

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH ON TUESDAY 5th June, 2018.

Present: Councillors G. Keohane, C. Rasmussen, A. Barry, K. McCarthy, S. Sheppard & 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
Ms. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District

Apologies were received from Cllr. P. O'Sullivan

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

1. DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the minutes of the Meeting held in Committee on Monday 30th April were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 8th May were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Ó' Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, the minutes of the Meeting held in Committee on Tuesday 8th May were adopted.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

Hotel for Cobh:

P. Lynch confirmed that he had spoken to the Senior Planner in relation to this and it had been proposed that a meeting with the members would take place on 25 June at County Hall, but was awaiting confirmation of the date and time. Following a brief discussion it was agreed to request that the meeting be deferred until July.

Cobh Connect Bus Stop:

A new location for the bus stop near Londis has been agreed and the work will be carried out within the next 2 weeks.

College Manor & Potholes in Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to whether there had been any further information regarding extra funding for repairs and again queried what would happen if this extra funding was not forthcoming. G. O'Hora stated a list of road for repair works was prepared by area staff and these works would be carried out on a priority basis.

Public Lighting Programme 2018:

Cllr. Rasmussen requested that the public lighting would be provided at The Crescent, Cobh in the event that some or all of the proposed works presented at the May meeting did not go ahead. G. O’Hora agreed to examine works at this location.

Fota Road, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the landowners concerned had been contacted again in relation to cutting back the trees along the Fota road and Landowners had removed dangerous trees along the road.

Temporary CCTV:

P. Lynch confirmed that he had been in contact by email with the Environment Department who will check the situation and revert.

Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora stated that some works had been carried out at this location.

Aldi, Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora stated that a repair had been carried out at the location.

Family Resource Centre, Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora stated that road lining around the Centre had been listed and will be carried out shortly.

Cobh Playground:

Cllr. Rasmussen wished to express his thanks to Council staff for installing ramps near the playground, he also raised the issue of a lock for the playground which would need to be in as soon as possible as it was another health and safety issue.

Ringmeen, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the road was listed for repair.

Hospital, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the road lining near the hospital had been completed.

Little Island:

G. O’Hora stated that the road between Little Island Junction and Glounthaune Church was listed for repair.

Five Foot Way, Cobh:

P. Lynch stated that he had emailed Donal Óg Cusack in relation to the opening of the Outdoor Gym, however he had yet to receive a reply.

Festival Funds:

P. Lynch stated that he would raise the issue of funding from Cork County Council for festivals in Cobh when he met with Nicky Carroll of the Council’s Tourism Section on Wednesday 6th June.

LIS Scheme:

P. Lynch stated that he had received a response from Noreen Murphy, Cork County Council in relation to the LIS Scheme, she stated that applications had been received from the Cobh Municipal District and one of these had been approved, while the other one was on a reserve list. G. O’Hora stated that the CIS schemes had yet to be approved and 5 applications had been received in the Cobh MD under this scheme.

Amenity Grants:

Cllr. Sheppard enquired as to whether the applicants for the Amenity Grants had been contacted, as she had received a number of phone calls in relation to the scheme. She stated that the groups needed to be notified earlier in the year so they can decide if events can go ahead or not. P. Lynch stated that there had been problems with the online application process, which was introduced for the first time this year, particularly in obtaining contact details, however he assured members that the process was almost complete and that applicants would be contacted shortly. Cllr. Rasmussen asked if the applicants could submit invoices at this stage, even though formal letters of approval have yet to issue. P. Lynch confirmed that this would be in order.

Aherns Place, Cobh:

Cllr. Sheppard enquired as to whether road lining was still ongoing in Cobh, as work had yet to be carried out at Aherns Place. R. O’Sullivan stated that no works had been listed for this area. Cllr. Sheppard insisted that a new stop sign and additional signage had been agreed at an earlier meeting. G. O’Hora stated that as the contractor was now in place, any works required would be carried out soon.

Public Lighting Programme:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen requested that works to improve the public lighting at the Crescent, Cobh should be considered, in the event that any of the works already included in the public lighting programme did not go ahead.

3. CORRESPONDENCE:

P. Lynch had previously circulated a letter received from Cobh Tourism.

4. OFFICERS’ REPORTS:

1. **Section 38 Road Improvement Works** – G. O’Hora circulated the details of the Section 38 notice which was advertised on the 31st May, 2018. with the closing date for receipt of submission is 6th July.

Areas included are:

- i) Whitechurch
- ii) Tay Road
- iii) Bishop Street Pedestrian Crossing

2. **Disposal of Land at Hilltop Park, Cobh.**

On the proposal of Cllr. K. McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen it was agreed to the Disposal of Land at Hilltop Park, Cobh to William and Annemarie O’Callaghan for the consideration of €1.00 plus legal fees and €500 administration charge.

3. **Sea Angling Championships, Cobh.**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy it was agreed to allow the car at the rear of the library to be used by participants in the above competition.

4. **Part 8 – Jack Doyle Statue, Cobh.**

Drawings were circulated by Cllr. D. Ó'Cadhlá to the members of the proposed statue of Jack Doyle. On the proposal of Cllr. K. McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard it was agreed to begin the part 8 process for the above.

5. **AGM Date**

P. Lynch suggested that members might wish to hold the AGM on the same date as the Monthly meeting which was scheduled for July 2nd, however on the proposal of Cllr. D. O'Cadhlá, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to hold both meetings on 10th July.

5. **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER REPORT:**

P. Lynch circulated the report for June which included an update on the revenue received from the Camper van parking area and confirmed a second machine which could accept notes and credit cards will be installed shortly. Cllr. Rasmussen welcomed the increase in revenue generated but stated that a number of camper vans were parking outside of the designated area and that this needs to be addressed.

6. **Part 8 – Proposed Pontoon at John F. Kennedy Pier, Cobh (in partnership with the Port of Cork Company):**

P. Lynch stated that it had been agreed at Cork County Council management level that Cork County Council would work with the Port of Cork to develop a pontoon at Kennedy Pier, primarily to facilitate visitor access to Spike Island. Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to the size of the pontoon, when it is expected to be operational and who was paying for it. P. Lynch replied that the pontoon would be similar in size to the one already on Spike Island, but he did not have the exact dimensions and the pontoon would not be in place until next year. S. O'Callaghan stated the costs would be shared between Cork County Council and Port of Cork, as it was a joint venture and the proposed pontoon was 24m in length. Cllr. A. Barry requested a report on the numbers visiting Spike Island and what was the situation in relation to the second ferry. P. Lynch said he would contact the manager of Spike Island to obtain the figures. The members expressed concern about the possibility of a bridge linking Haulbowline and Spike Island and what impact this could have on Cobh and the proposed figures of 100,000 visitors for Spike Island and the impact these numbers would have on the infrastructure, in particular parking. S. O'Callaghan stated that the target of 100,000 visitors was to be spread over the entire year, lengthening the tourist season and therefore easing demand on parking.

On the proposal of Cllr. K. McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to begin the Part 8 process.

7. **DRAFT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN:**

P. Lynch stated that the draft plan had been circulated to members last month and included the submissions which had been received, the main changes were an extension to the summer season in Cobh with the subsequent increase in street cleaning.

Cllr. Rasmussen welcomed the bulk of the Plan but he still had problems with the amount of supervision being carried out, he queried whether sufficient checks were being done to ensure that the scheduled cleaning was actually carried out and whether the mechanised cleaner was being used efficiently and produced a copy of a letter sent to a local newspaper which painted a very unflattering picture of litter throughout the town. G. O'Hora responded by saying that staff were on site every day and were trained in the correct use of the cleaner and that checks were being carried out on a regular basis. Cllr. Sheppard stated that it was unfortunate to see this type of letter given all the work the staff and tidy towns committee were doing. P. Lynch reminded the members that Cobh had received a Gold medal for the last three years, if the litter situation was as out of control as stated in the letter circulated, this would not be the case and added that there was a very good working relationship between the Council and the Tidy Towns Committee. Cllr. Barry and Cllr. McCarthy both stated that the business owners had to do more to maintain the areas outside of their premises.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, the Draft Litter Management Plan was approved.

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

“That this Municipal install speed ramps where necessary in The Meadows housing estate which is taken in charge by Cork County Council”.

G O'Hora to examine and carry out speed surveys in the estate and examine possible traffic calming measures.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the motion was carried.

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

“That this Municipal removes two dangerous trees at the entrance to the Brookville estate in Riverstown.”

Cllr. Keohane stated that the residents had obtained a report from a tree surgeon on the trees which is to be forwarded to G. O'Hora. G O'Hora to inspect trees and determine if trees are dangerous. On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry the motion was carried.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to seek extra funding in the 2019 budget to deal with tree removal works.

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

“That this Municipal repaint the Zebra Crossing and paint speed zones on the road approaching the National School in Main Street Carrignavar, and to consider employing a “lollipop” person for the school.”

G. O’Hora stated that he had already looked at the pedestrian crossing at Carrignavar and listed it for repainting. S. O’Callaghan stated that under the 2017 each Municipal District could appoint one additional school warden, which was appointed this year at Brooklodge, Glanmire. Cllr. O’Cadhla asked in the absence of a warden, what additional safety measures could be undertaken. P. Lynch and G. O’Hora are to visit the area in the next few days and will report back for the next meeting. On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed to include the appointment of an additional warden in the 2019 budget.

- 11. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Kieran McCarthy:**
“That this council agrees to avail of WiFi4EU (Free Wi-Fi for Europeans /digital single market) funding to provide free Wi-fi access to visitors arriving in Cobh.”

Cllr. K. McCarthy stated that the absence of free Wi-fi in Cobh was causing a problem for local businesses as each time a cruise liner docks queues of passengers and crew formed outside many premises seeking Wi-fi access. Cllr. O’Cadhla queried whether Council properties or other business premises along the town could be used to install Wi-fi and so create a single network for Cobh. S. O’Callaghan informed members that the Council’s IT section were aware of this programme and had submitted a proposal to develop a Town Wi-fi project, initially in four towns, Bantry, Macroom, Mallow and Youghal but that it would be rolled out to the other major towns in the County over the next few years.

On the proposal of Cllr. K. McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. D. O’Cadhla, the motion was carried.

- 12. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:**
“That Cobh Municipal Council would follow up with the relevant bodies in relation to a representative attending a meeting regarding South doc facility in Cobh. Numerous correspondence from us has yet to be addressed.”

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that it was very frustrating that the HSE will not meet with the representatives of the medical fraternity and Council to discuss this vital service. P. Lynch stated that he had sent a request to set up a meeting in November 2017 and had not received a reply. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to write again to the HSE and South Doc requesting a meeting.

- 13. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:**
“That Cobh Municipal Council would look at writing to the minister of Health to allow Safe Talks to be introduced to allow those under the age of 16 be given this talk within Schools.”

Cllr. Sheppard stated that currently children under the age of 16 were not allowed to be given this talk however children under this age were vulnerable and needed to be given the tools to deal with issues. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to amend the motion to read *“That Cork County Council would write to the minister of Health to allow Safe Talks to be introduced to allow those under the age of 16 be given this talk within Schools”* and to forward the amended motion to full Council.

14. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:

“That Cobh Municipal Council would look at the traffic and speed out in Inis Alainn as a matter of safety.”

Cllr. Sheppard stated that there was a large volume of traffic in the area, in the vicinity of the crèche and pre-school, also a petition had been circulated seeking speed ramps.

G O’Hora to examine and carry out speed surveys in the estate and examine possible traffic calming measures.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the motion was carried.

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

“That this municipal district looks at regulating busking in Cobh in terms of hours allowed and locations within the town centre.”

Cllr. Rasmussen reminded members that he had proposed the regulation of buskers over a year ago, but nothing had happened. Business people in the town were not against busking per se but that the locations, duration and noise level need to be controlled. P. Lynch responded saying Dublin City Council have byelaws regulating busking in Dublin city centre and auditions were required. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy it was agreed to place the matter on the Agenda for the July meeting and that members would submit views in relation to locations, time limits and noise levels in advance of the meeting.

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

“That this Municipal District looks at putting in footpaths and lighting in the area from Cooline to the cross at Kirkwood Villas along the Ballyleary road as at present there is no connectivity what so ever in this area. We also need to look at the whole surface of the road as it has collapsed in parts already and this is before the work has started down further.

That we look to see if we can secure monies from the developer contributions from the new development which has started at the back of Cooline where 170 houses approx are to be built to aid us in this work.”

S. O’Callaghan stated that it was no longer possible to use development contributions for a specific service or in a specific area; this can only be done by way of a Special

Contribution. R. O'Sullivan stated that this year approximately 90m of footpath was to be constructed in the area, it is not possible to include areas outside of the curtilage of a site as a condition of planning and therefore the Municipal District would have to undertake these works.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard it was agreed to write to the Roads Directorate seeking additional funding for this work.

17. Any Other Business/Aon Ghnó Eile

17.1 Old Church Cemetery:

Cllr. Sheppard stated that the grass in the Old Church cemetery was very overgrown, particularly in the lower section. Engineer to examine.

17.2 Lions Club Breakfast:

Cllr. Sheppard stated that an official invitation to the members would follow, but the date had been set for the 16th June.

17.3 Blossomgrove:

Cllr. Barry stated that speeding was an issue in the Blossomgrove area and that there was a lack of signage. G. O'Hora replied that work was scheduled to be carried out in the area shortly, including to the footpath.

17.4 West End, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. Barry stated that trees have damaged the footpath, someone fell as a result. Engineer to examine.

17.5 Ballymore Cemetery, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the grass needs to be cut in the Ballymore graveyard. Engineer to examine.

17.6 Ticknock Road, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the road at Ticknock has not yet been repaired by Irish Water. Engineer to discuss with Irish Water.

17.7 High Road, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen wants the Council to write to the residents of the High Road to cut back the hedges bordering their properties. Engineer to examine.

17.8 Traffic, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen informed the members that he had met with the Gardaí, R. O'Sullivan and P. Lynch regarding traffic in Cobh on days when liners visit. Cllr. Rasmussen wants to re-instate a committee with representatives from the various stakeholders e.g. Port of Cork, Cork County Council etc to address traffic management during the summer months. P. Lynch stated it was important to identify the pinch points and dates which may cause problems.

17.9 Main drainage Works, Cobh:

Cllr. O’Cadhla stated that the proposed works could have a greater impact than anticipated on the town of Cobh when they commenced next year. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, it was agreed to hold a Special meeting at 9.30 a.m. on Monday 11th June in County Hall to discuss the proposed draft streetscape works.

17.10 St. Josephs’ Church, Glanmire:

Cllr. G. Keohane stated that a culvert adjacent to St. Josephs Church was blocked and causing flooding. Engineer confirmed culvert was listed for cleaning.

17.11 Deep Water Berth, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen requested that the Council write to the Port of Cork seeking an update on the second deep water berth. S. O’Callaghan replied that the public realm works won’t go as far as that, but this area will form part of the EIS for the Port of Cork planning application.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.