by the full Council or the Municipal District. In May 2015 it was decided that twinning with cities would take place at full Council level and therefore the Cobh Municipal District could not initiate twinning with Sydney but could do so at a more local level e.g. a suburb within Sydney, a formal assessment would be required and it would be necessary to liaise with the Australian embassy. Cllr. Ó’Cadhla stated that the Australian Ambassador was very interested in pursuing a closer link with Cobh and as Cork County does not have a city in its functional area, perhaps Cobh Harbour could be linked with the Sydney Harbour area. Cllr. McCarthy said that the annual Australian day held in Cobh had been very successful over the last number of years and that the Australian visitors tended to remain in the town. S. O’Callaghan stated that he would discuss the proposal with the Corporate Affairs department and P. Lynch.

Development Committee Meeting

The meeting of the Council's Development Committee will take place on Friday 20th October, in the Commodore Hotel.

Business Houses in Cobh

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to whether letters had been sent to all businesses in Cobh regarding sweeping outside of their premises and the presentation of their litter for collection. S. O'Callaghan confirmed that the letters had issued.

Pedestrian Crossing at Coláiste Mhuire, Cobh

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to the progress of the pedestrian crossing at Coláiste Mhuire and the timeline for same. G. O'Hora confirmed the council's road design office are presently preparing crossing layout drawings and once layout drawings have been approved by members, the Part VIII, public consultation process (12 weeks) will commence.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter of invitation from the Sea Angling Club inviting the members to the official opening of the 51st International Sea Angling Festival had previously been circulated.

4. OFFICER'S REPORTS

A report from Mr. Enda Kiernan, Senior Executive Engineer regarding illegal dumping at Nash's Boreen was circulated to members, Mr. S. O'Callaghan confirmed that "CCTV in Operation" signs had been erected and temporary CCTV cameras will be placed at the location. Members welcomed Mr. Kiernan's report.

5. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

To consider the disposal of land at Kilcoolishal, Glanmire, to Mr. Tadhg Harris, for the consideration of €1 plus Council's costs. Proposed by Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. Barry.

6. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

To consider the disposal and grant of Right of Way of an MV Substation at Riverstown, Glanmire, to ESB Networks, for the consideration of €1. Proposed by Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy.

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

S. O'Callaghan stated that the Bye Laws had been referred back to the Council's Traffic Unit in order to take the members comments into consideration. What is now proposed are seven waiting spaces and three taxi spaces. The taxi spaces are on the south side of the road and the seven waiting spaces are to be on the south side of the road, four on the town side of the mural and the three other at the other side of the mural. A drawing of the new layout is to be made available for the next meeting. The Council Traffic and Transportation Unit has forwarded the revised proposal to An Garda Síochána for comment. Cllr. McCarthy enquired as to the proposed time line

for the implementation of the byelaws, as the current situation is not sustainable and is getting worse. S. O’Callaghan replied that the decision rests with the members, once the byelaws have been approved, the road lining and signage won’t take long and the Taxi Regulator has agreed to provide staff to implement the bye laws.

8. HOUSING REPORT FOR COBH

The Housing Report for the Municipal District was circulated to the members. S. O’Callaghan stated that this report would be provided to the members quarterly going forward and that any questions should be raised at the Divisional meeting where housing department staff would be on hand.

9. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Ger Keohane:

“That this Municipal put in place a permanent solution to the ongoing severe flooding that occurs outside the new Lidl in Glanmire and at the John Barleycorn Bridge. On Sunday the 20th August due to the heavy rain fall these roads were impassable which led to severe traffic congestion again. People are fearful that there will be a serious injury if this ongoing problem is not addressed properly.”

G. O’Hora replied that an engineer had met with Manger from Lidl to examine the drainage network. It would appear that gullies installed as part of the planning permission were not working effectively. Lidl management have agreed to rectify this, Cork County Council will also install additional gullies. Proposed by Cllr. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. O’Sullivan.

10. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:

“That this Council make an approach to the OPW regarding lands in their ownership on Main Street Carrigtwohill with a view to getting these lands transferred to the local authority. Carrigtwohill Community Council and the tidy towns group are interested in developing a community garden type project on the site and because of its strategic location it would be perfect for this type of activity”.

Cllr. Barry stated that he had spoken to Minister K. Moran regarding the land owned by the O.P.W. Minister Moran indicated that if a formal request were to be received from Cork County Council that he would be prepared to look favourably on issuing a long term lease. P. Lynch will obtain a map of the lands in question from Cllr. Barry and discuss the above with the property section before approaching the O.P.W. Proposed by Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy.

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

“Owing to the congestion and chaos at the area outside the heritage centre with cars reversing onto the roundabout from the 5 parking bays at the bottom of the steps that we reduce the parking bays to 2 and that the cars would be parked lengthways instead”.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the roundabout had provided a safe area to cross the road at this point; he was now proposing to reduce the parking spaces in order to mark the area safer. G. O’Hora replied that he had examined the area and was prepared to

reduce the number of perpendicular car parking spaces and replace them with longitudinal spaces to reduce traffic congestion on the roundabout. Proposed by Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy.

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

“Owing to the serious concern about the speed on the Tay road from Cow Cross to the Ballynoe end of the road that rumble strips be located to slow the cars down and also that an electronic speed sign be erected on this section also”.

Cllr. Rasmussen reiterated that the Tay Road was very dangerous, the residents needed help and that the signage at Carrigaloe had had an impact on speeding in that area. G. O’Hora replied that the areas in which rumble strips can be introduced are restricted, however he was proposing to install extra signage and reminded Councillors that following the Speed Limit Review the speed limit would be dropping to 50Km. G. O’Hora indicated that it may be possible to install a Variable Message Sign (VMS) in this area also and that the speeds on the road can be measured through the sign. Proposed by Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy.

13. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Kieran McCarthy:

"That this Council agrees that the historic anchor of the 1916 arms ship 'Aud' should remain on public display at Cobh Heritage Centre, and that this Council will oppose any attempts to move the anchor to Spike Island. And that if passed, this motion will be forwarded to a full County Council meeting for its support, and to the National Museum for its attention."

Cllr. McCarthy stated that he is aware of a proposal to relocate the Aud Anchor from the Heritage Centre to Spike Island. Cllr. McCarthy believes if the anchor is relocated on Spike Island, then it will be excluded from public view. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the National Museum owns the Aud anchor and if they decide that it needs to be moved, this will happen, however he personally wished it to stay where it was. S. O’Callaghan stated that the Councils’ Heritage Officer, C. Nelligan had been in contact with the National Museum and that he would bring the Members concerns to the Heritage Officer prior to the meeting with the Museum. S. O’Callaghan reminded the Councillors that location of the Aud anchor was not a decision for the Council, however it was clear that Cllr. McCarthy had the support of the members for his proposal. Mr. O’Callaghan stated that the Board of the Heritage Centre have no objection to the anchor being related to Spike Island. It was proposed by Cllr. McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Ó’Cadhla, that Cobh Municipal District would write to the National Museum requesting that the Aud Anchor stay in Cobh.

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

“That the Municipal District Council supports the idea that a statue of Jack Doyle be erected at a prominent location on the main town frontage”.

Cllr. Ó’Cadhla stated Jack Doyle was a prominent personality in his day and that a statue would be very popular with the people of Cobh, however the initiative would require a lot of work and fundraising to come to fruition, he queried whether this proposal could be considered by Irish Water as part of their contribution for Arts as part of the Lower Harbour Scheme. P. Lynch is to discuss same with S. O’Callaghan.

The motion received a positive reaction from the other members, proposed by Cllr. Ó' Cadhla and seconded by Cllr. Barry.

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

“That the Municipal District Council liaise with relevant Council departments in order to find accommodation on Great Island for the storage of a Marquee with trailer should funding for it be granted by SECAD via the Cobh Summer Swing group”

Cllr. Ó' Cadhla stated that Cobh Summer Swing had received the grant for the purchase of the Marquee but were now seeking suitable storage for same, which would also be available to other volunteer groups on the Great Island for hire for a small sum, who would need to provide their own public liability insurance. R. O'Sullivan stated that in order to ascertain what storage was available, he would need information on the dimensions of the marquee and trailer. G. O'Hora queried whether insurance against theft etc was in place. Cllr. Keohane proposed deferring the motion until further information was provided, he was of the opinion that the funding already provided was to cover storage. On the proposal of Cllr. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan it was decided to seek clarification of the dimensions and the terms of the funding already granted.

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

“Noting that 2018 is the European Year for Cultural Heritage and also EU-China Tourism Year that this Council should support efforts to capitalise on the opportunities presented, In particular, Cobh town should be submitted for the award of "European Capital of Smart Tourism", for which competition is taking place in 2018 and again in 2019 - Cork County Council's China connections and also Cobh's status in regards to approval by China Tourism should be utilised in seeking such recognition.”

Cllr. Ó' Cadhla emphasised that Cobh should take advantage of the opportunities presented by these awards and capitalise on the links already forged with the Chinese Tourism sector, through the initiatives instigated by Cobh Tourism in developing access to the Chinese market. S. O'Callaghan reminded members that Cobh Municipal District had provided the funding to members of Cobh Tourism to undertake the training which underpinned their recent awards and when the details of this award were formally announced, they would be forwarded to the section of Cork County Council dealing with China. Proposed by Cllr. Ó' Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. Sheppard.

17. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Padraic O'Sullivan:

“That flooding issues identified previously in Little Island (by Jones Engineering) Glounthaune (by the car dealers) and Glanmire (by Lidl) are prioritised immediately”.

Cllr. O'Sullivan reiterated the problems being caused for residents and road users in the above locations by flooding. G. O'Hora stated the gully adjacent to Jones Engineering was listed for clearing and that further works had been carried out in the Rockgrove area which should solve the issue. Council officials had met with the

management of Lidl to discuss the ongoing issues there, works to be initiated which should alleviate the problem. Proposed by Cllr. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. Sheppard.

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

That traffic calming measures be considered for post office road in Little Island outside the Meadow Lawn estate where the current sight lines are completely unsatisfactory.” Cllr. O’Sullivan stated the large trees on private property are interfering with road sightlines and causing a danger to road users. G. O’Hora responded that it is the landowners responsibility to remove same and he would examine the matter. Proposed by Cllr. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. Keohane.

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

“That Cork County Council write to Cork City Council reminding them of their responsibility to maintain the protected structure on their lands in Carrigrennan. The tower/castle at present is in a terrible condition and continues to be neglected”. It was agreed that P. Lynch would write to Cork City Council regarding same, proposed by Cllr. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. Sheppard.

20. Any Other Business/Aon Ghnó Eile

20.1 It was suggested by Cllr. Ó’Cadhla, that Cobh Municipal District meet with Cobh Tourism.

20.2 Cllr. Rasmussen stated that several business owners are leaving bins out for collection for a number of days, in particular in the vicinity of the Tourist Office. He wants another letter to issued to the business owners to remind them that it is not in order to bins to be out for collection all week.

20.3 Cllr. Rasmussen sought an update on the amount of money being generated by the Camper van parking area. R. O’Sullivan stated approximately €4,800.00 in about 4 weeks, however the machine was out of order for one of those weeks. Cllr. Rasmussen commented that he felt this was low and that he was keeping his own records of use. R. O’Sullivan stated that the cost of a second machine which would take both coins and notes was being investigated.

