

MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6th June 2023 AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.

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

Officials: Mr. P. Lynch, S/Senior Executive 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 and Ms. M. McSweeney, S/Municipal District Officer.

1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of:

Monthly Meeting held on 2nd May 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, the minutes were adopted.

2.0 Suspension of Standing Orders:

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to suspend standing orders to deal with the petition that had been handed to the members in relation to the issue of wheelchair access to Spike Island. It was also agreed that the petition would be sent to County Hall and response requested from SIDC management before the next meeting. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that it was difficult to understand the rationale behind buying a new bus that was unsuitable for wheelchair users, Cllr. A. Barry concurred. P. Lynch stated that an email had been received from SIDC management in relation to this issue and circulated it to the members.

3.0 Matters Arising.

Tay Road Sign, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that a new signal board had been ordered for the sign and Cork County Council’s contractor Infratech would install the board and repair when delivered.

Carrignafoy, Cobh:

Road Repair works to commence early July.

Fota Road:

G. O'Hora informed the members that a litter pick to be carried out by Council staff on Fota Road next Saturday pending staff availability.

The Mall, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed the road was inspected and listed for minor repair.

College Manor, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that the bollards would be put in this week.

Riviera Terrace, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that the tree had been trimmed back, but more works were needed and would be carried out soon.

Lusitania Monument, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that works had been carried out to the monument, including restoring the dolphin, however there was some pointing still to be done.

Tay Road, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the wall which had been damaged was the property of Cork County Council and had been listed for repair.

Carrignavar:

G. O'Hora stated that he had examined the area in question, there was already signage on the green area and he was not in favour of placing additional signage on the roadway.

Barryscourt:

G. O'Hora confirmed that some repairs had been carried out, works will be continued.

Tullegreine:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the dead elm tree had been removed.

Coolamber, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that a traffic survey would be carried out on the estate road and erection of additional road safety signage examined.

Belvelly, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that this location was listed for a traffic survey and erection of additional road safety signage.

Whartons Corner/Ellens Kitchen:

G. O'Hora confirmed the road junction was listed for lining.

Carrigaloe:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the Carrigaloe area had been added to the work schedule for the road sweeper.

Top of the Hill, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that some repairs had been carried out and additional hot patcher repairs were scheduled.

Uncontrolled Pedestrian Crossings:

G. O’Hora stated that new regulations in relation to uncontrolled pedestrian crossing were being trialled in Dublin at the moment, the changes proposed included the removal of beacons at zebra crossings and the installation of new blue signs on approaches to crossings. Cllr. A. O’Connor stated that the new system appeared to be cheaper and less ambiguous and asked if the section 183 had gone through, P. Lynch confirmed that it had.

Dog bin locations, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated he was presently updating his record drawings showing bin locations in Cobh town and would include the locations of dog bins in the updated drawings.

Barrys Cross:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the wall had been inspected and the landowner informed that remedial repairs works were required to be carried out to the private wall.

Bishops Road, Cobh:

G. O’Hora informed the members that the road had been made safe following a water break and that further repairs/reinstatement was a matter for Irish Water.

College Manor, Cobh:

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

Cul Ard/Fota Rock:

G. O’Hora confirmed that both estates were now included in the road sweeper schedule.

Knockraha:

G. O’Hora stated that the road at Knockraha was actually wider in places in some sections as a result of R.I. works.

St. Colmans Graveyard:

G. O’Hora stated that some repairs had been carried out at the roundabout to potholes, more were scheduled, however the depression was as a result of a watermain, which he would follow up with water services.

Carrignafoy Road:

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

Black Railings, Lake Road:

G. O’Hora stated a fabricator had been appointed and repair works should commence shortly.

East Hill, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that if yellow lines were put in then the residents would not be able to access the parking/viewing area. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that there were 2 narrow gaps that the residents wanted yellow lines on. Engineer confirmed yellow box would be painted on the road adjacent to the viewing point.

Aherne Place, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that works were carried out at this location last year, any further works were dependent on the resources available including staff. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the residents were elderly and incapable of carrying out the works themselves, the laneway hadn’t been cleared of overgrowth and rubbish in many years and requested that it be slotted into the schedule. G. O’Hora stated that it was an issue of resources and staff availability and he would re-examine the matter later in the year.

Summer Hill, Cobh:

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

College Manor, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that some works had been done and further were scheduled. Cllr. Rasmussen asked if the road could be resurfaced in full, funded from a planning application due to be lodged shortly for additional housing in the estate. R. O’Sullivan replied that some funding was available to carry out limited resurfacing.

Dawn View, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the hole would be filled in and the footpath repaired as soon as possible.

Waters Edge Hotel, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that repairs to the footpath were included as part of this years footpath programme.

Pearse Square, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that some remedial actions had been taken.

Battery Strand, Cobh:

P. Lynch stated that the County Engineer was in discussions with the coastal management section in relation to progress on reopening Battery Strand.

The Mall, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen asked if the car park at the Mall was listed for repairs. R. O’Sullivan confirmed that it was on the contractors list.

Tay Road, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that another accident had happened on the Tay Road and requested that a letter be sent from the Cobh M.D. to the Gardai in relation to placing a speed van on the road.

4.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.

P. Lynch stated that the correspondence sent had been circulated with the agenda, as had the email from SIDC management. P. Lynch stated a letter had been received from the Diocese in relation to pay parking at the Cathedral car which was now up and running, as a result signage in relation to this car park would need to be reviewed.

5.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh / Officer's Reports.

G. O'Hora presented the following road scheme drawings to members:

- L-2992 Traffic Calming Scheme, Carrignafof, Cobh (Phase 1)
- L-2992 Traffic Calming Scheme, Carrignafof, Cobh (Phase 2)
- L-2965 Proposed Pedestrian Crossing, Elmwood, Cobh
- Bishops Street Safe Route to School Scheme Drawings

G. O'Hora requested members approval to commence a Section 38 Planning process on the L-2992 Traffic Calming Scheme, Carrignafof, Cobh (Phase 1 & 2).

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the schemes presented for traffic calming at Carrignafof, Cobh were approved following confirmation that the amendments to the original scheme requested by members had been included, namely the pedestrian crossing outside of the shop. Cllr. S. Sheppard expressed her thanks to the team for the work done. Cllr. A. O'Connor asked if there was a time limit on section 138 approval, G. O'Hora replied that there no time limit.

The scheme for Elmwood, Cobh was deferred following concerns expressed by the members regarding the closing of one of the entrances to the car park for Londis. Cllrs. Rasmussen and Sheppard stated that the volume of traffic was very high at this location and the 2 exits were necessary. G. O'Hora stated that it was not possible to move the pedestrian crossing too far from its current location due to issues with sightlines and if moved too far it wouldn't be used. P. Lynch assured members that the funding for the crossing was safe as it was to be funded directly from the M.D. It was agreed that the owner of the supermarket would need to be consulted regarding the proposed closure of one of the exits.

G. O'Hora stated that the contractor for Bishops Street Safe Route to School Scheme had been appointed and construction of the scheme would commence in the next few weeks, it was envisaged that the works would be completed by September. The members welcomed the news but Cllr. Ramussen expressed his concern about the removal of the left hand lane on Ticknock would cause issues and asked that the situation be monitored while the works were ongoing. Cllr. S. Sheppard expressed her thanks to the engineering staff for the work done on the project but also had concerns regarding the removal of the left lane into College Manor as a lot of the traffic on Ticknock was not exclusively school traffic as was the case at Rushbrooke, following similar works. Cllr. A. O'Connor expressed the hope that the new layout would encourage children and parents to walk or cycle to school.

G. O’Hora stated that the Celtic Interconnector construction would be starting shortly. This is a major infrastructural project that will cause significant disruption along the route during construction. Cork County Council are working closely with Eirgrid and their contractors to minimise this disruption.

P. Lynch stated that the Outdoor Recreation Scheme Grants for 2023 was now open, if the members had any suggestions to put forward, one suggestion was the American Pier, Whitepoint. A grant had been approved previously under this scheme for a Sensory Garden at Glounthaune which would be officially opened on Monday 12th June by Minister Anne Rabbitte.

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

P. Lynch gave details of the various grants disbursed to date and also the amount collected by the campervan and parking facilities. P. Lynch stated that a meting will take place this month with the contractor appointed to provide permanent toilet facilities at the Five Foot Way. P. Lynch informed the members that the tender for a new parking fine application will be published this week. The application will be trialled for 6 months in Cobh initially, with a view to being rolled out to the rest of the County by year end.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that it was not acceptable that the Department are delaying notifying local authorities of the decision to waive fees for licences for street furniture. Members to contact Government Ministers in relation to this issue.

Cllr. Rasmussen was not happy with the response of Port of Cork to the Old Town Hall, he stated that this survey should have been carried out sooner, as it would appear that the building would not be painted for this season.

Cllr. A. Barry queried how many communication boards were still to be fitted to playgrounds throughout the Municipal District. P. Lynch replied that there were 2 playgrounds yet to be fitted with the boards and it was hoped that this would be done by year end.

7.0 Taking In Charge An Faill (No’s 40-68), Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill

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:-

Estate Name	Location	Linear Metres
An Faill (Nos. 40-68) Cul Ard	Carrigtwohill	250

Taking in Charge Cois Cille, Carrigtwohill

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.

Estate Name	Location	Linear Metres
Cois Cille	Carrigtwohill	213

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed to take the above roads in An Fail and Cois Cille, Carrigtwohill in charge.

The members raised concerns regarding the length of time it takes for estates to be taken in charge by Cork County Council. In some cases it was 10 years or more, this was not acceptable to the members as until the estates were taken in charge issues such as potholes or public lighting not working could not be dealt with. In many cases the original developers had ceased trading and the residents were left in limbo. The members queried whether there was a way to use the bonds held by Cork County Council to complete the works required to bring the estates up to the standard required to be taken in charge by Cork County Council.

8.0 Intention to declare a Public Road - Section 11 of Roads Act 1993

In accordance with Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act, 1993, Cork County Council will advertise its intention to consider the making of an Order under Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993, to declare the road set out in the schedule hereunder to be public:

Carrigtwohill Schools Campus Road Infrastructure @ Terry's-Land & Carrigtwohill. Road Length – 980 Linear Metres.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed to declare the above road a public road under section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

9.0 Section 183 – Disposal of land at Cobh, Co. Cork, to facilitate Cork Lr. Harbour Main Drainage Project.

To consider the Grant of Wayleave at Five Foot Way, Cobh (as per map attached) to Uisce Eireann 0.0175 hectares/0.0432 for the consideration of €1.00.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the disposal was approved.

10.0 Agree date for Annual Meeting of Cobh Municipal District

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting would be held on July 3rd at 2.30 p.m.

11.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.

To consider the following notices of motion in the name of Cllr. Alan O'Connor

“That this Municipal District would seek a report from the Office of Public Works on the progress of works being currently undertaken at Barryscourt Castle, Carrigtwohill, the report to include an estimate of when it is expected that the castle will once more be open to the public.”

Cllr. A. O'Connor that this 800yr old Tower House, which played a significant part in the history of Carrigtwohill and the surrounding area, was closed 8 years ago to facilitate emergency works, the scope of the projected works was subsequently extended and a completion date of end 2021 was given for these works. To date the castle has not re-opened to the public.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed a letter seeking the up to date position would be sent to the Office of Public Works.

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

“That a full review would be undertaken to look at the workings of the new 30 minute parking zones in the town centre”.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen that the 30 minute parking zones were not working in practice and revert to the previous time limits. Also people with residents permits were parking in the 30 minute spots all day, could something be done to deal with this? P. Lynch replied that the bye laws would need to be amended to prevent resident permit holders from parking for longer than the posted limit and that he had flagged this with councillors when the 30 minute zones had been discussed. P. Lynch acknowledged that there had been technical issues with the traffic wardens equipment when it came to the 30 mins zones, if this cannot be resolved, he was in agreement with abolishing the zones. He stated that a full report would be available for the next meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed a full report would be presented at the next meeting.

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

“That a survey would be carried out on the condition of the surface of the High Road and that a plan would be developed for the full resurfacing of this road”.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen said the deteriorating surface of the High Road was abundantly clear from a pedestrian or cyclists’ point of view.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that G. O’Hora would examine the road with a view to including resurfacing the R.I. Programme for 2024.

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

“That some form of signage would be installed at the intersection from the low road onto whitepoint hill to help reduce the traffic congestion owing to the narrowness of the road and the bus traffic during Liner visits.”

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the number of buses accessing the quay adjacent to the Liner terminal through Whitepoint was considerable. The footpath leading to Whitepoint Moorings had been damaged by buses mounting the pavement to let cars pass, there was potential for a serious accident if action wasn’t taken.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that R. O’Sullivan would examine the area with a view to providing signage giving priority to buses.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard

To consider the following notices of motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O’Callaghan:

“That Cobh MD would expedite the erection of all relevant signage associated with Slí na Saoirse Independence Way between Fota onwards to Knockraha and Watergrasshill”.

Cllr. O’Callaghan stated that the project hasn’t been able to progress in the absence of the signage and that the fingerpost signs were ready to be installed. R. O’Sullivan replied that it would be the end of July or early August before staff were available to erect the signs.

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that the signs would be erected when staff became available in late July/August.

To consider the following notices of motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O’Callaghan:

“That Cobh MD would write to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to release further funding to ensure progressing WWTP at Carraig na bhFear.”

Cllr. O’Callaghan stated that growth in Carrignavar was severely curtailed as a result of the lack of capacity in the waste-water plant.

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed a letter would be sent to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

To consider the following notices of motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O’Callaghan:

“That Cobh MD would apply road markings alerting drivers to the 50km zone at Knockaneague, Carraig na bhFear.”

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan stated that there were 2 acute bends on the Cork road into Carrignavar, where overhanging trees darkened the road, making the sign less visible to motorists.

On the proposal of Cllr. O’Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that the engineer would examine signage in the area.

12.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

12.1 Cobh Town:

Drains from the graveyard to the centre of town blocked by silt. The drain cover at the end of the Burma Steps still needs to be put in. Drain on right hand side of road near Hardware House has subsided. There is a manhole cover outside of the Roaring Donkey pub that is dangerous. The drain outside the Cathedral car park needs to be cleared. Engineer confirmed issues were examined and listed for repair and cleaning.

12.2 Top of the Hill, Cobh:

A yield sign needs to be put in place at the pedestrian crossing. Engineer to examine.

12.3 Harbour Hill, Cobh:

A tree stump in the footpath is a trip hazard and the footpath is broken. Engineer confirmed that the tree stump had been examined and is to be removed shortly.

12.4 High Road, Cobh:

The ivy along the road needs to be cut back, impeding pedestrians. Engineer stated that the ivy would be cut back.

12.5 Bins, Cobh:

There are a number of private bins around the town left out all the time, full to overflowing. Litter warden to investigate.

12.6 Irish Rail Shed:

Could Irish Rail be written to regarding the condition of the old signal shed on Lower Road. MDO to follow up.

12.7 1921 Committee, Cobh:

The statue outside the Mauretania bar has been damaged, could it be moved to the bottom of the Crescent Steps. Engineer to examine.

12.8 Glenmore, Cobh:

The road is very badly potholed. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. S. Sheppard:

12.9 Irish Water:

Cars are being damaged by a trench caused by works on Ballard Hill. Engineer confirmed Irish Water were contacted by Cork County Council and asked to carry out an immediate repair to the road.

12.10 College Crescent, Colbh:

The fence at the back of the estate has come down, causing anti-social behaviour. Engineer confirmed the landowner had been informed and requested to repaired the fence.

12.11 Signage Scheme:

What is the uptake on the grants for heritage signage. P. Lynch to revert.

12.12 Thanks:

A note of thanks to the outdoor staff, especially Paul, for their assistance above and beyond the call of duty in relation to Darkness into Light.

12.13 Cobh Community College:

Any response to the letter sent regarding the track and car park?

12.14 Top of Hill:

Signs turned the wrong way. Engineer to follow up.

12.15 Rushbrooke:

The footpath near the garage needs repair. Engineer to follow up.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

12.16 Watergrasshill:

The stop sign at the junction at the northern end of Watergrasshill Village needs to be relined.

12.17 Watergrasshill footpaths:

The kerbs are coming loose on the footpath near Centra. G. O'Hora replied that this was a result of vehicles parking on the footpath and would list footpath for repairs.

Cllr. A. Barry:

12.18 West End, Carrigtwohill:

Access to G.A.A. grounds. Engineer stated the road cul de sac was listed for repair.

12.19 Cobh Mixed National School:

School is looking for safety signage. R. O'Sullivan replied that he had spoken to the school and it was more advertising type signage that they were enquiring about.

12.20 Castlewhite Estate:

There are problems with the waste water treatment plant and now it appears that it is proposed that an additional development would be expected to use it. R. O'Sullivan replied that Irish Water were also involved in the planning process and could raise objections if necessary. Engineer stated estate is in private ownership and not in Cork County Council's charge.

12.21 Cedar Wood, Carrigtwohill:

Most of the houses in the estate are now occupied but the footpath has not been completed or the signalised roundabout. Earthworks behind the estate have raised the agricultural land by 5-6 ft, this is a potential hazard if there is a substantial amount of rain. Engineer confirmed Cork County Council estates department are liaising with the estate developer on matter of footpath and earthworks issue.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CAHAOIRLEACH

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER.