

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD ON MONDAY 7th NOVEMBER
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.
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

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

1.0 Consideration of Draft Budgetary Plan for the Cobh Municipal District.

P. Lynch presented the members with the draft budgetary plan for the Cobh M.D. He stated that it was proposed to cut the expenditure for non-pay budgetary items by 14%. Provision has been made in the budget for a national wage increase for staff. The General Municipal Allocation and Town Development Fund are maintained at 2022 levels.

Cllr. A. O'Connor queried if pay is included in the figures presented and expressed disappointment in the budget for Arts programmes which was down by 1/6. Cllr. S. O'Callaghan stated that a limited budget would have a detrimental effect on the ground in terms of the costs of materials etc. Cllr. C. Rasmussen noted that grants would remain at 2022 levels but that services would suffer and as a consequence he could not accept the budget as presented. Cllr. S. Sheppard sought clarification on what the Pay Parking Dividend was for 2022 and what was expected from the camper van facility. Towns which have pay parking were entitled to a fair share of the parking dividend, but this was always slow to be paid out. She stated that the list of works were getting bigger, but the budget is shrinking. Cllr. S. O'Connor stated that he would wait for the final figures before making a decision.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the Draft Budgetary Plan was rejected.

2.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, the Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 3rd October were adopted.

3.0 Matters Arising:

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

G. O'Hora stated that this was an extensive project and that Cork County Council would assist the residents' association in carrying out works.

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

G. O'Hora confirmed lining contractor would commence road lining works shortly.

3.3 Top of East Hill/Frenches Walk, Cobh

G. O'Hora confirmed the new signs had been erected.

3.4 Safety issues at the temporary school in Carrigtwohill.

G. O'Hora stated that two new road signs had been put in place.

3.5 Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill:

G. O'Hora stated that the repairs had been carried out.

3.6 Carrigtwohill:

G. O'Hora stated that the access to this road was very difficult and the Council had problems getting the machinery in, but remedial repairs were ongoing.

3.7 Glassons Avenue, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that he will re-examine the road at this location with a view to including it in the Roads Programme for 2023/2024.

3.8 The Mews, Rushbrooke Links:

G. O'Hora stated that the Council's horticulturist had examined the trees and some trimming had taken place.

3.9 Elton Estate:

G. O'Hora stated that the condition of the road surface was as a result of works carried out by Irish Water, he will discuss same with Irish Water.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that there were no footpaths in the estate, but were level with the road.

3.10 West View:

G. O’Hora confirmed that he had inspected the site and had ascertained that the trees were on private land, not public land.

3.11 Westbourne Place:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the road markings had been listed and that remedial works were scheduled to be carried out on the drains.

3.12 Tay Road-Cooline:

G. O’Hora confirmed that he has requested that the Roads Design Office look at this road with a view to exploring the possibility of widening it, this would require the acquisition of lands, some land searches have already taken place to ascertain ownership.

3.13 Harbour Row:

G. O’Hora confirmed that some repairs had been carried out at this location.

3.14 Hartlands Point:

G. O’Hora stated that the tractor mower was currently out of order, when it was repaired, the grass would be cut one more time.

3.15 Hermitage Drive:

G. O’Hora stated that repair works were listed shortly for this location.

3.16 Elmwood Grove:

G. O’Hora stated that repair works were listed for this location.

3.17 Carrig House:

G. O’Hora stated that 2 new Aco drain covers were required for the entrance to Carrig House and at the Burma Steps and new covers would be installed shortly.

3.18 Top of the Hill:

G. O’Hora stated that he had been in contact with Infratec in relation to switching on the pedestrian lights.

3.19 Little Island Playground:

G. O’Hora stated that the playground equipment had been installed and the walkway had been completed. Cllr. S. O’Callaghan welcomed the progress on the playground.

3.20 Cobh Junction:

G. O’Hora stated that the Roads Design Office had been requested to look at the interchange, in the meantime remedial works would be considered.

3.21 Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora stated that the speed limit review has been approved and the new speed limit signs would be put up in the next week.

3.22 Castleview, Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora confirmed that Cork County Council will provide assistance to the residents in cutting back the trees.

3.23 Skew Bridge, Killahora:

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

3.24 Kellys Bar:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if works outside this premises could be prioritised. G O’Hora confirmed works would be carried out shortly.

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

G. O’Hora confirmed that the ESB had been contacted in relation to moving this pole.

3.26 Martello Estate, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that trucks were having difficulty getting up the hill from the estate and were mounting the footpath. G. O’Hora acknowledged that there was a pinch point on the road and would investigate.

3.27 Trees at West View & Rushbrooke:

Cllr. S. O’Connor stated that he had 2 motions at last month’s meeting regarding dangerous trees and felt more could be done to deal with the problem. G. O’Hora responded by stating that both locations were on private land and the landowners would be written to requesting them to cut back the trees.

3.28 Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the entrance to the G.A.A. ground from the street to the back of the terrace of houses was very dangerous. G. O’Hora confirmed road was listed for remedial repair.

3.29 Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the cycle lanes through Cul Ard to the schools were being obstructed by overgrown hedging. G. O’Hora responded that some assistance would be given to residents to tackle same.

4.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.

M. McSweeney confirmed no correspondence had been received since the last meeting.

5.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh / Officer's Reports.

G. O’Hora stated that road resurfacing works would be carried out on the R624 at Donegal Hill over the next few days and traffic restrictions would be in place.

G. O’Hora stated that he was currently drawing up the Footpath, CIS and LIS Programmes for 2023 and requested that members send any suggestions to him as soon as possible.

Cllr. S. Sheppard she queried progress on an LIS at Glounthaune. G. O’Hora replied that it would appear that this road did not meet the criteria, as one of the conditions of the scheme required that at least 2 farm entrances were included in the road. Cllr. Sheppard enquired as to whether something else could be done, if the LIS fell through. G. O’Hora responded that as the road in question was not taken in charge, the Council would not have the resources to undertake the works without recourse to the LIS scheme. Cllr. C. Rasmussen requested that a price be obtained for road resurfacing at the Crescent, Cobh, which was in the charge of the Council.

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

M. McSweeney presented the members with the updated figures for the General Municipal Allocation, the Town Development Fund and the Paint Scheme.

M. McSweeney also advised the members of the amount taken in to date by the Campervan facility at the Five Foot Way, Cobh.

M. McSweeney congratulated Cobh, Glounthaune, Carrigwohill and Knockraha on their achievements in the National Tidy Towns Awards. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen it was agreed that a letter of congratulations would be sent to each group.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that groups should be encouraged to complete the drawdown of any grants allocated in 2020 and 2021.

7.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.

1. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:

That Cobh MD would look at making the stretch of road from the bottom of Birds Hill to Cuskinny a pedestrian priority and put in appropriate physical traffic calming measures.

Cllr. Sheppard stated that pedestrians cannot safely walk the stretch of the Tay Road from Cuskinny to the bird sanctuary and requested that this area be prioritised for pedestrians given the numbers of locals and visitors using the amenities at Cuskinny. G. O’Hora stated that he would examine as an Active Travel Scheme, but it could require land acquisition, which would considerably delay the any project. Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if rumble strips could be placed in the area as a short term solution. Cllr. A. O’Connor stated that while he fully supported the motion would have concerns about the impact on the local wildlife of rumble strips or the removal of ditches to facilitate footpaths or road widening.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. A. O’Connor, the motion was carried.

2. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O’Callaghan:

That Cobh Municipal District would assess Knockraha Village for a suitable location for the installation of a Bus Shelter.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan stated that there were no bus shelters currently in the village and one if not two were required. G. O’Hora stated the Traffic and

Transport section over sees the installation of new Bus shelters and any new locations should be forwarded to them.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Callaghan seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to forward location to the Traffic and Transport Dept.

3. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O’Callaghan:

That Cobh as a Municipal District would set down guidelines and or regulations governing attaching memorial name plates to street furniture.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Callaghan seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that M. McSweeney would investigate whether draft guidelines already existed and report back for the next meeting.

4. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:

That this municipal district request that appropriate measures to accommodate pedestrian and cycle connectivity through Cul Ard estate in Carrigtwohill be installed.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that there were between 400 and 500 houses in this estate, providing connectivity to Fota Rock estate and the train station, however access from several parts of the estate left a lot to be desired.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. A. O’Connor, it was agreed that a letter would be sent to CCC’s Traffic and Transport Section.

5. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:

That the gullies on Main Street Carrigtwohill as far as Roches Garage be cleaned to alleviate the flooding issues there.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that one drain in particular is very badly blocked as a result of shoddy workmanship by contractors employed by Irish Water. G. O’Hora stated there was an ongoing programme of drain cleaning and this drain was included in it, he will discuss the issues raised with the Irish Water engineer.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. A. O’Connor, it was agreed that reinstatement works by Irish Water would not be signed off on until inspected and working properly.

6. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:

That this municipal would look at repainting many road signs that are in urgent need of redoing as many can barely be read.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that many of the stop signs on roads were illegible and need to be repainted.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, it was agreed that the members would send a list of locations for signage to be renewed to the engineers.

8.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.

Cllr. S. O'Connor:

8.1 Retaining Wall at Connolly Street

Cllr. O'Connor stated that the concrete base installed at the base of the wall was insufficient. G' O'Hora stated that the issue had been referred to CCC's Coastal Management Section.

8.2 Ballywilliam:

The ESB pole at Ballywilliam still has not been moved. G. O'Hora will pursue with the ESB.

8.3 Aherns Place, Cobh:

The laneway behind the houses needs to be cleared. Engineer to examine

8.4 Summerhill/East Hill:

Hedging out to the middle of the footpath. Engineer confirmed letters had been sent to land owners requesting private hedges to be cut back.

8.5 Pearse Square:

Pothole outside of solicitors' office, result of Irish Water works. Engineer to discuss with Irish Water.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

8.6 Rushbrooke Links:

Shores need to be cleaned. Engineer to examine.

8.7 Carrigaloe/Marian Terrace:

The ditch and the grass verge on left need to be cut back. Engineer to examine.

8.8 Tay Road Sign:

The driver feedback sign on the Tay Road is still out of action. Engineer to examine.

8.9 Rinn Ronain:

Is there a speed survey currently being conducted at Rinn Ronain? G. O’Hora confirmed survey was scheduled to be carried out shortly.

8.10 Fota Bus Stop:

What was the current situation regarding the bus stop at Fota? G. O’Hora replied that he was in contact with the landowner there, UCC have no issue with a bus stop on their property but the opposite side of the road involved a different landowner. Cllr. Rasmussen suggested that a stop could be developed on the road instead of making a layby. G. O’Hora responded saying that passenger safety may be compromised by this approach and some form of footpath or controlled crossing would be required.

8.11 Bishops Road:

Two areas on the road need further repairs. Engineer confirmed locations are listed for repair.

8.12 Super Valu:

The new primary care centre is due to open soon in this location, this is a very dangerous junction already. G. O’Hora to co-ordinate with the Roads Design Office in relation to a roads survey.

8.13 Glounthaune – Fitzpatricks Shop:

There are multiple problems with the layout of the new cycleway in and around the premises. There is some confusion as to whether the cycleway should be 3 or 4m wide at this point, the drawing appear to show a 3m cyclepath, but its 4m on the ground at present. Cllr. Sheppard stated that what agreed at the Part 8, is not what has been built. Cllr. A. O’Connor stated that it would be a good idea to call a meeting with the design team to clarify some points. Cllr. O’Callaghan queried who has the right of way, cyclists or cars exiting the car park? Cllr. A. Barry stated that the works were not yet finished and were not being allowed to be finished, so

no final decision on the safety or otherwise of the cycleway can be made. It was agreed to invite C. Ó Súilleabháin and the design team to an in committee meeting on 16th November.

Cllr. A. O'Connor:

8.14 Carrigane Road:

The new, wider footpaths have been completed but the public lights have not yet been turned on. There also seemed to a lot of new signs, leading to some confusion, was there a manual to dictate types and numbers of signs? G. O'Hora stated that there were signage guidelines in place and had been followed. The lights were a matter for the ESB and he would pursue same.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

8.15 Commendation:

Cllr. O'Callaghan wanted to commend the district supervisor, John Lynch and all the outdoor staff for their work during the latest bad weather.

8.16 Gaelscoil Ui Drisceoil:

There are several potholes near the roundabout outside the school. G. O'Hora stated that areas of this road had recently been resurfaced.

8.17 Ballinaltig Cemetery:

A shore which goes under the road at the Cemetery was blocked. Engineer confirmed remedial repair works would be carried out shortly.

8.18 Coolowen, Blarney:

Ponding on the road and water is backing up in the area. G. O'Hora responded saying that ribbon development in the area consisting of a number of private houses being built and roadside drainage inlets being closed in was causing this problem. Staff had met with the landowner on site however current resources or funding do not allow for more comprehensive works to be carried out, but some assistance would be provided.

Cllr. S. Sheppard:

8.19 Road Sweeper Schedule:

The footpaths from Rushbrooke garage to IFI are covered in leaves. G. O'Hora asked members to send him a list of locations causing concern and he would schedule the sweeper to go to these locations.

8.20 Whitepoint:

Estates in Whitepoint were dug up by Irish Water, the re-instatement of which was very inadequate and Irish Water have not been back since. Also it was agreed that works would be carried out to the footpath following the repair of the watermain there. Is this job still listed for this years programme? G. O’Hora stated that he would follow up with Irish Water and that the footpath had been moved to next years programme.

8.21 Cuskinny Water Monitoring:

Has any correspondence been received in response to the request to include Cuskinny in the monitoring of water quality? P. Lynch stated that to date no reply had been received, but that it would be followed up with the relevant department.

8.22 Cobh Hospital:

Homeowners in the vicinity of Cobh Hospital had carried out works which has resulted in their car being partially parked on the footpath. Engineer to examine.

8.23 Santa Run:

The organisers of the Santa Run want to operate a one way system on the route for 30 mins, the Gardai are aware of the request. Cllr. Sheppard to send details to G. O’Hora.

8.24 Rushbrooke:

The gullies in and around the rowing club overflow and is causing flooding in the driveway of a nearby house. Engineer confirmed gully locations would be cleaned shortly.

Cllr. A. Barry:

8.25 Station Road:

Potholes along this road have opened up again. Engineer confirmed potholes had been repaired.

8.26 Walkway:

The walkway leading from Carrigtwohill Community College into Carrigtwohill needs to be cleared. Engineer confirmed pathway was listed for cleaning.

8.27 Ard Carrig:

Several wheelchair users live in this estate, the footpaths need to be adjusted so they don't need to go onto the road. Engineer confirmed locations would be included in next year's footpath programme.

8.28 Slatty Pond:

Water coming up through the manhole at high tide. Engineer to examine.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHOIRLEACH

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER