

# **MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY, 2023 AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.**

**Present:** Cllrs. A. Barry, C. Rasmussen, S. Sheppard, S. O’Callaghan , S. O’Connor,  
A. 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. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District

## **1.0 Presentation by Mary Sleeman Archaeological Officer**

Mary Sleeman gave a comprehensive presentation to the Members on the condition of the historic medieval churches in Council ownership in the Cobh MD area which included churches at Ardnageehy, Dungullogue, Little Island and Templeacurraheen.

Cllr. A. O’Connor asked how the funding works. M. Sleeman stated that an application is made for 100% funding for a report under stream 2 . She advised that Communities can also apply but stated that it is cleaner to apply through the M.D.

The Members thanked Mary for her presentation and wished her the very best for her upcoming retirement.

Cllr. A. O’Connor also thanked Eamonn Cotter who compiled the report.

Cllr. A. Barry raised the issue of overhanging trees/shrubbery at the church at Templeacuraheen. He stated this cemetery has a lot of visitors and and asked who is responsible if someone gets hurt.

P. Lynch stated that he would speak with the engineers about the churches in the Cobh M.D. area

## **2.0 Toghadh Cathaoirleach/Election of Cathaoirleach**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Connor, Cllr. A. O’Connor was elected Cathaoirleach. He stated that he was very honoured as the 1<sup>st</sup> Green Party member to be elected as Cathaoirleach of Cobh Municipal District and that he would carry out his role to the best of his abilities. All the Members wished him well in his new role.

## **3.0 Toghadh Leas-Cathaoirleach/Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach**

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Connor, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, Cllr.

S. O’Callaghan was elected Leas-Cathaoirleach.

#### **4.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of:**

Monthly Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the Minutes were adopted.

#### **5.0 Matters Arising.**

##### **Tay Road Sign, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that delivery of the new signal board was expected in the next week and that it would be erected promptly thereafter.

##### **Fota Road:**

G. O’Hora informed the members that a litter pick and overhanging branch cutting was carried out by Council staff.

##### **Tay Road. Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the wall which had been damaged had been listed for repair.

##### **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.

##### **Carrigaloe:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the Carrigaloe area has now been added to the work schedule for the road sweeper.

##### **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.

##### **Black Railings, Lake Road:**

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

##### **Waters Edge Hotel, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that repairs to the footpath had been carried out.

##### **Condition of Surface of High Road, Cobh**

G. O’Hora stated that a survey of the road will be carried out.

##### **Signage at the intersection from the Lower Road onto Whitepoint Hill**

G. O’Hora stated he would examine erection of additional road safety signage.

**Signage for Slí na Saoirse Independence Way between Fota to Knockraha and Watergrasshill**

G. O'Hora stated that signage would be erected late August.

**Road Markings for 50km zone at Knockaneague, Carrig na bhFear.**

G. O'Hora stated that this issue would be examined.

**Blocked Drains in Cobh**

G. O'Hora stated that a Jet-Vac truck was scheduled to be in Cobh mid-August to clean road gullies.

**Drain by Hardwarde House- Subsidence**

G O'Hora stated drains were listed for inspection and cleaning

**Manhole covers at the Roaring Donkey**

Manhole covers listed for repair shortly.

**Manhole cover by Mauritania Bar**

G. O'Hora stated that this was an Eircom MH cover and he would refer the matter to Eircom

**Subsidence on roadway by Mauritania Bar**

Engineer confirmed road was listed for repair.

**Drain Cover at the end of the Burma Steps**

G. O'Hora stated that this was listed for replacement.

**Concealed sign at Ballywilliam School**

G O'Hora stated sign was scheduled to be erected shortly.

**Dangerous Wall at Connolly Street**

G. O'Hora stated that he would refer this matter to Coastal Management again.

**Road Surface and trench on roadway at Carrignafoy**

Engineer confirmed contractor was scheduled to repair road mid-July.

**Carpark Road Surface at The Mall**

G. O'Hora stated that this is listed for repair.

**Broken bollards at Pedestrian Crossing in College Manor**

G. O'Hora stated that the replacement bollards had arrived and would be installed shortly.

**Roadsweeper at Riviera Terrace**

G. O'Hora stated the roadsweeper is in Cobh town weekly and he would include Riviera Terrace to be sweep.

### **Cutting back of ivy and overgrowth impeding pedestrians on High Road, Cobh**

G. O’Hora stated that some vegetation overgrowth is listed to be cut.

### **Trench on Ballard Hill, Cobh**

G. O’Hora stated that Cork County Council have contacted Irish Water to have it repaired immediately.

### **Footpath near the garage at Rushbrooke, Cobh**

G. O’Hora stated that this work is listed for repair.

### **Cedar Wood, Carrigtwohill**

G. O’Hora confirmed that Cork County Council Estates Section have liaised with the developer regarding completing the footpath and the signalised roundabout and also addressing the earthworks behind the estate.

## **6.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence**

### **Speed Van on Tay Road, Cobh**

Letter received from An Garda Síochána stating that there is no safe location along the Tay Road for the speed van to park. The letter also stated that speed vans are now operated by private companies.

### **Pipe Laying by Uisce Éireann at Carrigane Road**

Letter received from Uisce Éireann advising that in order to minimise future disruption to the community, pipelaying works will continue along the road under extended working hours to enable target completion for the end of July.

This has been notified to the residents along Carrigane Road.

### **Barryscourt Castle**

Letter received from OPW confirming that a substantive response will issue once enquiries regarding the estimated re-opening date for the castle have been completed.

### **Waste Water Treatment Plant at Carrignavar**

Letter received from Mr. Darragh O’Brien, T.D., Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage acknowledging the request for further funds to be made available to progress a new Waste Water Treatment Plant at Carraig na bhFear.

### **Save Cobh’s Right of Way**

Letter received from Diarmuid Cahill representing Save Cobh’s Right of Way group requesting a meeting with the Members. It was agreed to organise a meeting in September.

### **Phone boxes nears Scoops Ice-cream parlour in Cobh**

Email received from Tidy Towns regarding the condition of the 2 phone boxes. Eir had previously been asked to provide stats for phone usage but these have not been received.

Eir had also suggested that this would be a good location for EV charging facilities, none of the Members agree with this location.

It was agreed that M.McSweeney write to Eir again requesting the stats of the phone usage.

### **EirGrid celtic Interconnector Community Fund**

Correspondence received from EirGrid informing that the Interconnector Community Benefit Fund is open for applications, for Phase 1 from 29<sup>th</sup> June with a closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> September. All applications can be made online.

**Proposal submitted to provide a Dog Washing Facility at the Five Foot Way, Cobh**  
M. McSweeney to circulate the proposal to the Members for their consideration.

## **7.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh / Officer's Reports.**

### **Extension to Graveyards and the provision of a Collumbarium**

- a. P. Lynch told the Members that extra land had now been acquired to extend the cemetery in Whitechurch. This would provide an additional 400 graves.
- b. P. Lynch stated that there was agreement in principle to acquire land at Kilquane which would provide an additional 300 graves.
- c. Cork County Council are also looking at providing a columbarium in these cemeteries as well as The Old Church Cemetery in Cobh as cremation has now become a very popular choice and advised that a Part 8 Planning Process will be required for each of the above.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan asked how long would this process take. P. Lynch advised that drawing would be on display for approx. 4 weeks. A further 2 weeks will be allowed for submissions. He stated that would be placed on the agenda for the September/October meeting and go before Full Council in October.

Cllr. A. O'Connor asked if the new proposed cemeteries would be lawn cemeteries.  
G. O'Hora confirmed that they would be lawn cemeteries.

G. O'Hora told the Members that he will shortly be commencing preparation of the 2024 Roads Programme and invited Members to submit roads names/numbers for inspection and possible inclusion in the 2024 road programme.

G. O'Hora told the Members that there were currently 2 CIS applications and 2 LIS applications approved for 2023. He asked Members to submit any suitable roads for inclusion in the 2024 programmes.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked when the Safe School work was due to commence on Bishop Street. G. O’Hora stated a contractor had been appointed for the works and he was due to commence works late July. G O’Hora stated that work was due to be fully completed prior to the new school term (September).

P. Lynch told the Members that the new 30 minute Parking bays were now set up on the parking system and confirmed that the Traffic Warden was now enforcing this limit.

## **8.0 Tuairisc ó Oifigeach Ceantair Bardasacha / Municipal District Officer's Report.**

M.Mc Sweeney updated the Members on total claims to date under the General Municipal Allocation and Town Development Fund for years 2020 to 2022, together with updated income from the Camper Van Facility at Whitepoint and Parking Machines.

M.McSweeney told the Members that 4 of the parking machines have now been upgraded to take card/coin and apple pay.

### **Tables & Chair Licences**

M. McSweeney told the Members that confirmation had now been received that the fees for the licences are to be waived.

### **Connolly Street**

M. McSweeney told the Members that Cork County Council does not own the site at Connolly Street but holds a long lease which is due to expire next year.

### **Parks Use Policy – Haulbowline**

M. McSweeney told the Members that the Trading Tender for Haulbowline would be re-advertised this week as no response had been received from the previous advert in April.

## **9.0 Camper Van Parking Bye-Laws – Consideration of Cobh Motor Caravan Parking Bye-Laws 2023 for the Five Foot Way Car Park.**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Connor, the proposed Parking Bye-Laws 2023 for the Five Foot Way Car Park were adopted.

It was agreed to advertise the new Bye-Laws and update signage to reflect the changes.

## **10. Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.**

### **To consider the following notices of motion in the name of Cllr. Rasmussen**

“That a full review is undertaken of the parking bye-laws in the town of Cobh with a view to dealing with some ongoing issues.”

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed that the current parking byelaws would be circulated prior to a meeting to discuss the 30 minute parking spaces and buses in the town.

**To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Rasmussen**

“That consideration be given to installing a hand rail on the steps below the Cathedral commonly known as the Rock.”

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor it was agreed to investigate the possibility of installing a hand rail at The Rock having regard to conservation issues which may arise.

**To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Rasmussen**

“That consideration be given to the installation of another speed ramp on the Newtown road to compliment the 2 already in place to help reduce the speed on the road.”

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, it was agreed that a speed survey be carried out initially to see if a 3<sup>rd</sup> speed ramp was necessary at this location.

**To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. O'Callaghan**

“That this Municipal District would apply for added funding under the footpath programme or active travel scheme to extend the footpath northwards from the village of Whitechurch to the Montessori school on the Ryefield/Sixmilewater road.”

G. O'Hora told the Members that this footpath would not be funded under the 2023 footpath programme as there was a very limited budget. He also confirmed that the National Transport Authority were not providing funding for such projects this year.

The Members expressed their disappointment at the lack of funding for active travel.

**10. Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.**

**Cllr. C. Rasmussen:**

**10.0 Loose Pillar at Rope Walk, Cobh:**

Engineer stated wall was scheduled for repair.

**10.1 Dip in the road by Centra, West Beach, Cobh:**

Dipped concrete plinth by Centra, West Beach, Cobh. Engineer gully was scheduled for repair.

**10.2 Loose Wall Caps at Cooline, Cobh:**

Some of the wall caps have become loose and one has fallen off.  
Engineer to examine.

**10.3 Old Church Cemetery, Cobh:**

The Cemetery is looking very unkept. G. O’Hora stated that the grass is cut by a contractor on a regular basis and he will examine the cemetery.

**10.4 Overgrowth on High Road, Cobh**

There is a lot of overhanging shrubbery on the High Road, westwards past Leonard’s Lodge, which is impeding pedestrians.  
Engineer stated hedge is in private ownership and CCC would contact the owner to cut the hedge.

**10.5 Railings at 5 Foot Way, Cobh:**

There is a section of rusted railings which need replacing.  
To be followed up with the Port of Cork.

**10.6 Carpark at the end of WestView, Cobh:**

The parking bays are not lined properly.  
Engineer to examine.

**10.7 Potholes at Carrignafoy, Cobh**

Bad potholes in the centre of the road by the Pitch & Putt Club at Carrignafoy.  
Engineer confirmed road potholes are scheduled for repair.

**10.8 Process for social media advertising - Campervan Bye-laws**

P. Lynch stated that all social media is managed by the Corporate Services Dpt. It was agreed that Members would post such adverts on their own social media pages to reach a wider audience.

**10.9 Overgrown hedge at College Manor, Cobh (near the GAA pitch)**

Engineer stated CCC staff have cut back the brambles.

**10.10 Accident at Carrigaloe, - Residents looking for ramps**

G. O’Hora stated that he would monitor the traffic speeds on the road and examine erecting additional road safety signage.



**Cllr. S. O'Connor:**

**10.11 Belmont Steps, Cobh:**

There is a lot of overgrowth on the pathway within the estate at Belmont. Engineer stated vegetation is scheduled to be cut back.

**10.12 Condition of Roadway at Carrignafey, Cobh:**

G. O'Hora stated a contractor had been appointed to carry out repairs to the road and works would be commencing mid-July.

**10.13 Condition of Bridge at Birds' Hill/Tay Road**

G. O'Hora stated that the bridge was listed for repair.

**Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:**

**10.14 Planting at the entrance to Glencorrin entrance**

G. O'Hora stated landscaping works were scheduled to commence mid-July.

**10.15 Traffic Calming at Knockraha**

Cllr. O'Callaghan thanked G. O'Hora for the progress to date.

**10.17 Pothole by O'Shea's Boreen, Watergrasshill**

CCC repaired the pothole.

**10.18 Bus Markings at Watergrasshill to be re-lined**

CCC contractor completed road lining works at Watergrasshill NS.

**10.19 Bollards to be re-instated at Condonstown Road**

Bollards scheduled to erected Mid-July.

**10.20 Traffic calming at the school in Whitechurch at the western side of the entrance to the Community Centre.**

G. O'Hora stated that there was no funding for this work at present.

**Cllr. A. Barry:**

**10.21 Overhanging trees at Park Road near the bus stop**

Engineer to list tree for pruning.

**10.22 Stoppers at Fitzpatrick's shop, people have fallen over them**

Matter to be referred to Traffic and Transportation Dpt.

**10.23 Resurfacing in Carrigtwohill**

G. O'Hora stated that the resurfacing is due to be completed before the

new school term.

**10.24 Manholes and overgrowth at Cúl Ard, Carrigtwohill**

Engineer to list overgrowth for cutting.

**10.25 Extra 50Km Speed Signs necessary at the Bog Road**

Engineer to examine.

**Cllr. S. Sheppard:**

**10.26** Cllr. S. Sheppard apologised for her late arrival to the meeting and congratulated Cllr. A. O'Connor on his election as Cathaoirleach.

**10.27 Changing Facilities at Whitepoint and Cuskinny Bay**

It was agreed to submit a request to Cork County Council for the provision of changing rooms. Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded this proposal.

**10.28 Cobh Ramblers – Request for funding**

Cllr. S. Sheppard told the Members that Cobh Ramblers are currently updating the lights on the pitch to facilitate night matches. They will receive a grant of €300,000 towards the project once they can provide match funding. Cobh Ramblers have notified Cllr. Sheppard that the club have a shortfall to qualify for the grant and have asked if Cobh M.D. could provide a contribution of €25,000.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that he had no issue with this request in principle, but stated that the Members would have to see full costings and the timescale, together with the club's financial status in relation to Rates prior to any funds being given.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked what the Pay Parking Dividend amounted to for this year and what other commitments had been made from this fund.

P. Lynch stated that the Pay Parking Dividend allocation had not been communicated to Cobh M.D. yet. He told the Members that the cost of replacement and updating pay parking machines along the town would be funded from the Pay Parking Dividend, together with the preparation of a detailed report on the condition of the Martello Tower in Rossleague, which the Members had previously agreed to.

**Cllr. A. O'Connor:**

**10.29 Request for driver feed-back signs on Carrigane Road due to speeding.**

Engineer confirmed he had discussed with Contractor and Driver Feed Back sign would be re-erected mid-July.

**10.30 Steep drop off from Footpaths at Carrigane Road, not levelled off**

Engineer to examine.

**Date for Meeting for Part 8 – Proposed Statue at Five Foot Way, Cobh**

It was agreed to hold this meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

---

CAHAOIRLEACH

---

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER.