

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD VIA MS TEAMS ON MONDAY 4TH JULY 2022.

Present: Cllrs. C. Rasmussen, A. O'Connor, S. Sheppard, A. Barry & S. O'Callaghan.

Officials: Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer
Mr. G. O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

Apologies were received from Cllr. S. O'Connor, S. O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer and R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer.

1.0 Toghadh Cathaoirleach / Election of Cathaoirleach

The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. C. Rasmussen expressed his thanks to the members, P. Lynch and staff for all their assistance during the year.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, Cllr. A. Barry was nominated as Cathaoirleach, as there were no other nominations, Cllr. Barry was deemed elected and took the chair.

2.0 Toghadh Leas-Cathaoirleach / Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, Cllr. S. Sheppard was nominated Leas-Cathaoirleach.

3.0 Proposed Celtic Interconnector - Attendance by Eirgrid.

Michelle Walsh, Communications Liaison Officer and Shane Cooney, Onshore Project Manager gave the members an update on the proposed Celtic Interconnector on behalf of Eirgrid.

Mr. Cooney stated that planning permission had been granted by An Bord Pleanála and the necessary licences had been approved in principle. It was hoped to commence construction in 2023 and bring the project online by 2026.

Cllr. Sheppard asked if the route would be changed now given that the upgrade of the N25 had been postponed. Mr. Cooney replied that the initial route was still deemed to be the best one as if the interconnector was laid before the N25 was upgraded, this would be a significant constraint on the options open to TII to improve the road. The closures on the minor roads, that the route was following, would be kept to a minimum, in many cases only a partial road closure was envisaged using a stop/go system.

Cllr. O'Callaghan expressed concern that the road would be left in a perilous state following the works. Mr. Cooney stated that the roads would be fully re-instated following the laying of the cable, which would result in an improvement in the road surface on some roads.

Cllr. Barry asked if the construction would take place in several locations at once, with crews working to meet each other or in only one location and if the distribution of the Community Fund would be at the discretion of SECAD. Mr. Cooney stated that there would be at least 3 crews working in various locations when construction commenced. Ms. Walsh replied that SECAD had been appointed as the Community Fund Administrator and would work with the local community forum to identify which projects would be progressed under the various funding streams.

Cllr. A. Barry thanked Ms. Walsh and Mr. Cooney for their presentation and the Eirgrid team then withdrew.

4.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, the minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2022 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the minutes of the Special meeting held on 13th June 2022 were adopted.

5.0 Matters Arising.

5.1 Top of the Hill:

G. O'Hora stated the lights had been turned on last week but disconnected again until a louvre system to prevent the lights shining into the adjacent residences had been fitted.

5.2 Knockraha:

G. O'Hora stated the lights would be switched on next week.

5.3 Kilquane Cemetery:

G. O'Hora stated that the ponding issue had now been resolved.

5.4 Woodstock:

G. O'Hora stated that surface dressing would be carried on this road shortly.

5.5 Pearse Square, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that he had contacted Irish Water and requested an immediate repair.

5.6 Annsgrrove Road:

G. O'Hora stated that the repeater signs would be erected over the next week.

5.7 Bayview Estate, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that the Children at Play sign would be replaced in the next week.

5.8 Pottery Road:

G. O'Hora stated that the signs should be put up in the next week.

5.9 Assumption Place, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that he was not in favour of removing green space to provide additional car parking, also there was no funding to carry out this work at the present time.

5.10 ESB Pole at Ballywilliam:

G. O'Hora stated the quote to relocate the pole was received from the ESB and payment was been progressed.

5.11 Monard Lane:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the signs had been put up.

5.12 Killahora Hill:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the road drainage works would be carried out over the summer.

5.13 Watergrasshill:

G. O'Hora requested that Cllr. O'Callaghan confirm some of the road lining locations.

5.14 Pottery Road:

G. O'Hora confirmed vegetation/hedging would only be cut back to improve sightlines at dangerous junctions and more comprehensive work would be done in September following the nesting season.

5.15 Whitepoint Estate:

G. O'Hora confirmed a meeting had taken place with the residents to discuss what needs to be done.

5.16 Ellen's Kitchen, Rushbrooke:

G. O'Hora stated that the railings at this location had only been recently re-instated due to a vehicle hitting and damaging the railings and he would have safety concerns locating tables and chairs close to the safety rail. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that similar business in the main town centre had been accommodated to allow tables and chairs to be placed outside their premises and that the Council had been at a loss by the parking revenue foregone as parking spaces had been utilised.

5.17 Whitepoint:

G. O'Hora stated that the fabricator had been on-site but was prevented from continuing the works by inclement weather, he would return as soon as the weather improved.

5.18 Drains, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the fabricator had been commissioned to make a new cover.

5.19 Dawn View, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the tree stump had been removed.

5.20 High Road, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the footpath repair works required had been included in the Footpath programme for this year.

5.21 Lake Road/Glenanaar Place:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the locations had been referred to the road lining contractor.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the re-lining of the loading bay outside of Centra still had not been completed and it was causing shop loading/unloading issues.

6.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.

P. Lynch stated that no correspondence had been received.

7.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh / Officer's Reports.

1. Speed Limit Review:

G. O'Hora presented the Draft B Speed Limit Bye Laws for Regional & Local Roads to the members. Cllr. A. O'Connor welcomed the reduction in speed in residential areas and sought clarification on the omission of a reduction in Little Island. G. O'Hora stated that this location was actually included in the Glounthaune drawing.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan also welcomed the changes but expressed disappointment at the omission of Kilcronan Lane.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the constant changing of the speed limit on the Glounthaune Road from 50km to 60km and back again was causing confusion for motorists. G. O'Hora replied that the speed limit of 50Km had been maintained in the built-up areas of this road

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen the changes were adopted.

2. Section 38 – Carrignavar:

Cllr. S. Sheppard expressed her thanks to G. O'Hora and the team for all the work done to date on this project.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, the report was adopted.

3. Taking in Charge of Roads, Carrigtwohill:

Taking in Charge of Ballyrichard More Rd. and Carrigtwohill Stn. Access Rd

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, it was agreed that the taking in charge process could commence for the section of roads outlined.

8.0 Tuairisc ó Oifigeach Ceantair Bardasacha / Municipal District Officer's Report.

P. Lynch presented the members with the up to date total spent on the General Municipal Allocation and the Town Development Fund.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed to allow Cobh YMCA to purchase a new shredder instead of an air purifier out their Amenity Grant for 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that Carrigtwohill Family Resource Centre could use the grant allocated in 2021 for running workshops to fund building works.

P. Lynch confirmed that only those streets with parking machines would be policed. It was agreed that a further meeting to discuss the Cobh M.D. Casual Trading Policy would take place in the week of 25th July.

Cllr. S. Sheppard congratulated the Cork County Council team and the Councillors on the work done to date on the Cobh Public Realm project and it was agreed a statement would be released regarding the award. Cllr. A. Barry stated the award was a fantastic achievement for Cork County Council.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen enquired as to what was the next stage regarding the Public Realm. P. Lynch replied that funding would be confirmed in the latter half of 2022, when a decision would be taken at Management level how much funding would be made available by Cork County Council.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if the old supermarket on East Hill and the convent on Bishop Street had been served notices under the Derelict Sites Act. P. Lynch replied that the Council was still engaging informally with the owners, the next step would be to serve notices.

Cllr. A. O'Connor asked if a levy was been collected in respect of the 13 sites left on the Derelict Sites Register. P. Lynch stated the to date a levy has not been charged on any site, but the owners of 4 properties had been written to and a levy would be charged from 1st January 2023.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan asked what the timeline was for the ORI Scheme at Little Island. P. Lynch replied that the playground equipment had been ordered, but this had a long lead time. Council staff would be carrying out the works on the walkway and this was scheduled for the end of August or the start of September.

9.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.

- 1. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:**
That this council investigate the main road through Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill, and the effect of the overgrowth is having on the footpath and cycle lane. Also some of the drains and streams in the estate appear to have a lot of debris in them

Cllr. Barry stated that the planting had gone wild and overgrown and was obstructing the footpath and cycle lane. Cllr. A. O'Connor stated that the type of planting approved at planning stage was very high maintenance and this should be a lesson in estate planning, as inappropriate planting at completion stage was causing problems for the residents' associations who maintain the estates down along the line.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, the motion was carried.

2. **To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**
That a review would be undertaken to see what improvements or changes could be done on the section of the Carrignafof road near the crossing at Glasson's Avenue and cost cutters in an effort to improve safety for all users of the road.
Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that another accident had occurred at the junction of Glassons Avenue and the Carrignafof Road, the road was very dangerous.
On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that G. O'Hora would examine the need for additional signage and a driver feed back sign on the approach roads.

10.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

10.1 Buck Learys Cross:

Funds were allocated 2 years ago for safety improvements, now they are being implemented and it would appear that the pole will be in the middle of the road. G. O'Hora replied that the safety scheme was progressing and the pole in question is an ESB pole and the ESB would shortly be decommissioning and removing the pole.

Cllr. A. O'Connor:

10.2 Whitechurch:

The speed driver feedback sign was very welcome at Whitechurch; however it is obscured by a hedge. G O'Hora replied hedge around the sign would be trimmed back by council staff.

10.3 Weedkiller:

There would appear to be an excessive use of weedkiller on the Cobh approach roads. G. O'Hora responded stating that a contractor had been engaged to carry out limited spraying at the very edge of the road and that going forward the use of pesticides would be curtailed, as new products were trialled.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

10.4 Ballymore Graveyard:

Are the Council still cutting the grass in the graveyard? G. O'Hora stated that a contractor had been appointed, who is due to cut the graveyard grass again in 2-3 weeks.

10.5 Irish Rail:

There is a lot of overgrowth at Donegal Hill along the railway line, some works were carried out inside the fence but more needs to be done on the road side. Engineer to contact Irish rail and request them to cut back overgrowth.

10.6 Belvelly Bus Stops:

Bus stops at Belvelly. G. O'Hora replied that the plans are ongoing, however it would now appear that U.C.C. owns some of the lands at the proposed Belvelly bus stop location and they must also be consulted.

10.7 Toilets at Five Foot Way:

The temporary toilet at the Five Foot Way needs to be re-visited. P. Lynch replied that there were issues in relation to the Building Controls Act that need to be resolved before a permanent toilet is built, he is talking to the Architects Department to find out what options were available.

10.8 Hawthorn Terrace, Cobh:

The bin lorries are having difficulty getting around the corner from Roches Row, the double yellow lines are very worn and motorists are parking on the corner. Engineer to examine.

10.9 Top of East Hill/Frenches Walk:

A Concealed Entrance sign is needed for the new estate: Engineer to examine.

10.11: Tay Road:

The repeater sign is not working. Engineer to arrange for Driver Feedback Sign to be repaired.

Cllr. A. Barry:**10.10 Carrigtwohill:**

There are safety issues around the temporary school in Carrigtwohill, the ETB should be written to and asked to resolve them, while the schools are closed. Engineer confirmed he was examining erecting additional road safety signs on the approach road to the school.

10.11 Fota Rock:

The road sweeper should be sweeping the through roads at Fota Rock and Cul Ard. Engineer to arrange for Council sweeper to sweep Fota Rock and Cul Ard estate roads.

P. Lynch stated that the layout of the Council chamber had been assessed and it was hoped that the changes needed to allow for blended meetings would be in place by the end of July. It was agreed that P. Lynch would get an update on when the works were due to be completed and revert to the members.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHOIRLEACH

MUNCIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER