

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE ON MONDAY 5TH NOVEMBER, 2018.

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

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

1. Presentation for adoption of the Section 38 report for Pedestrian Crossing at Bishop Street, Cobh

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, it was agreed to suspend standing orders in order to hear the Presentation for the adoption of the Section 38 report for a Pedestrian Crossing at Bishop Street, Cobh. Mark O'Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads Design Office, Cork County Council outlined the background to the project, the submissions received and the suggested recommendations. The members welcomed the proposals, G. O'Hora thanked the design team for their work. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, it was agreed to accept the recommendations and put the project out to tender immediately.

2. DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISÍ:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Sullivan the Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Monday 1st October, 2018 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the Minutes of Special Joint Meeting of Cobh and East Cork Municipal Districts held on Monday 15th October, 2018 were adopted

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the Minutes of Budget Meeting held on Monday 22nd October, 2018 were adopted.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Irish Rail:

Stephen Hackett of Irish Rail was happy to meet the members to discuss the future of the rail line between Cobh and Cork. The members proposed to meet with Irish Rail at 1.30 p.m. on Monday 3rd December. Cllr. C. Rasmussen expressed his thanks to Irish Rail for cutting back the vegetation at Dockyard, however this resulted in debris being left on the road and he requested that it be cleaned up.

Battery Strand & Waterfront, Cobh:

P. Lynch stated that Coastal Management had responded saying that they could prepare a brief to instruct a consultant to report on the issues at Battery Strand if the Municipal District

were prepared to defray the costs. Cllr. D. Ó'Cadhlá stated that the plinth at the end of the steps was damaged and that local residents were prepared to repair same, if granted access to do so in order to prevent the area being damaged further, the residents requested that the Council would bear the costs of any repairs. Cllr. C. Rasmussen circulated photographs that he had taken of the area in question, showing the damage referred to and stated that the wall underneath the Titanic garden had bricks missing from it. Cllr. D. Ó'Cadhlá stated that there was no evidence of a rockfall in the area and that the residents are adamant that the damage shown was not recent and were anxious to re-open the strand as soon as possible and requested that an engineering inspection be carried out of the area sooner rather than later. S. O'Callaghan stated that as the strand had been closed off due to Health and Safety concerns it was not possible to allow third parties to access the location.

Disabled Spaces:

G. O'Hora stated that the road lining works at St. Josephs Place, Glanmire, Wolfe Tone Street and Assumption Place, Cobh were due to start shortly.

Fota Emergency Route:

G. O'Hora stated that the majority of the works were now completed, some signage was outstanding, this was scheduled to be in place by mid-November, he confirmed that it was envisaged that the Emergency Services, primarily the Gardai, would be responsible for triggering use of the Emergency Route and that the Fota Emergency Access route would be confined to use by the emergency services only, and not the general public. Cllr. Rasmussen queried if the emergency route was going through the Golf Club, G. O'Hora clarified that the route would follow the road put in some time back for the Irish Open and go left at the Hotel gates.

Oakfield Estate, Glanmire:

G. O'Hora stated that works were scheduled to be carried out shortly.

Grotto at Glanmire:

G. O'Hora stated that he was not in favour of increasing the number of parking spaces at this location as it was already very congested. However Cllr. G. Keohane stated he was seeking parallel parking at this location, not extra spaces. G. O'Hora agreed to re-examine the issue.

Harbour Row, Cobh:

P. Lynch informed members that the Environment Department of Cork County Council had responded stating that it would consider Harbour Row in any planned deployment of CCTV to the end of 2018.

R624 to Great Island:

G. O'Hora stated CCC road design office is presently reviewing the R624 Cobh road. Once review is complete, members would be updated on any progress. Cllr. Ó'Cadhlá enquired as to whether a timescale had been agreed, G. O'Hora responded that no timetable was currently in place.

Congratulations to Cobh Tidy Towns:

P. Lynch informed the members that a letter of Congratulations had issued to Cobh Tidy Towns.

Church Car Park, Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora confirmed that works had been carried out at this location and the potholes filled.

Roches Row, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the works here were due to be completed very shortly, certainly by the end of November; the works would also extend to Aherns Place.

Rockgrove, Little Island:

G. O’Hora stated that a contractor had been appointed to undertake road repairs in the area.

Drains – Top of the Hill, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the clearing of drains at the Top of the Hill had been listed as part of an ongoing programme of works, however that he was waiting for the final leaves to fall before progressing with same.

Footpath – Top of the Hill, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that a contractor was currently working within the Cobh town area repairing footpaths and that the footpaths at Top of the Hill were part of the listed programme of works which would be completed over the coming weeks.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

Cobh Tourism invited the Members to Armistice Day Celebrations on Sunday 11th November.

5. OFFICERS REPORTS:

i) **Road Restoration Maintenance Programme:**

G. O’Hora Presented a three year Restoration Maintenance (RI) Programme to members for years 2019 to 2021. The programme listed roads within the Cobh Municipal District to be resurfaced over the three year period. G O’Hora stated that road listed on the programme may change over the period, for example roads damaged due to extreme weather would be prioritised for repair.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the presented programme was adopted by the members.

ii) **Housing Report for Cobh Municipal District:**

This report was marked as read by the members.

iii) **TIC (Taking in Charge of Estates) List:**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard it was agreed that the members would meet on 3rd December at 2 p.m. to discuss same.

iv) **Change of Grants:**

P. Lynch stated that two groups which had received allocations under the Amenity Grant Scheme had applied to change the purpose for which the grant had been received.

- a) Little Island Community Association – wanted to upgrade the existing playground instead of providing an outdoor gym. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the change was approved.
- b) Carrigtwohill United – wanted to change from upgrading the pitch cutting equipment to providing barriers around the pitch. On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the change was approved.

v) **Rushbrooke Rowing Club:**

P. Lynch reminded members that at an earlier meeting it had been agreed that if there was any extra funding available in the Amenity Grant Fund, that this may be allocated to Rushbrooke Rowing Club. In total there was a surplus of €2,100 from grants allocated in 2017 and 2018 which had either not been taken up or the schemes were not going ahead, on the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to allocate this money to Rushbrooke Rowing Club.

vi) **Ballynoe, Cobh:**

P. Lynch circulated a response to the Notice of Motion sent to the planning and housing section of Cork County Council in relation to Council land at Ballynoe. The members had requested that a Masterplan be drawn up showing the proposed areas set aside for various activities such as housing, sports fields etc. for the 57 acres of land owned by the Council, as members had previously agreed to support various clubs in seeking funding to develop sports facilities at this location. Cllr. C. Rasmussen expressed his dissatisfaction with the response from the planning department in the strongest terms. He stated that he had consulted with the Estates Department of Cork County Council on how best to progress the intermediate development of the site, whilst awaiting the infrastructure which would bring the whole site to its full potential. Cllr. K. McCarthy stated that the response did not address Cllr. Rasmussen’s initial question as the development of the major infrastructure was not required at this point in time, the members were seeking an overall plan, not a detailed drawing. Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated he understood Cllr. Rasmussen’s frustrations and stated that the members had looked for a reasonable response, not a ‘copy and paste’ exercise. Cllr. S. Sheppard said the response was very disappointing and stated that it was not acceptable to treat the members in such a dismissive manner. Cllr. Rasmussen stated he wanted the request sent back to County Hall, that he is looking for a plan drawing and wished to put the matter to full Council. Cllr. O’Sullivan stated that the FAI were facilitated by the Council to an exceptional degree when they sought to establish a training facility in Glanmire and could not understand why local clubs were not being afforded the same co-operation. S. O’Callaghan replied that the members frustrations were very obvious. He proposed speaking to the Director of Planning rather than sending the matter to full Council. Cllr. Rasmussen responded by stating he still proposed to send the matter to full Council.

6. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY:

P. Lynch stated that the property currently for sale was surplus to the requirements of the Council. Cllr. K. McCarthy enquired whether this property had previously been for sale by the Council. P. Lynch confirmed that the property had previously been on the market and a buyer had come forward, however before the sale could be concluded it became apparent that the Council did not have adequate title to the property and therefore the sale fell through. Cllr. K. McCarthy enquired as to who the proposed

purchasers were, as he was aware of another interested party who had expressed an interest in acquiring this same property last year and had been unable to get any information regarding a potential sale. P. Lynch replied that he did not have the requested information to hand and it was agreed to defer the Disposal of the Property at 3 Connolly Street until this information was to hand.

Cllr. S. Sheppard asked if an update about another derelict property at Thomas Kent Street, Cobh could also be obtained.

7. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICERS REPORT:

P. Lynch presented the Municipal District Officers report for November, which included an up to date figure for the amount spent under the General Municipal Allocation and Town Development Fund respectively.

P. Lynch also presented the members with a report on the Camper van facility from which to date a total of €21,303.00 has been collected and three options for management of same. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the report presented was a comprehensive one and while he had pushed for a barrier to be installed, he now realised that the cost of same was prohibitive, however he would be in favour of banning camper vans from the rest of the town. P. Lynch stated that Fáilte Ireland had engaged a consultant to examine the various facilities around the country, including Cobh. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, it was agreed to leave the arrangements for camper van parking as they were.

Christmas Parking Arrangements:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to suspend enforcement of the Pay Parking Bye Laws for the month of December for Cobh, however the suspension would not apply to the camper van parking area.

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

“That this Municipal install speed reduction signs outside Gleann Caoin and Castlejane (Old) Housing estates, Glanmire.”

G. O’Hora stated that some road lining had taken place at this location, however on the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, he agreed to re-examine the signage on the road.

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

“That this Municipal install one road drain to stop flooding at the Kilcully junction.”

G. O’Hora stated he would examine the road drainage matter.

The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard.

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

“That this Municipal install speed warning signs outside Glounthaune soccer pitches”.

G. O’Hora stated he would examine the road signage matter.

The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan.

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

“That this Municipal district continue work on repairing the broken walls all around the Island mainly on the sections at the back of the Island as many of the boundary walls are falling into the sea”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the roads were dangerous as some of the boundary walls had collapsed into the sea. G. O’Hora stated a programme to repairs coastal wall at the back of Great Island were to recommencing shortly. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy the motion was carried.

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

“That this Municipal district consider some form of Pedestrian crossings or safe crossing areas in a number of areas in Cobh as has been raised in the past such as: Smalls Well, Corner of Laundry Hill on To Park Road, Outside Londis, Opposite Coral Leisure Centre”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated he was aware of the cost implications of any of the above, but felt that the safety of pedestrians was at risk at these locations. Cllr. Sheppard reiterated those safety concerns. G. O’Hora stated that the roadway was not wide enough at some of the locations for example, Small’s Well, to accommodate pedestrian crossings. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed the engineer would examine the locations identified and also carry out a review of the Cobh Connect bus stops.

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

“That this Municipal district would fix the footpaths on the top of the hill area where there are many bricks loose ,clean all the drains on a regular basis to stop the build up of stones and thus causing floods and fix and replace any parking poles that need fixing to help improve the whole look of the area”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the footpaths in the area were in very bad repair and that the drains would need to be cleared. G. O’Hora stated that a programme of drain clearing works was due to start shortly and he would welcome suggestions from members on other locations for drain cleaning. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the motion was carried.

14. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the names of Cllrs. Padraig O’Sullivan and Anthony Barry:

“That this Municipal District would ask that the Director of Planning consider a review of the Cobh Local Area Plan, specifically regarding the area of Glounthaune, where development has far exceeded that anticipated by the Local Authority.”

Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that he had met with the Planning Committee and pointed out that the 400 units planning for the Glounthaune area for the life of the Local Area Development Plan had already been exceeded only two years in. The infrastructure could not keep up with development. Cllr. A. Barry supported Cllr. O’Sullivan’s motion, stating that Glounthaune had not town centre, but was attracting excess developments because of its location on the rail line. He stated that the Council should be building sustainable communities and that Dublin densities were being foisted on East Cork and that this was actually hindering development. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated the process was flawed as the LAP can be overturned by An Bord Pleanala. On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard it was agreed to wait for the outcome of a meeting to be held on 26th November before proceeding.

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

“That the Area Engineer would give a report detailing the activity of the road sweeper in the municipality and the areas it services, its cost etc.”

Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that he had obtained figures from another area and wished to compare the two districts. G. O’Hora stated that there were two road sweepers working within the Cobh Municipal District area and usage was increased in any one area depending on the time of year. Cllr. O’Sullivan requested that Knockraha be included more often throughout the year. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that at the is time of year, another staff member was required to blow the leaves from the footpath into the path of the sweeper. On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen the motion was carried.

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

“That the Area Engineer would consider the installation of a raised pedestrian crossing in Watergrasshill village in place of the existing level crossing.”

Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that speed was a big issue at this location and something was needed to slow the traffic down. G. O’Hora stated that as the location was outside of a school, it may be possible to install some other kind of safety measure the location, the Engineer noted traffic speed enforcement was also an issue at this location. On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. G. Keohane, the motion was carried.

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

“That Cobh Municipal District would re look at Ahern place regarding signage and the traffic lights positioning.”

Cllr. Sheppard requested that a barrier be placed on the footpath as a safety measure for children before crossing. G. O’Hora stated that a contractor appointed by Cork County

Council was due to examine the position of the traffic lights. On the proposal of Cllr. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. Rasmussen, the motion was carried.

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

“That Cobh Municipal District would acknowledge cobbler Dan Corcoran’s 55 years service to the town of Cobh.”

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to explore the possibility of a presentation with Mr. Corcoran’s family. Cllr. Sheppard agreed to contact Mr. Corcoran to discuss the matter.

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

“That this Council agrees to begin a new Part 8 planning application on behalf of the Jack Doyle Statue group, to be located in agreement with Council’s Architects and Conservation officers and with local engineering staff. The suggested location is inside the Promenade behind the current Jack Doyle plaque, such that both would complement each other and provide optimal space and attractive environment for viewing and photography.”

Cllr. Ó’Cadhla again raised the issue of facilitating the group in locating a Statue to Jack Doyle. Cllr. Rasmussen queried the proposed location, stating that it was currently being used by a trader whose hours of trading had been recently extended by the Council, he also stated that this location already had a monument to Jack Doyle and had an issue with two monuments to the one person at the same location, Cllr. Rasmussen also enquired as to the projected cost of the statue – Cllr. Ó’Cadhla indicated it was in the region of €50,000.00. Cllr. G. Keohane stated that he was uncomfortable with the whole project; he had had dealings with domestic abuse victims and felt that even if the domestic abuse allegations against Jack Doyle were unfounded, the issue was an emotive one for the general public. Cllr. Ó’Cadhla stated that domestic violence was a huge issue historically in this country and the members should be more sensitive to Jack Doyles family, especially when the allegations were without foundation. Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that it was inevitable that the subject would come up again and he supported Cllr. Keohane’s position, he felt that it was a conversation that needed to be had, however there was still work to be done by Cllr. Ó’Cadhla in relation to this. It was agreed that once confirmation had been received that funding was in place for the statue and that the outstanding issue in relation to the location of the proposed statue had been resolved the matter would be considered further by the members.

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

“That Cobh Municipal Council would look at the issue of the road and large potholes in parking spaces on upper Midleton Street.”

Cllr. Sheppard stated that there were two very bad potholes on Midleton Street and the road surface was very bad in places. G. O’Hora stated that there was difficulty in

gaining access to the some of the potholes due to cars parking in the area and Potholes are presently been repaired. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the motion was carried.

21. Any Other Business/Aon Ghnó Eile.

Old Church Graveyard:

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated a group had contacted her seeking funding to map every plot in the Old Church graveyard and list all of the burial details online, the project would cost in the region of €7,000.00, they already had funding of €3,500.00, there was a limited time frame of six weeks for them to carry out the work. S. O'Callaghan replied that the Any Other business portion of the meeting was not the proper forum for seeking funding and any requests for funding should be included as part of the GMA.

Promenade, Cobh:

Cllr. K. McCarthy stated that the flagpole for the Irish flag needs to be repaired in the Promenade. Engineer examined and listed pole for repair.

Woodstock, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. Barry stated that Woodstock stream near the G.A.A. needed to be cleared, the G.A.A. had agreed to facilitate access to the location. Engineer to examine.

Barryscourt, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the footpaths in the vicinity of Barryscourt and Ryan Ahern Place, Carrigtwohill needed repair. Engineer confirmed footpaths are listed for repair.

Whitechurch Cemetery

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated that the wall surrounding Whitechurch Cemetery had collapsed. Engineer to examine.

Rock Park, Whitechurch:

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan enquired about the possibility of providing public lighting in the vicinity of Rock Park, Whitechurch. G. O'Hora invited the members to come forward with suggestions for public lighting schemes for 2019 as he had been notified of the allocation for next year.

Carrignavar Dump:

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan enquired as to whether the dump at Carrignavar that the Council had been using for excess soil etc. was still operational, as he had received reports that Japanese knotweed had been dumped there and it was feared it could spread via a stream in the locality. G. O'Hora stated that the agreement with the landowner had come to an end and the Council were no longer using this location, the area had been fully treated for Japanese knotweed as a precaution before the site was handed back to the landowner.

Wallingstown Castle, Little Island:

Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that he had been in contact with the IDA about the continued deterioration of Wallingstown Castle, the area around it had now been grassed and a barrier put up but no further effort to stabilise the structure had been undertaken. P. Lynch to contact Mary Sleeman.

Fota Road Safety Barrier:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the safety barrier on the Fota Road was the wrong way round, he recommended either fixing it or removing it. The engineer to examine.

Laundry Hill, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that there were two very bad potholes at either end of Laundry Hill and the sections of the road had started to break up. Engineer confirmed potholes had been listed for repair.

Derelict Buildings, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen enquired as to whether anyone had inspected the inside of the 23/24 West Beach, they were in a dangerous condition and he was concerned that the front wall was in danger of collapse. Engineer to examine.

Toilet at Five Foot Way, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen sought an update. P. Lynch to contact the Architects department.

Hazelwood Drive, Glanmire:

Cllr. G. Keohane raised the issue of potholes at Hazelwood Drive, Glanmire. Engineer confirmed potholes had been listed for repair.

Glanmire Community Centre:

Cllr. G. Keohane stated that there were very bad potholes near the roundabout at Brooklodge, near Glanmire Community Centre. Engineer confirmed potholes had been listed for repair.

Hazelwood Road, Glanmire:

Cllr. G. Keohane stated the electric speed sign at Hazelwood Road was not working. Engineer confirmed VMS sign had been listed for repair.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.