

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE ON MONDAY 7th JANUARY, 2019.

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. G. O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer.
Ms. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

The meeting began with a minutes' reflection.

1. DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Monday 3rd December, 2018 were adopted.

2. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry it was agreed to suspend standing orders to consider Item no. 7 on the agenda, the taking in charge of the access road to Aldi, Glanmire. Following the presentation by members of the Housing Infrastructure and Strategic Implementation Team, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. P. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy it was agreed to start the process to take the road in charge.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Harbour Row:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen enquired as to when the CCTV, as previously discussed, would be installed on Harbour Row. S. O'Callaghan replied that the Municipal District had been in contact with the Environment Department in relation to this and would have an update for the next meeting. In the mean time the site was to be fenced off to prevent dumping at this location.

23/24 West Beach, Cobh:

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that a visual inspection of the property had been undertaken and the works requested by the Council had been carried out to the back of the premises. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the owner of the ground floor had said that water from holes in the roof was undermining the front of the building and these had not been repaired. G. O'Hora stated that this was a private issue between the two individuals involved. However Cllr. Rasmussen sought clarification on what action the Council could take if the building was deemed derelict or in a dangerous condition. R. O'Sullivan replied that a notice could be served under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 outlining the steps to be taken to make the building

safe and in this case the building had been initially described as being a derelict site, not a dangerous structure. Cllr. K. McCarthy stated that one of the owners appeared to be co-operating with the Council, but the other was not. R. O'Sullivan agreed to re-examine the situation.

Marwood Estate, Glanmire:

G. O'Hora stated that he had examined the area and spoken to the engineer in charge of the Glashaboy Flood Relief Scheme, this work will alleviate the problem in the long term, however in the meantime, he will continue to monitor the flooding and instigate mitigation measures.

West View, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that a preliminary survey of the location had been undertaken and due to the nature and location of the proposed platform, retaining walls would be required, however no funding was available to undertake the significant works involved at present. Footpath reinstatement works had been scheduled for the paths within the park

Signage, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that a number of additional poles had been erected throughout the town to meet the parking regulations and that there was an ongoing programme of works in relation to repair and realignment of the existing poles which will be progressing over the coming weeks. Cllr. Rasmussen reminded the engineers of the requirement to move the bin and the pole outside of Sorrento's takeaway and the Jack Doyle mural.

Castlelake & Main Street, Carrigtwohill:

G. O'Hora stated that there were no proposals or funding in place at present to install a roundabout or traffic signal at this location. However if a planning application was submitted in the future for this location, then it may be possible to insert a Special Condition to deal with the traffic situation then.

Forge Cross:

G. O'Hora stated that the location had been examined, the verge had been cut, which had improved the sightlines, however further works were required and these would be listed.

Rockgrove, Little Island:

The pothole had been repaired at this location.

Elm Tree, Glounthaune:

The engineer sought clarification of the location of the pothole, Cllr. Barry stated that it was more of a depression in the road and towards Johnstown Close.

Cobh:

The potholes on Laundry Hill have been listed for repair and a contractor has been appointed to replace part of the railings at the Five Foot Way with a gate. The overgrown trees at Assumption Place have been referred to the ESB.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence had been received since the last meeting.

5. OFFICER'S REPORTS:

G. O'Hora invited the members to submit details of CIS and LIS schemes to be considered for 2019.

6. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER'S REPORT:

S. O'Callaghan presented the M.D.O's report to the members, drawing particular attention to the closing date for the Municipal District Fund Schemes for 2019, which is 15th February and emphasising the requirement to submit the application online and in full.

Cllr. Rasmussen queried how much money was in the Dereliction Fund and how it is to be allocated. S. O'Callaghan replied that the fund had a total of €15,000 and was designed to repair footpaths, paint lanterns etc. and a painting scheme would be funded separately from the Town Development Fund, which would be decided in February or March. Cllr. Barry asked if there were any plans to compulsorily acquire derelict buildings on Harbour Row. Cllr. Rasmussen replied that there had never been any discussions about CPO's for Harbour Row and that all the buildings would appear to have owners even though between 15-18 of the buildings are derelict or partially derelict.

7. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, it was agreed to dispose of the Freehold Interest in 13 Ringmeen Estate, Cobh to Michael & Thomas Mackey for the consideration of €350.00 inclusive of administrative charges.

8. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. CATHAL RASMUSSEN:

“That this municipal would look at suitable traffic calming measures on the stretch of road from Kirkwood Villas to O'Donovan Place and outside the supermarket including the possibility of a pedestrian crossing in this area .

Also that this municipal would develop a suitable policy for dealing with applications for traffic calming measures in the whole district”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that speed was an issue at this location and that another accident had occurred just before Christmas, it was dangerous to cross the road particularly when the bus was parked. Cllr. Rasmussen also requested that traffic calming measures be introduced and a policy on traffic calming measures brought in for the whole district and that it should be brought to full Council. Cllr. K. McCarthy agreed with Cllr. Rasmussen's remarks and highlighted the extended hours the bus was now operating. G. O'Hora responded stating that a survey was to be carried out in the coming weeks and that a county wide policy on traffic calming measures was already in place. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy it was agreed that the engineer would investigate the possibility of installing VMS signs at this location.

9. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. CATHAL RASMUSSEN:

“That this municipal district would invite the companies dealing with broadband to a meeting to outline their lack of a plan to deal with the black spots in the whole district and to outline to us what steps they are taking to ensure that these black spots are dealt with.”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that there was an ongoing issue with black spots for broadband and it was assumed that once broadband was in a location that it was operating at optimal capacity throughout the area and this was just not the case in practice. Cllr. Sheppard agreed with Cllr. Rasmussen’s remarks, stating that businesses were experiencing particular problems with broadband connections. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. Sheppard, it was agreed to write to the broadband operators enquiring what plan was in place to improve the broadband connectivity for Cobh and the rest of the District and also what timeframe was envisaged.

10. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. CATHAL RASMUSSEN:

“That this municipal look at improving the traffic flow in Harbour Row by considering curving sections of the footpath to allow cars to pull in and any other ideas that will help.

Also that parking at the pinch point on West Beach is looked at to see if its practical to change a few parking spaces to parking length ways instead of the present way which would allow free flow there rather than the chaos at times.”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that there was chaos over Christmas with traffic along Harbour Row, he appreciated that it was not possible to reduce the width of the footpath but enquired as to whether it was possible to create ‘islands’ to improve traffic flow. Cllr. Rasmussen stated he realised that this would impact on parking on Harbour Row, but given the fact that the Lower Harbour Drainage Scheme was due to start in 2019, felt that by acting now, it would alleviate problems later on. Cllr. Rasmussen also raised the issue of traffic congestion on West Beach, especially near the loading bay outside of Centra. Cllr. Rasmussen stated cars are parking legally, however some larger vehicles protrude out into the road because of the ‘nose to kerb’ parking in this area and suggested that some spaces could be converted to parallel parking. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy, it was agreed that the engineer would examine both of these options.

11. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. PADRAIG O’SULLIVAN:

“That this Council would support the installation of a pedestrian crossing at Whitechurch NS.”

Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that the new housing estates in the village were well served with footpaths, but that a pedestrian crossing was needed to get the children safely across the road, which would also encourage children to walk and cycle to school. G. O’Hora stated that there are proposals to improve the junction adjacent to Buckley’s pub and traffic surveys would be required before a pedestrian crossing could be provided at the school. On the proposal of Cllr. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. Barry, it was agreed that the engineer would investigate the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Whitechurch NS.

12. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. PADRAIG O’SULLIVAN:

“Following on from a number of accidents over the Xmas period and given the unprecedented levels of development that have taken place that this Council would examine the Forge Cross junction in Glounthaune and provide a solution to ensure the safety of both motorists and pedestrians.”

Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that several accidents had occurred in the area, if the hedging was trimmed back it would improve matters, however the junction would need upgrading and improving before any more planning applications were considered. Cllr. Barry stated that all too often each planning application was dealt with in isolation without due consideration given to the impact that each application would have on the wider area. Cllr. Barry maintained that issues of traffic management and safety should be addressed early in the planning application process to prevent problems later. G. O’Hora stated that the area was being examined and additional lining and a traffic survey were due to be carried out. On the proposal of Cllr. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. Barry, it was agreed to write to the Planning Department of Cork County Council.

13. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. PADRAIG O’SULLIVAN:

“That this Municipal District write to Cork City Council and enquire as to the status of Harbour Point Industrial Park. A previous planning application stipulated that Cork City Council was to upgrade the road, making it ready for taking in charge by Cork County Council but this has not happened in the 15 years since the granting of planning.”

Cllr. P. O’Sullivan that it was the City Council’s responsibility to upgrade the road, several verbal assurances had been made over the years, but no works had been carried out. On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard it was agreed a letter would be sent to Cork City Council to ascertain when it was proposed to carry out the works.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS/AON GHNÓ EILE.

14.1 Spy Hill, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated the road surface outside Cobh Museum was in a very bad state. Engineer to examine.

14.2 Pedestrian Crossing, Colaiste Muire, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to the up to date position. G. O’Hora responded by stating that the contractor had been appointed and work was to commence in February.

14.3 Back of Great Island:

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to whether the works on the walls at the rear of the Great Island had commenced. No works commence yet.

14.4 Trees:

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to what the policy was when a tree falls from a private garden and blocks the public road, as had happened near Norwood Church just before Christmas. G. O’Hora replied, stating that it was the landowners’ responsibility to remove same and the Council would close the road to facilitate the removal. However, he would investigate this incident to ascertain what had happened, as the incident had happened on a Sunday and created havoc as the road was part of the one-way system.

14.5 Five Foot Way, Cobh:

Cllr. D. Ó’Cadhla queried the ownership of the Five Foot Way and whether there was an official Right of Way along its entirety and if it needed to be registered. S. O’Callaghan replied that the Councillor Ó’Cadhla’s motion in respect of the Five Foot Way had come in too late to be added to the agenda and as it raised a number of legal queries, it would be best to include it as a Notice of Motion for the next meeting. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the Port of Cork had issued a letter in the past explaining the situation regarding the closing of the quayside and that this section of the Five Foot Way walk was in private ownership. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that there were similar queries over a walkway adjacent to the old IFI site, which had also recently been closed off, the residents there were taking a court case. Cllr. McCarthy stated that as far as he was aware, the Five Foot Way had always been public property and asked if a Right of Way had been in place before the Cruise liners started calling on a regular basis and requested that the legal position be clarified.

14.6 Battery Strand, Cobh:

Cllr. D. Ó’Cadhla stated that there were other issues in relation to the Battery Strand besides the access, he stated that groups had attempted to clear the beach of rubbish and that there was funding available to assist local groups in carrying out this work. G. O’Hora replied that any time a group does a clean up the Council facilitates the removal of all rubbish accumulated. It was agreed that Cllr. D. Ó’Cadhla would contact the Tidy Towns Association in relation to clean ups in the area.

14.7 Ticknock, Cobh:

Cllr. McCarthy stated there was a very large pothole outside of Aldi/Lidl at Ticknock. Engineer to examine.

14.8 Cobh Connect:

Cllr. Sheppard raised the Cobh Connect bus stop at Londis, which was causing problems for traffic. Cllr. Rasmussen asked for a review of all the bus stops. Engineer to examine.

14.9 Ahern's Place, Cobh:

Cllr. S. Sheppard sought an update on the pedestrian lights at Ahern's Place, Cobh. Engineer to revert.

14.10 Leonard's Lodge, Cobh:

Cllr. Sheppard stated that there was water accumulating on the road outside of Leonard's Lodge, High Road. Engineer to examine.

14.11 The Park, Cobh:

Cllr. Sheppard stated that a tree was growing over the electricity cables outside of the Park, Cobh. G. O'Hora stated that this was a matter for the ESB.

14.12 Little Island:

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan asked if updates will be provided by the contractors once the works at Little Island commenced. Engineer to revert.

14.13 Knockraha:

Cllr. O'Sullivan stated that the road surface at Knockraha had been left in a very poor condition following works carried out by Irish Water. Engineer to examine.

14.14 Watergrasshill:

Cllr. O'Sullivan enquired whether it was possible to raise the pedestrian crossing outside of the school at Watergrasshill. G. O'Hora replied that he was waiting on funding to carry out these works.

14.15 Priests Hill, Glounthaune:

Cllr. O'Sullivan stated that the road and dykes in the area needed work and that the Council should write to the landowners requesting that the hedges are trimmed back. Engineer to examine.

14.16 Glenmore Bridge:

Cllr. O'Sullivan stated a resident in the area had installed stones on the grass verge which were causing problems for traffic. Engineer to examine.

14.17 Woods Quarry, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. Barry requested that the Council write to TII regarding the trees adjacent to Junction 4, near Woods Quarry, which need to be cut back.

14.18 New Line, Glanmire:

Cllr. Barry stated that there were a number of potholes at the New Line, Glanmire. Engineer to examine.

14.19 Spratts Corner:

Cllr. Barry stated that that the junction at Spratts' Corner needs to be looked at. Engineer to examine.

14.20 Barryscourt, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. Barry stated the road surface was in very poor condition near Barryscourt, Carrigtwohill. Engineer to examine.

14.21 Oakfield, Brooklodge:

Cllr. G. Keohane stated that there were a number of potholes in the Brooklodge area, near the petrol station. Engineer to examine.

14.22 Hermitage Estate, Glanmire:

Cllr. Keohane stated that measures needed to be introduced to address speeding near the bridge at Glanmire. G. O’Hora stated that remedial works were due to be carried out at this location.

14.23 Cathedral Car Park, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the 3 lights installed at the car park near the Cathedral in Cobh still weren’t connected. Engineer to contact the public lighting engineer.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.