

MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY, 2023 AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.

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

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

Apologies were received from Cllr. S. O'Connor.

1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of: Monthly Meeting held on 3rd January 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, the minutes were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising.

2.1 Main Street, Carrigtwohill:

G. O'Hora confirmed that additional works had been carried out at this location.

2.2 Tay Road Signs, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the sign was now working. Cllr. C. Rasmussen begged to differ and clarified the location of a sign that was still out of order.

2.3 Ballinaltig Cemetery:

G. O'Hora stated that the works had been completed at the cemetery.

Cllr. O'Callaghan stated that the problem was not at the main gate but an inside gate leading to the car park. Engineer to examine.

2.4 Brown Island Pier:

G. O'Hora stated that CCC was going to install flexile bollards at this location.

2.5 Leonards Lodge, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that some preliminary drainage and cutting works had been carried out and more would follow.

2.6 Decorative Lights, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that repair works would be carried out shortly.

- 2.7 **Aherns Place, Cobh:**
G. O’Hora confirmed that the ramp had been lined.
- 2.8 **Assumption Place, Cobh:**
G. O’Hora confirmed that works were planned to alleviate the flooding.
- 2.9 **Hawthorn Terrace, Cobh:**
G. O’Hora confirmed that the road lining had been completed.
- 2.10 **Fota Bus Stop:**
G. O’Hora stated that he is discussing scheme with CCC road design office. There are issues with the placement of a footpath at the location. He stressed that any works were conditional on scheme design approval and funding, which was not yet secured. A fully controlled pedestrian crossing was being considered which would be costly and take time.
- 2.11 **Assumption Place/Russell Heights, Cobh:**
G. O’Hora stated that a preliminary survey would need to be carried out at this location, which would include a speed survey.
- 2.12 **Carrignafof, Cobh:**
G. O’Hora stated that road is listed for repair.
- 2.13 **Pitch & Putt Club, Carrignafof:**
G. O’Hora stated that he would consider the members comments, and he hoped to present a scheme drawing to the members at next months meeting.
- 2.14 **Ballytrasna Road, Little Island:**
G. O’Hora stated that leaves were a big issue and causing a lot of the issues with blocked drains, notwithstanding that he would investigate the possibility of putting in bigger drains.
- 2.15 **Top of Hill, Cobh:**
G. O’Hora confirmed that the pothole had been filled.
- 2.16 **Potholes, Cobh:**
G. O’Hora confirmed that potholes at various locations had been filled.
- 2.17 **Burma Steps:**
G. O’Hora stated that the drain cover had been ordered for the end of the Burma steps.

2.18 Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if it were possible to get an approximate figure for the works planned at Fota for the bus stops, and emphasised that it was important that the members see some drawings at this stage. Cllr. Rasmussen also took issue with how long the works that required a hot patch would take as some roads within the town, like the corner near Hardware House were in a particularly bad way, as was Lynchs Quay. G O’Hora confirmed the bus stop scheme is listed with CCC road design office to design the scheme. A scheme drawing had already been presented to members and this drawing was been updated to include a pedestrian crossing. He stressed that any works were conditional on scheme design approval and funding approval.

On Hot patch repairs, G O’Hora stated all road pothole locations are repaired by CCC within a week. Roads requiring hot patch repair are prioritised on road class throughout the MD.

Cllr. Rasmussen also enquired as to whether the safe zone planned for outside the Community College would take in the entire road, G. O’Hora confirmed the scheme would extend from the community college. He stressed that any works were conditional on funding approval.

Cllr. Rasmussen also queried the delay in activating the lights at Ballyleary, as Cork County Council’s public lighting section was involved in this work, it was agreed that R. O’Sullivan would follow up. Cllr. Rasmussen also raised the issue of the pedestrian crossing on the High Road, which would be pursued with the ESB.

3 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.

M. McSweeney confirmed that no new correspondence had been received.

4 Tuairiscí ó Ofigh / Officer's Reports.

Taking In Charge

That, being satisfied that a public right of way exists over it and the road is of general public utility, Cork County Council hereby declares pursuant to Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act, 1993 the following road to be a public road:-

The Old Quarry	Glounthaune	30

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that Cork County Council would take the proposed road in charge.

G. O’Hora stated that he was currently preparing a footpath programme and a public lighting programme for 2023 and invited members to submit proposals. Cllr. S. O’Callaghan queried if the footpath at the entrance to Priory Court will go ahead in 2023. G. O’Hora replied that it would. Cllr. A. Barry looked for an update regarding the footpath at Barryscourt. G. O’Hora replied that as the location had been changed, the plan had to be re-submitted to the NTA and he was awaiting a decision.

