



## MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT of West Cork held on MS Teams at 11.00am on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Members present:** Cllrs. Patrick Gerard Murphy, Declan Hurley, Danny Collins, Karen Coakley, Deirdre Kelly, Joe Carroll, Paul Hayes, Ross O'Connell, Caroline Cronin

**In attendance:** Mac Dara O H-Ici, S.E.O. M.D.W.C.  
John Ahern S.E.E Skibbereen  
Kevin Lynch E.E. Bantry  
Martina O'Driscoll, Meeting Administrator M.D.W.C.

Cllr. PG. Murphy presided.

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

*Proposed by Cllr. D. Hurley*

*Seconded by Cllr. K. Coakley*

#### Resolved:

"That the minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

Minutes of Municipal District 'IN COMMITTEE' meeting (as circulated) of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

*Proposed by Cllr. D. Hurley*

*Seconded by Cllr. K. Coakley*

#### Resolved:

"That the minutes of Municipal District 'IN COMMITTEE' meeting (as circulated) of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

## **MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr. Coakley requested an amendment to the March minutes as follows – to remove ‘Ard Carrig’ from the following record “the road going up to the Ard Carrig Estate in Skibbereen” and to replace with the correct reference ‘The Carrig Road’.

Following a member’s request for an update on the recruitment process at Dunmanway Swimming pool and the plan to extend opening hours, the S.E.O. noted that letters of offer had gone out to two candidates and following contracts of employment being finalized the opening hours would be reviewed.

In reply to a query in relation to the Village Enhancement Scheme the S.E.O. advised that a list of the villages will be circulated to the members and any queries could be forwarded to his office.

## **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

On the request of Cllr. J. Carroll, members approved the suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the public conveniences in Baltimore. The public toilets in Baltimore were cited as being well designed when they were built 2016 and they were previously well maintained but had slipped into a poor state due to the lack of maintenance. Cllr. Carroll highlighted the retirement of a staff members which has left the public toilets unmaintained and as a result they have been locked and unavailable to the public.

Cllr. Coakley expressed her frustration with the Council when she highlighted that the lack of public toilet facilities which is going to hinder the West Cork tourism industry if the lasting impression of West Cork is the lack of public conveniences and asked for the matter to addressed urgently. Cllr. Hurley reported to members that due to a staff retirement in Ballineen/Enniskeane area the public toilets also had to be closed. Members called for the staffing issue to be addressed immediately or else to hire private contractors to deal with the issue. Members also sought an update on the public conveniences in Ballineen and Long Strand.

The S.E.O. advised members that a new cleaner would have be recruited to maintain the public conveniences in Baltimore and efforts were underway to secure a contractor to maintain the toilets in the interim. He also noted that a designer was appointed for the Ballineen toilets with a Part 8 next in the process before it would eventually go to tender. Temporary facilities were going to be installed at Long Strand for the summer months. The S.E.O. took note of the request to communicate the plan and processes for the Ballineen toilets among the members.

## **NOTICES OF MOTION/ FOGRA RUN**

### ***Cllr. R. O'Connell proposed, Cllr. PG. Murphy seconded***

“That this council would provide an update on a timeline for the road safety improvement works due to be carried out at the junction of the R-572-0 and L-4927-69 outside Glengarriff, and would seriously consider the installation of a traffic mirror on the opposite side of the road for the interim period as per the request of the local residents there”

### **Report from Mr. Kevin Lynch E.E.**

*Works will commence on the R-572 works from Glengarriff Bridge to the Coomerkane junction, once the contractor is finished the Glengarriff Pier road footpath and junction improvement works. It is envisaged that the Glengarriff Pier road works should be complete by 24<sup>th</sup> April i.e. at the end of the Easter Holidays. Cork County Council will not erect any such mirror, as such devices do not have any standing in any road standards. Any issues with excessive speeds on the R-572 should be directed to the road safety enforcement authority i.e. An Garda Siochana.*

### ***Cllr. D. Collins proposed, Cllr. P.G. Murphy seconded***

“I am seeking an update on the issue of the council’s options on buying land in Kilcrohane for to extend or move the graveyard to another site”.

### **Response from Mr. M. O’Hici S.E.O.**

The council were in the process of trying to source a suitable site in the area and while talks were conducted with a landowner but there is no plans to purchase those lands. The topography of the area is making it difficult to source land adjacent to the village so lands in the wider vicinity are being reviewed.

### ***Cllr. D. Collins proposed, Cllr. P.G. Murphy seconded***

“That the council would remove the green grass in the middle of the road at Ahil More Kealkil”.

### **Report from Mr. Kevin Lynch E.E.**

We will inspect the road and arrange to carry out any maintenance works, required.

### ***Cllr. D. Collins proposed, Cllr. P.G. Murphy seconded***

“That Cork County Council upgrade the footpath at Slip Grove Bantry especially around the area of the Co Action Centre and houses”.

### **Report from Mr. Kevin Lynch E.E.**

The footpath and carriageway have been identified as requiring upgrading to facilitate future residential development in that area. It is hoped to fund the upgrading works there through development contributions and future NTA funding.

## **REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

### Derelict Sites Quarterly Update

A review of the Derelict Sites register has been completed and a number of properties have been removed from the Register as they are no longer considered derelict within the meaning of the Derelict Sites Act 1990. In tandem with this exercise, properties are currently being identified in the 6 key towns, which may be considered derelict and the ownership of these properties is being researched.

The first steps in the process which we will be using, is as follows:

1. Identification of potentially Derelict Sites.
2. Identification of owners.
3. Informal interaction with the owners.

To date following initial survey of TOWN CENTRES, the following have been identified as being potentially derelict.

| <b>Town</b>    | <b>Number of potentially Derelict Sites</b> |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Clonakilty     | 12                                          |
| Dunmanway      | 1                                           |
| Skibbereen     | 1                                           |
| Bantry         | 0                                           |
| Schull         | 1                                           |
| Castletownbere | 1                                           |

The S.E.O. advised members to contact Dave Campbell if they had any sites which they wished to have reviewed.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Due to the Public Holiday on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022, members to agreed to an alternative date for May monthly meeting of Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

The members wished to pay tribute to the Ms. Clare Zuk who has finished with the West Cork MD. They described her as someone who left no stone unturned in her duties as Municipal District Officer and was extremely approachably and hard working. They wished her well in her new role working in the Tourism Section of Cork County Council.

A request for Cork County Council to follow up on the twinning between Allihies and Leadville, USA was discussed. The S.E.O. advised that there was a statutory process in place in relation to twinning with other countries and noted that Cork County Council has their own internal procedure on the matter which required 3 criteria which had be included in a report. This information was requested from the twinning groups but insufficient information was supplied. He noted that he would revisit the matter and could request further details from the groups.

In reply to a request for an update on the refurbishment of the Skibbereen Town Hall the S.E.O. noted that works were ongoing and no finalized completion date was available.

An update on the Union Hall playground was sought and the S.E.O. advised that a lease was required to be in place before works to upgrade the playground could proceed as the land was not owned by Cork County Council.

The clearing of a walkway between the secondary and primary schools in Skibbereen was discussed and the S.E.O. noted funding sources for these works were being reviewed.

A meeting to be arranged between the Baltimore Community Council and other community groups was requested and the S.E.O. noted that a meeting would be arranged in the near future.

Members queried when the GMA and Amenity grant allocations were due to be signed off and the S.E.O. confirmed that these allocation's were due to go before the members at the May MD meeting.

Cllr. Hayes highlighted the Sherkin Island SIDS application for funding under the Rural Regeneration Fund and asked the members to lend their support for this application.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

