

MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd MAY 2023 AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.

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

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

Apologies were received from Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer.

1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of:

Monthly Meeting held on 3rd April 2023 & Special Meeting held on 28th March.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the minutes of both meetings were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising.

Tay Road Sign, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated a new sign would be in place soon.

Brown Island Pier:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the signs had been installed.

Decorative Lights, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that of the 70 lights along the town, 8 or 9 were not working, this was caused by a damaged connection and would take time to repair.

Carrignafoy, Cobh:

The appointed contractor will be carrying out repairs in the next few weeks.

Fota Road:

G. O'Hora stated another litter pick would be carried out by Council staff in mid May.

Leonards Lodge, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that the area had been examined by engineers and was listed for further drainage works, water was seeping through the wall and a new drainage connection would have to be put in place.

Drains:

G. O'Hora confirmed that further drain cleaning would be carried out over the next few weeks in Cobh.

The Mall, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the road was listed for repair.

Glenanaar Place, Cobh:

The pothole had been repaired.

College Manor, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated new bollards had been ordered and bollards would be erected when delivered.

Riviera Terrace, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that the Councils horticulturist would examine the tree. Engineer to confirm whether the tree is on public or private land.

Fota Road:

G. O'Hora stated that the owners of Fota estate had been contacted in connection with the overhanging foliage.

Ballyleary Hill:

G. O'Hora stated that the issue lay with the ESB. Cllr. Rasmussen confirmed that the lights had now been switched on.

Lusitania Monument, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated works will be completed this week. Cllr. Rasmussen reminded him that the commemoration was this weekend and requested that the works be carried out this week.

Tay Road, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that he was in contact with the Gardai in relation to damage to the wall.

Carrignafoy:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the road was listed for repair.

Belvelly Bus Stop:

G. O'Hora stated that he was in contact with the Roads Design Office regarding this issue and expected to provide an update to the members for the June meeting.

Ardnageehy Cemetery:

G. O'Hora stated that the road had been repaired.

Carrignavar:

G. O'Hora stated that having examined the area, he was satisfied that there was sufficient signage. Cllr. S. O'Callaghan clarified that the area she was talking about was towards Whitechurch, engineer to examine.

Newtown Road, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that the ramp would be repaired during during the school summer holidays. Cllr. Sheppard reminded him that a wall adjacent to the ramp had been damaged by the contractor and still needed to be repaired.

St. Colmans Square, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the road was listed for repair.

Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora stated the potholes had been repaired.

Barryscourt:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the roadway had been repaired..

Glounthaune:

Cllr. A. Barry clarified the exact location of the estate in question, stating that approximately half the houses were now occupied, but that the lighting and installation of a footpath, which were a condition of planning still hadn’t been installed. G. O’Hora replied a Planning Contribution was levied as part of the planning permission by Traffic and Transport department for a footpath. Engineer to follow up on whether contribution was paid. Developer to carry out signalization of junction.

Carrigane Road:

G. O’Hora stated that he had spoken to the developer who had the driver feed back sign in his store and he would be re-erecting it as soon as possible. Cllr. A. Barry asked if it could be re-erected closer to the village.

Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora stated that the drain had been cleaned and would be monitored going forward as the house was below the level of the road.

Carrignavar:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the lining had been carried out.

Tullegreine:

G. O’Hora stated that he had requested that the Council’s horticulturist examine the tree.

Carrignafoy:

Cllr. O’Connor again sought an update on the pedestrian crossing scheduled for this location. G. O’Hora replied that the Roads Design Office were still working on the design and hoped to have an progress update for the next meeting.

Kirkwood Villas:

Cllr. O’Connor raised the issue of pedestrian crossing at this location again. G. O’Hora replied that the a traffic survey had been carried out.

G. O’Hora then proceeded to give the members the results of traffic surveys carried out at Kirkwood Villas, Ticknock, Ballyleary and Carrigaloe. All locations showed significant traffic volumes and in several of the locations, the average speed was well in excess of the speed limits. All locations would require additional examination based on the data collected. The members requested copies of the reports which G. O’Hora indicated he was happy to give the reports to the members but did not want the results to be made available to the public yet as the data required further analysis.

Cllr. Rasmussen thanked the staff for the work put in on the surveys and stated that when the primary care facility opened at Supervalu, Ticknock that this would have a significant effect on the traffic at this location. G. O'Hora replied that the data gathered would be shared with the Gardai and he would be requesting speed vans be located at some of the locations. Cllr. A. O'Connor requested further information on how the average speeds were arrived at, which G. O'Hora supplied. Cllr. S. Sheppard also expressed her thanks for the work and indicated that works to protect vulnerable users of the care facility should be carried out as soon as possible. She also expressed concern at the volumes of traffic using the Ballyleary/Tay Road junction, given that there were no protections in place at this location for pedestrians. Cllr. Sheppard stated another accident had taken place recently at the Russell Heights/Pat O'Brien area, which was another location with a large number of young children and older people and also needed to have pedestrian safety examined.

Connolly Street, Cobh:

Cllr. S. O'Connor again raised concerns about the cliff at Connolly Street, asking if the wall and road should collapse who would be responsible. G. O'Hora replied that this area was being monitored by the Coastal Management section of Cork County Council, who were satisfied that at this junction only minor remedial works needed to be carried out. These works would be carried out by Council staff shortly.

Elton Estate, Cobh:

Cllr. O'Connor asked if any reply had been received from Irish Water in relation to the sewerage problem there, which was getting worse. G. O'Hora stated that he had raised the issue with Irish Water and was awaiting a reply.

Belvue Terrace, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen thanked the engineering staff for the works at Belvue Terrace, which appeared to have resolved the problems with the refuse truck.

3.0 Suspension of Standing Orders:

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the works ongoing on the Carrigane Road.

Cllr. Barry stated that the road was still closed however no work had been carried out by the contractors for Irish Water for the last two weeks. This was a serious inconvenience to the residents and was totally unacceptable. Irish Water need to be held accountable and if they do not intend to finish the works, then the road must be re-opened. Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to whether it was known why the works had been halted. Cllr. Sheppard stated that the lack of information and total disregard of the residents by Irish Water was not acceptable and called for a letter to be sent to the company. All of the members supported the issue of a letter to Irish Water demanding an explanation for the delay. G. O'Hora stated that the company had permission to close the road until July, but would follow up with the contactors to ascertain the cause of the delay.

4.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.

M. McSweeney circulated correspondence received from the Cork ETB in relation to the potholes at Carrignafof College track. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the response was not acceptable and informed members that Ballymore A.C. had used a grant received from the Municipal District to carry out repairs to the track even though the club was not the owner and used the facility under licence from the ETB and asked if the Council could carry out further repairs given the importance of the facility to the community. Cllr. Rasmussen stated he was in agreement with his fellow councillor that the response was not good enough but disagreed that the Council should carry out repairs. G. O’Hora stated that the Council could not carry out works on private property. Cllr. S. O’Connor requested a copy of the letter, stating he was on the board of management and would bring the matter up at the next meeting.

M. McSweeney circulated a letter from James Cahill Funeral Directors in response to the Councils letter regarding parking at funerals. He stated that he had tried everything possible to comply with the conditions of planning in relation to parking, stating that employees had been subjected to verbal abuse when attempting to regulate parking. Cllr. Sheppard stated that she had been in contact with funeral home owners and the parking problems were not their fault.

M. McSweeney circulated a request from Ms. Sharon Piper regarding permission to operate a Funfair on every weekend in June, July and August. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed, subject to the provision of safety certificates and the appropriate insurances.

M. McSweeney circulated correspondence received from Bishop William Crean, indicating that the Church would be introducing pay parking at the Cathedral Car Park from June 2023 onwards. Cllr. Rasmussen noted that the parish owned the Car Park and were entitled to regulate its operation.

5.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh / Officer's Reports.

There were no reports to present to the members under this heading.

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

M. McSweeney brought the members up to date with the claims so far under the various grant schemes operated by the Municipal District. Cllr. A. O’Connor queried the amount of over €10,000 yet to be claimed from 2020. M. McSweeney stated that this was in relation to a grant given to Carrigtwohill Community Council. Cllr. A. Barry stated that he had been in contact with the group in relation to this grant.

Part 8 Planning Applications:

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed to proceed with the public consultation process for the Carrigtwohill U.R.D.F.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to proceed with the public consultation process for the statue to be located at the Five Foot Way. Cllr. S. Sheppard enquired as to whether the process would be completed by July. P. Lynch replied a special meeting would be required in July.

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired what was being done in relation to the enforcement of street furniture licences, as there was chaos last weekend.

7.0 Disposal of Property.

To consider the Grant of Wayleave at Castlelake, Carrigtwohill, to Gas Networks Ireland for gas pipeline for the consideration of €140.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the disposal was approved. Cllr. A. Barry then queried why this disposal was being brought before the members when the estate had not yet been taken in charge. It was confirmed that Cork County Council own the land being disposed of.

8.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.

To consider the following notices of motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen

“That this Municipal would look to have the master plan for the 57 acres of Council Land in Newtown, Cobh expedited as a matter of urgency in order to help develop this land bank for housing and other activities.”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that no masterplan was in place to develop this significant land bank which was prime land suitable for housing.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to send the motion to full Council.

To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen

“That this Municipal would look at proper speed calming measures in the area of the entrance to Coolamber, taking into consideration the planners insistence of a new pedestrian entrance from the new estate to Coolamber without any extra safety measures in place and with speeding cars and pedestrians using the road.”

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the estate was to be taken over by the Council and a speed survey would show that motorists were regularly exceeding the speed limit. Traffic calming measures or at the very least a raised ramp was required, the residents were very concerned. Engineer agreed to carry out a traffic speed survey on the Coolamber estate road.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the motion was carried.

To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen

“That this Municipal would look at extra speed calming measures in the area of Belvelly, and would consider reducing the speed limit in this area to help the residents living in the area.”

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that a speed survey had now been carried, the speed of cars in the area was causing huge concerns and there was insufficient signage, in excess of 14,000 vehicles were using the road daily and something had to be done to improve road safety in the area. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the residents felt they had been forgotten as they were in a rural part of the island. G. O’Hora replied Cork County Council would examine erecting additional road safety signage on the R624 road from Belvelly towards the old IFI site.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that the engineer would examine the need for more signage and possibly a driver feedback sign.

To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry

“That the Municipal Council write to Cork County Council Library Service requesting the possibility of installing a fully functional library in Carrigtwohill”.

Cllr. Barry stated that Carrigtwohill was now the 7th most populous town in County Cork, other towns with a smaller population had fully functioning library, but not Carrigtwohill. This is basic infrastructure and should be provided.

Cllr. A. O’Connor fully supported the motion, stating that it was not good enough that people were expected to go to Midleton for a service.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. A. O’Connor, it was agreed to write to the County Library Service.

To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry

“That Cork County Council erect **LYME DISEASE** awareness signs at parks and walkways under its control and encourage other providers to do likewise.”

Cllr. A. Barry stated that this was a serious disease, easily treated if caught in time but that there was insufficient awareness of the dangers posed by ticks. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that it was important that awareness of this disease was raised amongst the general public. Cllr. S. O’Callaghan stated that a national awareness campaign would be ideal, but it was important to start at County level.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that the motion would be forwarded to full Council.

9.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.

Cllr. S. Sheppard:

9.1 Whartons Corner/Ellens Kitchen:

Road lining required. G. O’Hora replied that Cork County Council’s road lining contractor would be carrying out the road lining at Whartons Corner shortly.

9.2 Town Centre:

Would it be possible to power wash the town centre, as had happened during Covid? Some business’ carried out this near their own premises, but other areas of the town are badly in need of it. G. O’Hora replied that Council staff had carried out the power washing on Cobh main streets during Covid. Pending staff availability, he would examine carrying out some limited power washing of footpaths.

9.3 Carrigaloe:

Could the road sweeper be used more often at Carrigaloe and near Mills Garage. G. O’Hora replied that the road sweeper was scheduled for Cobh this week.

9.4 Ard Aobhinn:

The residents association missed the deadline for grants this year, could they still be considered? It was agreed that this request would be granted.

9.5 Top of the Hill:

Potholes and footpath in need of repair. G. O’Hora replied that he had included this road area for a hot patch repair.

9.6 Darkness into Light:

The walk is happening this Friday night/Saturday morning, would it be possible to run an extension lead from the workshop from 3.00 a.m. to 5.00 a.m. Engineer to liaise with Cllr. Sheppard and provide a power supply for the lights.

9.7 Spike Island:

This is an amazing facility but inaccessible to wheelchair users, could a bus be provided to facilitate disabled visitors. P. Lynch replied that while Spike Island is owned by Cork County Council, it is managed by an independent company, SIDC, which is responsible for the operations on the island on a day to day basis. Members agreed that they would raise the issue at Full Council as Cork County Council provides funding to SIDC. Cllr. S. O’Connor requested a full report from SIDC.

9.8 Estates Taken in Charge:

Cllr. Sheppard stated that so many estates were yet to be taken in charge by the Council and requested that the M.D. meet with the planning department to move this issue forward as the residents of these estates were effectively left in limbo.

Cllr. A. O'Connor:

9.9 Uncontrolled Pedestrian Crossings:

Any further information regarding the requirements for an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing. Engineer to revert.

9.10 Battery Strand, Cobh:

Any update on whether funding is available for the repair of the access to the Battery Strand. Engineer to revert.

9.11 Dog Bins:

Could a map of the locations of the dog fouling bins be circulated to the members. G. O'Hora replied Cork County Council have drawings showing litter bin locations in Cobh and will update to include dog bin locations in Cobh town.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

9.12 Speed Limit Sign:

The 80km speed limit sign is missing from outside of Knockraha. Engineer replied a new speed sign will be erected at location shortly.

9.13 Safe Route to School:

The creche based in Watergrasshill Community Centre which is providing an after school service is finding it very difficult to provide a safe route from the school to the community centre. G. O'Hora to refer the request to Cork County Council's Traffic and Transport Department for response.

9.14 Barrys Cross:

Stones are coming loose from a privately owned wall onto the public road. Engineer to write to landowner.

Cllr. S. O'Connor:

9.15 Pedestrian Crossing:

Following a water break, the road was damaged between the boys school and Colaiste Muire, leaving rubble on ground, which is dangerous. Engineer replied road was cleaned by Cork County Council staff and he would forward councillors concerns to Irish Water.

9.16 College Manor, Cobh:

Roadway is in terrible condition due to subsidence. G. O'Hora replied that it was listed for repair.

Cllr. A. Barry:

9.17 Cul Ard/Fota Rock:

Could both these estates be included in the road sweeper route on a monthly basis. Engineer will schedule sweeper to sweep estate roads.

9.18 Scoil Muire Naofa:

When the new campus opens in Carrigtwohill, will the school wardens still be required. P. Lynch replied that he was not aware of any plans to lay staff off.

9.19 Knockraha:

Was there any need to narrow the road outside of Knockraha. Engineer confirmed road was narrowed to facilitate road drainage.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

9.20 St. Colmans Graveyard:

The roundabout needs some work due to potholes. Engineer to schedule potholes for repair.

9.21 Carrignafoy Road:

Pothole on the Carrignafoy Road, near the G.A.A. pitch. Engineer to schedule pothole for repair.

9.22 Black Railings, Lake Road:

The Black railings on the Lake Road needs some work. Section broken for ages. Engineer confirmed railings are listed for repair.

9.23 East Hill:

Top of East Hill where the cul de sac is on the right at the very top, there are two small entrances onto the grass area for viewing and cars are always parking there to block the entrance, can yellow lines be put there to allow people access all the time. Also the sign at East Hill about concealed entrance and to slow down near Frenchs Walk. Area used by residents. No plans to lay yellow lines. Cork County Council will erect a concealed entrance sign.

9.24 Aherne Place:

The laneway behind Aherne Place is very over grown and reports of rats in the area, can we get this cut back please. Can we also look at the possibility of a second ramp at Ahern place, close to the back entrance to St. Colmans Square, the first ram is great but people still gather speed as they come to the corner where the traffic lights are. Cork County Council will examine laneway, but not a priority. Raised ramp planned as part of Green route to school scheme.

9.25 Summer Hill:

The road as you exit from Glassons Avenue onto Summerhill is very rough and needs some attention. Engineer to examine.

9.26 College Manor:

A section of the footpath in College Manor is overgrown and you can hardly get past it with a pram. Its near the G.A.A. pitch and needs urgent cutting back. Engineer to schedule overgrowth to be cut.

9.27 Dawn View:

In Dawn View on the grass section on the main road opposite Ramblers club, a tree was removed ages ago but the hole in the grass was never filled in properly. Engineer to examine.

9.28 Waters Edge Hotel:

A section of footpath outside the Waters Edge Hotel needs attention. The bricks are uneven and somebody could fall. Engineer to schedule footpath for repair.

9.29 Pearse Square:

As you cross Pearse Square onto footpath a tree was removed and the tree stump was left, could this be removed and filled in. Engineer to examine.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHOIRLEACH

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER.