

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH ON MONDAY 6th NOVEMBER, 2017.

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

Apologies from Cllr. G. Keohane

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

1. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to suspend standing orders in order to extend a vote of Condolence to the family of the late Cornelius Lynch, a former Councillor and Cathaoirleach of Cobh Urban District Council. Tributes were paid to Mr. Lynch, who continued to be active in the community following his retirement from the Council.

2. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Ó’Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, it was agreed to suspend standing orders for a second time in order to discuss the RTE Investigates programme. On the proposal of Cllr. Ó’Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, it was agreed that the following resolution be submitted to full Council as a Notice of Motion from the Cobh Municipal District:

“That this Council regards as scandalous the private tenancy conditions identified by Primetime throughout the country and in County Cork.

That this Council requests that every resource available to Cork County Council be used to prosecute offending landlords and to enforce the law regarding MINIMUM STANDARDS.

That Cork County Council ensures that such living conditions as identified be eliminated, and that any individuals involved be placed in appropriate housing, as a matter of urgency.”

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the minutes of the October meeting did not properly reflect the decisions taken in respect of the Draft Taxi Bye Laws. He asked that the minutes be amended to state that the members had decided not to support the Draft Bye Laws as presented to them and that they had opposed the siting of the 4 taxi waiting spaces closest to the Garda Station on the Lower Road.

Cllr. O’Cadhla stated that the minutes of the October meeting did not include all of the issues raised in relation to the Public Right of Way at Barnavara. He stated that he had asked for clarification as to the specific decision made by the members in relation to Barnavara. He had

asked if the minutes as worded clearly provided for the extinguishment of the public right of way. It was agreed that P. Lynch would refer the matter to the County Solicitors office for clarification.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the minutes of the Cobh Municipal District Meeting held on 12th September, 2017 were adopted subject to the amendments above.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Sydney, Australia – Town Twinning

S. O’Callaghan stated that the procedure for arranging Town Twinning was as follows: a report should be prepared by the Municipal District and submitted to the International Affairs Committee of Cork County Council, this is then sent to the CPG before the proposal is voted on by full Council. However, the foregoing is subject to an indication from the other party involved that they are also interested in instigating the twinning process. Cllr. Ó’Cadhla is to follow up with the Australian authorities.

Cork County Council policy on Chainsaws

S. O’Callaghan had discussed the policy with the roads section of Cork County Council, the introduction of such a policy is an executive function of the Council and as such is a matter for the Chief Executive.

Trees at Glencairn/Hazelwood Way

G. O’Hora stated that a tree cutting contractor had been appointed and trees had been trimmed in the area.

Drain Cleaning in Glanmire

G. O’Hora stated that a drain cleaning programme was in place for the major urban areas within the Municipal District, including Glanmire and is ongoing.

Ticknock Hill, Cobh

G. O’Hora reiterated that it would be imperative that the issue regarding the ongoing problems with the water main at this location would need be resolved before any road resurfacing works are carried out. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that this matter had already been raised with Irish Water and the Council write to Irish Water asking for a new water main to be put in.

Road Signs in Cobh

G. O’Hora stated that a programme of works to repair road signs had commenced, but had been suspended for a number of weeks to allow for road re-surfacing. The repair programme was due to restart shortly, in the meantime Cllr. Rasmussen confirmed he will send the engineer an updated list of damaged signs.

Ballinghig Cross Knockraha

G. O’Hora stated that he is prepared to meet with the landowner and will apply for funding for the scheme under a Low Cost Road Improvement Scheme for 2018.

Barrymore Avenue, Cobh

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the pothole was now extending the width of the road. G. O'Hora stated that the pothole was listed for immediate repair.

Ballyregan road, Carrigtwohill

G. O'Hora this road has been listed for repair. Cllr. Barry enquired as to whether the landowners could be written to regarding the overgrown hedges in the area.

Coolamber, Cobh

G. O'Hora stated that the removal of the tree had been listed, he will follow up with the appointed contractor.

Choice Based Letting System

P. Lynch stated he was awaiting a reply from the Housing Department.

Assumption Place, Cobh

G. O'Hora stated that the footpath at Assumption Place had been listed for repair.

South Doc

Cllr. Sheppard stated that she had raised this matter with the Minister for Health. P. Lynch to write to SouthDoc and arrange a representative to attend a future meeting.

Toilet at Five Foot Way

P. Lynch stated that this matter was being dealt with by the Architects Department. Cllr. Rasmussen requested that it be followed up.

Riverstown Pedestrian Lights

G. O'Hora stated that the lights had been repaired.

Kinvara Estate

G. O'Hora stated that the signs for this estate had been purchased and are due to be put up shortly.

Traffic Lights – Little Island Cross, Little Island

G. O'Hora stated that new traffic lights at Little Island Cross were due to be turned on shortly and once this happened, all the other traffic lights at road junctions in the area would need to be synchronised accordingly. There will be some delays to traffic while the traffic lights are being synchronised

5. CORRESPONDENCE

An acknowledgement had been received from Minister Kevin 'Boxer' Moran's office regarding the land at Carrigtwohill

6. OFFICER'S REPORTS

P. Lynch outlined the work carried out at Harpers Island, Glounthaune, by Birdwatch Ireland, Glounthaune Community Association and Cork County Council to upgrade the site in order to open the facility to the general public. The proposed opening is scheduled for Friday 8th

December by the County Mayor. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the date for the formal opening was approved. Cllr. Barry also proposed that a letter be sent to Minister Heather Humphries to attend the event.

7. DRAFT COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

P. Lynch had circulated the draft Litter Management Plan to the members for their consideration. He stated that the delay to date was as a result of seeking clarification in whether the Litter Plan was a County Council or Municipal District function. It had now been established that the Litter Plan was a Municipal District function. He proposed that the document be circulated to the Tidy Towns Organisations within the M.D. and be put on display for a period of 6 weeks. The members had a lengthy discussion about the proposed plan and questioned if the resources required to implement the Litter plan in full were available to the Council. There was a strong feeling amongst the members that they wanted it to be an enforceable and practical guide as opposed to an aspirational document. It was decided on the proposal of Cllr. P. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, that the members would revert to P. Lynch with their comments within the next week and that the Litter Management Plan would be raised again at the December meeting.

8. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to dispose of the freehold interest in No. 13 St. Patricks Square, Cobh to Mary O'Connor and Jean O'Halloran as Executrices in the Estate of William Boland, deceased, for the consideration of €350.00 inclusive of administration charges.

9. In view of the absence of Cllr. Keohane from the meeting, it was unanimously agreed to defer consideration of the Notices of Motion standing in his name to the December meeting.

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

"That this council insists on a proper review of the Cobh Emergency Plan and ensures that the plan is workable and that we look at getting the roadway inside Fota itself reopened and maintained properly to ensure that in the event of issues on the Fota road that this road can be used".

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

"That this Council would carry out an inspection of the trees along the Fota Road and liaise with the owners of the adjoining Fota land to inspect the trees on the 'emergency' access. In light of recent storms and issues around accessing Cobh this is a matter of great concern to public safety".

On the proposal by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Sullivan, it was agreed to take both of the above notices of motion together. All of the members expressed concern regarding the current emergency plan and stated that a fundamental review of the plan would need to be undertaken, as the road designated currently as an emergency route through the Fota estate would also have been affected by fallen trees during the recent storm. It also emerged that the emergency route would appear not to be fit for purpose and that Cork

County Council was prepared to undertake works to bring it up to standard. The members stated that the owners of Fota estate had a duty of care in relation to the hazards posed by trees on both sides of the road and that they should be written to remind them of their responsibilities. G. O'Hora stated that a draft Emergency Plan for emergency vehicles for access to Great Island and Cobh in the event of a road closure was being prepared and was in preliminary discussions with Fota estate and the Gardaí regarding the emergency route. He further pointed out that speeding was a significant factor in many accidents on the Fota Road. He stated that the speed limit on the road was 60km and enforcing this was a matter for the Gardaí.

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

“A) In light of the fact that the Lower Harbour drainage scheme is going to start later than planned and that the work could take a few years to complete that this municipal district agrees a programme of repair works to roads in Cobh that have been delayed waiting on the scheme to begin,

B) That this council begin a proper traffic management survey of the town of Cobh in preparation for the streetscape work and in advance of the discussions about the possible building of the second liner berth”

a) Cllr. Rasmussen stated that several roads in the Cobh town area were subsiding and in need of repair and that this work should now proceed in the sections of the town not affected by the works. G. O'Hora replied that he had expected that construction works would have started by now and had prepared his own programme of works in line with the scheme projected programmed works. However, he was prepared to examine the roads in question as part of the 2018 programme of works.

b) Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the traffic flow in town was all connected and that the areas affected by the streetscape work cannot be isolated from the rest of the town. He felt that given the impact that the impending works would have on the town that the time was right to be proactive in planning ahead and seeking public consultation for an overall traffic management plan. S. O'Callaghan replied that the preliminary sketches had been prepared in connection with the streetscape works and that a traffic management plan was already included in the scoping for the impact of the 2nd Liner Terminal, which was due to go to tender and that any expansion of the area included would have an impact on the cost of the project. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he would be interested in seeing details of the traffic management plan before it goes to tender and that if extra costs were incurred, then the Port of Cork should be liable. Cllr. S. Sheppard enquired as to when the last Traffic management plan for the whole town was prepared. P. Lynch replied that this was in 2009 as part of the Scott Tallon Walker Feasibility Study. Cllr. Sheppard requested that this be circulated to the members. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard

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

“That this Municipal District seeks a meeting with the HSE to discuss the location of a primary care centre for Cobh”.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that most large towns in the country had a primary care centre and a hospital, Cobh had neither. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy, it was agreed to seek a meeting with the Minister for Health, Simon Harris.

13. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Padraig O’Sullivan:
“That the Area Engineer would survey the road outside Watergrasshill NS and consider undertaking traffic calming measures on same given the constant problem with excessive speed”.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that the Engineer would consider undertaking additional road safety measures the area.

14. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Padraig O’Sullivan:
“That the Area Engineers office would consider traffic calming measures in Killard at the request of the residents association”.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, G O’Hora agreed to examine traffic speeds through the village and investigate the possibility of funding a scheme through a Low Cost Accident Scheme.

15. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:
“That this municipal district support Glounthaune Men’s Shed in providing a permanent site for their activities marked on the attached map”.

Cllr. Barry circulated a map which showed lands at Glounthaune which are believed to be in the ownership of Cork County Council. Cllr. Barry stated that the Glounthaune Men’s Shed were looking for the land. On the proposal of Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. Rasmussen, it was agreed to raise the matter with the property Section of the Council.

16. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:
“That this council investigate the junction of Main Street Carrigtwohill and the Barryscourt road and address the obvious safety issues with this area i.e. flooding, pedestrian safety and signage”.

Cllr. Barry stated that there were ongoing issues at this location with flooding. There was a need for additional signage and a yellow box at the junction. G. O’Hora stated that there was an ongoing issue with double parking adjacent to the school at school closing times. He agreed to look at this issue. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Rasmussen

17. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:
“Due to the success of the IDA industrial park in Carrigtwohill safety issues are now arising at the back entrance to the site. This entrance was closed up until recently but now is in regular use due to major traffic congestion at the main entrance at peak times. Improvements will be required at this location to aid the safety of all users of this junction”.

Cllr. Barry stated that there were major problems with volumes of traffic using this road to avoid congestion on the main road. G. O’Hora stated that the rear estate entrance was a private entrance and that the Council could not carry out works on a private entrance. He undertook to look at the public road in the area to see if anything could be done. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Sheppard.

18. Any Other Business/Aon Ghnó Eile :

18.1 Cllr. McCarthy raised the issue of chevron signs on the Fota Road which had been damaged again recently and asked if they could be placed on the wall so that they would be more visible. G. O’Hora stated that a vehicle had crashed into the signs and a contractor had been appointed to repair and re-erect the signs.

- 18.2 Cllr. O’Cadhla stated that received an approach in relation to a Jack Doyle statue in Cobh and asked if G. O’Hora could meet him to look at possible locations. G. O’Hora agreed to a meeting to discuss possible locations in Cobh for the statute.
- 18.3 Cllr. Sheppard stated that a newly formed Top of the Hill Business Association had organised a cleanup for November 19 and were looking for the Council to provide a skip to facilitate the cleanup. G. O’Hora stated that the Council could pay for a skip as long as assurances were given that the skip would be kept secure and that domestic refuse would not be dumped in it.
- 18.4 Cllr. Rasmussen stated that up to 30 ornamental street lights in Cobh Town Centre were not working. G. O’Hora to examine and list for repair.
- 18.5 Cllr. Barry asked when the topsoiling on the approach to Carrigtwohill would be completed. G. O’Hora confirmed topsoil had been ordered and would be placed shortly.
- 18.6 Cllr Sheppard stated that one of the bus stops for the new Cobh bus service was directly outside a house and users of the service were dumping coffee cups in the garden. G. O’Hora to examine.
- 18.7 Cllr. Barry asked for a pothole adjacent to the bus stop in Carrigtwohill to be filled in. G. O’Hora to list for repair.
- 18.8 Cllr. Sheppard stated that hedging in Ballyleary adjacent to the Ashgrove and Ashdale estates was overhanging the road. G. O’Hora to examine.
- 18.9 Cllr. Sheppard asked about recent damage to playground equipment and seating in John O’Callaghan Park. G. O’Hora stated that damage had been caused by vandals and that he was looking to see if any funds were available to cover the cost of repairs.
- 18.10 Cllr. Sheppard asked if the traffic lights adjacent to Ahern Place in Cobh could be angled slightly so that motorists approaching from Ahern Place could see them. G. O’Hora to examine.
- 18.11 Cllr. Rasmussen stated that complaints had been received in relation to water flowing down Ticknock Hill. G. O’Hora stated that the water was coming from a watermain at the top of the hill. Irish Water had being informed of leak and requested to repair.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach.

Municipal District Officer.