

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH ON THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017.**

**Present:** Councillors P. O’Sullivan, C. Rasmussen, A. Barry, G. Keohane & D. Ó’Cadhla.

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

An apology for their inability to attend was received from Cllrs. Sheppard and McCarthy and from Mr. G. O’Hora.

**1. HARPERS ISLAND PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Jim Wilson of Birdwatch Ireland presented a document outlining the current and future plans for the Harper’s Island Wetland Centre. Mr. Wilson detailed the importance of the centre as both a bird sanctuary and an amenity for the community of Glounthaune and the surrounding areas. He stated that the facility had been developed by Cork County Council in partnership with Birdwatch Ireland and Glounthaune Community Association with assistance from the National Parks & Wildlife Service. He thanked the members and Cork County Council for their support to date and looked forward to showing them the progress so far at the official opening on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Cllr. A. Barry stated that the potential for the site for educational purposes was enormous and congratulated all involved. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the facility was an outstanding example of what could be achieved by a community with the right project. Cllr. P. O’Sullivan wanted to extend his thanks to all the volunteers who have brought the facility to its current state. P. Lynch stated that the facility, while currently in the ownership of Cork County Council was to transfer to the National Parks & Wildlife Service and that that organisation would then work to develop the site further.

Mr. Wilson then withdrew.

**2. DEIMHNIÚ – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry the Minutes of Budget Meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 and the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017, were adopted.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING:**

#### **WATERGRASSHILL:**

R. O'Sullivan referred to the Notice of Motion calling for traffic calming measures on the road outside Watergrasshill N.S. and advised the members that the stretch of road in question was in the Fermoy Municipal District.

#### **FOTA ROAD EMERGENCY ROUTE:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that a new emergency route through Fota Island had been identified and that this would require only minimal works to bring it on line. Cork County Council would continue to work with the owners of Fota Island to progress this route.

#### **TICKNOCK HILL**

P. Lynch confirmed he had written to Irish Water regarding the watermain at Ticknock Hill and was awaiting a response.

#### **SOUTH DOC:**

P. Lynch stated that he had written to South Doc and was awaiting a response.

#### **TOILET AT FIVE FOOT WAY**

P. Lynch stated that an architect had been assigned and he was working on moving this project forward.

#### **COBH ROAD REPAIRS:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that a list of required road works within the Cobh area would be examined and a works schedule will be drawn up in the New Year. Cllr. C. Rasmussen again raised the issue of a traffic management review for the entire town area. S. O'Callaghan replied that the Streetscape project was being worked on and following an assessment by the consulting engineers, several changes were being implemented, when the details have been finalised, then the plan would be presented to the members. S. O'Callaghan stated that he had discussed the concerns raised by Cllr. Rasmussen, with Mr. D. Daly who had confirmed that a Traffic and Mobility study had been carried out in relation to the proposed second cruise terminal by the Port of Cork, separated from the Streetscape works. Mr. Daly indicated that all necessary works in connection with the Streetscape and proposed second cruise terminal would be carried out and if needed then an additional traffic management plan would be considered. Cllr. Rasmussen reiterated that it was not possible to separate the need for an overall traffic management review from either of these projects, as any disruption to traffic flow on the main street of the town would have a knock-on effect in other areas such as Harbour Row, East Hill and Top of the Hill, and requested that his concerns would be formally conveyed to Cork County Council.

#### **PRIMARY CARE CENTRE FOR COBH:**

P. Lynch confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Minister for Health, Simon Harris and an acknowledgement received.

#### **MENS SHED, GLOUNTHAUNE**

P. Lynch stated the Engineer had no objection to the proposed location, the property section of Cork County Council had confirmed that the land is in the ownership of the

Council and recommended a lease no longer than 4 years, 11 months. He further stated that planning permission would be required for the project and that the property would not be allowed access to the main road. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed to start the process to lease the land to Glounthaune Men's Shed.

**IDA ESTATE, CARRIGTWOHILL:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that the wall height would be examined and the vegetation overgrowth cut back, which should improve sight lines in the area. Additional road lining and signage would be provided if required.

**ORNAMENTAL LIGHTS, COBH**

R. O'Sullivan stated that he had been in contact with a electrical contractor in relation to straightening the ornamental lights and returning them to working order.

**TOPSOIL AT CARRIGTWOHILL**

R. O'Sullivan stated this work was due to start shortly.

**TAXI RANK, COBH**

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to when the signs and road lines on the Lower Road would be changed. P. Lynch stated that the Transport section was aware of what work was required and this would be carried out in the New Year.

**PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT COLAISTE MUIRE, COBH**

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to progress. R. O'Sullivan replied CCC road design office was progressing layout and design.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE:**

P. Lynch stated only one letter had been received from Mr. Noel Collins, which had been circulated to the members and which referred to a housing issue, rather than an issue for the Municipal District. In response to Cllr. Barry, he confirmed that the Housing Department were aware of the issue raised in the letter and had dealt with it.

**5. OFFICERS REPORTS:**

**1. Barnavara Crescent:**

At the November meeting of Cobh Municipal District, a question was raised as to the decision made by the members in relation to the Public Right of Way at Barnavara Estate in November 2016. At that meeting a proposal was made to extinguish the Right of Way. An amended proposal was then made calling for the erection of gates at this location. The minutes record that the amended proposal was adopted. The question raised was in relation to what decision was actually made at the meeting and whether or not the members had actually approved the extinguishment of the public right of way. It was agreed that the matter would be referred to the County Solicitor's office for their consideration. P. Lynch received a response in relation to this query which states that the minutes do not fully clarify what the actual decision made by the members was. The response states that if the members are satisfied that what was approved also included the extinguishment aspect then the query becomes one about the format of the

minutes only. If that is the case, the members have the option of tabling a proposal that the minutes of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> of November, 2016 would be clarified/amended to reflect the fact that the proposal approved provide for both (a) an extinguishment of the public right of way and (b) the provision of a gate. On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the above amendment was adopted. Cllr. D. Ó'Cadhlá opposed the amendment of the record.

**2. Civic Reception for Cobh & Glounthaune Tidy Towns:**

S. O'Callaghan stated that Civic Receptions were being held in all Municipal Districts for all Tidy Towns Groups that had won awards in the 2017 competition. In the Cobh Municipal District, Cobh Tidy Towns had retained its Gold Medal for the third consecutive year, while Glounthaune Tidy Towns had won a Regional Award for Waterways and Community. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. Barry, it was agreed to accord a Civic Reception to Cobh Tidy Towns Committee and Glounthaune Tidy Towns Committee. It was agreed that the Civic Reception would be held on the date of the January meeting of the Municipal District.

**3. Village Enhancement Fund 2018:**

P. Lynch stated that a fund of €62,500 was available to fund village enhancement works, it was his recommendation to the members that Carrignavar would be the beneficiary in 2018. S. O'Callaghan stated that guidelines were in place for this funding but that the Council would work with the Community Council to identify suitable projects which met the criteria. P. Lynch stated that it was expected an approved plan would be in place by March. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. G. Keohane, it was decided that Carrignavar would receive the Village Enhancement Funding in 2018.

**6. PART 8 – DUNKETTLE CYCLE PATH:**

P. Lynch stated that the Traffic and Transport Section of Cork County Council were seeking approval to commence the Part 8 process in relation to a cycle path around Dunkettle. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he would have preferred to see the drawings before the meeting and queried whether it was possible to defer a decision. Cllr. P. O'Sullivan agreed. Cllr. Barry sought clarification on whether a decision in relation to the cycle path was required or whether it was approval to begin the public consultation phase. P. Lynch clarified that approval to begin the Part 8 process, i.e. public consultation was all that being sought at the moment. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. G. Keohane, it was agreed to begin the Part 8 process.

**7. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY:**

To consider the disposal of Freehold Interest in 49 Belmont Place, Cobh, to Patricia O'Brien & Marian Glen as Executrices in the Estate of Mary Davidson deceased for the consideration of €350 inclusive of administrative charges. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed to dispose of the above property.

**8. DRAFT COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN:**

P. Lynch stated that the original document had been circulated at the November meeting and following this he had received specific proposals from two councillors. Cllr. C. Rasmussen wanted the details of what areas comprised the ten designated clean up zones in Cobh listed. Cllr. D. Ó'Cadhlá wanted the section of the Municipal District Plan on advertising signs changed to one of enforcement of the Council wide policy on advertising. P. Lynch stated that when this policy was approved by full Council, that it would form an appendix of the Cobh Municipal District Litter Management Plan. P. Lynch stated that the members were only being asked to approve the start of the public consultation process not the actual document, it was hoped that the press and radio advert would be in place as soon as possible and copies circulated to the Tidy Towns groups and Business Associations across the Municipal District. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. D. Ó'Cadhlá, it was agreed to begin the public consultation process.

**9. DATE FOR JANUARY 2018 MEETING:**

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. D. Ó'Cadhlá, it was agreed that the January meeting would take place on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 3.30 p.m. It was also agreed that the members would meet a delegation from Glanmire Area Community Association at 3.00 p.m. and that the Civic Reception for Cobh and Glounthaune Tidy Towns Committees would take place immediately after the monthly meeting at 5.30 p.m.

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

“That this Municipal repair the footpaths where necessary, install one speed ramp and one children at play sign in the Parkview housing estate in Carrignavar”. R. O'Sullivan stated that pending funding the footpath repairs and signage would be included in the 2018 footpath repair programme and the provision of a speed ramp would be examined. The motion was proposed by Cllr. G. Keohane and seconded by Cllr. P. O'Sullivan.

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

“That this Municipal carry out traffic calming measures from Animo Bridge to Kilcully Cemetery junction and from the Black Man Pub to Kilcully Cemetery junction, the measures to include rumble/hatching strips and signage. I renew my calls for these measures in light of another severe vehicle accident, trees on council land to be trimmed and private land owners with overgrown trees and hedging to be contacted by Cork County Council on this stretch of road.” R. O'Sullivan stated that the landowners would be contacted in relation to cutting back the private road hedges, the signage would be reviewed in 2018 and the requirement for rumble strips examined. The motion was proposed by Cllr. G. Keohane and seconded by Cllr. P. O'Sullivan.

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

“That this Municipal carry out traffic calming measures on the L-6997-0 road, which is located near Dunkettle (known locally as the dark road)”. R. O'Sullivan stated that he

was aware of the difficulties at this location and would look into putting up additional road safety signage. The motion was proposed by Cllr. G. Keohane and seconded by Cllr. A. Barry.

**13. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Diarmaid O’Cadhla:**

“That rubbish be removed which is completely blocking the passageway shared between the rear of nos. 72, 73, 92 and 93 at Russell Heights as it is a public danger, in particular to young children in one of those houses. Residents request that a ‘*door-type lock*’ be added to the gate to allow controlled access and allow them to prevent recurrence of such build-up – in addition, residents claim that the spikes on top of the gates used around the estate are dangerous to children, one of who was injured recently while climbing on them”. P. Lynch stated that this was a Council housing estate and that the gates in question had been put by Cobh Town Council and if the gates were closed then there was no public access and access was restricted to the residents only, he was aware that Cobh Tidy Towns had carried out clean ups in the Russell Heights estate on numerous occasions. Cllr. Ó’Cadhla stated that it would appear to have been some years since any clean up was done in this particular alleyway. On the proposal by Cllr. Ó’Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen it was agreed to forward the motion to the Housing Department of Cork County Council for action.

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

“That Council approves that the statue of Jack Doyle be located on the footpath at the south-east corner of Pearse Square, as discussed and reviewed recently by members of the statue promoters group and Council staff”. Cllr. Ó’Cadhla stated that he had met with G. O’Hora, Senior Executive Engineer, and he had no objection to the proposed location subject to council approval and Planning Permission. P. Lynch stated that the statue would require both the consent of the Council (as the proposed site was the property of the Council) and planning permission. It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Ó’Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, that P. Lynch would write to the group stating that the Council were prepared to facilitate submission of a planning application. Cllr. O’Cadhla undertook to forward the contact details of the group to P. Lynch to allow the letter to be drafted.

**15. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Diarmaid O’Cadhla:**

“Noting the continuing deepening crisis of homelessness and the difficulties faced by young families, senior citizens and single people alike in finding appropriate and secure accommodation; and noting the stress that continues to exist in the private rental sector, where uncertainty continues, despite the declaration of rent controls and where breaches of minimum standards continue to emerge”.

That Council therefore resolves to:

- a) Requests a list of vacant residential or potentially residential properties, belonging to Cork County Council in the Municipal District so that members can properly access how we might address the problems.

- b) Write to the Minister with responsibility for housing expressing our deep dissatisfaction in regards to Government failure to address the homeless crisis in any effective way and expressing no confidence in their ongoing policy.

The letter should ask the Minister to explain what strategy he has to ensure that no one is left sleeping rough or in sub-standard hostels or shelters this Christmas and beyond.”

It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Ó’Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. Rasmussen, that P. Lynch would write to the Housing Department and request a report for the next meeting detailing all of the vacant houses within the Municipal District, such report to include the address of each property and also that the members would raise the issue at the next Southern Committee meeting. It was also agreed that the motion would be sent to the Minister in relation to item (b) on the Motion.

## 16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS/AON GHNÓ EILE:

### 16.1 Ballyregan Road:

Cllr. A. Barry raised the issue of overgrown hedges on the Ballyregan Road and requested that the landowners be written to. Engineer to write to land owners requesting private hedges to be cut.

### 16.2 Traffic Calming at Sarsfield Hurling Pitch:

Cllr. G. Keohane again raised the issue of traffic at the Sarsfield pitch. Engineer to examine the possibility of an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing in the area.

### 16.3 Carrigtwohill Family Centre:

Cllr. D. O’Cadhla stated that the Carrigtwohill Family Centre were seeking letters from all the members by Friday to support a funding application.

### 16.4 Votes of Congratulations:

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. Rasmussen, it was agreed to extend a vote of Congratulation to Carrigtwohill Community Council on winning their section of the Pride of Place Competition, the awards for which took place recently in Donegal. It was also agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to the staff of Spike Island, which was runner up in the World Travel Awards which took place in Vietnam.

### 16.5 Barryscourt, Carrigtwohill

Cllr. Barry raised the issue of potholes in the Barryscourt/Ballintubber area, particularly on the back road to Middleton. Engineer to examine.

### 16.6 Lidl, Riverstown

Cllr. G. Keohane stated that Lidl have carried out the works required to alleviate the flooding, but it would appear the Council still have not completed the works on their side and therefore flooding was still an issue. R. O’Sullivan replied that new road gullies were constructed by CCC along the road and all the drains in the area had been cleared.

### 16.7 Condolences

Cllr. C. Rasmussen wished to extend his condolences to the family of Paddy Sweeney, Harbour View, who had died recently and who was an ex employee of Cobh Town Council.

16.8 Cobh Playground

Cllr. C. Rasmussen enquired as to the latest status of the playground. S. O'Callaghan replied that the planning procurement procedure was almost complete and that the contract would be awarded before the end of the year.

16.9 Mobile CCTV

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated that he had been referred to the Environment Department about the use of the mobile CCTV unit for black spots, however he had been told to revert to the Municipal District in relation to this. S. O'Callaghan clarified that the Environment department used the Mobile CCTV unit for known black spots and not as a roving deterrent and that the CCTV units installed in other areas in the County had been installed by the relevant Town Councils prior to abolition and that the footage was monitored by the Department of Justice and local Gardaí due to data protection issues. Cllr. G. Keohane queried why CCTV could not be installed in John O'Callaghan Park to deal with anti-social behaviour. S. O'Callaghan explained that this was related to the data protection issue, compounded by the fact that children would be recorded.

16.10 Flood Relief Works for Glanmire

Cllr. G. Keohane enquired whether the transfer of the Glanmire area to the City Council area would impact on the proposed flood relief works. S. O'Callaghan stated that the works were an OPW led project and therefore the transfer to another local authority area won't have any effect.

16.11 Derelict Sites

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan raised the issue of two derelict sites, the old Sunset Ridge Hotel at Killeens and a bungalow outside of Lios Cara. P. Lynch stated that the issue of derelict sites and how they are dealt with was being re-examined on a County level. He stated that he would examine the files on these two sites and discuss them with the relevant engineers.

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan wished the members and staff a Happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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***Cathaoirleach.***

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***Municipal District Officer***