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

Ms. McSweeney outlined the amounts that had been drawn down under the various grant schemes to date.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, it was agreed that €1,600.00 unclaimed from the 2020 GMA fund would be allocated to the provision of ASD boards in the playgrounds in Carrignavar and Little Island and the balance would be absorbed into the 2023 allocation.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, it was agreed that €3,500.00 from the 2022 allocation which will not now be claimed by the applicants, should be allocated to the cost of providing a controlled pedestrian crossing at Newtown. G. O’Hora confirmed that the cost of providing an uncontrolled crossing would cost approximately €25,000, while a fully controlled pedestrian crossing would be in the region of €35,000. Mr. O’Hora expressed some concerns about the provision of a full set of pedestrian lights at this location, outside a private dwelling would result in the same problems encountered at Top of the Hill. Cllr. Sheppard stated she fully supported the provision of a pedestrian crossing and expressed confidence that any issue with the lights could be worked around as had happened at Top of the Hill. Cllr. Rasmussen suggested that the members meet the engineering team on site before the Section 38 progresses.

Ms. McSweeney reminded the members that the closing date for the 2023 Community Fund Scheme was 14th February. Cllr. Sheppard stated that while she fully supported the work being done by the voluntary groups which applied for funding, members should be mindful of groups which had failed to take up the grants allocated to them in 2022. P. Lynch replied that the monies being reallocated at this meeting came from 2020, but that it was a matter for the members how the grants were allocated.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to allow Carrigtwohill Community Centre change their 2021 Amenity Grant from revamping the entrance to the all weather pitch, to changing the light fittings to LED to reduce energy costs.

Ms. McSweeney had circulated a letter from the Cobh Gardai regarding anti-social behaviour, it was agreed that a date for a meeting would be circulated to the members and that Cobh Chamber should also be invited.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Callaghan it was agreed to grant a Funfair licence to Ms. S. Piper for 17th March, subject to the provision of the appropriate insurance documentation and safety certificates.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if any update had been received in relation to the painting of the Old Town Hall, which he was anxious to see done before the summer. P. Lynch replied that he had met with the Port of Cork and was assured that there was no structural damage done to the building and he will follow up.

Cllr. A. O'Connor queried where the funds to repair the public toilets as a result of vandalism came from. P. Lynch replied that there was a provision in the budget for maintenance.

6 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.

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

“That this Municipal would look to repair the sections of pavements in and around the town centre as a matter of urgency”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that as there is currently no start date for the Cobh Public Realm project, it was imperative that the condition of the footpaths in the centre of town be addressed.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, it was agreed that the members would meet with G. O'Hora on site to review and prepare a list of footpath areas for repair.

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

“That this Municipal would look to have a number of fast charging electric points located in the centre of Cobh town to prepare for the expected influx of new electric cars in the coming months”

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the provision of public charging points needs to be looked at. M. McSweeney stated that there were no plans to roll out electric vehicle charging points within County Cork at present, the Council were awaiting development of a National Plan. Cllr. A. O'Connor supported the motion and suggested that the members get an update from the Climate Action Report and identify sites even if funding is not yet available.

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

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

“That this Municipal would review the pay for parking arrangements in the camper parking area to see what if any improvements can be made”

Cllr. Rasmussen expressed his dissatisfaction at the way the camper van parking area is currently operating and is seeking a review of the byelaws. He stated that it was a

fantastic amenity but that too many amenities crowded into the one area. P. Lynch responded saying that this local authority had been the first to introduce these byelaws but now a number of local authorities had done so.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to meet in committee to discuss amending the byelaws.

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

“That this Municipal District hold a discussion regarding the possibility of limiting the proliferation of election posters for the next local elections”

Cllr. Barry stated that it was his view that posters should not be displayed in town or village centres, which would be in keeping with requests from the various tidy towns committees. He was in favour of designating one or two areas for the display of posters, stating that with the rise of social media, he felt the use of posters was no longer as essential as in the past and a waste of resources. Most of the members shared his view. However, Cllr. S. O’Callaghan stated that while she has not utilised posters to date, she felt that new candidates would be at a disadvantage if the use of election posters was completely banned. Cllr. O’Callaghan agreed that in the digital age election posters are a waste of time and effort. Cllr. Rasmussen queried if the members had the power to restrict the use and placement of election posters. P. Lynch stated that election material had a specific exemption under the Litter Pollution Act.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen it was agreed to refer the motion to full Council.

7 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

7.1 Seafield Estate, Cobh:

Wall at Seafield Estate collapsed since before Christmas. Engineer confirmed wall was listed for repair.

7.2 Litter Plan:

Cigarette butts are becoming a major littering problem in the town centre – members to meet in committee to discuss the Litter Management Plan.

7.3 Connolly Street:

R. O’Sullivan stated that he had met with the Coastal Management section who recommended the placement of some hardcore behind the new section of wall, but the

only area of concern would appear to be where some remedial works had been carried out and they are happy to keep monitoring the area.

7.4 Annie Moore Statue:

What is the update on putting a gate across the steps near the Annie Moore statue. M. McSweeney replied that an email had been sent to the Port of Cork.

7.5 Supervalu Cross:

The junction here is dangerous and will become even more so when the new primary care centre opens. Can a road survey be carried out? G. O'Hora stated that he was due to meet with the roads design office soon to discuss same.

7.6 Ballard Hill:

The road is in very bad condition as a result of the works being carried out in an adjacent field. R. O'Sullivan to contact the operators.

7.7 Glassons Avenue:

Condition of the road is very bad. Engineer confirmed road was listed for repair.

7.8 Ballyleary Road, Cobh:

Condition of the road is dangerous. Engineer confirmed road was listed for repair.

Cllr. A. Barry:

7.9 Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill:

The vegetation is encroaching on the paths, needs to be cut back again. Engineer confirmed CCC would carry out some limited vegetation cutting at the location.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

7.10 Watergrasshill:

The street sweeper had recently been in and around several of the estates in the area, the feedback from the residents was very positive but would appreciate more notice to ensure cars were moved.

7.11 Little Island Cross:

Several trenches across the road near the post office. Engineer confirmed road was listed for repair.

7.12 Carrigrenan Walk:

The area around the walk was very chaotic over the bank holiday weekend, the residents of Well Road were not happy, the car park was not sufficient for the number of vehicles. P. Lynch replied that the car park could not be extended as the Council were constrained by the waste water treatment plant.

- 7.13 **Old Cork/Dublin Road:**
Japanese knotweed is a problem along this road and on Kilcronan Lane leading towards Rathpeacon and Transtown. Engineer to examine.
- 7.14 **Blackstone Bridge:**
Water coming off the road and flooding garden of nearby house. Engineer to examine.
- 7.15 **Gogginstown Road:**
Water coming off this road is flooding a private yard. Engineer to examine.
- 7.16 **Salt Bins:**
Residents very happy with the provision of the salt bins and refills. Could the back Bartlemy Road and to the R639 be considered for the regular salting programme. Engineer to examine.
- 7.17 **Ard Cashel:**
Could new speed signs or a speed ramp be provided for the rear entrance to the estate. Engineer to examine.
- 7.18 **O'Sheas Boreen:**
Could the public lighting be extended to O'Sheas boreen from the rear entrance of Cul Ard. Engineer to include in the 2023 public lighting programme.
- Cllr. S. Sheppard:**
- 7.19 **Ballard Hill:**
Road is in very bad condition as a result of works. Engineer confirmed CCC staff had called to the landfill site on numerous occasions and asked developer to sweep and clean road.
- 7.20 **Whartons Corner/Ellens Kitchen:**
Road markings very faded, cars accessing one way street the wrong way. Engineer to include road for relining in road lining contract.
- 7.21 **Bishops Road/Burma Steps:**
Cars parked very far out on road way, could road lining be renewed. Engineer to examine.
- 7.22 **Coolamber:**
Could traffic calming measures or additional signage be considered for the Coolamber area. Engineer to examine.

7.23 **St. Patricks Day:**

The St. Patricks Day committee are seeking the loan of 50 cones to cordon off sections of the road to prevent parking ahead of the parade, also requesting that extra staff be provided to empty bins. G. O’Hora replied that staff had already been assigned for this date.

7.24 **Ferry/Carrigaloe Area:**

Could the road sweeper visit the area in and around the car ferry and Carrigaloe. Engineer confirmed CCC road sweeper sweeps roads in Cobh town weekly and he would include Carrigaloe on the sweeping schedule.

7.25 **Playground, Cobh:**

No latch on the gate to prevent smaller children leaving the playground. Engineer to examine.

7.26 **Roches Row:**

Planks of wood/scaffold left on the footpath, causing a trip hazard. Engineer to examine.

7.27 **Statue, Cobh:**

The owners of Belvelly Castle have commissioned a statue which they are gifting to the town of Cobh. Cllr. Sheppard facilitated discussions between the owners and Council officials and it is proposed to site the statue on the Five Foot Way. There will be no cost to the Council as the Wilsons are willing to fund the costs of transportation and installation. P. Lynch stated that a Part 8 was required. It was agreed that members, owners and officials would meeting in the next week to discuss same.

Cllr. A. O’Connor:

7.28 **Carrigane Road:**

The pedestrian crossing was now in place but was yet to be lit. Could the electricity connection be expedited. R. O’Sullivan to follow up with the Traffic and Transportation section.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHOIRLEACH

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER

