

MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd OCTOBER, 2023 AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.

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

Officials: 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 Mr. P. Lynch, S/Senior Executive Officer for his inability to attend.

1. Presentation by Eirgrid – Shaping Our Offshore Energy Future

Graham Parker and Michelle Walsh made a presentation to the members on plans to locate an offshore substation either off the coast of Waterford/Wexford or Cork to facilitate the expected growth in the generation of electricity by off shore wind turbines. Public meetings have already been held which were well attended and further public consultation meetings will continue to be held as the project progresses.

Cllr. A. Barry asked how feasible the timeline of 2030 to connect the proposed substation to the grid was and if the intention to ban development within 22km of the shoreline would affect the project. G. Parker replied that the programme and targets set by government were ambitious, but he was confident that the project would be delivered within the time frame outlined. The substation and turbine infrastructure would need to be connected to seabed, at no more than a depth of 65m, 22km from shore is nearly the maximum distance that this can be achieved.

Cllr. A. O'Connor thanked the Eirgrid team for the presentation and their continued engagement with the public on this project.

2. Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of:

Monthly Meeting held on 2nd October. 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the Minutes (as amended) were adopted.

3. Matters Arising.

Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill:

G. O'Hora stated that some vegetation had been cut back along the cycleway. He also confirmed that obstacles had been cleared from the stream running through An Choill.

Cllr. A. Barry expressed his thanks for the works carried out but also his frustration at the lack of co-ordination between the various departments of the Council. He stated that planning permission had been granted for the planting scheme without taking into consideration the burden that this type of scheme placed on the Municipal District staff and the residents. The planting scheme needed extensive maintenance every year which neither the municipal district or residents had the resources to tackle same.

Section 38 Carrignafoy:

G. O’Hora stated that the proposed changes had been marked out on the road and asked the members when would be convenient for them to walk the proposed works. It was agreed that the site visit would be arranged as soon as possible. Cllr. S. O’Connor stated that he had received calls from residents of Philip O’Neill Place regarding a public meeting with the engineers about the proposals, Cllr. Rasmussen clarified that he had arranged that meeting for 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 3rd October, and invited the other members to same.

Trees on Bishop Street:

These had been listed for trimming with the horticulturalist.

Pedestrian Crossing at Kelly’s Bar:

G. O’Hora stated that the crossing was to be surveyed and reviewed.

Riveria Terrace:

G. O’Hora stated that the drains had been cleared.

Ahern Place, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the clean up had been done by Council staff and that the residents would now take over the maintenance of the laneway. Cllr. Rasmussen expressed his thanks to the engineer and staff concerned.

St. Marys Close:

G. O’Hora stated that the green area is covered in dog faeces and staff are declining to cut the green due to public health concerns. G. O’Hora to discuss with staff to cut the green once more if residents would maintain the green area going forward.

Railings at Five Foot Way:

G. O’Hora stated that he had no funding presently for the railings.

Signage at Belvelly:

G. O’Hora stated at a Driver Feed back sign was being considered for this location.

Cobh Drains:

G. O’Hora stated that a programme was in place for drain cleaning and staff were working their way through it. Cllr. Rasmussen expressed his thanks and stated that the Top of the Hill area was a priority.

Carrigtwohill Drains:

G. O’Hora stated that the drain cleaning programme was progressing.

Annesgrove & Carrigane Road:

G. O’Hora stated that new road safety signs had been ordered for these locations.

Cousins Home Pub:

G. O’Hora confirmed that double yellow lines and junction box had been listed with the contractor for this location.

Ellens Kitchen, Cobh:

The roadlining has been completed.

Leonards Lodge, Cobh:

The overgrowth has been cut back and the gully should be installed over the next few days. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the drain cover needed to be replaced at the entrance to Carrig House as a matter of priority. M. McSweeney replied that she had been in contact with the owner of the property, who was having difficulty in sourcing a contractor to carry out the works.

High Road/Lake Road, Cobh:

Sections of the overgrown hedging has been cut back.

Carrignavar:

New speed limit signs have been put up and a ramp had been laid on the main road outside the new school. The main road outside the new school will be resurfaced during the school midterm break and the existing pedestrian crossing south of the new school will be upgraded to a raised pedestrian crossing.

Knockboy Road.

The potholes have been repaired. Cllr. S. O’Callaghan stated that while she was delighted that the potholes had been repaired, she asked could the road be included on the 2024 roads programme for resurfacing.

Carrignavar:

The gully has been listed for cleaning.

Carrignafoy Roundabout:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen enquired when the road lining would be carried out. R. O’Sullivan stated it was listed with the contractor.

Norwood – Speed Survey:

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired about a survey for this location, G. O’Hora replied that it was one of a number of locations which were listed for a speed survey.

Cooline/Seafield, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired whether the Council or the developer would be carrying out works to the wall capping at Cooline. G. O’Hora replied that if the developer failed to remedy the situation, that the Council would do so. Cllr. Rasmussen also enquired about the wall at Seafield, G. O’Hora replied that it was on the list for repair.

West View Car Park:

G. O’Hora confirmed to Cllr. Rasmussen that the car park was listed with the contractor for road lining.

Ballywilliam:

Cllr. S. O’Connor stated that remedial works still had to be carried out to the roadway at Ballywilliam, which had sunk following works by Irish Water, and the ESB pole still had not been moved. G. O’Hora to follow up with Irish Water.

Carrignafoy Terrace, Cobh:

Cllr. S. O’Connor enquired whether the speed survey had been carried out, G. O’Hora reiterated that surveys needed to be carried out at a number of locations and Carrignafoy Terrace was on the list.

Tay Road Wall:

Cllr. S. O’Connor stated that repairs had yet to be carried out. G. O’Hora replied that it was listed.

An Cur, Cul Ard, Carrigtowhill:

Cllr. Barry stated that the gullies in this estate had not been cleared out to the best of his knowledge. G. O’Hora responded stating that the gullies had been cleared, but that at this time of year, it was impossible to prevent leaves from blocking the drains again. He and the staff were aware of the various ‘hot spots’ throughout Carrigtowhill and were monitoring and cleaning them on a regular basis.

Carrignavar:

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan queried if a low cost School Safety scheme was being considered for Carrignavar. G. O’Hora replied that the road was to be resurfaced in October and a second ramp would be installed at that time, the work was scheduled to be carried out in the mid-term break.

4. Comhfhreagas / Correspondence:

M. McSweeney stated that all correspondence received and sent had been circulated to the members.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen expressed his dissatisfaction with the reply received in relation to the EV chargers and requested that Louis Duffy be sent another letter.

Annette Quinn requested that a meeting take place with the members to discuss which of the Churches within the M.D. should be put forward for conservation. To be confirmed.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan sought clarification of Pdraig Barrett’s letter detailing when landowners can cut hedging. G. O’Hora confirmed that landowners may cut back hedging on safety grounds between March and August that are causing a danger to road owners following consultation with the local engineer.

Cllr. S. Sheppard requested that a letter be sent to Estate Management to meet with the members and discuss on going issues regarding estates that have yet to be taken in charge particularly those estates in which public lighting is in need of repair, the absence of which is leading to anti-social behaviour.

M. McSweeney stated that Peter Kidney had supplied the information in relation to the costs related to running the Christmas Market. A request had also been received from the Cobh Chronicle regarding advertising.

M. McSweeney stated that an amount of €1,500.00 remained to be allocated, as the Sea Angling International Competition organisers had confirmed that the European Championships was not going ahead.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to allocate €1,200.00 to the Christmas Market and €300.00 to the Cobh Chronicle.

5. Tuairiscí ó Oifgigh / Officer's Reports.

G. O’Hora stated that work on the construction of the underground cables in connection with the Celtic Interconnector Project is expected to commence in the Knockraha section and will start on 1st November 2023.

Cllr. A. Barry welcomed the news but stated that all road closures must be handled correctly and responsibly. He cited an incident recently in which at least 10 – 15 children were prevented from leaving Ballyadam Park to return to Carrigwohill by their usual route, being forced to walk and cycle on the N25. He stated that the road was open before a recent training session but subsequently closed, with parents and children being refused permission to use the Carrigane road by Irish Water contractors. G. O’Hora responded by saying this was unacceptable and that local access was always allowed, he would investigate.

M. McSweeney stated that Michelle Walsh, Eirgrid wished to meet the members prior to the November meeting to give an update on the Interconnector. The members agreed to meet at 2.30 p.m on November 6th.

6. Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

To consider the proposed disposal of property of house situated at 9, Lake Road, Cobh, Co. Cork, - Estate of Teresa Hally for the consideration of €1.00.

Several members sought clarification on this disposal. M. McSweeney explained that this was a legacy issue, the house had in fact been bought out many years ago, and the transfer required regularisation.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the disposal was approved.

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

M. McSweeney detailed the amounts collected via the parking machines and the campervan facility for the members. She also stated that a company had been appointed to install the toilet facility at the Five Foot Way at a cost of €134,545 ex vat.

Cllr. Rasmussen asked for a copy of the design and the exact location proposed and questioned how the facility would be funded. M. McSweeney stated the proposed unit will be funded from Cobh MD Capital Fund €74,271, and the balance from central capital reserve for public conveniences. Cllr. Barry queried the opening times of the facility and whether it was open to the same abuse as the current facilities adjacent to the Promenade. R. O'Sullivan stated that the facility would be opened and closed at the same time as the current toilets. Cllr. S. O'Connor asked if CCTV could be installed to prevent vandalism, R. O'Sullivan replied that it was not possible. Cllr. Rasmussen asked if the facility could be coin operated, rather than free to prevent vandalism. M. McSweeney to contact Healthmatic Ltd.

Cllr. S. O'Connor queried where did the proposal for Motorbike Parking come from, as it further restricted parking on West Beach. R. O'Sullivan replied that the proposal came from the traffic warden. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the spaces are being used and it was quite successful, better than having one motorbike occupy individual parking spaces. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that signage was needed, to prevent motor bikes from parking on the footpath.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that while he was in favour of the statue being installed on the Five Foot Way, he was concerned at the amount of space that had been marked out to accommodate the plinth. He questioned whether it had to be that size as it would interfere with a car and bus traversing the car park. Cllr. S. Sheppard thought that when the requirements for the statue were first discussed, the base was just to be a plinth, but now the proposal seemed like a new garden, she didn't want to see the walkway or the road restricted. R. O'Sullivan to contact the Architects department.

8. Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.

To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Barry

“That this Council install a footpath from where the existing one finishes at Fota Rock eastwards to Ballyadam. This is essential now given the Ministers decision to abandon the N25 upgrade.”

Cllr. A. Barry stated that there were 16 houses at Ballyadam and it should have been a condition of planning that the footpath be extended by the developer. Cllr. A. O'Connor stated that it was the responsibility of TII to provide the footpath. R. O'Sullivan is presently discussing the matter of the footpath with the Cork County Council National Roads Office.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed a letter would be sent to TII.

To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Barry

“Can clarification be given as to whether the lake in Castlelake Estate will be included in the taking in charge process, and if so, where does the responsibility for maintaining same lie.”

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the lake is actually an attenuation pond, but is now being considered as an amenity, there is also a wayleave across the green area due to high voltage cables overhead. In either case, the maintenance of the facility is beyond the resources of the local residents.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed that G. O'Hora would contact the estates to determine what is included in the taking in charge process.

To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard

“That this council would look at speed calming measures and footpath program for Joe Reid Place and also **slow signs** and **children at play signs** in Woodside area of Rushbrooke Manor.”

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the footpaths in Joe Reid Place were in need of repair and signage is needed to slow traffic down as the area is unsuited to ramps. Signage indicating Children at play was required for Woodside.

G. O'Hora confirmed Cork County Council would erect the requested signage on the estate road.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that Cork County Council would erect new signage on the estate road.

To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. S. Sheppard

“That the Council would allocate 25K to Cobh Ramblers to allow them to complete the flood lighting in the park, and ensure they can meet the standards needed to allow games continue into the winter months.”

Cllr. Sheppard circulated a printout to the other members outlining the proposals from Cobh Ramblers in relation to the monies sought from the Council and a Sports Capital Grant. She stated that the club had most of the funds to carry out the significant amount of works involved, however there was a shortfall of 25K.

Cllr. A. Barry stated he fully supported the work being done but sought clarification on where the money requested was to be sourced. M. McSweeney clarified that the funds requested would be allocated from the Pay Parking Dividend, if the members approved same. Cllr. S. O'Callaghan stated that if the funds were available and the amount sought was crucial to the completion of the project, then the Council should support it. Cllr. S. O'Connor also voiced his support. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that of all the members, he was most familiar with the workings of and financial position of, Cobh Ramblers, however he was disappointed that the presentation was only circulated as the meeting began and surprised that officials of the club did not present the proposal in person to the members.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan sought clarification on how the money from pay parking was allocated. Cllr. A. O'Connor stated that there was quite a bit of money coming into Cobh from parking and perhaps other towns and villages in the municipal district should consider it, to fund local projects. Cllr. Sheppard stated that the money raised from parking in Cobh was put back into providing facilities, including much needed sports facilities, for the town and thanked the other members for their support of the motion.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to provide 25K to Cobh Ramblers from the Pay Parking Dividend, subject to a further meeting with representatives from Cobh Ramblers and that the funds would be provided on completion of the proposed works.

To consider the following notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard.

“That we review the Casual Trading Bye-Laws in Cobh outside of the county policy, due to the ongoing issues we have with operating in the town centre.”

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

“That the Casual Trading bye laws for the town centre of Cobh be reviewed urgently with the possibility of removing the location for Casual Traders from their present location on West Beach.”

Cllr. S. Sheppard and Cllr. C. Rasmussen agreed that their motions in relation to Casual Trading Byelaws be considered together. Both members expressed their frustration at the ongoing issues being created by the current byelaws. Cllr. Sheppard stated that she has raised this issue repeatedly and yet 8 parking spaces are being closed off to provide casual trading spaces which are not being utilised by traders, preventing the customers of ratepayers in the town from parking there. She

questioned how much revenue was being lost to the Council by the parking spaces not being utilised. Cllr. Sheppard queried if the licences could be revoked if not being used.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated he had attempted to get the names of the traders but had been unsuccessful and expressed his frustration at that. The bollards prevent people parking illegally but do not address the core problem of parking spaces being unnecessarily curtailed. M. McSweeney stated that casual trading licences had been issued for the trading spaces and must be honoured.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to seek clarification on whether the traders could be contacted to clarify whether they were using the spaces and if it was possible to move or remove the trading spaces.

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

“That the Taxi Bye-Laws for Cobh would be sent out for public consultation”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he was aware that the Taxi Regulator had to be consulted in relation to regulations governing taxis, however he was anxious to start the public consultation process and sought a timeline for same.

M. McSweeney replied that at the September meeting it was proposed by members that the Council would commence the process of reviewing the paid parking byelaws. As part of this review, consideration will also have to be given to the spaces allocated for taxi parking and casual trading. Regard will also have to be had to the Part 8 planning approved by members for the public realm plans for the town and in particular the areas allocated under this plan for taxi parking and casual trading. M. McSweeney will discuss all of these matters with the Senior Executive Officer on his return and will report back to the members.

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

“That consideration be given to locating a new controlled pedestrian crossing on Newtown Hill near the area of the supermarket or other suitable location to help make the whole area safer”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that a pedestrian crossing was needed below Cost Cutter on Newtown hill as the area was dangerous.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard,, it was agreed that the engineer would survey and examine the location for a new pedestrian crossing.

9. Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business:

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

- 9.1 **Sixmilewater:** The road is in appalling condition following works by Irish Water. Engineer to examine.
- 9.2 **Ard Cashel:** Traffic survey required. Engineer to follow up.
- 9.3 **Old Cemetery, Cobh:** Shuttering boards and piles of grass etc. left strewn around graveyard. Engineer to follow up.
- 9.4 **Belvelly to Carrigaloe:** Witnessed teenager walking along the top of the wall, as it was safer than road. Engineer to examine.
- 9.5 **Bakers Field:** The new footpath needs a handrail. Engineer to examine.
- 9.6 **Bridges:** 3 bridges need surveys done. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. A. Barry:

- 9.7 **Active Travel Unit:** A letter should be sent to the unit highlighting the fact that there is no footpath from the train station to the new school campus. M. McSweeney to follow up.
- 9.8 **Annmount, Glounthaune:** The planning conditions for this estate specified that footpaths and traffic lights should be installed, to date this has not happened. Engineer to follow up.

Cllr. A. O'Connor:

- 9.9 **Carrigane Road:** Speed is an issue, through Cul Ard and at Castl lake. Engineer to examine.
- 9.10 **Speed Limit:** When is the reduction from 50km to 30km for urban areas being reduced. Engineer to follow up.
- 9.11 **Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill:** Are the green areas being taken in Charge. Engineer to follow up.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

- 9.12 **High Road:** Wall looks like it will fall over the hedge, when were the monitoring points last looked at. Pothole on High Road near the crossroads. The footpaths need to be repaired. Engineer to examine.

- 9.13 **Carrig House:** Footpath needs to be repaired across from Carrig House. Engineer to examine.
- 9.14 **Footpath Programme:** Which footpaths have been repaired to date. Engineer to revert.
- 9.15 **Cuskinny:** Carpark needs to be cleared of debris following storm. Engineer to examine.
- 9.16 **Whitepoint Avenue:** Road still needs repair following works by Irish Water. Engineer to follow up.
- 9.17 **Kellys Bar:** Drain outside premises needs further works, as it is still flooding. Engineer to examine.
- 9.18 **Belvelly/Ticknock Hill:** Update on speed survey. Engineer to revert.
- 9.19 **Ballyleary:** When will road resurfacing be completed. Signage required to prevent HGV's driving down narrow roads. Engineer to revert.
- 9.20 **Burma Steps:** Can overgrowth be cut back as footpath is impassable. Engineer to examine.
- 9.21 **Ballard Hill:** There are a number of serious potholes on Ballard Hill. Engineer to examine.
- 9.22 **Casement Square:** Large pothole in the middle of the road in front of Titanic building. Engineer to examine.
- 9.23 **Carrigaloe:** Update on installation of bus stop. Engineer to revert.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.