

Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

Halla an Bhaile, Cnoc Naomh Eoin,
Cionn tSáile, Co. Chorcaí, Éire.
Fón: (021) 4772154 · Faics (021) 4772615
Suíomh Gréasáin: www.corkcoco.ie



MINUTES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF WEST CORK HELD ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THE 5TH DECEMBER 2022 AT 1.00PM

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

In Attendance: Ruth O'Brien, S.E.E. Bantry
John Aherne S.E.E. Skibereen
Mac Dara O'Hici, S.E.O.M.D.W.
Claire O'Donovan Meeting Administrator

Cllr Declan Hurley presided.

Apologies: Jacqueline Mansfield, MDO

Statutory Monthly Meeting

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 7th November 2022.

Proposed by Cllr Paul Hayes

Secoded by Cllr Caroline Cronin

Resolved

"That the minutes of the MDWC meeting held on the 7th November 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach"

- b) Minutes of Budgetary meeting of 7th November 2022

Proposed by Cllr. P. Hayes

Secoded by Cllr. C. Cronin

Resolved

"That the minutes of budgetary meeting of the MDWC meeting held on the 7th November 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach"

c) Matters arising from minutes dated 7th November 2022.

Members asked that the decision to not allow a bench to be placed on Council owned property at Mizen Head be reconsidered. The SEO replied that decision had been reconsidered and there were two issues, the proliferation of monuments in any one location and also the reason for monuments noting in this instance that the installation was not intended for individuals from the locality. The refusal is in line with the Policy approved by the Social Inclusion SPC. Members suggested going through a formal process of applying for permission for putting the monument on Council land initially. The SEO clarified for the meeting that the initial approval being applied for would be separate to a formal application for Planning Permission.

Members asked for an update on Skibbereen Town Hall and if there was an imminent opening date. SEO gave a report to the meeting on the works carried out to date that had been called for at the previous meeting, he informed members that the upgrade of the heating system was postponed as per the wishes of the members at previous meetings and would have to be installed further down the line which would mean the Hall being closed again to facilitate works. He also informed the meeting that the council had been engaging with some groups in relation to the facility to see what their needs were and what could be facilitated for different groups. Members requested that if a heating upgrade could be completed in a short term or temporary works could be done that this would be done. It was suggested that this be revisited in January.

Cllr. D. Hurley offered condolences to Cllr. P. Hayes on the passing of his father.

2. STATUTORY BUSINESS/GNO REACTUIL

(a) Notices of motion submitted by Cllr. R. O'Connell

(i) "That this Council would put in a wheelchair accessibility carpet at Barleycove Beach running from the south end of the pontoon to the main beach"

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The councillor suggested the motion be amended to ask for the provision of a beach wheelchair at the location.

Seconded by Cllr. D. Collins

Members supported this notice of motion as amended. SEO replied that there was a scheme where a beach wheelchair was provided in the Warren which had been assessed as suitable for same, some beaches were not suitable due to issues like topography, steps, and lack of someone to manage wheelchairs as lifeguards' priority is the water safety of the beach users, and storage issues for the equipment. Barleycove was not a suitable location for a beach wheelchair operated by Cork County Council. The SEO said that a beach audit was being done on access to a number of beaches and that a report was due before year end and this may have some suggestions.

- (ii) “That this Council would include Dunmanus Pier in the dredging projects to go forward to Cork County Council in 2023”.**

Cllr. O’Connell explained how there were a number of issues during low tide which cause the boats to be immobile and possibly damaged.

The SEO stated that the budget for dredging was managed by the Coastal Management Section of the council and he would send the request onto them.

Seconded by Cllr. D. Collins and said that he would contact the Minister of the Marine regarding this issue.

Members mentioned the unsightly bait boxes and freezers on the Pier. SEO replied that an application could possibly be made for funding for this.

It was agreed by members to ascertain the funding available for dredging and revisit this in January.

(b) Notices of motion submitted by Cllr. D. Collins

- (i) “I am calling on the council to put down some surfacing at the entrance of St. Marys Graveyard, Droum, Castletownbere so it can be easily accessed by wheelchair users and pedestrians. Also, as this is a graveyard motion, I am calling on the Council to repair the wall where parts have collapsed at Kilcaskin, Adrigole”.**

Cllr. Collins asked that the pathway be resurfaced as it was a health and safety issue. With regard to Kilcaskin a quote was given for repairs in the amount of €30,000.

Seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes

SEO said that the quote was correct as repairs are specialised work and that possibly funding could come from GMA.

Regarding Droum, any works would be limited due to steps and being protected. SEE undertook to discuss with Area Engineer.

- (ii) “I call on the Council with this motion to make funds available for a pontoon and proper access ladders for the people of Beara Island”.**

Seconded by Cllr. C. Cronin

Members supported this and asked for a fast solution. It was agreed to look at what temporary floating pontoons were available on the market.

- (iii) “That bottle bins be put in on the land of Cunamore Pier, Heir Island owned by Cork County Council to service both islanders and mainlanders”.**

Cllr. Collins explained that the motion should be in relation to Heir Island he had been in contact with members of the Community who have undertaken to maintain and affirmation from the barge operator that he will carry bins to mainland for emptying. The SEO informed the meeting that this matter had been addresses previously and the land owned by Cork County Council on the island was unsuitable and this had been previously shared with some members of the local community.

3. TUAIRISCI & COMHFHREAGRAS/REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

SEO read a report regarding Dursey Cable Car.

Members asked for the report to be circulated and asked if the ferry service would still be operational. Members added that the islanders were in need of a barge for cattle between now and when repairs are expected to be complete at Easter 2023. SEO replied that the contract for the temporary passenger ferry was still in place operated by Cork County Council on behalf of the department but it was weather dependent. The department has always operated a cargo ferry service to the island and questions in relation to this service would have to be addressed to the department. He informed members that there had been high level communication with the Department who agreed to continue to fund the passenger ferry service, he also flagged up that a less frequent service may be more appropriate during the Winter months.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS / AON GNÓ EIL

Members thanked the Roads office for works done on Bridge Street and asked that it be considered that power lines be underground for any works next year. J. Ahern, Skibbereen Roads replied that this would depend on funding and would certainly be looking at this.

The SEO gave the members an update on the land ownership in Leap and Union Hall playgrounds where a lease would have to be put in place with the owners of the site and informed the members that the situation in relation to Rosscarbery was different where there was no recorded entity with ownership of the land where the playground and this would prove difficult in any application for funding.

Members reported a bench in Drimoleague that was removed and not replaced and also a seat by railway yard in an unsafe condition. Members were informed that there in money available in GMA for replacement.

SEO informed members following a report about Japanese Knotweed that Cork County Council are spraying on Council owned lands but on privately owned lands, it was the responsibility of the landowner to treat.

Members asked for an update on a car in the lake at Drimoleague and were informed that the County Engineers office were monitoring the situation and that plans were in place for removal.

Members thanked the engineering staff for works done on Rossa Street and Western Road, Clonakilty and asked that the road-lining team be brought in. SEE Skibbereen informed members that the tarmac contractor ad engaged with a sub-contractor to carry out works. Members also asked that relining be done in Skibbereen town as a matter of urgency.

Members asked that works be carried out on N71 at Bawnakeen and also how two lorries cannot pass each other on part of this road. SEE undertook to investigate and Cllr. Cronin committed to speaking to locals to pinpoint the issues.

SEE Bantry said she would look at repairs needed on road from Roycrofts Garage to Ballydehob.

J. Ahern SEE informed the meeting of works undertaken under Section 38, a new zebra crossing at Enniskeane and a signalised traffic control at Abbeystrewery.

J. Ahern SEE updated members on Chapel Street scheme as follows:

Storm water Culvert installed 100%

IW Combined sewer works completed 100%

New surface water sewer 95% completed.

New watermain 75% completed.

It was encouraging after the very heavy rains of the past few months that there was no flooding on Chapel Street or the requirement to intervene with additional resources.

The plan is to complete the works as far as Aldi this week and then revert back down east of the church to work on footpaths and watermain connections and focus the works away from the business premises.

R. O'Brien SEE informed members that NTA funding had been sourced for works from Ballylickey to campsite and that NRO would be taking over. Also that works had commenced from Glengarriff village to golf-course in October.

Members wished Mayor D. Collins Happy Birthday.

D. Hurley wished members a Happy Christmas and closed the meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH _____ **DATE** _____