

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Proceedings of Ordinary Meeting of Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District held in Council Chamber, Floor 2, County Hall, on Monday, 21st January, 2019 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Joe Harris (Cathaoirleach) presided. Councillors: Deirdre Forde, Derry Canty, Seamus McGrath, Mary Rose Desmond, Eoghan Jeffers, Marcia D'Alton. Daithi O'Donnabhain.

APOLOGIES: Councillor John A. Collins, Councillor Michael Murphy

IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin O'Regan, Municipal District Officer, Madeleine Healy, Senior Executive Engineer, Jim Molloy, Senior Executive Officer, Alan O'Callaghan, Clerical Officer.

1: MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. Jeffers and seconded by Cllr. Canty, the minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17th December, 2018, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Cllr D'Alton asked that her request from the meeting on December 17th 2018 that a review of derelict sites is added to the Agenda quarterly was noted in the minutes.

Cllr Forde asked that in AOB from the meeting on 17th December 2018 she was requesting a footpath outside of the Charlemont estate and that the condition of footpaths inside of Charlemont be looked at and that this was noted in the minutes.

2: Matters Arising

(i) Cllr McGrath asked that the report from the NTA regarding the Deputation of residents from Castlewhite and Maher's Lane be presented at the February meeting and that a representative from the NTA be present to discuss the report with Members.

Jim Molloy advised that we will request that the NTA be present at the February meeting to present their report.

(ii) Cllr D'Alton asked whether there was any update on the money allocated from the NTA to improve the junction in Douglas which is causing bus delays.

Jim Molloy advised that there will be an update on this at the February meeting.

(iii) Cllr Forde asked if the letter expressing the MD's concerns regarding the works at Clarkes Hill was sent to Irish Water.

Kevin O'Regan advised that it will be sent as soon as possible.

3: CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATION

- (i) Taking in charge of Coolroe Court, Ballincollig

Kevin O'Regan advised Members that Cork County intends to Take in Charge the road in Coolroe Court, Ballincollig and it will come before the Members at the March meeting.

4. CORRESPONDANCE

- (i) NTA response to Proposed Expansion of Cork Shared Bike Scheme.
- Kevin O'Regan commented that this was a good detailed response from the NTA.
 - That the NTA would welcome involvement from Local Authorities.
 - That expanding the scheme would be expensive as a lot of journeys are only one way and the bikes then have to be manually redistributed to other stations.

- There is no funding set aside this year for this Municipal District to support any expansion of the scheme.

Jim Molloy noted that the NTA will deal with the primary Local Authority in the area of the scheme, in this case Cork City Council. He suggested that we write to City Council and ask them to further investigate expansion possibilities.

Members acknowledged how comprehensive the report was and made the following points

- While it may not be practical for all of Municipal District to be included in scheme' there would be certain areas it may be viable in.
- Could a feasibility study be carried out to identify areas where scheme could be implemented?
- Agreed with Jim Molloy that as an MD we should write to City Council regarding expansion of the scheme.

(ii) Update on Ballinrea Educational Campus.

Members welcomed the update and made the following points.

- Essential that all upgrade works are completed before schools open.
- Members were satisfied that their concerns were heard.
- That as a Municipal District we should make sure that we keep the pressure on to make sure works aren't delayed.
- Some concern about funding for works.
- Search for funding should begin as soon as Part VIIIs are finalised.

Jim Molloy advised that we will make sure to keep an eye on all upcoming funding streams to try and ensure timely completion of works.

4. GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION 2019/ TOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND 2019

Kevin O'Regan advised the Members that the various schemes are now open and the closing date for applications is February 15th 2019. Kevin advised that paper applications will only be accepted when there is a valid reason for not being able to submit an online application. This is to save on workload as all paper applications need to be added to the system by Council staff.

Kevin also advised that the allocations will be decided at the March meeting.

The Members raised the following points/queries

- Where will groups who are in areas moving to the city send their end of year applications?
- Is there any indication that these schemes or something similar will be administered by City Council going forward?
- City Council have already spoken to some tidy town groups which is encouraging.
- Could City Council officials appear before Members to answer concerns about groups within city boundary?
- Is there a possibility of Members being involved in a Joint Committee in order for Members to have some input into transition?

Kevin O'Regan advised that as far as we are aware once application is awarded by our MD it will be the County Council that will administer it until its conclusion. It is also hoped that City Council will continue with funding in these areas but that ultimately that is a decision for City Council.

Jim Molloy advised that City Council have asked about the various funding schemes and would be hopeful they would be continued in some shape or form by City Council. On the question of a Joint Committee the difficulty is that Legislation regarding the transition has not yet been forthcoming. However we will pass this onto the High Level Implementation Team as a suggestion from Members.

5. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICES OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF:

Cllr Forde:

1. That MD/Council writes to the relevant department requesting a covered bus shelter be erected in the following locations, Maryborough Ridge and Douglas West at back of Douglas Shopping Centre.

Cllr Forde noted that the bus stop at Maryborough Ridge is uncovered and exposed to the elements. Numerous local residents have asked Cllr Forde to look into this on their behalf.

Madeline Healy advised that the footpath at Maryborough is too narrow to accommodate any of the existing bus shelters available. Madeline has spoken to the Traffic and Transportation Dept to see if an alternative shelter could be put in place depending on NTA funding. Regarding the Douglas West stop that footpath is on private property as it has not yet been taken in charge.

Cllr Forde asked as work are now ongoing at Maryborough Ridge could a shelter be included with these?

Madeline Healy responded that it is not possible for shelter to be included in those works as a suitable one would have to be identified first and then funding secured, by which point the works would be completed.

Cllr Desmond supported Cllr Forde in this motion and expressed satisfaction that a solution will hopefully be found.

Cllr McGrath.

- 1 To request that a footpath be installed in the Carrigaline Community Park from the north eastern corner to the skateboard park.

Councillors noted a report from Kevin O'Regan which outlined the following

“As Members are aware the Council intends to relocate the public toilet from the Owenabue Car Park to the North East corner of the park. It is planned to undertake this work in the coming months, once service connections have been agreed. The exact location of the relocated toilet will have a bearing on the line of any proposed path from there to the skate park.

The maintenance budget for the Park will probably not be in a position to fund the cost of installing this footpath. Accordingly it would have to be funded from and funds that might be left from the relocation of the toilet and the General Municipal Allocation. Once we have determined our

allocations for the Funding Schemes in March we will be in a position to confirm if funding can be provided to cover the cost of this work. Alternatively if there is funding left from the Skate park/running track that can be used to fund the works.”

Cllr McGrath thanked Kevin for the report and expressed satisfaction that work on the public toilets in the park are to be under taken. Cllr McGrath also noted that a path is being worn on the grass around the park, which is not very attractive so it would be very beneficial if funding could be found for the completion of the path.

- 2 That this Municipal District write to the Chief Superintendent, City Division, to request additional Garda personnel in the Togher District area.

Cllr McGrath informed the meeting that many residents in the Togher Garda Division area are concerned about a number of issues including, inadequate Garda numbers on the ground, stations closed and opening times unknown and calls to stations going unanswered.

Members supported Cllr McGrath unanimously in his motion and it was agreed that as a Municipal District we would write to the Chief Superintendent to look for an update and also to offer him the Members support in his appeals to the Garda Commissioner to gain more resources.

- 3 To seek an update on when works will commence for the upgrade of the Shannonpark roundabout and the junction of the N28/R610 (Raffeen).

Councillors noted a report from Kevin O’Regan which outlined the following

“The Regional Design Office has advised that they are in ongoing discussions with the lowest tender and are currently going through the approval process. Pending approval, the works are likely to start in mid-February.”

Cllr McGrath welcomed the report and noted that the works planned for both areas should greatly improve traffic flow and safety in the two locations. Cllr McGrath also expressed his hope that the works will proceed as planned and asked that Members be informed on progress throughout the project.

Cllr Desmond

- 1 To ask that this MD would provide and erect Community Alert signage in Galway’s Lane.

Cllr Desmond clarified that this should have been Neighbourhood Watch signage. Cllr Desmond also informed Members that the Gardai would welcome the implementation of this signage in Galway’s Lane. Cllr Desmond asked that the Municipal District could fund this signage from existing funding available. Cllr Desmond also asked about the possibility of placing a Cul De Sac sign at the entrance to Galway’s Lane in an effort to prevent speeding through the lane.

Cllr Harris supported Cllr Desmond on this motion.

Kevin O’Regan said that funding could be provided for the signage from the Municipal District and Madeline Healy also agreed that a Cul De Sac sign could be placed at the entrance of Galways Lane.

- 2 To ask that the road subsidence in the Drive, Broaddale would be investigated and for the necessary restoration works to be undertaken.

Cllr Desmond clarified that the issue may not be subsidence but there is certainly an issue with the road in the area.

Madeline Healy advised Members that this is first time the matter has come to her attention and that it will be investigated and will report her findings back to Members.

Cllr Harris

- 1 That we contact relevant authority to take action in relation to knotweed between Douglas GAA and Douglas credit union.

Councillors noted a report from Kevin O'Regan which outlined the following

"As Members are aware Japanese Knotweed is an invasive species, spreads rapidly and is very difficult to eradicate.

Regulations 49 and 50 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 make it an offence to "plant, disperse, allow dispersal or cause the spread of Japanese knotweed."

Cllr Harris has advised that the area where the knotweed is present is on private land. It is the responsibility of the landowner to take measures to deal with the knotweed on their land.

Members should note that sightings of invasive species can be recorded on the invasive species Ireland website: <https://invasivespeciesireland.com/report-sighting/>"

Members made the following points on the report.

- Aware of cases where Dublin City Council has taken action in certain areas affected by knotweed so could Cork County Council also intervene in certain cases.
- Members noted that the knotweed on the land is question has been manually cut down by landowner which is completely the wrong thing to do.
- National Parks and Wildlife Department is responsible for knotweed but could we as a Local Authority help with enforcement?
- What level of resources does the council have to tackle knotweed and where is this funding coming from?
- Can we write to the National Parks and Wildlife Department to make them aware of issue and see if they can take action.

Madeline Healy advised the Members that it would be impossible to look after knotweed on private land due to the vast area involved and the substantial cost involved.

Kevin O'Regan advised Members that our Environment Department may be able to assist or advise private landowners in treating knotweed.

Madeline Healy informed Members currently we use our resources to treat knotweed and the funding is from our own Council funds.

It was agreed that as a Municipal District we would write to the National Parks and Wildlife Department to make them aware of the issue in Douglas and ask if they can take action.

- 2 That action on the vital upkeep of the sheltered housing unit in Galway's lane be given urgent priority.

Councillors noted a report from Maurice Manning which outlined.

"There are 12 older persons dwelling at Galway's Close Douglas in the ownership of Cork County Council.

Cork County Council has recently completed inspections of these properties. There are various works to be completed such as lights under the canopies; soak-ways at the rear of the premises etc. and these will be included on a works programme for 2019."

Cllr Harris advised the meeting that he had visited the housing unit with an engineer from the Housing Department recently. The engineer took detailed notes of the works that needed to be undertaken, subject to funding of course. Cllr Harris noted that the residents here are very vulnerable and as of today's meeting no works had yet started. Cllr Harris said that a lot of money would be needed for repairs but such was the poor condition that something needed to be done quickly.

Cllr Forde advised that a lot of units are empty and need to be repaired and allocated to tenants ASAP. Could we try and progress this before transfer to City.
Cllrs McGrath and D'Alton supported Cllr Harris in his motion and ask that we contact the Housing Department and ask for these works to be given priority.

Kevin O'Regan acknowledged that the works are included in the programme for 2019 and that we will contact the Housing Department to see if they can be prioritised.

- 3 That we liaise between GAA and residents in Galway Lane to discuss issues in relation traffic and social activities

Councillors noted a report from Kevin O'Regan which outlined the following.

"Cllr Harris has clarified that the issues appear to relate to night time traffic and noise in particular that are affecting residents in the area. The matters referred to are not issues that Cork County Council has any function in controlling.

This would be best dealt resolved by discussion between the GAA and the residents, and I understand that this has been arranged. I would be confident that Douglas GAA, who are very conscious, and rightly proud of their position within the community will be more than willing to try and alleviate and issues under their control for local residents.

If there are issues that are outside of their control then it would be a matter for the Gardai to try and deal with any anti social behaviour."

Cllr Harris thanked Kevin O'Regan for the report and acknowledged that he was satisfied with the response.

6. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

Cllr Harris

To congratulate Passage West U18 Ladies Football Club on reaching the FAI cup final, which is due to be played in February.

Cllr D'Alton

To congratulate BCMD meeting administrator Sarah O'Sullivan on the recent birth of her daughter Kate.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Forde

- Issue with pedestrian crossing on Maryborough Estate. Large accumulation of muck and dirt there.
- Problem with drain in Lislee Road. To residents knowledge has not been cleared in many years.
- Surface at entrance to Thornberry View is in poor condition. Also a tree was removed near the entrance and stump was left in place which is causing a hazard.
- Could a "no dumping sign" be erected by bus stop at Maryborough Ridge.

In response Madeline Healy advised that.

- She is aware of issue at pedestrian crossing and will have it cleared.
- Will look at drain issue at Leslie's Road.
- Will look at condition of entrance at Thornberry View. Regarding the tree stump, removal would be very expensive and it is away from the entrance and not causing a notable obstruction. Will be removed with planned works on Maryborough Hill.

Cllr D'Alton

- The surface of Lackaroe Road has been left littered with pot holes after recent work there by Irish Water
- Could a sign be placed for both directions at Ellis's Cross warning motorists of a blind junction ahead. Issue as more vehicles are using this due to Glenbrook diversion and problems with sudden braking when they see diversion signage.
- Ward & Burke committed to having a manned signal at the works in Glenbrook but this has not happened.
- Commuters having difficulty travelling on back roads from schools to Passage West (diversion caused by Irish Water works). She had spoken to Irish Water about providing a shuttle bus for schools affected but none has been provided yet. Could Cork County Council intervene? As number of students affected is 52, not 6 as was previously reported.
- Update on installation of lights at Monastery Hill, by Judges Lane?
- Can the crossing from the Tesco entrance to Douglas Community Park be changed from an uncontrolled to a controlled crossing?

In response Madeline Healy advised that

- She will look at the pot holes at Lackaroe Road and consult with Irish Water.
- Will speak to contractor regarding signage on Ellis's Hill and will ensure it is improved.
- Will raise issue of signal with contractor (Ward & Burke) responsible for works in Glenbrook regarding having the signal lights manned to prevent traffic breaking lights.
- Regarding shuttle bus. Madeline will speak to contractor and highlight issue. Will report back with response.
- Lights may have already been installed on Monastery Hill and are just waiting for ESB to connect. Will confirm this.
- Issue with installing controlled crossing by Douglas Community Park is that the Tesco side is privately owned. Will ask Traffic and Transportation section to include this in their report to February meeting.

Cllr Desmond

- Can we look at the possibility of placing a bus stop near Ardarrig Estate in Carrs Hill. Residents currently have to travel to Mount Oval or Douglas Village for bus.
- Can a speed sign be erected on Donnybrook Hill?
- Tree removal in council house in Gartan Park Douglas.
- Issue with fence between Curragh Woods and Dunvale. Many gaps in fence and leading to anti social behaviour and safety issues in the area. Understand that some residents may want to leave a gap to facilitate a short cut between the two estates.

In response Madeline Healy and Kevin O'Regan advised that.

- Currently Bus Eireann does not operate any service on that particular location. Bus Eireann would need to be first point of contact with request.
- Regarding the speed sign for Donnybrook Hill, Madeline acknowledged that she was due to look into this and will follow up.
- Kevin O'Regan asked that he would be supplied with the address of the house with the tree issue in order to follow up with the Housing Directorate.

Regarding the fence issue in Curragh Woods Members made the following points.

Cllr Jeffers advised the meeting that some residents are in favour of leaving gap in fencing for access while others are opposed to this. Could a permanent structure with a fixed point of access be put in place?

Cllr McGrath also acknowledged the issues with residents for and against access and also suggested a fixed entry point for access.

In response Madeline Healy advised that it would not be possible for the council to build and maintain fencing in the area due to the scale and cost involved. Madeline agreed to look at options available and come up with a permanent solution.

Cllr Jeffers

- Thanked Madeline Healy for the line painting on Grange Road and enquired if there was more line painting planned for area. Noted that lines on Frankfield Hill were very worn.
- Look at possibility of a pedestrian crossing on Grange Road near Supervalu. Understand one is due to be completed with planned works on Grange Road but those are a long way off.

- Can we write to Irish Water regarding the numerous water outages and breakages in Lehenaghmore? Can we ask Irish Water to establish if the water system is capable of withstanding the new housing developments in the area?

In response Madeline Healy advised

- Agreed to look at the possibility of line painting on Frankfield Hill.
- Agreed to look at possibility of installing lights as a solo project. NTA funding would need to be acquired though and unlikely to be completed this year as it is a much more complex matter than just installing lights. Installation of pedestrian lights has a huge knock on effect on traffic and this would need to be taken into consideration.
- Agreed to write to Irish Water to look for a response to issues mentioned.

Cllr McGrath

- Can a pedestrian crossing sign be installed on road outside church in Carrigaline.
- Safety barrier needed for unsafe gap in hedging on Monastery Road to Passage West road.
- Can we look at removing the safety barriers on R610 in Raffeen and replacing with permanent solution.
- Can another speed survey be undertaken in Green Valley, Donnybrook. One was already conducted and showed no issues but there was recently an issue there and now Douglas Rugby Club will be opening new grounds in the area which will lead to increase in traffic volumes.

In response Madeline Healy advised

- Agreed to come back to Cllr McGrath regarding crossing in Carrigaline.
- Issue on Monastery Road is on private land. Landowner would be responsible so we will make contact and see what can be done.
- Madeline will look at the area in question on Raffeen road and update.
- Survey will be reviewed once rugby grounds are open and new traffic volumes taken into account.

Cllr Harris

- Can a reflective light be placed on pole in traffic island on Maryborough Hill near the golf club. It's very difficult to see while driving.
- Fallen tree on Monastery Road which Cllr Harris came upon recently and removed. Can condition of trees on this road be assessed?

In response Madeline Healy advised

- Reflective sign will be placed on pole if required.
- Council has written to land owners on the road regarding trees with some success. It is a heavily wooded area so there is always potential for tree falls.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

Date: _____

18/2/2019

