

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD IN CARRIG HOUSE, COBH, ON TUESDAY, 9th MAY, 2017

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

Apologies were received from Cllr. G. Keohane and Mr. G. O’Hora.

Officials Present:

Mr. S. O’Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. P. Lynch, Cobh Municipal District
Mr. R. O’Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Ms. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

The meeting commenced with a silent prayer.

1. DEIMHNIU MIONTUAIRISCI – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Councillor A. Barry, seconded by Councillor S. Sheppard, the Minutes of the Cobh Municipal District Meeting held on 11th April, 2017, and the Special Meeting held on 25th April, were adopted.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

John O’Callaghan Park, Glanmire

P. Lynch advised the members that he was currently investigating the Dept. Of Justice Community CCTV scheme to ascertain if an application can be submitted for this area and will advise the members at the next meeting. Cllr. Sheppard enquired as to whether a system, similar to that proposed for Midleton, could be put in place. S. O’Callaghan replied that that system had cost in the region of €100,000 and had been initiated and paid for out of funds provided for by the former Midleton Town Council. No such funding was available for John O’Callaghan Park.

Ashington Estate

P. Lynch stated that an email had been sent to the Planning Policy Unit in relation to this matter and was awaiting a reply.

Sign at Burma Steps

R. O’Sullivan stated that the sign had been erected.

Chevron Signs at Fota Road.

R. O’Sullivan stated this work would be carried out.

Visit of USS Donald Cook to Cobh

P. Lynch advised that a letter had been sent to the Department of the Taoiseach. He stated that an acknowledgement had been received indicating that the matter had been referred to the Minister for Defence.

Stone walls at back of Great Island

R. O'Sullivan stated that work was scheduled and would be completed by September.

Road markings at Coolamber

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that this work was listed.

Flooding at Castlejane

G. O'Hara is to revert to the members regarding this issue.

Water Rock

Paraig Lynch stated that a letter had issued to the Planning Policy Unit.

Wall at Elmgrove

R. O'Sullivan stated that the wall was listed for repair and the Council were liaising with the owners.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Letter from Department of the Taoiseach in relation to correspondence concerning the visit of the USS Donald Cook to Cobh. The letter stated that the matter had been referred to the Minister for Defence.

4. OFFICERS REPORTS

a) Schedule of Municipal Works

P. Lynch circulated the schedule of Municipal works and the approved budget for same for approval, which included an increase in the School Warden allocation for a warden at Brooklodge. Cllr. Rasmussen requested that in future the budget for previous years also be circulated for comparison purposes. The schedule of works as presented was proposed by Cllr. Rasmussen and seconded by Cllr. Sheppard.

b) Funfair Licence Application

P. Lynch presented an application for a Funfair Licence which had been received from Ms. Sharon Piper for a number of dates over the summer. The application was accompanied by the appropriate Certificate of Safety for the children's carousel, valid until 10th June, 2017. Approval for the licence, subject to the submission of an updated Certificate of Safety to cover July and August, was proposed by Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy.

c) Erin's Own Amenity Grant

P. Lynch referred to a request by Erin's Own to amend the project for which they had already received an Amenity Grant. Cllr. Barry stated that the process for revising projects subsequent to the allocation of funds should be considered further. Cllr. Sheppard raised the

issue that some groups were refused funding in its entirety and that if given the opportunity to revise their applications, perhaps this would not have been the case. Cllr. Ó'Cadhlá enquired as to what further steps could be taken by the Council to ensure such situations do not arise again. P. Lynch stated that a rigorous process was in place to assess the applications submitted before being placed before the members, however despite this a number of groups have approached the Council to scale down their projects after funding has been allocated. Cllr. Ó'Cadhlá suggested that if a group is not in a position to proceed with the original project proposed that instead of giving them permission to amend their application, the funds would be subject to a second round of allocation. Cllr. Sheppard enquired as to what happens if a group did not draw down its grant. P. Lynch replied that no new applications were advertised but that the members were advised that there were funds left over. S. O'Callaghan stated that this situation was also experienced in other Municipal Districts and perhaps it was time that a consistent, county wide approach be adopted. It was agreed that Erin's Own could amend their application on this occasion, proposed by Cllr. A. Barry and seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen.

d) **Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2017**

S. O'Callaghan stated that a maximum of 15 projects would be considered under this scheme and all must be ready to start in 2017 and finished no later than 2018. He explained that projects under this scheme must be capable of driving economic development and could not enhance the public realm, there was also no guarantee that Cork would received any funding.

e) **Tidy Towns Meeting**

P. Lynch stated that a date had to be set for a meeting with the Tidy Towns Committee. Cllr. A. Barry proposed that if no suitable date could be agreed before the Municipal District June meeting, then the Tidy Towns meeting would take place on the same day.

5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 2001

Report in accordance with Article 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended by Article 17 of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2006).

Location and Nature & Extent of Development

Proposed renovation and extension to existing Playground at Five Foot Way Carpark, Whitepoint, Cobh, Co. Cork.

P. Lynch stated that a Notice of the above proposal was advertised on 10 March, 2017 in the Irish Examiner, and a Notice was erected on the site on that date. The Notice advised that submissions should be received on or before 5 May, 2017. No submission has been received from members of the public. No submissions have been received from Statutory Bodies: Sean McLoughlin, A/County Architect has stated that the Architect's Department has no observations to make in relation to the proposal. As there were no objections to the proposal, he was recommending that the proposal be approved as advertised.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. Sl. Sheppard, it was agreed to recommend the matter to full Council

6. **To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**
“That this council would agree to traffic calming or speed reduction measures between Kirkwood Villas and Aileen terrace in an attempt to reduce the risk of serious injury in this area due to mindless speeding”.

R. O’Sullivan advised that the Area Engineer had previously examined this and advised that speed ramps are not suitable at this location. However the erection of additional road safety signs will be examined. Cllr. Rasmussen explained that the road was very narrow in the area, also quite a number of the residents were elderly and enquired as to whether additional signage could be erected here, similar to that put up at Carrigaloe and if was possible to reduce the speed in this location. Cllr. K. McCarthy enquired as to the possibility of acquiring a mobile camera. Cllr. A. Barry stated that it was too late to reduce the speed limit for this occasion. Proposed by Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. Ó’Cadhla.

7. **To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**
“That this council would contact Irish Water to insist on the installation of a new water main on Ticknock Hill owing to the number of recent burst pipes in the location recently”.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the water mains in this area had failed on numerous occasions and needed to be replaced as a matter of urgency and before any resurfacing works took place, in the meantime the patch should be properly repaired. Proposed by Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy.

8. **To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**
“That this council would consider financial support to the Cobh Sea Angling festival to ensure it goes ahead and also that consideration be given to the Cobh Ukulele festival to ensure it survives with both monies coming from the Cobh parking dividend”.

Cllr. Rasmussen raised the issue of funding for both festivals, acknowledging that the Ukulele festival had received funding already, but enquired as to whether there was any further available, perhaps from the Pay Parking Dividend, as both festivals brought a lot of visitors to the town. Cllr. Sheppard enquired as to how much money the organisers were looking for. P. Lynch stated that all applications for funding received a minimum of 35% of the associated costs, however tourism related projects received more, and that staff in the Municipal District had sought information from the Sea Angling organisers on numerous occasions, but that this had not been provided, consequently their application was rejected. S. O’Callaghan suggested that the organisers of the Ukulele festival seek funding from the Council’s tourism section. Cllr. Barry pointed out that there was no guarantee that the amount of the Pay Parking Dividend would be the same as last year and commitments had already been made in relation to it. It was proposed by Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. Sheppard that a decision on further funding should be deferred until the amounts due under the Pay Parking Dividend had been notified to the Municipal District.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS/AON GHNÓ EILE.**

i) **Lake Road – Water Shortages**

Cllr. K. McCarthy raised the issue of on-going water shortages on the Lake Road. He said that the residents are experiencing interruptions to the service on a weekly basis and that when the residents contacted Irish Water, they only got a recorded

message requesting that they contact their Local Authority. Cllr. A. Barry remarked that he also had contacted Irish Water the previous weekend and had had no problem getting through. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the problems experienced by the residents have arisen only since water meters were installed. Cllr. Barry proposed writing to Irish Water.

ii) Congratulations

Cllr. Ó'Cadhlá proposed a vote of congratulations be sent to Cllr. K. McCarthy regarding his walking tour of Cobh and highly recommended it. This was seconded by Cllr. A. Barry

iii) Casual Trading Bye-Laws

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to the current position regarding the Casual Trading Bye-laws. P. Lynch replied that following the public consultation period, legal issues arose, which have to be addressed. Accordingly, the current Bye-laws remain in force. S. O'Callaghan advised that no date had been set for the introduction of the Bye-laws and senior counsel were advising Cork County Council.

iv) On-Street Busking

Cllr. Rasmussen raised the issue of busking on the streets of Cobh. P. Lynch is to investigate how this is dealt with in other districts.

v) Road Lining for Cobh

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to when this will take place. R. O'Sullivan stated that this work will start at the end of May.

vi) Litter Bins

Cllr. Rasmussen stated he had carried out a survey of the new bins and that they did not appear to improve the litter management situation. R. O'Sullivan stated that all but 3 of the bins had been replaced and all the new bins had a smaller opening to prevent litter from falling out, however he would re-examine the situation.

vii) Taxi Byelaws

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to the current position regarding the taxi spaces at the Heritage Centre and train station, the traffic situation was chaos at these locations when a liner was berthed at the Deep Water Quay. P. Lynch stated that the taxis had been picking up fares on the quay itself and the Port of Cork had raised health and safety concerns in relation to this practice. Cork County Council and the Port of Cork were working with the Taxi Regulator regarding a standing and holding area on the Lower Road, for which the infrastructure is currently in place and a meeting was to take place shortly to discuss this matter. P. Lynch clarified that taxis cannot stand for hire in the parking spaces outside of the Heritage Centre. Cllr. Rasmussen suggested that the Port of Cork should be contacted and that buses should be directed into the Five Foot way and up the quay. P. Lynch to revert.

viii) Buses in Cobh Town Centre

Cllr. Sheppard raised the issue of buses parking in the centre of Cobh, outside of the Titanic Experience. She stated that the Road Train could not park in its designated area as a consequence. P. Lynch replied that Cobh Town Council had agreed to provide a bus stop as opposed to a drop off point at this location and therefore the buses were entitled to park there. Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to whether the bus stop could be changed to a drop off only point and Cllr. Sheppard sought a permanent space for the road train. P. Lynch is to examine same.

ix) Darkness into Light Walk

Cllr. Sheppard asked that the organisers of the Darkness into Light Walk for Cobh be written to and congratulated on the success of the event. Proposed by Cllr. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy.

x) Harbour Hill, Cobh

Cllr. Sheppard raised the issue of dumping at the top of Harbour Hill, behind the wall. Engineer to examine.

xi) Credit Union, Cobh

Cllr. Sheppard stated that there were bollards on the roof of the Credit Union which appeared to be a danger to the public walking on the footpath below. Engineer to examine.

xii) Barnavarna Hill

Cllr. Sheppard raised the issue of a derelict house on the left hand of the road. The vegetation was very overgrown and causing visibility issues for the residents of Springmount. Engineer to examine.

xiii) Litter Management

Cllr. Sheppard enquired as to the status of the Litter Management Plan. P. Lynch is to contact the Environment Section again as much of the requirements of the Litter Plan fell outside the scope of the Municipal District.

xiv) Brookville/East Cliff Road

Cllr. Sheppard stated that the traffic on this road was very bad and needed traffic calming measures. Cllr. O'Sullivan also raised this issue. Engineer to examine the signage in the area.

xv) Cork County Council Paint Scheme

Cllr. Sheppard enquired as to whether the scheme had been sufficiently advertised, as there would appear to be very little take up, she also enquired as to whether the business community were aware that the scheme also applied to replacing neon or plastic signs with heritage type signage. P. Lynch confirmed that the scheme had been advertised in local media and the details had been notified to the Tidy Towns groups. Cllr. Barry confirmed that a leaflet drop had been organised in Carrigtwohill.

xvi) Mobile CCTV

Cllr. O'Sullivan enquired what the up to date position was in relation to the Mobile CCTV unit. P. Lynch is currently investigating as to whether a scheme operated by the Dept. Of Justice is suitable.

xvii) Station Road, Carrigtwohill

Cllr. Barry stated that a bollard on this road had been hit by a vehicle and was in an unsafe state. Engineer to examine.

xviii) Carrigtwohill – Road lining

Cllr. Barry stated that the road outside of the Church needs to be properly defined. Engineer to examine.

xix) Temporary Road Speed Signs

Cllr. Barry raised the issue of flashing speed lights. S. O’Callaghan stated that the Transport SPC had not responded, he will enquire further.

xx) Camper Van Parking Area

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that additional signage for the camper van area would need to be provided, warning drivers to ensure that a space was available before parking, as it may not be possible to turn the larger camper vans when the playground is extended. Engineer to examine. Cllr. Rasmussen also enquired as to fire regulations raised by Cllr. Keohane at a previous meeting. P. Lynch stated that he is awaiting a reply from the Fire Service.

xxi) Congratulations

Cllr. Rasmussen proposed a letter of Congratulations to Leaside AFC on foot of their success in the FAI Youths Cup and the Munster Youths Cup, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry.

Cllr. Barry proposed a letter of Congratulation to Whitechurch GAA on foot of their success in the All-Ireland Junior B Hurling Championship seconded by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer