

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH ON TUESDAY 8th MAY, 2018.

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

Officials Present: 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

Apologies were received from Cllr. S. Sheppard and Mr. S. O’Callaghan.

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

1. DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. G. Keohane, the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd April, 2018 were adopted. Prior to the adoption of the minutes, Cllr. K. McCarthy raised the issue of a new hotel for Cobh (Item No. 7 on the minutes) again. He stated that the issue was too important to leave go and that he still sought a meeting with the County Council Planner in relation to this matter. After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan that a special meeting would be arranged to discuss same, with the planner present. P. Lynch to revert with date.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Keohane, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, the minutes of the Special Meeting held on Monday, 23rd April, 2018 were adopted.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cobh Connect Bus Stop:

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to whether the bus stop had yet been moved. R. O’Sullivan replied matter had being reviewed and new bus stop location identified.

College Manor & Potholes in Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that he was still awaiting a response to his request for extra funding from central funds to address the issue of the depression in the road at College Manor and other potholes in Cobh including the Laundry Hill. Cllr. Rasmussen queried what would happen if the extra funds did not materialise. G. O’Hora replied that he had a small contingency fund, but that this would not be sufficient to tackle all the repairs required.

Arch Building, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that having examined the entrance to the library that he would consider including works at this location in the 2018 Footpath programme, however the works were not straight forward.

Knockraha:

G. O'Hora stated that repairs had been carried out to the L90823 road last week.

DUBLIN HILL:

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

Lios Cara, Glanmire:

G. O'Hora stated that works had been carried out to the roads in the area. P. Lynch stated that a notice had been served on the owners of the derelict house, they had contacted the office to explain that demolition was ready to proceed as soon as the ESB had disconnected the power.

Fernwood Estate, Glanmire:

G O' Hora replied, there is a formal procedure for estates to be taken in charge. Matter of taking the estate in charge should be referred to the Estates section of CCC.

Belvelly, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that KN Networks had been in contact with several people in relation to damage caused as a result of the works carried out at Ahern's corner.

3. CORRESPONDENCE:

P. Lynch stated that he had received an acknowledgement from the Taoiseach's office and the office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport.

P. Lynch circulated correspondence received from the Jack Doyle Statue Committee. In reply to a query from Cllr. O' Cadhla, he stated that the members could agree to work in partnership with the organising committee. If they made that decision, the Part 8 procedure would then be used in relation to looking for planning permission for the proposed statue. On the proposal of Cllr. Ó' Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy, it was agreed that the Cobh Municipal District would work in partnership with the organising committee. It was also agreed that the Municipal District would assist the committee in preparing the documentation and drawings required for the planning process.

4. OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Public Lighting Programme 2018:

G. O'Hora circulated proposals and costed estimates for submissions received for five locations:

1. Glanmire
2. Cobh
3. Barnavarra Hill & Castlejane Woods
4. Killard
5. Carrignavar

One of the submissions received for Ballynagaul, Knockraha did not meet the criteria for the council's 2018 public lighting programme.

The works for Killard has been costed in excess of €49,000 and will take four years to implement, G. O’Hora proposed to put aside €10,000 per annum. Cllr. O’Sullivan queried the benefit to the County of carrying out works in an area due to be transferred to the City in the next eighteen months. P. Lynch stated that no decision had been made in how areas which are being transferred to the City will be dealt with next year.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the monies should be allocated and the proposal re-assessed going forward. P. Lynch suggested that an alternative proposal be prepared just in case. G. O’Hora invited suggestion for an alternative scheme from the members.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. G. Keohane, the proposals as outlined were adopted.

G. O’Hora presented drawings for three traffic calming Schemes at, Whitechurch Village, Cow Cross, Cobh and Bishop Street, Cobh. He stated that he was in a position to go ahead with the Section 38 at this stage following discussions with the members. Cllr. C. Rasmussen commented that some of the parking spaces still had to be moved on the Bishops Street scheme. G. O’Hora confirmed that he would inform members of when the Section 38 process is complete and when works are due to commence.

HOUSING REPORT FOR COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT:

P. Lynch stated that the above report had been received too late for the April meeting. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that he was aware of 1 or 2 houses that were not listed and he was not sure how accurate the numbers were.

5. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICERS REPORT:

P. Lynch presented the May report.

General Municipal Allocation:

An amount of €208,000 was provided in 2018 for Community, Voluntary and Sporting groups across the Cobh Municipal District under the Amenity Grant, Capital Grant and Community Contract Schemes. Allocations under these schemes were approved by the members at a meeting held in Committee on Monday 30th April. Municipal District staff are currently contacting all successful applicants in relation to their allocations.

Town Development Fund

The allocation for 2018, to be spent in Cobh, Carrigtwohill and Glanmire, is €135,000. The matter is to be considered at a meeting of the Cobh Municipal District to be held in committee on immediately prior to the monthly meeting on 8 May

Tackling Dereliction Fund:

An allocation of €15,000 was provided in the 2018 Budget for the Cobh MD for tackling dereliction. Having discussed this matter with the Roads Engineer, it is proposed to spend this money in upgrading the Old Street area of Cobh. This street is the main pedestrian access route for visitors to Cobh who wish to visit the Cathedral. Working in conjunction with Cobh Tidy Towns, the proposal is to resurface and reline the roadway and to replace the bollard at the junction of the Old Street and Pearse Square. Boundary walls along the route will be painted, and the steps from the Old Street to Cathedral Place will also be upgraded. If there are sufficient funds remaining, it is intended to upgrade the public lighting on this street. P. Lynch confirmed that

there would be no vehicular access once the bollard at the end of the street has been replaced, keys will be provided to residents if needed.

World War 1 Heritage Trail

Members previously agreed to provide funding for the installation of plaques in connection with this project. Following discussions with Cork County Council's Conservation Officer, it has now been decided that plaques will not be required. However, the intention is that in addition to the production of a brochure and map, CCC will also have a web presence for this project, which will include greater detail than what is available on the brochure. It is estimated that the required contribution from the Cobh Municipal District for this project will not exceed €5,000 and P. Lynch recommended to the members that the funding be provided from the Pay Parking Dividend. Cllr. O'Cadhla was anxious that the trail would not be used to promote war and also that the Irish language would be included.

Traffic/Litter Warden

Members should note that the additional Warden has commenced work with Cork County Council. Training in relation to traffic and litter duties has been provided to the Warden and he is now available for normal duties. The Warden will be in a position to monitor compliance with the Overnight Parking Bye Laws currently in operation in respect of the Camper Van facility.

Funfair Licence

Members agreed at the March meeting to grant a Funfair Licence to Sharon Piper in relation to the operation of a carousel in the Promenade, Cobh on a number of dates during summer 2018. P. Lynch had now received a request that the licence be extended to allow the erection of an inflatable slide on the same dates. Ms. Piper has confirmed that the necessary insurance and safety certificates are in order. P. Lynch had no objection to the request.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, it was agreed to adopt the recommendations in the Report.

6. DRAFT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN:

P. Lynch circulated the amended Litter Plan, with the submissions received to the members. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. D. O'Cadhla, it was agreed to defer consideration of the Plan until the next meeting, in order to give the members an opportunity to study same.

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

“That we agree a detailed traffic management plan for the car park at the five foot way and that proper lines be put there to get the maximum parking spaces there also we look at the possibility of speaking with Irish Rail to see if we could get some ground from them to widen the car park. That Proper signage be erected advising all users about parking and to be aware of children and adults crossing near the playground. That monies are made available for the erecting of the fencing on the railings on the water front”.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the success of the various developments at the Five Foot Way had brought about its own challenges. Last Sunday, 6th May, saw unprecedented

numbers of visitors to the town and highlighted the dangers in and around the entrance to the playground in particular. More signage needs to be erected and the shrubs near the playground need to be cut back. There were over 40 camper vans parked in the area, even though the bye-laws only allow for 30, he emphasised the need to patrol this area on a regular basis and to put up signage advising camper van owners to check that parking is available before accessing the area on busy days and the necessity to move on if all the bays are full. The Cobh Connect bus appears to be parking in this area overnight, Cllr. Rasmussen queried if an agreement was in place for this. He also queried if there was space allocated for casual trading to allow for vehicles selling ice cream etc.

P. Lynch responded saying the Traffic Warden was patrolling the area regularly checking tickets and fines had been issued in the camper van area, he confirmed that the majority of the campers did appear to be paying for parking. The lining of the car park is scheduled as part of the Streetscape works and when complete should provide more car parking spaces. The engineer will investigate as to what additional signage was required. It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, that in addition to the above, Cllr. Rasmussen would contact the local schools in relation to providing extra car parking at weekends if required.

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

“That the emergency plan for access to the Fota road through Fota estate be published advertised to ensure that all relevant stake holders are informed. Also that we look at getting the Fota road itself tidied up as many trees are left in a poor state and walls are broken in a number of locations.”

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked whether an emergency plan was now in place, G. O’Hora responded by saying that it was a complex issue as there were five different landowners on the Fota estate but that an agreement was almost in place between the estate landowners and the emergency services and it was hoped to be in place within 3-4 weeks, however, the plan would not be published and access would be for emergency vehicles only.

Concern was also raised regarding the number of trees that have fallen and have been left in situ, some of which were resting on top of the wall.

G O’Hora replied land owners had being notified of the fallen trees.

9. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Pdraig O’Sullivan:

“That this Council would request the Environment Section to erect temporary CCTV in the Rathcooney area of Glanmire given that persistent littering is occurring every day in this part of the LEA.”

Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that there was persistent dumping occurring in and around the Rathcooney area and needed to be addressed. P. Lynch stated that during a recent meeting with the senior engineer attached to the Environment department it was agreed that the mobile CCTV unit would be deployed to litter ‘blackspots’ throughout the

Municipal District. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he thought it had been agreed sometime ago that the Municipal District would invest in its own mobile cameras. G. O'Hora stated that funding and resources were not available at present to implement CCTV in this area alone.

It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. P. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. G. Keohane, to request the mobile CCTV unit from the Environment Department of Cork County Council.

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

"That this Council request that public lighting be prioritised in the area of Killard, Blarney."

This motion had been addressed earlier.

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

"That this Council make a request to the Executive of Cork County Council that a portion of the contributions collected from various developments in the Glounthaune area would be used to support the sustainable development of the Harper's Island Bird Sanctuary in Glounthaune."

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated that between 400 and 1,000 houses were to be built in the Glounthaune area over the next five years and as far as he was aware, very few amenities were being developed in conjunction with the increase in housing. He was aware that all the development contributions go into a central fund, but wished to highlight this deficit before the developments go ahead. Cllr. A. Barry agreed that there was a dearth of amenity facilities in the area. P. Lynch stated that €26,000 had been spent from central funds in the Glounthaune area in 2017 alone and that an application was currently on hand to develop a walkway in the vicinity.

12. Any Other Business/Aon Ghnó Eile

Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. Barry raised the issue of potholes in the vicinity of the Church Car park, Carrigtwohill. Engineer to examine and list potholes for repair.

Aldi, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. Barry stated that there was a pothole in the middle of the road outside of Aldi, Carrigtwohill which was very deep. Engineer to examine and list potholes for repair

Family Resource Centre, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. Barry stated that there was no stop sign at the junction near the Family Resource Centre. Engineer to examine.

Cobh Playground:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen enquired about fencing at the playground in Cobh. The Engineer replied that this work to the playground fencing had been carried out.

Harbour Row, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen raised the possibility of putting in rumble strips on Harbour Row, Cobh. Engineer replied rumble strips are not suitable for urban areas.

Ringmeen, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that while he was delighted that the footpaths in this area had been completed, the road was very bad. Engineer to examine.

Hospital, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen queried when the lining at Cobh Hospital would be carried out. Engineer replied, a road lining contractor had recently been appointed and works would be carried out shortly.

Little Island:

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated that the road between Little Island junction and Glounthaune Church was sinking. Engineer to examine.

Jack Doyle Statue, Cobh:

On the proposal of Cllr. D. O'Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to allocate a sum of €8,000.00 from the Pay Parking Dividend to the Jack Doyle Statue.

Summer Swing, Cobh:

On the proposal of Cllr. D. O'Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, it was agreed to allocate a sum of €2,000.00 from the Pay Parking Dividend to the Summer Swing Committee.

Glanmire Signs:

On the proposal of Cllr. D. O'Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, it was agreed to request that the signs for Glanmire included the Irish place names.

Cllr. G. Keohane requested the assistance of Council staff to erect the signage.

Five Foot Way, Cobh:

Cllr. K. McCarthy enquired as to when an official opening for the re-development of the entire Five Foot Way area would take place. Cllr. C. Rasmussen suggested a plaque also to mark the occasion. Cllr. K. McCarthy suggested that Donal Og Cusack should be invited to mark the opening of the Outdoor Gym

Festival Funds, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen suggested that the Municipal District write to Cork County Council to discuss funding for local festivals for next year. Cllr. D. O'Cadhla indicated that other local authorities provided support for local traditional musicians and enquired as to how this could be extended to Cobh.

Campervan Parking, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen requested a monthly report on the numbers using the campervan facility and the amount of revenue generated, he also requested an accounting of the amounts pledged from the Pay Parking Dividend.

Capital Grants Allocation:

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan requested that the groups allocated funding under the Capital Grants Scheme would be invited to Carrig House to receive their cheques.

LIS Scheme:

Cllr P. O'Sullivan stated that over €1m in total had been allocated to this fund, however only two road east of the Tunnel had been done and only one within the Cobh Municipal District. Cllr. O'Sullivan requested that a letter be sent to the Roads SPC querying the small allocation and a breakdown of the number of applications received per Municipal District and the criteria for rejection, given that more than one application was received from this M.D., but only one was approved.

Proposed by Cllr. P. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. Barry

BEST WISHES:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen wished Cllr. Sinead Sheppard all the best with her upcoming happy event.

CONDOLENCES:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy, a vote of condolence on behalf of both Councillors and staff was passed on the death of Patricia Morey, an employee of Cobh Urban District for over 45 years, a moments silence followed, all standing.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.