20.4 Cllr. Rasmussen raised the issue of the footpath at Knockraha near the new estate. Cllr. O’Sullivan stated that a there was a gap of about 10 feet and that the planning permission had required a new footpath be installed at Glenn Heights (the new estate). G. O’Hora confirmed the footpath works would commence shortly.

20.5 Cllr. Rasmussen wanted an update on the new Barry’s bus routes. R. O’Sullivan stated that the sockets were already in place and they were waiting on the signs.

- 20.6 Cllr. Rasmussen raised again the issue of buses parking near the Deep Water Quay, can the Council prevent buses parking in certain areas? Cllr. Rasmussen requested that Cobh MD write to the Gardai about traffic enforcement.
- 20.7 Cllr. Rasmussen sought an update on the school warden vacancies for St. Marys National School, Cobh.
- 20.8 Cllr. Rasmussen also sought an update on the lower harbour scheme and wants to invite Irish Water to make a presentation at the next meeting, complete with new drawings
- 20.9 Cllr. McCarthy stated that another sign was required for the Pearse Square area, clearly defining the taxi rank, in particular the ‘feeder’ bay.
- 20.10 Cllr. McCarthy raised the issue of speeding on the Newtown Road and the requirement for a pedestrian crossing near the Spar Shop. G. O’Hora to examine.
- 20.11 Cllr. Ó’Cadhla sought clarification on whether the public right of way at Barnavara Crescent had actually been extinguished and also raised concern about the lack of keys to the gate and the correct process to obtain a key.
- 20.12 Cllr. Sheppard raised concerns about the traffic at Aherns Place, she had met with residents in the area.
- 20.13 Cllr. Sheppard also raised the issue of drains at Top of the Hill, Cobh. G. O’Hora confirmed a programme of works for cleaning road drainage gullies has commenced in Cobh and cleaning of these drains have been included in the programme.
- 20.14 Cllr. Sheppard requested a report on the paint scheme.
- 20.15 Cllr. Keohane raised the issue of flooding at Carneys Cross, he stated that the bridge had also recently been damaged. G. O’Hora stated the bridge walls were recently damaged by a H.G.V. and would be repaired shortly.
- 20.16 Cllr. Keohane enquired about a speed ramp for Fernwood Estate, from numbers 1 – 25.
- 20.17 Cllr. O’Sullivan stated that a planning application was being considered for land adjacent to Fernwood Estate, could the approach roads be surveyed as part of the planning process for an addition 400 units.
- 20.18 Cllr. O’Sullivan raised concerns about a storm drain at Little Island which was discharging sewerage onto the public footpath and road and causing a public health issue. He had contacted Irish Water and was informed that they would not be dealing with this issue as it was being caused by a problem on private land. Cllr. Sheppard commented that a similar situation had arisen at Assumption Place, Cobh and Irish Water had cleared that.
- 20.19 Cllr. O’Sullivan welcomed a new County Council policy had been initiated which involved cleaning all road signs however he was seeking additional signage for the

New Line, there were no road numbers on the roads in the area, causing difficulty for the emergency services. Also a sign had recently been knocked over at the bridge.

- 20.20 Cllr. O’Sullivan enquired as to what was the updated situation regarding addition signs for housing estates under the speed limit review.
- 20.21 Cllr. O’Sullivan raised the issue of a low cost safety scheme for Upper Glanmire School. G. O’Hora stated that LCSS works were to commence shortly
- 20.22 Cllr. O’Sullivan enquired as to when was the optimal time for spraying Japanese Knotweed and if the Council have a spraying programme. G. O’Hora replied that where an infestation interfered with traffic sightlines on road junctions or infestations on council lands, etc., members should bring it to the attention of Council officials, a programme for the treatment of Japanese Knotweed at these locations would be examined.
- 20.23 Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to whether any decision had yet been made regarding the pay parking dividend as the Sea Angling Festival had requested additional funding. S. O’Callaghan replied that he had raised the pay parking dividend with the head of the Finance Department, and that it was yet to go before the CPG.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer