

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH ON MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER, 2017.

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

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

1. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy it was agreed to suspend standing orders in order to congratulate the Spike Island Development Company on being named as Europe’s leading tourist attraction at the prestigious World Travel Awards 2017. Cllr. O’Sullivan stated that all involved in the project, from conception to completion, should be proud of what they had achieved in such a short space of time and congratulations were in order to all involved. Cllr. O’Sullivan urged Fáilte Ireland to provide funding for completion of the project. All of the Councillors agreed that the accolade was a boost to Spike Island and the Cobh area in general and offered congratulations to all involved. On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to write to Fáilte Ireland asking them to look favourably on any future application for funding for the next phase of development.

2. S38 REPORT ON PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN CARRIGTWOHILL

Mark O’Sullivan from the Roads Design Office presented a Section 38 Report for the proposed L3680 Main Street, Carrigtwohill, Pedestrian Crossing, pursuant to the provisions of the Roads Traffic Act, 1994. Mr. O’Sullivan detailed the public awareness process, submissions received and the recommendations of the Senior Executive Engineer. Cllr. A. Barry stated that the crossing was much needed at this location and enquired as to whether a railing was to be erected at the primary school and when it was proposed to start work. M. O’Sullivan stated that it was hoped that the work would commence in the latter part of this year and that when he spoke to the Principal of the school, the requirement for a railing was not mentioned and no submission had been received from the school. Mr. O’Sullivan was not in favour of a railing at this point, however it could be added later if the need arose. G. O’Hora extended his thanks to Mr. O’Sullivan and the roads design team for their work. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen the contents of the report were approved.

3. DEIMHNIU MIONTUAIRISCI – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, the minutes of the Cobh Municipal District Meeting held on 12th September, 2017 were adopted.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Sydney, Australia – Town Twinning

S. O’Callaghan stated that he had raised this matter with the relevant department and was awaiting a reply.

OPW Lands at Carrigtwohill

Cllr. A. Barry submitted a map to P. Lynch. It was agreed that the map would be sent directly to Minister Moran as the matter had already been discussed with him.

Parking outside Heritage Centre, Cobh.

G. O’Hora stated that the works had been carried out and there were now 3 car parking spaces provided.

Tay Road, Cobh

G. O’Hora stated that new signs were being placed on the Tay Road to indicate the new slower speed of 50Km now applicable, it was also proposed to place a VMS sign at the Cow Cross junction and additional road lining.

Aud Anchor, Cobh

S. O’Callaghan spoke to C. Nelligan, Heritage Officer regarding the Aud anchor and the matters raised at the last Cobh Municipal District meeting. Mr. Nelligan felt it premature to send a letter to the National Museum from the Municipal District objecting to the removal of the anchor before the matter had been raised with the Museum. C. Nelligan is to attend a meeting at the museum in October and he will raise the issue then. D. O’Cadhla stated that the Council is entitled to express its opinion and that the Council had made a decision and that this should be acted upon. Cllr. K. McCarthy stated that the 1916 Commemoration Committee had already brought the issue to the attention of the National Museum. It was agreed that a letter would issue from the Cobh Municipal District to the National Museum. Councillors stated that they wished to see this letter before it is sent.

Jack Doyle Statue, Cobh

P. Lynch stated that funding allocations for Arts projects does not apply to Irish Water and therefore some other method would have to be found to fund any proposed statue.

Cobh Summer Swing Marquee

S. O’Callaghan stated that the exact terms of the funding from SECAD should be examined and if the original grant was to include storage and insurance, then the Municipal District had no function in providing same. P. Lynch confirmed he had spoken to P. Kidney, of the Summer Swing committee and he is to provide the information requested by the members.

Glanmire Flooding

G. O’Hora stated that the works by Cork County Council have commenced in this area and the works agreed to by Lidl management are due to start shortly.

Little Island Flooding

G. O'Hora stated that the gully adjacent to Jones Engineering, Little Island had now been cleared. The drain at Glounthaune is blocked and due to be cleared also and will be monitored going forward.

Meadow Lawn Estate, Glanmire.

G. O'Hora has examined the area in question and will discuss cutting back the hedge with the landowner, he will also re-examine the original planning permission and the conditions attached to same.

City Council Lands at Carrigrenan.

A letter has issued to the City Council regarding the lands at Carrigrenan.

Camper Van Parking

R. O'Sullivan stated that the cost of a machine that will take both coins and notes was in the region of €9,000 plus VAT, it would also have to be determined if the power supply in the area was adequate to run this machine. Cllr. K. McCarthy remarked that the facility would make the cost of the extra machine back in about 2 months in the season. Cllr. Rasmussen brought up the state of the roadway, which he said was in appalling condition. P. Lynch stated that it was the decision of the members when the campervan facility was installed, that any income generated would be put back into the facility and the area. However, it would be premature to resurface the roadway until such time as the Irish Water works in the area were completed. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to proceed with the purchase of the second pay parking machine.

Knockraha Footpath

G. O'Hora confirmed that the footpath works would be carried out shortly.

Barry's Bus Route

R. O'Sullivan stated that the ground works had been done, but the signs had yet to be received from the National Transport Authority.

Deep Water Quay, Cobh

The letter to the Gardaí has been sent regarding traffic enforcement in relation to the buses using the Deep Water Quay, Cobh.

School Warden for St. Marys, Cobh

P. Lynch stated that interviews had been held for the above position in the last week and the position offered, the successful candidate must now undertake training and be Garda vetted before taking up the role.

Lower Harbour Scheme

P. Lynch has emailed the engineer regarding the attendance of an Irish Water representative at a future council meeting.

Newtown Road, Cobh

G. O’Hora said a speed survey was ongoing and that a non-controlled pedestrian crossing with ductile paving would be installed, however there were no funds available for a controlled pedestrian crossing, additional signage would also be installed.

Barnavara Crescent – Extinguishment of Right of Way

P. Lynch confirmed that the right of way through the alleyway adjacent to the houses, had been extinguished, following a public consultation process and had been passed by the members. Cllr. O’Cadhla stated that having looked at the minutes of the meeting in November, 2016 at which this matter had been considered he was looking for clarification as to the actual decision made. He stated that it was unclear what final decision had been made and asked for legal clarity around this issue.

Aherns Place, Cobh.

The pedestrian lights at this location to be adjusted.

5. OFFICERS REPORTS:

Upper Glanmire Traffic Calming Measures

G. O’Hora presented drawings in relation to traffic calming measures for Upper Glanmire. The plans include the placing of 2 VMS signs in the village, a build out and the provision of uncontrolled pedestrian crossings at the school and at both entrances to Ross Ard estate, in addition to signage and road lining. Proposed by Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard.

Cobh Municipal District Paint Scheme, 2017

P. Lynch presented a report on the paint scheme for 2017, in total 18 applications had been received, costing €21,832.94. P. Lynch confirmed that all successful applicants had been written to and is to write to the Director of Services seeking additional funding for the scheme if required.

Tidy Towns Results

P. Lynch circulated a report setting out the results of the 4 communities within the Municipal District that took part in the National Tidy Towns Competition. He stated that all 4 communities had achieved increased marks year upon year for the past 4 competitions. Members noted that Cobh had managed to retain its Gold Medal status for the third consecutive year and that Glounthaune had won a Regional Award for Waterways and Communities. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. Barry, it was agreed to write to all 4 committees congratulating them on their success.

Community Facilities Fund

P. Lynch circulated a report prepared by the South Cork LCDC in relation to a €2m Capital Grants scheme. He stated that a total of €64,000 had been allocated to Cork County Council under the scheme. The report set out the recommendations of the local evaluation committee, which recommended that funding, totalling €8,850 be provided to 9 community groups across the Cobh Municipal District. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. Keohane, the recommendation of the LCDC was accepted.

6. Disposal of Property – Riverstown, Glanmire

To consider the disposal of grant of Wayleave at Riverstown, Glanmire to Gas Networks Ireland DAC for the consideration of €640 plus Council's costs. Proposed by Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen.

7. Disposal of Property – Castlevew, Little Island

To consider the disposal of land at Castlevew, Little Island to Troy & Mary Carry, as part of compensation agreement for lands acquired for the R623 Island Cross realignment. Proposed by Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy.

8. Draft Cork County Council (Cobh) Appointed Stands (Taxi) Bye Laws 2017

P. Lynch stated that the only change to the draft bye laws relates to the 3rd schedule. S. O'Callaghan stated that the Traffic & Transportation have taken into consideration the concerns of the members and the Gardaí have no issues. Cllr. Rasmussen, supported by other members, expressed concerns at the location of the 4 taxi waiting spaces on the Lower Road, closest to the Garda station. Members stated that they could not support the Bye Laws as presented due to safety concerns in relation to these spaces. After further discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy it was agreed to adopt the byelaws, however the waiting area would contain a total of 7 spaces, with 3 further spaces adjacent to the Heritage Centre.

9. Budgetary Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy, it was agreed the Budget Meeting would be held on 1st November at 4.00 p.m. at Carrig House, Cobh.

10. To Consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. G. Keohane: "That this Municipal/Council bring back the policy to allow County Council workers to use chainsaws on fallen trees". Cllr. G. Keohane stated that the ban on Council workers using chainsaws was costing the Council a significant amount of money by having to employ specialist tree surgeons. He also suggested that roads would be reopened to the public sooner, if the Council were able to operate chainsaws. A response had been received from the Council's Health and Safety section which outlined the reasons for continuing the ban, which stated that a framework had been set up of approved Tree Surgeons which can respond in an emergency, also during a recent court prosecution it was acknowledged that Cork County Council had a ban on the use of chain saws in existence and this was a mitigating factor in the sentence passed down. A significant risks still exists for staff cutting fallen trees, including poor light, hidden ESB lines, lack of use of chainsaws and maintenance of competence etc. S. O'Callaghan stated that the concerns of the Councillors should be raised at full Council or at the Roads SPC, in order to change Council policy. The motion was proposed by Cllr. G. Keohane and seconded by Cllr. A. Barry.

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

"That this Municipal under a health and safety issue to make safe the trees on the Glencairn/Hazelwood Way estates main road, the trees are almost covering the entire

width of the road and are now a danger to pedestrians and motorists”. Cllr. G. Keohane stated that the trees in the area are creating a tunnel affect and that a limb fell onto the footpath. G. O’Hora stated that a survey will be carried out however there is limited funding for carrying out tree cutting works and that damaged trees are prioritised. Proposed by Cllr. G. Keohane, 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 a major and significant road drain clearing programme in Glanmire for the Autumn months especially in the black spot areas such as the main Hazelwood road from the main junction up Glanmire Community College, John Barleycorn Bridge, Meadowbrook Etc”. Cllr. G. Keohane stated that all the black spots in Glanmire flooded recently and could these be cleaned prior to working hours in order to ensure the free flow of traffic in the areas. G. O’Hora stated that at this time of year, leaves blocking drains were a particular nuisance, however that in the event of a Weather Alert, that the Council targets the known ‘hotspots’ and that a programme of work is in place to ensure that as many as possible of these areas are cleared. Proposed by Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. P.O’Sullivan.

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

“That this municipal council would ensure that Ticknock hill in Cobh would be included in the resurfacing works in the district for 2018 and that the water main would be replaced to avoid the chaos of last year”. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the road is in very poor condition and it is the busiest shopping area and another 40 houses are due to be occupied before Christmas adding to the congestion. Cllr. K. McCarthy added that it was the main artery to the largest shops and very busy in the mornings. G. O’Hora stated that there had been a number of issues with the water main at this location and advised that it would be important that the water main is replaced before any re-surfacing works are carried out. P. Lynch stated that Irish Water had been written to previously in relation to this issue. Proposed by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy.

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

“That this municipal district would consider designating the area by Cuskinny Marsh as a special nature amenity area and efforts would be made to make this area a pedestrian and cyclist friendly area”. G. O’Hora stated that the roadway at this location was not wide enough for a footpath but that he would look to see if any traffic calming measures could be introduced here. Proposed by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy.

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

“That this municipal district agree a proper programme of repair work to road signs and poles and that a time scale for this work be agreed”. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that a number of poles had been knocked askew and were pointing the wrong way. G. O’Hora stated a programme of works introduced earlier this year was interrupted by the road surfacing programme but would now resume. Proposed by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan.

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

“That this Council would write once again to Irish Rail requesting that they tackle the ongoing parking and traffic issues at Glounthaune railway station. The current situation is wholly unacceptable and an issue of serious concern”. P. Lynch stated that he had written previously to Irish Rail and was awaiting a response, however he will issue another letter. Cllr. O’Sullivan enquired as to whether the Council could take action in relation to restricting parking on the roadway adjacent to the carpark in the absence of any progress in dealing with this issue. Cllr. A. Barry stated that Irish Rail needed to engage with the travelling public and that that the pricing structure employed by Irish Rail in relation to train fares was contributing to the problems at Glounthaune. He stated that the price differential in relation to the cost of rail travel from Carrigtwohill as opposed to Glounthaune was encouraging rail users from the Carrigtwohill area to drive to Glounthaune rather than travel from Carrigtwohill. It was decided that Irish Rail should be contacted with a view to requesting the car park should be extended and the fare structure reviewed and to set up a meeting with the Municipal District. Proposed by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry.

17. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Pádraig O’Sullivan:

“That the Area Engineers office would undertake an assessment of "Ballingohig" Cross, Knockraha, which is a serious concern give the increased traffic volumes on this rural road. That the Council would liaise with the landowner to remove ditches and improve sight lines”. Cllr. O’Sullivan stated that the landowner was willing to let the Council carry out necessary works and asked that G. O’Hora would meet with the owner and try and source funding for any works required. Proposed by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry.

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

“In light of numerous incidents and a fatality on the New Line road that the Engineer's office furnish the members with any reports pertaining to road safety, in particular the serious incident report that is to be compiled after such an incident”. G. O’Hora stated that the report referred to was for internal use only and he would he speak to the roads design office to see if anything could works could be carried out. Cllr. Barry stated that the increase in houses in the area were causing people to use unsuitable roads as shortcuts to avoid the Dunkettle Interchange. Proposed by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry.

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

“That the Municipal Council requests from Cork County Council a report on the facilities available:

- a) On Great Island to support commercial fishing operations, including a report on the status of these facilities, their ownership and capacity.
- b) On Great Island, in Carrigtwohill and Little Island to support a fish processing and distribution industry.
- c) On the supports available for the development of local business based on the fishing industry, and the support industries required by it.

Cllr. D. O’Cadhla stated that the Municipal District should encourage local enterprise development and that information should be sought from the County Council to ascertain what facilities were available to support the fishing industry. Cllr. K. McCarthy and Cllr. C. Rasmussen supported the spirit of the motion but were unsure how the revival of the fishing industry in the Cobh area would align with the current

tourist initiatives. P. Lynch to raise the issue with DOS of Economic Development and with the Property Section of Cork County Council. Proposed by Cllr. O’Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy.

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

“That the Municipal Council write to Cork County Council requesting:

- a) A written update on what is happening in regards to the housing needs of the two tenants at No. 4 Harbour Hill, Cobh, both of whom suffer from significant disabilities and continue to live in inhuman and dangerous conditions.
- b) Written clarification on how long is it permissible to allow tenants to live in such inhuman conditions as exist at No. 4 Harbour Hill.
- c) Whether the Council are taking legal action against the landlord of No. 4 Harbour Hill for violation of the MINIMUM STANDARDS in rental accommodation”

S. O’Callaghan stated that the Housing Department would be best placed to assist Cllr. O’Cadhla with his motion. It was agreed that Cllr. O’Cadhla would raise the issue directly with the Housing Department and the Director of Housing. Proposed by Cllr. D. O’Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy.

21. Any Other Business/Aon Ghnó Eile :

21.1 Cllr. K. McCarthy raised the issue of potholes at Barrymore Avenue, Cobh, and stated that the road had subsided at the Ramblers end. Engineer to examine.

21.2 Cllr. A. Barry enquired as to the status of a bus stop at Ballyadam. R. O’Sullivan stated that it was a matter for the TII as it related to a National Primary Route.

21.3 Cllr. A. Barry raised the issue of potholes on the Ballyregan Road, near AOC Commercials and the hedging needs to be cut back in the area. Engineer to examine.

21.4 Cllr. S. Sheppard raised the issue of the removal of dead trees from the green area at Coolamber. Engineer to examine.

21.5 Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that a number of elderly constituents were having difficulty accessing the Choice Based Letting system due to lack of understanding of the technology and mobility issues. Could an access point be installed at Carrig House, similar to that in the County Hall. P. Lynch to raise with the Housing Department.

21.6 Cllr. S. Sheppard raised the issue of potholes at Top of the Hill. Engineer to examine.

21.7 Cllr. Sheppard enquired as to the latest status of the Litter Plan. P. Lynch replied that he had met with the Senior Engineer, together with S. O’Callaghan and would arrange to have the matter included in the November meeting Agenda.

- 21.8 Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the footpath outside of nos. 42 & 43 Assumption Place was in very poor condition which was aggravated by a driveway access. Engineer to examine.
- 21.9 Cllr. S. Sheppard enquired as to the Civic Reception discussed for various sports groups in the Municipal District. S. O’Callaghan replied that the members were to put forward suggestions and to date this has not happened.
- 21.10 Cllr. S. Sheppard enquired as to whether any response had been received from South Doc. S. O’Callaghan replied that this had been raised at full Council level and brought to the Health forum. Cllr. Sheppard responded that she had raised the issue with local T.D’s. Cllr. P. O’Sullivan suggested that a Parliamentary Question should be tabled and that members should contact the relevant Parliamentary representatives.
- 21.11 Cllr. C. Rasmussen raised the issue of a public toilet at the Five Foot Way. P. Lynch to follow up with the Architect’s Department.
- 21.12 Cllr. C. Rasmussen raised the issue of signs and road markings at Kirkwood Villas. Engineer to examine.
- 21.13 Cllr. C. Rasmussen raised the issue of the lights not working at the pedestrian crossing in Riverstown and signage at the Shopping centre. Engineer to examine.
- 21.14 Cllr. D. O’Cadhla raised the issue of whether Fairfield Meadows, which is a City Council estate, had been taken in charge as maintenance in the estate was sadly lacking. S. O’Callaghan stated that all Residents Associations are supported financially to undertake maintenance in their estates and he would enquire as to whether the estate had been taken in charge.
- 21.15 Cllr. G. Keohane raised the issue of subsidence on the road near Brookvale Estate, Ballyvolane. Engineer to examine.
- 21.16 Cllr. G. Keohane raised the issue of two signs required for Kinvara Estate. Engineer to examine.
- 21.17 Cllr. P. O’Sullivan enquired as to whether the information collected on speeding from the VMS sign located at Dunkettle Road, could be presented at the next meeting. Engineer to examine.
- 21.18 Cllr. P. O’Sullivan raised the issue of the traffic lights near the Centra garage at Little Island, he stated that the lights go either red or green, no amber. Engineer to examine.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach.

Municipal District Officer.