

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD IN CARRIG HOUSE, COBH, ON TUESDAY, 11th APRIL, 2017

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

Officials Present:

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

The meeting commenced with a silent prayer.

1. DEIMHNIU MIONTUAIRISCI – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Councillor G. Keohane, seconded by Councillor K. McCarthy, the Minutes of the Cobh Municipal District Meeting held on 14th March, 2017, were adopted.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

John O’Callaghan Park, Glanmire

P. Lynch stated that he had spoken to the Garda Sergeant in Glanmire in relation to the park. The Gardaí were doing their best to deal with the anti-social behaviour in the area and responded to any incident reported and would be in favour of a meeting between the Council, the Community Association and the Gardaí to discuss how to best to police the area. Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that the problem was likely to get worse during the summer months and suggested additional lighting and CCTV in place of fencing, he stated that the CCTV would not need 24/7 monitoring and that it should be possible to obtain images from the system following any reported incidents. Cllr. G. Keohane stated that one of the existing security lights was not working and would it be possible to get this repaired. P. Lynch stated that Gardaí were concerned that additional lighting would become a target and that it would not be possible to identify individuals by using CCTV images. Cllr. O’Sullivan stated that the function of cameras in the area was as a deterrent and not to provide evidence for prosecutions and that the Community Association were prepared to contribute to the cost, he also suggested that a mobile camera unit could be utilised in the area prior to the installation of permanent cameras. It was agreed that P. Lynch would investigate the cost of CCTV, additional lighting and fencing for the area and would write to the Environment Section to discuss the use of a mobile camera.

Monard Boreen

The junction at Mallow Road has been listed for remedial works.

Ardagh Heights

G. O’Hora confirmed this area was listed for works.

Bridge at Knockraha

G. O'Hora stated repair works to bridge were being carried out at the moment.

Bog Road, Carrigtwohill

G. O'Hora confirmed this area was listed for works.

Potholes at Annesgrove, Carrigtwohill

G. O'Hora confirmed this area was listed for works.

Windsor Hill, Knockraha

G. O'Hora confirmed this area was listed for road lining works.

Lioscara Estate, Killeens

G. O'Hora confirmed this works would be carried out shortly.

Ashington Estate

P. Lynch stated that while the estate was taken in charge, the Council did not own the green area and therefore cannot dispose of it, ownership remains with the developer. He had also spoken to the property section and that it was the current policy to retain green areas in Council estates rather than sell them off. Cllr. Barry sought clarification on whether ownership of green areas in housing estates that were 50 or 60 years old remained with the developer and what was the situation if the builder was no longer in business. P. Lynch confirmed in green areas remained within the control of the developer and in the case of bankruptcy, then ownership reverted to the Minister for Finance. Cllr. Barry stated that this would have to be investigated further as additional parking and the need for road widening could be become an issue in many estates in the future. S. O'Callaghan stated that this would be a planning issue. It was agreed that P. Lynch would send a letter to the Councils Planning SPC in relation to this matter. It was also agreed that if the SPC deemed it necessary, the matter be referred to the Minister for Finance for comment

Bayview Estate, Cobh

G. O'Hora stated that this matter had previously been referred to the planning enforcement section and they are dealing with the matter.

Trees at Brooklodge, Glanmire.

G. O'Hora confirmed that he had investigated the area in question; however there was only limited funding available to undertake the amount of work involved in trimming all the trees in this area. Cllr. P. O'Sullivan is to revert to the engineer with the exact areas in question.

3. CORRESPONDENCE**(a) Philip O'Neill Residents Association.**

P. Lynch stated that a letter had been received from the Philip O'Neill Residents Association which indicated that the decision of the Council at a previous meeting in relation to the placement of a bench instead of a plaque does not have the support of the residents. After some discussion by Councillors it was unanimously agreed that the family involved would be written to requesting that the plaque be laid flat on the ground and all additional elements such as kerbing and flowers would be removed within 7 days.

(b) 1916 Committee

An invitation was received from the Cobh 1916 Commemoration Committee to an event at the West View Memorial Garden on Sunday 16th April at 3 p.m.

(c) Email from Michael Martin

Mr. Martin requested the revival of a Certificate of honorary citizenship for notable visitors to the district. The introduction of honorary citizenship, precluding any rights, obligations or duties was proposed by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. K McCarthy.

4 OFFICERS REPORTS**(i) Park Use Policy**

P. Lynch stated that Cobh Tourism had enquired as to whether a single application for a series of small events was acceptable to the Council under the Park Use Policy. The amendment was proposed by Cllr. C. Rasmussen and seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy.

(ii) Painting Scheme

P. Lynch stated that a County wide Painting Scheme had been launched last week by the County Mayor and Chief Executive. It was proposed that the Chair of each District would also launch the Paint Scheme in their areas, in conjunction with local Tidy Towns groups. Cllr. A. Barry enquired as to whether areas like Whitechurch and Glenville were included. S. O'Callaghan replied that clarification would be required on this but that the scheme was not as restrictive as in previous years and that the scheme included the replacement of plastic signage with heritage type signs. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the take up of the scheme had been low last year as it was not widely advertised. Cllr. A. Barry proposed that the paint scheme would be launched on Tuesday 18th April at 3.30 p.m. in Carrigtwohill.

(iii) Taxi Bye-Laws

P. Lynch stated that the current Taxi Bye-Laws cover Pearse Square only, at present when a liner is berthed at the Deep Water Quay, taxis queue on the quay for hire, both the Port of Cork and the Taxi Regulator wish to change this practice. It is proposed that an additional three taxi spaces would be provided outside of the Railway station and a further parking area on the Lower Road. It was proposed by Cllr. C. Rasmussen and seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy that the Draft Byelaws would be prepared to accommodate these changes and put on public display for consultation.

(iv) Derelict Sites Register

P. Lynch stated that the administration of the Derelict Sites Register is to be centralised by the end of the year, in the interim, any complaints regarding properties should be brought to either himself or G. O'Hora. The properties would then be assessed by the existing engineering staff and a report would issue. It was proposed that Derelict Sites would be discussed quarterly at the Municipal District meetings. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that a property near the former IFI plant had been raised previously and was not on the list. P.

Lynch to investigate. Cllr. O'Sullivan queried what sanctions would be taken against landowners, including financial levies or fines. P. Lynch replied that it was envisaged that the register would be a live document, with properties being added and removed following consultation with property owners and that levies would only issue as a final resort. Cllr. A. Barry stated that new legislation introduced allowed monies raised by levies to remain in the district and queried if the Municipal District would also be implementing this legislation. S. O'Callaghan is to seek clarification as to whether all levies raised under both Acts were to remain in the Municipal District.

(v) **Pride of Place 2017**

P. Lynch distributed information relating to the Pride of Place Competition 2017 and requested nominations from Councillors by Friday 21st April, 2017.

(vi) **Programme of Works 2017**

G. O'Hora presented a programme of Works for 2017 for on the Approach to Towns. Proposed by Cllr. K. McCarthy and seconded by Cllr. G. Keohane.

G. O'Hora also presented the proposed 2017 Public Lighting Works Programme to members and confirmed there was a small allocation of money left in the budget and requested suggestions for additional works in the Cobh area. Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated that additional lighting was required in the Brooklodge East to Blossomgrove area. Cllr. A. Barry enquired about additional lighting in the Barryscourt area; however G. O'Hora replied there is not sufficient funding remaining to finance these schemes. The programme of works as presented was proposed by Cllr. C. Rasmussen and seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy.

5 DRAFT COBH (OVERNIGHT PARKING) BYE LAWS, 2017

P. Lynch stated that at the February meeting of the Cobh Municipal District, members had considered the Draft Cobh Motor Caravan Parking Bye Laws. At that meeting a number of queries in relation to issues relating to the control and management of the Bye Laws and how the Bye Laws could be enforced. In particular, members asked that consideration be given to the issue of control of the area on days when the Council's Traffic Warden was not on duty and also the issue of a barrier access to the proposed Motor Caravan Parking Area.

P. Lynch explained that there were three options open to the Council, adopt the Bye Laws as published, do not adopt the Bye Laws or introduce a barrier system.

The cheapest and quickest option to implement is to adopt the Bye Laws as is and install a barrier at the eastern end of the Camper Van parking area. This would be to ensure that some measure of control of the area would be in place for the height of 2017 tourist season. The Council's Traffic Warden would be in a position to police this area on the days that he is at work and in his absence, I am satisfied the majority of visitors will comply with the Bye Laws as published.

The members have the option to decide not to adopt the Bye Laws, however as it is now widely known that camper van parking is provided in Cobh, if no controls are in place at this location, the problems identified by members will continue and will have an adverse impact on Cobh's reputation as a tourist town.

The introduction of a fully automated barrier system to regulate the length of time camper vans are permitted to stay in the parking area would cost in the region of €20,000 to €30,000 and would require that the Bye Laws be re-advertised. The length of time required to re-advertise the Bye Laws would mean that it would not be possible to introduce this option before the end of the 2017 Tourist season.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen reiterated his concerns regarding the monitoring of the area in the absence of the Traffic Warden and enquired as to whether it was possible for a member of the existing road maintenance staff to be trained up to provide cover.

Cllr. G. Keohane enquired as to whether fire hoses would be provided in the area and queried if regulations for halting sites and campsites which required a 6m distance between caravans applied in this instance.

Cllr. P. O’Sullivan reiterated his objections to the entire proposal and to the accommodation of parking for camper vans within the Municipal District.

Cllr. K. McCarthy recommended proceeding with the third option, he felt that in the long run it would be money well spent and provide another amenity for the town.

Cllr. S. Sheppard had no objection to the provision of an automated barrier but the cost involved was prohibitive and felt further investigation of this option was required. She stated that any income from the facility should be retained by the MD and used to develop the Five Foot Way

Cllr. Ó’Cadhla agreed with Cllr. McCarthy that a barrier would be money well spent and would provide an asset to the town and the more automated the process could be, the better.

Cllr. A. Barry felt that any delay in implementing some controls before the tourist season started was counterproductive.

Following further discussion, it was agreed to adopt the Bye Laws, proposed by Cllr. D. Ó’Cadhla and seconded by Cllr. K. McCarthy. It was also agreed that any income from the facility would be retained by the Municipal district and used to develop the Five Foot Way.

6 MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CIVIC RECEPTIONS.

The protocols for the conferring of a Civic Reception by the municipal district were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard.

It was agreed to take Item Nos. 7, 9 & 10 together as they mainly related to the same issue.

7 NOTICES OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. CATHAL RASMUSSEN; SECONDED BY CLLR. SHEPPARD:

“That this council begin a proper programme of road lining in the whole area as at present in the Cobh area a lot of roads have little or no white lines”

“That this council seek funding to surface and line the Ticknock hill road before the whole road becomes impassable and also that we seek some recourse against Irish Water for not fixing the 3 locations properly that they opened recently”

“That a proper schedule of road repairs be agreed to complete the list of road repairs needed around Cobh from the road survey that I recently completed”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that there needed to be a proper programme for marking disabled parking spaces in the town of Cobh. He stated that while he accepted that the Lower Harbour Drainage Scheme works would involve digging up the main roads in Cobh, the Council could not wait until this work was completed before dealing with faded markings in disabled parking spaces. The Council also needed to look at the wider issue of road marking in the town.

G. O’Hora stated that the Cobh Municipal District Road Lining Programme for 2017 was due to commence in May and that this Programme included the disabled parking spaces in Cobh. He stated that if members had any areas they felt should be included, they should contact him.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that there was an ongoing issue with the roads at Ticknock Hill and Ballyleary Hill which he stated were in a dangerous condition. Cllr. McCarthy stated that part of the problem at Ticknock was caused by a spring adjacent to the road. Cllr. Sheppard stated that the entrance to Glenanaar was in a particularly bad condition.

G. O’Hora stated that the Road Resurfacing Programme for 2017 had been agreed at a previous meeting but that he would look at these areas in relation to the 2018 Programme. He stated that he would examine the issue of the spring.

**8 NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. CATHAL RASMUSSEN;
SECONDED BY CLLR. SHEPPARD:**

“That this council plan a proper programme to alleviate the flooding on the Pottery Road as was experienced again this week, where one whole section of the road was impassable”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that part of the problem with this area appeared to relate to private property and that there needed to be a discussion with the owner of that property.

G. O’Hora stated that the Council had carried out extensive works in this location in the past year and that the current problems related to issues on private land.

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

This item was dealt with in conjunction with Item No. 7 on the Agenda

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

This item was dealt with in conjunction with Item No. 7 on the Agenda

11 NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. PADRAIG O’SULLIVAN; SECONDED BY CLLR. BARRY:

“That this Council would undertake a traffic survey of Courtstown Road, Little Island & investigate the possibility of placing electronic speed signs in the Church area (in conjunction with the local Community Association). That the repairing of the pedestrian crossing lights at the Church should also be undertaken”

Cllr. O’Sullivan stated that the Community Association was willing to part fund the installation of an electronic speed sign at this location.

G. O’Hora stated that he had already spent his allocation for electronic speed signs for 2017

12 NOTICE OF MOTION IN THE NAME OF CLLR. PADRAIG O’SULLIVAN; SECONDED BY CLLR. BARRY:

“That road markings be placed at Killahora Cross Glounthaune. At present the lack of road lining in the area is an immediate safety concern”

G. O’Hora stated that this was listed for work.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS/AON GHNÓ EILE.

Cllr. K. McCarthy:

- a) **Sign at the Burma Steps** – Cllr. McCarthy stated that the new sign for the steps, giving the correct name of Joseph Mary Plunkett Way, had been removed after 2 weeks and asked if it could be replaced.

G. O’Hora to progress.

- b) **Chevron Signs on Fota Road**

G O’Hora confirmed that this was listed for work

Cllr. G. Keohane:

- a) **Oakfield Estate, Glanmire** – Cllr. Keohane raised a number of issues in relation to this estate. He stated that the residents were looking for an additional speed ramp to be installed; trees in the estate were blocking some of the street lights; there was an issue with potholes at the estate entrance.

G. O’Hora to examine.

- b) **Mervue Lawn, Ballyvolane** – The residents were willing to maintain the green area if the Council did the first cut of the grass.

G. O’Hora agreed to cut the green area once, if residents agreed to organise future grass cutting .

- c) **Nash’s Boreen** – problems still ongoing.

G. O’Hora to examine.

Cllr. D. Ó’Cadhla:

- a) **Access to Property ownership details** – Cllr. Ó’Cadhla asked if the Council would have details of ownership of a private property in Cobh which was rented out.

P. Lynch stated that those details should be with the Property Registration Authority and that the Council would not have these details.

- b) **Visit of the USS Donald Cook to Cobh** – On the proposal of Cllr. Ó’Cadhla, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy, it was agreed that a letter would issue to the Department of the Taoiseach seeking clarification as to whether:
1. Government has given permission for US military personnel to carry automatic rifles and to man a heavy machine gun on board the USS Donald Cook during her recent visit to Cork Harbour.
 2. If permission was given, in what circumstances and under whose orders would the weapons be used.
 3. Were any checks made by our Defence Forces or Gardaí to ensure that the ship was not carrying any weapons of mass destruction during its visit
 4. Did the visit of USS Donald Cook to Ireland in any way endanger the lives of Irish citizens, i.e. by offending peoples throughout the world who have been victims of attack by US military.
 5. Considering the role played by US warships in the aggressive NATO military alliance did the visit of USS Donald Cook violate our neutrality.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

- a) **Stone Walls at Back of Great Island** – G. O’Hora advised that Council staff were working on this issue at present.

Cllr. S. Sheppard:

- a) **Date for Meeting to allocate Community Grants** – on the proposal of Cllr. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. Barry it was agreed to meet in Committee on Tuesday 25th April at 4.00 p.m. to allocate the 2017 Grants.
- b) **Road markings at Coolamber** – G. O’Hora to examine

Cllr. A. Barry:

- a) **Water Rock** – On the proposal of Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. O’Sullivan it was agreed that a letter would issue to the Planning Policy Unit stating that any future issues in relation to Water Rock were to be brought to the Cobh Municipal District as the area is in the Cobh District.
- b) **Flooding at Castlejane** – G. O’Hora to examine
- c) **Wall at Elmgrove** – Wall listed for repair.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer