



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**  
**held at conference room, Library, Skibbereen and MS Teams**

**At 11.00 am on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.**

**Members Present:** Cllrs Declan Hurley, Paul Hayes, Deirdre Kelly, Joe Carroll,  
Caroline Cronin, Danny Collins, Karen Coakley,  
Patrick Gerard Murphy

**Member on MS Teams:** Ross O' Connell

**In attendance:** Mac Dara Ó Hicé, S.E.O. W.C.M.D  
Jacqueline Mansfield, M.D.O. W.C.M.D  
John Ahern S.E.E. Skibbereen  
Kevin Lynch, E.E. Bantry  
Mary O'Donovan, Meeting Administrator W.C.M.D.

Cllr. D. Hurley presided.

**Statutory Meeting.**

The Cathaoirleach advised that members wished to acknowledge the protest in relation to Keelbeg Pier and would propose suspending standing orders to allow for discussion on this matter.

***Proposed Cllr Declan Hurley.***

***Seconded Cllr Danny Collins.***

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

(a) Minutes of West Cork Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

***Proposed Cllr Karen Coakley.***

***Seconded Cllr Caroline Cronin.***

**Resolved:**

“That the minutes of the Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

(b) Minutes of West Cork Municipal District 'In Committee' meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**Proposed Cllr Paul Hayes**

**Seconded Cllr Deirdre Kelly.**

**Resolved:**

“That the minutes of the Municipal District 'In Committee' (as circulated) of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

In response to a query about the trial of a one-way system for Clonakilty, the Senior Executive Engineer advised that the drawings were almost complete and would then be presented to members.

Standing orders were then formally suspended to allow for discussion on Keelbeg Pier.

The Cathaoirleach advised that residents of Union Hall were highlighting their concern at the closing off of part of the pier.

All members supported those protesting and raised the following points:

- Its closure would impact on the community, and they are asking that an alternative plan to be put in place.
- That Cork County Council apply for rural regeneration fund.
- There has been little or no investment on the pier.
- Queried the cost of barriers and maintaining them there.
- Asked that a committee be set up that Councillors could liaise with
- To write to Department as to why BELAMI funding was refused.

The Senior Executive Officer advised that the Engineers report had been circulated previously. The report advises the Council, that in order to keep public safe, they should be kept off the pier.

Previous barriers and signage were removed by unauthorised people and needed to be replaced by more permanent structure. The barriers are there to protect the public not Cork County Council and it is unreasonable for the council not to take on board the safety recommendations in the report. Previous barriers were removed. Costs will be circulated in relation to barriers.

A master plan is needed for the pier and area to future proof the area and ensure all uses are accommodated into the future and any works done by the Council would serve the community for next 20/30 years. An application to the Minister for funding for a master plan was refused and this would now have to be funded by Cork County Council.

Two applications for funding for works to the pier to the Department have been made by Cork County Council, previously works were funded by the DAFM funding process, an

application under BALAMI scheme to carry out works on the pier was refused by the department.

The Council has met with locals/ fishermen on numerous occasions. The Council will get a price for structural investigation and see what the recommendations are. It was reasonable to postpone erecting barriers as the stability of the Pier was unknown.

The members agreed that the matter would go to Full Council for further discussion.

## **2. STATUTORY BUSINESS**

a) Section 183 – Disposal Notices

Woodlands Clonakilty.

Members sought further clarification on this proposal.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION.**

**Cllr Danny Collins.**

- 1. I am calling on the Council to attach a plaque on St. Brendans statue, on Bantry Square acknowledging the sculpture world renowned Imogen Stuart of her great work.*

Cllr Collins believes it is an iconic statute, and the work should be acknowledged. Cllr Murphy supported.

The SEO advised that a plaque has been ordered.

- 2. I am calling on the Council to seek funding for Ballydehob Tennis Courts to reinstate the area to a high quality with new nest, boundary fencing plus floodlights.*

Asked for an application be made for CLAR funding as it is a popular facility. Cllr Cronin supported.

- 3. I am looking for a positive update on a past motion on the situation on Kilcrohane Graveyard as plots are running out and people from the area are very worried.*

Covers a huge area and there is a need to expediate the matter. Cllrs O'Connell and Cronin supported.

The SEO advised that there are a number of burial grounds where space is running out. The Council does not have land but will continue to look at appropriate land.

The members asked for a report on graveyards in the Municipal District.

#### **4. REPORTS & CORRESPONDANCE.**

##### **a) Nominations from the members for the Pride of Place Competition.**

The MDO asked members to consider nominations for locations they would consider suitable. The MDO will circulate places that were nominated in the last 4/5 years. The closing date is 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

##### **b) MDO report.**

The MDO briefed members on 2023 schemes and will circulate after the meeting.

In response to a query in relation to CLAR funding, members were advised to send applications to MDO.

##### **c) Update Briefing on Old Mill Skibbereen.**

This matter will be kept on the Agenda.

##### **D) Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance 2023 Programmes.**

The SEE, Skibbereen outlined a programme of works for 2023 for the Skibbereen/Clonakilty and Dunmanway Areas.

For Restoration Improvement (Resurfacing) there are 9 schemes in Dunmanway, 10 in Clonakilty and 14 in Skibbereen.

A total length of 32km of roads will be completed with the allocated funding which is just under 2% of total road length in the areas.

For Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing) works there will be 55 km of roads completed which is below 4% of total road length in the areas.

In response to queries about the surface condition of the two roundabouts either side of Clonakilty, the SEE advised that he is waiting for news of funding for same from TII as these are on the National Route N71.

Members also highlighted surface condition of the Cork Road in Skibbereen by the service station. The SEE advised that the Culvert works were due to start at this location and surfacing works would not commence ahead of that.

The SEE advised that TII had confirmed that the Skibbereen By-Pass would be re-surfaced between the two roundabouts in the coming months.

EE, Bantry outlined schemes which would be happening in the Bantry area in 2023.

#### **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Reference was made to line painting at the Drinagh junction which is proving difficult for learner drivers. It was suggested that the Council should buy its own line painting truck.

The SEE, Skibbereen advised that they had managed to catch up with line painting last year and this cost comes out of maintenance budgets.

Twinning with Premarch – The SEO asked that the committee contact the MDO with details of what they required from the Council.

Molaga Estate – the Estates section is working on this at present. Estates have to be of a standard before being taken in charge.

Public water dispensers in Clonakilty – An formal approach for a connection was made to Uisce Eireann.

*Speed Limit Review* – EE, Bantry, Kevin Lynch distributed updated maps showing new proposed speed limits. Members accepted the revisions but expressed the preference that the 80km would extend (be after) past the garage (Donemark Motors) and as far as the junction with the L-4720-0.

**Proposed Cllr Patrick Gerard Murphy.**

**Seconded Cllr Danny Collins.**

Peace Park Proposal.

A draft plan was distributed to members with a view to begin the part 8 process for the development of a new Playground in Bantry.

The members agreed to hold the next meeting at the Goleen Community Centre on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 11am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**CATHAORILEACH** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

