

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD ON MONDAY 5th December 2022.

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

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

1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of: Monthly Meeting held on 7th November 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 7th November 2022 were adopted.

2.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of: In-Committee Meeting held on 16th November 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 16th November 2022 were adopted.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Overgrowth on the footpath on the main road through Cul Ard, Carrigwohill.

G. O'Hora stated that he would co-ordinate the works required with local residents, but the Council's assistance would be limited.

3.2 Repainting of Double Yellow Lines at Hawthorn Terrace, Cobh.

G. O'Hora confirmed that 90% of the works had been completed.

3.3 The Mews, Rushbrooke Links:

G. O'Hora stated that the Council's horticulturist had examined the trees and removed one dangerous tree and carried out works on others.

3.4 Elton Estate:

G. O'Hora stated that some additional works were to be carried out at Elton Estate and that further works would be examined as part of the 2023 Footpath programme.

3.5 Westbourne Place:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the works were 90% complete.

3.6 Hartlands Point:

G. O'Hora stated that the tractor mower had been repaired and one more cut would be carried out subject to weather conditions.

3.7 Elmwood Grove:

G. O’Hora stated that repair works had been carried out.

3.8 Top of the Hill:

G. O’Hora stated that the lights had been turned on at this location and had subsequently been switched off again, as the lights were still affecting the residents of one house, despite fitting cowls. It had now been agreed with the occupier that a dimmer light bulb would be installed, and the lights would be turned on all the time.

3.9 Little Island Playground:

G. O’Hora stated that the playground was essentially finished, there was some minor landscaping to be carried out.

3.10 Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora stated that the speed limit signs had been put up.

3.11 Skew Bridge, Killahora:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the trees were listed to be cut back at this location.

3.12 ESB Pole, G.A.A. Pitch:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the contribution to the ESB had been paid and the Council were now waiting on the ESB to carry out the work.

3.13 Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the road at the back of the terrace leading to the GAA pitch was listed for remedial repair.

3.14 Main Street, Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora confirmed that some works had been carried out and further works were scheduled.

3.15 Road Signs, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the repainting of signs were part of the ongoing Road Lining Programme. The weather had caused some delay but the works were progressing. Members should contact the engineers with specific areas of concern.

3.16 Ballywilliam:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the contribution had been paid to the ESB and CCC were waiting for ESB to now move the pole.

3.17 Aherns Place, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that some works had been carried out at the laneway however resources were an issue and further works would not be carried out until early next year.

3.18 Pearse Square, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the issued had been highlighted with Irish Water.

3.19 Rushbrooke Links:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the cleaning of the drains were on the Roads Programme and were progressing.

3.20 Carrigaloe/Marian Terrace, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the verge and ditch had been cleared.

3.21 Tay Road Sign:

G. O’Hora stated he had been in contact with the suppliers of the VMS Driver Feed Back sign and requested sign be repaired.

3.22 Fota Bus Stop:

G. O’Hora stated that he had discussed this issue with the roads design office and they wanted to carry out a site inspection before beginning design work and that a road safety audit may also be required.

3.23 Carrigane Road, Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora stated that he was still trying to get in contact with the ESB and would follow up.

3.24 Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil:

G. O’Hora confirmed that remedial works had been carried out.

3.25 Ballinaltig Cemetery:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the works were listed and would be done over the next few weeks.

3.26 Road Sweeper Schedule, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the road sweeper was in Cobh 2 days each week over the last number of weeks.

3.27 Whitepoint:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the footpaths would be repaired under the 2023 Programme.

3.28 Cobh Hospital:

G. O’Hora stated that the issue with the car parking on the footpath was an enforcement issue and the Gardai should be informed.

3.29 Rushbrooke:

G. O’Hora stated that the works carried out by the homeowner had extended onto the road and that some of the works done would have to be removed and that mitigating works had been listed. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the issues had been present before the homeowner had carried out any works. G. O’Hora to investigate further.

3.30 Station Road, Carrigtwohill:

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

3.31 Walkway at Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the works had been listed and would commence shortly.

3.32 Ard Carrig, Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora confirmed that works to the footpaths to accommodate wheelchair users would be carried out under the 2023 Footpath Programme.

3.33 Slatty Pond:

The MD to write to County Engineer’s office and request an update on mitigating works to stop flooding.

3.34 Retaining Wall, Connolly Street:

Cllr. S. O’Connor raised the issue of the retaining wall at Connolly Street again. G. O’Hora confirmed that some mitigating works had been carried out and the issue had been referred to Coastal Management and suggested that a letter issue to the County Engineers department and seek an update, as the issue was too costly for the Municipal District to tackle.

3.35 Trees at West View and the Mews, Cobh:

Cllr. S. O’Connor again raised the issue of the trees at both these locations, stating that they were dangerous. G. O’Hora reiterated that the trees were on private land and that he will write to the landowners involved to apprise them of their responsibilities in dealing with same. Cllr. Barry sought clarification of who was responsible in the case of an accident. P. Lynch replied that it was the owners responsibility and that the Council could not enter into private lands to carry out works.

3.36 Cúl Árd, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. O’Connor stated that the vegetation overhanging the footpath should be removed, but not the trees. He suggested that the planting had been inappropriate for the location. G. O’Hora replied that any assistance that the Council may give to the residents to tackle same was dependent on funding constraints.

3.37 Water Monitoring at Cuskinny:

Cllr. S. Sheppard enquired as to whether there was any answer to the monitoring of water quality at Cuskinny. P. Lynch responded stating a reply had been received from the Environment department and the Municipal District would be writing to the committee responsible.

4.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.

M. McSweeney stated that correspondence had been received from the Celtic Interconnector Project offering to meet with the members at their convenience to give an update on progress to date. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to invite Eirgrid to the Municipal District in January.

Cobh & Harbour Chamber of Commerce requested meeting with the members to discuss projects going forward. It was agreed to meet in the New Year.

Ms. McSweeney stated that a letter had been received from Glounthaune Tidy Towns in relation to the work done on the Sensory Garden. Cllr. A. Barry stated that he fully supported the sentiments expressed in the letter regarding the spectacular work done by

2 members of staff on the garden. G. O’Hora thanked the members for their kind words and stated that they would be passed on to the P. Morey and M. Logue.

5.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigh / Officer's Reports.

G. O’Hora stated that he had a number of programmes to put before the members for approval. Cllr. S. O’Callaghan asked for clarification between the Restoration Improvement (RI) Programme and Restoration Maintenance (RM) Programme. G. O’Hora stated the RI programme is the main road strengthening grant/programme and caters for surface restoration, pavement overlay works, road rehabilitation works and damage works where required and RM grant is to protect the structural integrity of the road by way of surface dressing through the sealing of the road surface (Tar and chip). The purpose of restoration maintenance is to maintain the asset before it requires improvement. G.O’Hora stated that, subject to the members approval, some of the RI scheme works could start before Christmas. G O’Hora stated all the proposed road schemes on the RI and RM programmes were subject to funding, the full amount of which had yet to be confirmed, the weather may also impact some of the proposed works, so all were subject to change.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if other roads could be added to the list, such as the Cathedral road. G. O’Hora replied, if funding allowed, additional works may be carried out. Cllr. A. O’Connor asked if a road was removed from the proposed list for some reason for 2023, would it go into the list for 2024? G. O’Hora confirmed same.

G. O’Hora stated that the taking in charge of the Ballyrichard More road and the Carrigtwohill Station access road had been requested by Irish Rail. The process had been advertised and no submissions had been received.

- 5.1** 2023 RI Roads Programme
- 5.2** 2023 RM Roads Programme
- 5.3** 2023 Roads Drainage Programme.
- 5.4** Taking in Charge Report for Ballyrichard More Rd. and Carrigtwohill Station Access Rd.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. A. O’Connor, the programmes as presented, were adopted.

- 5.5** Proposed Bus Stop at 6624 Carrigaloe, Cobh and Traffic Calming Works at L2968 Knockraha, Co. Cork.

G. O’Hora outlined the main parts of the report on the above. Only one submission was received in relation to the Cobh Bus Stop and nothing in response to the Traffic Calming at Knockraha.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked when the works will be going ahead. G. O’Hora replied, that subject to the receipt of funding, it should be in Quarter 1 or 2 of 2023. Cllr. S. O’Callaghan asked when the Knockraha works would be going ahead? G. O’Hora stated that he hoped to expedite the works, with a view to commencing in Quarter 1 of 2023.

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

M. McSweeney presented the members with this month's report which included updates on the amounts claimed under the various grants.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Callaghan seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, the request by Whitechurch/Waterloo Tennis Club to extend their grant, was approved.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen sought an update on the report on the Town Hall, the report was issued over 3 months ago and there had been no feedback to the members to date. P. Lynch replied that he had requested a copy of the report but had not received it to date, however he would pursue it the Port of Cork directly.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan welcomed the progress on the Kilquane cemetery, which was badly needed, she stated that she had received numerous calls regarding the cemetery at Ballylucra. P. Lynch stated that extensions to the graveyards at Whitechurch and Knockraha were also being examined with a view to going the Part 8 as soon as possible, both plans included proposals for a columbarium wall.

Cllr. A. O'Connor asked if there was an expiry period for the grants and if funds were left over are they re-allocated. Cllr. O'Connor also requested that the total amount of the funds for each year be included in the monthly reports going forward. P. Lynch replied that groups usually had until December of the year following the allocation of the grant to draw down the funds.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan asked where the Guidelines on Memorial Plaques etc could be sourced by members of the public. M. McSweeney replied that any future applications will be dealt with as they come in having regard to the Guidelines as circulated, and a copy will be made available to the applicant.

7.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.

To Consider The Following Notice Of Motion in the name of Cathal Rasmussen:

“That this Municipal would resist any efforts to reduce our outdoor staff by up to 4 people, and that we seek an urgent meeting with the Director of Services to discuss the whole issue.”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he was not aware that up to 4 members of staff would be re-deployed following the redrawing of the boundaries. He was also aware that at least 2 more members of staff were due to retire within the next year or so. He queried how the work could be carried out with fewer resources. Tidy Towns do a great job but they cannot do the work of Council staff. Cllr. Sheppard supported the motion and stated that the outdoor staff were already under pressure to get the work done with the staff presently employed, it would be very difficult with less.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, it was agreed that M. McSweeney, S/MDO would write to the Director of Services asking him to

address the Council members at a future date wherein they can outline their concerns and ask him to reconsider the re-deployment of the 4 members of staff.

To Consider The Following Notice of Motion in the name of Anthony Barry.

“That this Council take measures to erect signage outlining the risks at high tide to people using Brown Island Pier”

Cllr. A. Barry stated that he had raised the issue with Coastal Management, the funding provided by Cork County Council and the efforts of the local community had made the area very popular but that it was difficult to distinguish the pier from the water at high tide.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. A. O’Connor, it was agreed that G. O’Hora would design and source appropriate signage.

8.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.

Cllr. A. O’Connor:

8.1 Public Realm Carrigtwohill:

Was there any update or call for funding? P. Lynch replied that there was no update as of yet or any call for funding.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan:

8.2 Ballard:

Dangerous manhole cover near A1 Engineering at Ballard. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that this was an Irish Water issue.

8.3 Carrignavar College:

Water had been flowing down the road outside the College for the last 6 months. Could the Municipal District write to Irish Water make them aware that the members were very dissatisfied with the lack of action.

Cllr. S. O’Connor:

8.4 Top of East Hill:

The overgrowth needs to be cut back, footpath is impassable. G O’Hora stated that landowners had been written to and requested to cut back hedges.

8.5 Leonards Lodge, Cobh:

The hedge is very overgrown at this location. CCC to carry out limited cutting to overgrowth.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen

8.6 Cobh:

Decorative lights along the town are not working. G O’ Hora confirmed he will engage an electrical contractor to repair lights.

8.7 Pedestrian Crossing, Newtown:

Can the exact location of the proposed crossing be discussed early in the New Year, also would it be possible to cost a full pedestrian crossing, instead of the proposed uncontrolled one. Engineer to examine.

8.8 Aherne's Place, Cobh:

Progress on speed bump? R. O'Sullivan replied that the works may be finished before Christmas.

8.9 Belvelly:

Drainage is still an issue causing flooding. G O'Hora confirmed drains were scheduled to be cleaned Wednesday 07th Dec.

8.10 Crescent, Cobh:

Has there been any progress in relation to a costing for the resurfacing of the Crescent? Engineer to revert.

8.11 Cobh Public Toilets:

Have the toilets reopened following the most recent vandalism?
R. O'Sullivan confirmed that the toilets were open, but one cubicle remains out of action.

8.12 Bishops Road, Cobh:

2 services had been installed on the road, but the re-instatement was not up to standard. Engineer to follow up with Irish Water.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen expressed his thanks for all the work done by the staff over the last year.

Cllr. A. O'Connor:

8.13 Pedestrian Crossings:

Cllr. O'Connor informed the engineers that there had been a trial in Dublin showcasing pedestrian crossings without beacons, which may be a cheaper option to explore. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. S. Sheppard:

8.14 Assumption Place, Cobh:

The road and footpath were impassable at times due to flooding. Engineer to examine.

8.15 Russell Height exit:

Traffic is exiting the estate at excessive speeds. Engineer to examine.

8.16 Leonards Lodge:

Water is still running down the hill causing the footpaths to be very slippy. Engineer to examine.

8.17 Rainbow Pedestrian Crossing:

Could the request for a Rainbow pedestrian crossing be put forward to the roads committee? P. Lynch replied that he had been formally advised, following a previous enquiry, that it was not possible to provide same under the legislation. Cllr. Sheppard to contact Cork City Council.

8.18 Colman's' Square, Cobh:

The roads and footpath in this estate need attention. G O'Hora confirmed road was listed for remedial repair.

Cllr. A. Barry:

8.19 Terrysland:

Bad pothole at Terrysland, Carrigtwohill. G O'Hora confirmed road was listed for remedial repair.

8.20 Cobh Cross:

Thanks for cutting back the overgrowth.

8.21 Main Street, Carrigtwohill:

The drains on Main Street are still flooding. G O'Hora confirmed drains were listed for cleaning this week.

Cllr. Barry then wished the members and staff a Happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.