

## CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Proceedings of Ordinary Meeting of Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District held in Council Chamber, Floor 2, County Hall, on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mary Rose Desmond (Cathaoirleach) presided. Councillors: Deirdre Forde, Derry Canty, Seamus McGrath, Michael Murphy, Joe Harris, Marcia D'Alton, Eoghan Jeffers, John A. Collins.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Daithi O'Donnabhain.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Margaret Kennedy, Staff Officer, Madeleine Healy, Senior Executive Engineer, Sarah O'Sullivan, Clerical Officer.

### 2: MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. D'Alton and seconded by Cllr. McGrath, the minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2017, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

### MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

#### Cllr. McGrath

(i) Cllr. McGrath asked Madeleine Healy for an update on the bollards on the R610 Rafeen Terrace to N28 bend. Cllr. McGrath also asked Madeleine Healy for suggestions for a permanent solution as the area is untidy and suggested the possibility of a barrier being put in place.

Madeleine Healy advised that she is aware of the location and noted that the bollards were put in place as a short term measure. Madeleine Healy advised that the intention is to remove the bollards and repair the wall.

(ii) Cllr. McGrath thanked Madeleine Healy for the hedge cutting at Carrignacurra junction and asked Madeleine Healy to look at hedge cutting on the Carrigaline side.

#### Cllr. D'Alton

(i) Cllr. D'Alton advised Madeleine Healy that the bollards are still in place following the repair of the wall on the back road in Passage West.

(ii) Cllr. D'Alton asked for an update on Dock Terrace.

Margaret Kennedy advised that Kevin O'Regan wrote to Doyles Shipping Group on the matter but there has been no response to date. Kevin O'Regan has advised that he will be requesting an engineer's report, with a view to the properties being put on the derelict sites register.

Cllr. D'Alton asked if owners are normally contacted prior to requesting an engineer's report for derelict sites.

Margaret Kennedy agreed to revert to Members with this information.

#### Cllr. Murphy

Cllr. Murphy advised that there is rubbish thrown behind the properties on Dock Terrace and noted that the Environment Section had agreed to carry out an inspection.

Margaret Kennedy agreed to follow up on the matter and revert to Members.

#### Cllr. Collins

Cllr. Collins advised that landowners are not fulfilling their duties in relation to cutting back overgrowth at junctions and asked if there is anything being done regarding enforcement/follow up.

Madeleine Healy advised that it is not possible to follow up with all landowners and noted that we do remind them of their duties.

### **3: CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **(i) Derelict Sites Report – Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District**

Cllr. D’Alton thanked Margaret Kennedy for the report on the matter and asked which property has been removed from the derelict sites register.

Margaret Kennedy advised that she will check the records and forward details to the Members.

#### **(ii) Schedule of Municipal Works – Expenditure Report as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Cllr. D’Alton advised that the Municipal District had been assigned additional monies to spend on coastal works and noted that she had asked for a slip cleaning programme. Cllr. D’Alton advised that there has been very little money spent from this budget and asked what the allocation will be used for.

Madeleine Healy advised that there is a coast management budget and noted that some works have been carried out regarding cleaning but she does not have an update. Madeleine Healy advised that some repair works have been carried out by the Coastal Unit but there is no update at present. The Coastal Protection budget of €4,970 is for maintenance only and is being primarily spent on the maintenance of slipways.

Cllr. McGrath advised that there had been a discussion of issues regarding outdoor work including reduced staff numbers and resources at a recent CPG meeting. The Gateway Scheme has finished and it is difficult to get TÚS and CE workers at present. It is difficult to get work done on the ground and this is being felt. Cllr. McGrath advised that it is a matter of resources and unless the issue is raised the situation will not change. Cllr. McGrath asked that the issue of lack of priority being given to the area offices be raised with the Chief Executive.

A discussion on the matter followed and Cllr. McGrath was supported by the Members.

Madeleine Healy advised that she would welcome extra staff and noted that it takes time to examine incidents and create reports. Madeleine Healy advised that the area office receives a huge volume of requests and if there were more resources it would be better equipped to deal with them. Madeleine Healy advised that the office is under increased pressure and noted that a lot of works in the area take a huge amount of administrative resources, which are difficult to manage. Madeleine Healy advised that she would welcome extra resources to carry out works.

Cllr. McGrath requested that a letter be sent to the CE on the matter and that the Municipal District forward a Notice of Motion on the matter to full Council for the September meeting. Cllr. McGrath was supported by the Members in his request.

Cllr. McGrath agreed to forward the Notice of Motion wording to Sarah O’Sullivan.

Cllr. Forde requested a spreadsheet of all Notices of Motion submitted by Members.

### **4: CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **(i) Correspondence from TII – Ringaskiddy Playground Pedestrian Crossing N28**

Cllr. D’Alton advised of her frustration on the matter and noted that she had previously carried out a traffic count in the area. Cllr. D’Alton advised that she would welcome Members views.

Cllr. McGrath advised that he shared Cllr. D’Alton’s frustration and suggested that the Road Design Office be invited to attend a Municipal District meeting on the matter.

Cllr. McGrath was supported by the Members in his request.

#### **(ii) Correspondence from Irish Water – Water Outages, Carrigaline**

Cllr. McGrath advised that the response received is disappointing and noted that the outages affect numerous residents. Cllr. McGrath requested that the Chief Executive of Irish Water be contacted in order to escalate the matter.

Cllr. Jeffers advised that the matter needs to be given high priority as there were outages 4-5 times in one month.

Cllr. McGrath requested that the Chief Executive of Irish Water be written to on the matter and was supported by the Members in his request.

Cllr. McGrath agreed to forward contact details to Sarah O’Sullivan.

**(iii) Correspondence from Minister Denis Naughten Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment – Election Posters**

Cllr. D’Alton thanked the Minister for his response on the matter.

**5: DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY**

**To consider the disposal of freehold interest at 3 Congress Place, Monkstown, Co. Cork to property owner Leona Beale for the consideration of €350.00 inclusive of administration charges.**

Members noted that the proposed disposal had been advertised, that this was a property that the Council deemed should be disposed of and agreed that the matter should be forwarded to Full Council for approval.

**6: GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION 2017/TOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND 2017**

Margaret Kennedy advised that a report on the matter was previously circulated to Members and noted that a decision on the matter is required today as both events are proposed to take place in August.

Cllr. D’Alton advised that the allocation to Music In Community is a large amount of funding and noted that it had been agreed to review the matter last year. Cllr. D’Alton advised that the Municipal District would be supporting two festivals in Ballincollig, which would appear unequal.

Cllr. Canty advised that the Music In Community organisers put in a great effort in 2015 and 2016 and unfortunately last year’s event was hampered by bad weather. The event cost over €20,000 in 2016 and the organisers have reduced expectations this year. They have proposed to have small gigs such as those held in the first year of the festival, which is not what the funding was allocated for. Cllr. Canty advised that if the open air event is not going ahead the funding should be withdrawn. Cllr. Canty advised that the organisers of the Vigour Health and Wellbeing Festival hope to run a similar festival in different parks across the Municipal District over the coming years.

Members welcomed fitness in the park and noted that it would have broad appeal and is trying to promote fitness.

On the proposal of Cllr. D’Alton and seconded by Cllr. McGrath, Members agreed to withdraw the €3,000.00 funding allocation previously granted from the Town Development Fund to the Music in Community event and to allocate €3,000.00 from the Town Development Fund to the Vigour Fitness and Wellbeing Festival 2017.

**7: NOTICES OF MOTION**

**To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Daithi O’Donnabhain:**

**1. “That this Municipal District requires Cork County Council, together with any other statutory bodies necessary to engage with one another and to do all necessary to ensure that the Poulavone Roundabout is resurfaced forthwith.”**

**2. “That this Municipal District requires an immediate cancellation of the contract entered into with the line painting contractor for the Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District. Further, that the Municipal District not retain this contractor into the future.”**

As Cllr. O’Donnabhain was not in attendance it was agreed to defer the motions until the September meeting.

**To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Deirdre Forde:**

**1. “That the Engineer reports on when a footpath can be installed on Rochestown Road between Rochestown Rise and Maryborough estate.”**

Cllr. Forde advised that a great job was done on the footpath on the left side from Maryborough to the Fingerpost Roundabout and noted that the residents are looking for an infill path on the other side of the road.

Madeleine Healy advised that the footpath works carried out on the Rochestown Road were funded through the Town Development Fund balance at the end of 2016 and noted that the budget for footpath works will go towards works on footpaths in estates. Madeleine Healy advised that she did not think an infill path would be priority as there is a path on the other side of the road and alternatives.

Madeleine Healy advised that she did not think it would be prudent to allocate a budget towards the path and noted that she would prefer to use funding for footpath works in estates where paths are in a bad state. Madeleine Healy advised that if development contributions became available she would be happy to carry out the works and noted that the footpath on the other side of the road had deteriorated and there was a safety issue as the path was level with the road.

**To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Seamus McGrath:**

**1. "That the Council consider measures to deter HGV's using the Grotto road (between Coolmore & Village) in Shanbally."**

Cllr. McGrath requested that the Council put measures in place, such as signage, to stop HGV's from using the road. Cllr. McGrath advised that a huge volume of commuters use the road and noted that there are a number of residential houses on the road and there is no footpath. Cllr. McGrath advised that it would be better to encourage HGV's from using the road from a safety point of view.

Madeleine Healy advised that there are signs on the regional road that should prevent HGV's from turning at Coolmore and noted that she can look at putting similar signs in place. Madeleine Healy advised that she presumes the majority of large vehicles using the road are oil trucks and refuse trucks and noted that she can put up signs on the road and also at Shanbally Roundabout itself.

**2. "To request that the Engineer consider providing a footpath on the northern part of Fairy Hill, Monkstown."**

Cllr. McGrath advised that the path goes as far as the school and noted that Lower Diamond Hill is not served by a path. Cllr. McGrath advised that connectivity is required and asked that the matter be flagged for a future footpath programme.

Cllr. D'Alton advised that the route is on a safer route to school and noted that there have been plans for developments behind Carrigmahon. Cllr. D'Alton advised that the majority of children in the new developments will go to school in Monkstown and noted that it will be dangerous for children walking to school. Cllr. D'Alton advised that development contributions may be used for the footpath.

Madeleine Healy advised that there is insufficient road width for a footpath and noted that she would prefer to spend money on footpaths that are deteriorating. Madeleine Healy advised that drainage works were carried out on the road last year and noted that a footpath would remove the roadside drainage. A storm sewer would be required and the costs would be significant. Madeleine Healy advised that the ideal would be to have a footpath but for reasons of practicality it cannot be done.

Following questions from Members on budgets, Madeleine Healy advised that the footpath budget is a revenue budget. Madeleine Healy advised that there was a specific Improvement Grant a number of years ago but it no longer exists. The Restoration Improvement Grant is restricted and cannot be used for footpaths. Madeleine Healy advised that she is not in favour for allocating funding to new projects when there are so many old paths in a bad state.

Madeleine Healy advised that CIS Schemes can include footpath works but the residents will need to contribute 15% of the costs. Madeleine Healy advised that there is a Discretionary Maintenance Grant that is used to regularly supplement the footpath programme but noted that she would not be in favour of allocating funding to this project.

Following a request from Cllr. McGrath, Members agreed to send a Notice of Motion to full Council requesting that specific funding be made available for new footpaths. Cllr. McGrath agreed to forward wording to Sarah O'Sullivan.

Following a request from Members, Madeleine Healy agreed to consider what an estimated budget for the project would be and revert to Members on the matter.

**3. "To request that the Council make the footpaths disabled friendly by St. Luke's school in Douglas."**

Cllr. McGrath advised that he had received a request from a wheelchair user and noted that his understanding is that the path is not dished.

Madeleine Healy advised that there is one entrance not dished and agreed to look at the matter.

**To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Michael McGrath:**

**1. "That this Municipal District writes to the HSE to ask if the Passage West Health Centre is being relocated to Carrigaline and could we get a response as soon as possible."**

Cllr. Murphy advised that he had contacted a member of the HSE and heard nothing back and asked that the HSE be written to on the matter.

Cllr. D'Alton advised that the Public Health Centre is not up to standard and noted that the HSE intends to move most of its functions to Carrigaline. They are actively seeking new premises. Cllr. D'Alton advised that she has spoken and written to the HSE and they are very aware of the need to maintain service in Passage West.

Cllr. D'Alton agreed to forward contact details for the HSE to Margaret Kennedy in order that they be written to on the matter.

**To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Eoghan Jeffers:**

**1. "That the Municipal District would consider the use of funding from the Town Development Fund for the purpose of public realm enhancement in the Togher Road area in conjunction with works taking place during the Douglas/Togher Flood Relief Scheme."**

Margaret Kennedy advised that a report on the matter had previously been circulated to Members.

Cllr. Jeffers advised that there is a chance in conjunction with the works to use the Town Development Fund or another source of funding to improve the public realm.

Cllr. Forde supported Cllr. Jeffers in his motion and noted that there is funding available in the Arts Section which could be use to improve the public realm. Cllr. Forde made suggestions for public realm improvements in Douglas.

Cllr. Harris advised that Togher is badly in need of upgrading and investment so that it does not fall into disrepair.

Cllr. Jeffers welcomed the response from Kevin O'Regan and Members supported Cllr. Jeffers in his motion.

Margaret Kennedy agreed to update Members following the meeting in August.

**2. "That this Municipal District be given a written report on staffing levels in cemeteries within this Municipal District for the last 8 years. The report should include the number of staff at each cemetery for each year and the different roles."**

Madeleine Healy advised that she has been working in the area for the last 6 years and there is 3 staff members permanently assigned to individual cemeteries. The other cemeteries in the area have grass cutting contracts with private contractors.

Cllr. Jeffers advised that he would welcome a report on the matter at some stage and noted that a maintenance issue had been raised previously regarding Douglas cemetery. Cllr. Jeffers advised that St. James's Cemetery is a huge size and has maintenance issues and requested that both gates are opened for access.

Madeleine Healy advised that the caretaker will open the second gate and close it afterwards while on site but it cannot be left open for security and safety reasons.

Following a question on what defines if a graveyard gets a permanent staff member; Madeleine Healy advised that it is a legacy issue at present and was originally based on the size of the cemetery.

Madeleine Healy advised that she does not have additional staff to assign to cemeteries.

Following a question on the maintenance of Douglas cemetery, Madeleine Healy advised that there is a permanent staff member assigned to the cemetery and they will deal with issues as they arise.

**3. "That the Engineer would consider road and pedestrian improvements with regards to safety from Scart Cross to the airport roundabout. Such improvements may include road widening, junction improvements, line painting and extension of footpaths."**

Cllr. Jeffers thanked the area office for the works carried out in the area and noted that the road has heavy volumes of use and is a rat run.

**To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Mary Rose Desmond:**

**1. "To ask that this Municipal District would investigate the possibility of handing over the waste land at the rear of properties in Grange Wood Court or alternatively cut the trees and clear and maintain the area which is completely overgrown."**

Cllr. Desmond advised that it is an historic issue and noted that the residents have sought to take over the land or have the area maintained. Cllr. Desmond advised that the area is a wilderness and there is a concern regarding vermin.

Madeleine Healy advised that dumping was cleared from the area previously and noted that she would be happy for the area to be taken over by the residents. Madeleine Healy advised that she can raise the matter with the Property Section and noted that if the area was private property it would not be open for abuse.

Members supported Cllr. Desmond in her motion.

**2. "To ask that this Municipal District give due consideration to the reduction of green space to allow for necessary parking and safe emergency vehicle access in Grange Way, and Grange Wood Court."**

Cllr. Desmond advised that the matter was discussed 18 months ago and there are concerns regarding emergency access.

Madeleine Healy advised that the matter was raised previously regarding Grange Way, where there is ample space for taking some of the green area for parking. Madeleine Healy advised that she got a price from a contractor at the time and did not have the resources to carry out the works. Madeleine Healy advised that she can look at the matter again.

Madeleine Healy advised that she can look at Grange Court and noted that there is less space in the area. Cllr. McGrath advised that he has been trying to progress the matter at the Planning SPC and is pursuing through the SPC to encroach slightly to improve parking in the area. Cllr. McGrath advised that the matter is ongoing.

**3. To ask the Engineer for an update in relation to the weed spraying on public pathways and public realm in the Municipal District and with particular reference to the Grange Road and the beginning of the Rochestown Road at the Douglas Village end towards Douglas Court Shopping Centre."**

Cllr. Desmond advised that the weeds are over 1ft high on the access road.

Madeleine Healy advised that spraying is being carried out in urban areas and agreed to look at the matter.

**To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Marcia D'Alton:**

**1. "That Cork County Council would investigate the feasibility of laying a footpath on Upper Fairy Hill, Monkstown from the top of Carrigmahon Hill to The Orchards."**

Cllr. D'Alton advised that the matter had been dealt with earlier in the meeting and thanked the area office for the works carried out last year.

**2. "That an additional light would be installed close to the Monastery Road/Judge's Lane junction to increase safety at this dangerous bend."**

Cllr. D'Alton advised that the light would make a significant improvement and noted that the lights stop in advance of a bad bend. Cllr. D'Alton advised that the residents are requesting one more light for the bend.

Madeleine Healy advised that it is unlikely that the light will be included in this year's programme and noted that it is a possibility for a future programme as the lines are already in place. Madeleine Healy agreed to look at the matter.

**3. "That this Municipal District would provide a full update on the Town and Village Renewal funding awarded to Passage West last year for the production of an Urban Renewal Plan."**

Cllr. D'Alton thanked Kevin O'Regan for the report on the matter.

## **8: VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

### **Cllr. Murphy**

Cllr. Murphy congratulated Niamh O'Brien of Passage West Karate Club on winning two gold medals in the Karate Championships.

### **Cllr. D'Alton**

Cllr. D'Alton congratulated Passage West Karate Club on the success of the medal winners at the Karate Championships.

## **Cllr. McGrath**

Cllr. McGrath congratulated Sarah O'Sullivan on her recent promotion.

## **9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### Madeleine Healy

Madeleine Healy advised Members that the Public Lighting Programme for the year was circulated to them prior to the meeting and noted that she is putting a programme together based on the works outlined. Madeleine Healy advised that the budget will cover 50% of the works on the list and noted that the programme circulated is the 2017 programme and it is likely to go into 2018 before completion. Members welcomed the programme and raised a number of questions/comments on the matter:

- The programme works commence late in the year, what caused the delay?
- There is an issue with anti-social behaviour in Carrigaline playground, would additional lighting be welcome?
- Possible signage in Carrigaline playground advising people that they are not allowed in the park after dark.
- Would Bye-Laws and signage have an impact on the anti-social behaviour in the playground?
- Cost of light in Rockenham.

In response, Madeleine Healy advised the following:

- Lighting in Carrigaline playground can be looked at.
- The cost of the lighting works in Rockenham is dependent on where we have to get the power source from.
- Madeleine Healy advised that she will defer to Kevin O'Regan regarding signage and Bye-Laws in Carrigaline playground.

### Cllr. Forde

Cllr. Forde advised that she received two emails regarding weeds/briars at Grange Cross and Grange Road. Madeleine Healy asked Cllr. Forde to forward the emails and agreed to look at the matter.

### Cllr. Jeffers

(i) Cllr. Jeffers advised that he had seen a large amount of fast food litter on the street on Douglas and asked that the business owners be written to or something done on the matter.

Madeleine Healy advised that she is aware of the issue and had spoken to the manager of the eatery in question two weeks ago. He has advised that he will ensure that the rubbish is not overflowing.

Madeleine Healy agreed that the local people are frustrated and hoped that there will be a noticeable improvement.

(ii) Cllr. Jeffers advised that there is Anti-Dumping Initiative funding available from the Department and noted that 2/3 other Municipal Districts had applied for funding. Cllr. Jeffers advised that we should be applying for funding as the fund is €650,000 and noted that it may still be available.

Madeleine Healy advised that she was not aware of the funding and noted that it may be managed through the Environment Department. Madeleine Healy advised that she would welcome the funding.

### Cllr. Harris

(i) Cllr. Harris advised that the anti-social behaviour issues in Carrigaline playground are a serious matter and noted that more action is required due to the high level of damage and problems. Cllr. Harris advised there are also a number of issues in Douglas Park.

Madeleine Healy advised that there were issues previously in Douglas Park but Douglas Community Association is located on the same site and a staff member opens and closes the gate. Madeleine Healy advised that the Gardai are aware of the issues in Carrigaline playground and noted that there is some element of CCTV in the area.

(ii) Cllr. Harris asked Madeleine Healy to elaborate on the subsidence issue in the playground in Passage West.

Madeleine Healy advised that the subsidence is due to sub-station works and noted that the restoration of the surface is the responsibility of the contractor.

Cllr. D'Alton advised that when Irish Water opened Father O'Flynn Park it caused subsidence and was never satisfactorily addressed. Cllr. D'Alton advised that it is not adequate to have a similar repair on the sea side of the playground.

Madeleine Healy advised that the contractor will be obliged to repair damage caused and noted that the contractor will not be paid until the issue is resolved satisfactorily. Madeleine Healy advised that she can raise the issue regarding Father O'Flynn Park with the Lower Harbour Team.

(iii) Cllr. Harris advised that people are parking by the bollards outside Tesco in Douglas and noted concerns regarding an accident happening.

Madeleine Healy advised that she can look at the matter.

Cllr. McGrath

Cllr. McGrath advised that people are parking by the Douglas entrance to the park across from Tesco.

Madeleine Healy advised that bollards will be put in place.

Cllr. Murphy

(i) Cllr. Murphy asked Madeleine Healy if the road markings in Passage West have been refreshed.

Madeleine Healy advised that they have not been refreshed as the contractor is currently in Douglas.

(ii) Cllr. Murphy asked if the area office can cut the overgrowth at the entrance to Maulbaun.

Madeleine Healy advised that the extra grass cutting is confined to the areas agreed at a previous meeting.

Margaret Kennedy

Margaret Kennedy advised that schedule of meetings for the coming year has been uploaded to minutepad. Margaret Kennedy advised that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in March is a bank holiday and the meeting will be rescheduled in line with Southern Committee.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed:

  
CATHAOIRLEACH

Date:

18/9/17