

MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER, 2023 AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH.

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

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

1.0 Consideration of Draft Budgetary Plan for the Cobh Municipal District

S. O'Callaghan stated that the A/CEO welcomed an increase in the LPT allocation for Cork and stressed that the GMA and Village Enhancement Fund remained at previous levels. Challenges for the County remained in the increase in energy costs and pay increases for staff. M. McSweeney then went through the proposed budget figures for the various programmes. She stated that she had made a business case for budget increase allocation for various codes for litter management, maintenance of public conveniences, park & open spaces, and burial grounds.

The members welcomed the increases in the overall budget but sought clarification on a number of issues. Cllr. Barry queried where the funds for the maintenance of the new greenways and cycleways was coming from. Cllr. Rasmussen asked if the extra €20,000 for litter management included provision for extra staff. Cllr. Sheppard stated there were some positives but the increases were not enough given the increases in costs. Cllr. O'Callaghan welcomed the increases in the various programmes but they were not enough to offset the increase in costs. Cllr. O'Connor stated that there were a lot of positives, however vandalism had been an issue over the past 12months in relation to the public toilets and playgrounds and the increases were not enough. Cllr. A. O'Connor stated that it was good to see the figures maintained for the GMA and TDF but these figures had remained static since 2021 and sought extra funding for the maintenance of the greenways.

S. O'Callaghan clarified that the GMA and TDF figures had been combined in the figures presented and the maintenance of the cycleways would come out of the Parks and Open Spaces budget, there was no specific allocation. The A/CEO hoped that this allocation would be increased in the final draft of the budget.

Cllr. Barry stated that the maintenance of the cycleways/greenways and the lake at Castle Lake will be a huge drain on the MD budget going forward which is already stretched due to the large number of tourists annually. The whole county benefits from the visits of the cruise liners, but the burden falls on the Cobh MD.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the members voted to reject the draft budget as presented.

2.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of: Monthly Meeting held on 2nd October 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr C. Rasmussen the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 2nd October were adopted.

3.0 Matters Arising.

Cul Ard, Carrigtowhill:

G. O'Hora stated that some hedge cutting works had been carried out at this estate and more is scheduled to be carried out.

Section 38 Carrignafoy:

G. O'Hora stated that it had been agreed to review some aspects of the layout of the proposed traffic calming scheme for Carrignafoy following an onsite meeting with the members.

Trees on Bishop Street:

G. O'Hora confirmed that these trees were listed for cutting mid-November.

Signage at Belvelly:

G. O'Hora stated that a suitable location was being sourced and examined for the sign.

Cobh & Carrigtwohill Drains:

G. O'Hora confirmed that a drainage company had been engaged to clear out a number of drains in Cobh and Carrigtwohill, the Council's own drain clearing programme would also continue, however leaves continued to be a problem at this time of year.

Annegrove & Carrigane Road:

G. O'Hora confirmed that additional road safety signs had been acquired and would be put up in the next few weeks.

Leonards Lodge, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the drains had been examined and construction of new drain has being scheduled.

Carrignavar:

G. O'Hora stated that the road resurfacing works outside the new school had been carried out and were now complete.

Knockboy Road:

G. O'Hora sought clarification on the exact location of Cllr. O'Callaghans query, she will email him the road number.

Cooline/Seafield, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that while these works were listed, they were not a priority at the moment.

Ballywilliam:

G. O'Hora stated that he had contacted Irish Water about the works required, they had indicated that they would carry out the requested works, in the meantime, Cork County Council would initiate remedial works.

An Cur, Cul Ard:

G. O'Hora stated that some drainage works had been carried out, however more were required and these works were included in the councils drainage programme.

Castlelake Estate:

G. O'Hora confirmed that he had discussed the attenuation pond with the estates section who had confirmed that the lake was not included in the areas to be taken in charge by the Council and would remain the responsibility of the developer.

Joe Reid Place & Woodside, Rushbrooke Manor, Cobh:

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

Pedestrian Crossing, Newtown:

G. O'Hora confirmed that a traffic survey needed to be carried out to determine the suitability of the location for a pedestrian crossing.

Ard Cashel: G. O'Hora confirmed that this location was listed for a traffic survey which would be carried out in due course.

Old Cemetery, Cobh: G. O'Hora confirmed that council staff carried out maintenance work regularly at the cemetery, which included removing rubbish and repairing road potholes. He would schedule staff to collect recent deposited waste from the cemetery.

Bridges: Cllr. S. O'Callaghan is to send the names and locations of the bridges to G. O'Hora.

Annmount, Glounthaune:

G. O'Hora had discussed the issues with the planning department and the traffic/transportation section of Cork County Council, who are pursuing same.

Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill: G. O'Hora stated that the green areas would not be taken in charge by the Council, and would be the responsibility of the residents to maintain.

High Road: G. O'Hora confirmed that the road repairs had been carried out.

Carrig House: G. O'Hora stated that the repairs to the Aco drains would be carried out by the owner of the site.

Kellys Bar: G. O'Hora stated that the drain had been cleared out and would be monitored going forward.

Belvelly/Ticknock Hill: G. O'Hora stated that a speed survey for this location was on a list and would be progressed in due course.

Ballyleary: G. O'Hora confirmed that the road surfacing was on a list for the appointed contractor.

Burma Steps: G. O'Hora confirmed that the overgrowth was listed for cutting.

Ballard Hill: G. O'Hora stated that this was an Irish Water issue but some remedial works to the road would be carried out by Cork County Council.

Casement Square: G. O'Hora confirmed that the pothole had been repaired.

Carrigaloe: G. O'Hora stated a contractor had been appointed to provide the bus stop. Cllr. Rasmussen wanted to know if this would be provided before Christmas? G. O'Hora replied in the affirmative.

Bishop Street: Cllr. Rasmussen asked when the works would be completed on Bishop Street, G. O'Hora replied that these works would be completed soon. Cllr. Rasmussen thanked the engineers for the works on Riveria Terrace.

Harbour View: Cllr. Rasmussen stated some of the drains on Harbour View were 'packed solid' and the drain at Clifton Corner needed to be cleared out before the weather turned colder. G O'Hora confirmed these drains were listed for cleaning.

Cuskinny: Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the car park was still covered in seaweed. G O'Hora confirmed the car park was scheduled for cleaning.

Whitepoint: Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the pothole left by Irish Water still hadn't been repaired, the cone was still marking it. R O' Sullivan to follow up with Irish water.

Ballard: Cllr. Rasmussen stated that if Irish Water did not carry out the works, would the Council do it? G. O'Hora confirmed that this would be case.

Cllr. Rasmussen expressed his thanks to the outdoor staff for the trojan work done during the recent storms.

Carrignafoy: Cllr. S. O'Connor enquired about the speed survey. G. O'Hora stated that it was listed.

Carrigaloe Ferry: Cllr. S. O'Connor enquired as to whether this area would be included in the upcoming speed survey, as the speed on this road was a matter of concern for residents. G O'Hora confirmed speed survey is scheduled.

Ballywilliam: Cllr. S. O'Connor enquired when the ESB pole would be moved. R. O'Sullivan stated that he would pursue same as it was going on too long.

Cllr. Barry expressed his thanks to the roads crews who worked hard over the last number of weeks to deal with the aftermath of the storm. He reminded G. O'Hora of the need to deal with a gully outside no 2 An Cur, where the house is lower than the level of the road. G O'Hora confirmed these gullies are scheduled for cleaning.

Castlelake: Cllr. Barry expressed his dissatisfaction over the situation of the Lake, he queried what would happen when the developers are gone, the lake is part of the flood defence works for Carrigtwohill and stressed an agreement needed to be put in place between the developer and Cork County Council.

G. O'Hora thanked the members for their comments The capacity of rivers and culverts to cope with changing weather patterns is a concern. If the lake was to be taken in charge by CCC, an agreement would need be put in place between the developers of Castle Lake and the County Council in relation to the green area and the lake.

Cllr. A. O'Connor added his thanks for the work carried out over the last few weeks and asked if the council carried out works at Ballard Hill which were the responsibility of Irish Water, would Cork County Council be reimbursed for same. G. O'Hora responded that the Council would seek reimbursement for such works.

4.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.

M. McSweeney outlined the correspondence received since the last meeting. The HSE had responded to the motion regarding vacant properties, they are considering alternate uses for these.

Ms. Mary Buckley had sent in an email regarding the condition of the Old Church graveyard. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that some solution to the issues must be put in place as the staff are no longer involved in digging graves and are therefore not in the graveyard as often. Cllr. Sheppard stated that the grass needed to be cut again and the gravel at the entrance renewed. G. O'Hora responded, stating that repairs and maintenance are still carried out and a programme of works, which included regular clean ups was in place. Cllr. Rasmusen requested that Ms. Buckley be replied to directly.

Cllr. Barry asked if any response had been received from TII regarding the works adjacent to the N25 and requested that TII be contacted again.

5.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh / Officer's Reports.

Liam Lynch, Cork County Council presented the members with a proposal for the creation of an E-Centre in the Library building. He stated that the advertisement of would be published on Friday 10th November, the project should be up and running within 8 months. Cllr. Rasmussen welcomed the proposal, but expressed disappointment it had taken so long to come about.

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

M. McSweeney presented the Municipal District Officers report for November and gave updated figures for the various community grant schemes.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. O'Callaghan, it was agreed to an extension of time for Rockmount AFC to claim the grant allocated in 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. Rasmussen, it was agreed to grant €1,000.00 to a Community based group in Watergrasshill for the provision of a defibrillator.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. Barry, the Funfair application by Ms. S. Piper for 25th & 26th November, in conjunction with the Christmas Market, was approved.

The National Tidy Towns Awards results were presented to the members who were unanimous in their praise for the work done by these groups throughout the Municipal District. It was agreed to send each of the groups a letter of thanks and appreciation.

7.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.

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

“That this Council would put road safety signage and road markings within the Russell Heights Estate in Cobh”

Cllr. Sheppard outlined the concerns of residents in this estate which has a large number of children. She stated that every junction needs to be marked as well as two existing speed ramps. Children at Play signs were also required.

G. O'Hora replied that the road lining was scheduled for the estate road and erection of road safety signage.

On the proposal of Cllr. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the motion was carried.

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

“That Cobh MD would purchase a small road sweeper to be used within the Municipal District”

Cllr. Sheppard stated that Cobh was in need of a small road sweeper as one of the largest towns in the County and one of the biggest tourism destinations. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that when he raised this previously, the engineering staff wanted to wait for the implementation of the Public Realm. Cllr. O’Callaghan sought clarification on whether the proposed sweeper was for use on the roads or footpaths. Cllr. Sheppard confirmed it was for the roads. G. O’Hora stated that the current small sweeper is based mainly on the cycleway and is shared with Midleton, it would also require a charging point, he suggested a trial in Cobh before proceeding with any purchase.

On the proposal of Cllr. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. Rasmussen, it was agreed that G. O’Hora would obtain a quote for the purchase of a sweeper.

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

“That a report be given as to the situation regarding the Council owned lands in Glanmire which are on lease to the FAI.”

Cllr. Barry expressed his frustration that lands zoned for sports activities are lying idle in one of the fastest areas of population growth in the County. Several sports groups in Glounthaune are seeing additional training facilities and yet this land is unavailable for use due to a lease signed several years ago with the FAI which has not been acted upon. The Council should actively seek to move this forward.

On the proposal of Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. Rasmussen, it was agreed to await the Chief Executives report on this matter.

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

“Given the recent weather events, a complete review of the flood risk in Carrigtwohill be undertaken before any further large scale planning applications can be considered.”

Cllr. Barry stated that newly completed apartment blocks in the Castle Lake area had flooded as the culverts aren’t big enough in several pinch points. The water came for an area of land where further development is proposed and its madness if the Council doesn’t learn from these events. Also he expressed his disbelief that the Waterock area was not to be included in the Midleton Flood relief scheme given the scale of flooding there in recent weeks.

On the proposal of Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. Rasmussen it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the County Engineer for comment and also to invite him to visit the site.

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

“Could the possibility of providing a site for the Glounthaune Men’s shed group be investigated on Council lands across from the Island Gate restaurant.”

Cllr. Barry stated that the Mens shed was a great group, which did terrific work in the community and their current site would be unavailable to them going forward.

On the proposal of Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. O’Callaghan, it was agreed that G. O’Hora would examine what council owned sites may be suitable for the relocated men’s shed.

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

“That this Municipal would allocate any balance of monies from the Pay Parking in Cobh for this year, and the monies from all of the next year to allow a scheme for cleaning the street drains in all areas of Cobh on a regular basis and also to allocate a portion of these monies for footpath repair in the centre of the town”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the drains were not cleaned out as often as they should be mainly due to financial constraints. His proposal would allow the engineering staff the resources to hire private drain companies to assist in the drain cleaning. M. McSweeney stated that the amount of the pay parking dividend for 2023 had not yet been announced, there was €12,000 left in the fund from previous years.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Connor, it was agreed that the engineering staff would prepare a report on the costs and revert to the members.

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

“That funding is looked for, and a plan is put in place to resurface the length of road down the Ballyvoloon/Ballyleary road all the way down to the Tay Road and passing by the 3 new housing estates presently under construction.”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the road in the area was collapsing and given the numbers of new houses a footpath was essential. Cllr. A. O’Connor queried if the planning contributions paid by the developers covered the reinstatement of the road. R. O’Sullivan replied that he was investigating the root cause of the road collapse and was meeting the contractor to discuss remedial repairs. He confirmed that the conditions attached to the planning included the provision of a footpath and road widening.

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

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

“That this municipal district council would write to the Co. Engineer in order to seek a report with respect to the status of any works, funding available/sought placement on any schedule of priorities, or any other relevant information related to a new Carrignavar Wastewater Treatment Plant, the construction of same being required for residential development in the village beyond the lower growth target stipulated in the current county development plan.”

Cllr. A. O'Connor stated that the provision of a new wastewater treatment plant was not on the list of works currently proposed by Irish Water.

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

8.0 Suspension of Standing Orders:

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to discuss issues in Glounthaune and Carrigtwohill.

1. Cedars Estate, Glounthaune:

Cllr. Barry stated that the conditions attached to the planning permission for this estate included the provision of a signalised roundabout at the entrance and a footpath, neither of which were completed and now the developers have left. He stated that it was unacceptable that the developers could have been allowed to leave the site without complying with the conditions of the planning. He also stated that spoil from the site had been dumped in a nearby field and as a result of this, houses had flooded, walls had been undermined and a landslide was a possibility. Cllr. Barry requested that a letter be sent to the Enforcement section in relation to this, G. O'Hora suggested that a copy be also sent to the estates and environment sections.

2. Woodstock Road, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. Barry stated that when the Interconnector project was first mooted by Eirgrid, the members and residents were given to understand that some roads would not be fully closed. However 2 weeks ago, the contractor, working on behalf of Eirgrid applied for permission to close all the roads from the Two Mile Inn to the substation. Cllr. Barry stated that he understood from the various presentations made by Eirgrid that the Woodstock and Carrigane roads would have a Stop/Go system, which has now been abandoned resulting in a roundtrip of an extra 17km for residents in the area, some of whom use these roads several times a day in dropping children to school and sports activities. It was completely unacceptable to place this burden on the residents. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the lack of information and consultation with local residents was unacceptable given that the roads may be closed for 4 months, it was probably more cost effective for Eirgrid, but the whole issue had been badly handled. Cllr. S. O'Callaghan stated that numerous meetings had been held

with officials and residents and promises had been made which had not been kept. The road closures would be a huge cost to residents when it was clearly understood that a Stop/Go system would be put in place. Cllr. Sheppard stated that it had been stressed to Eirgrid that communication and engagement with the local community was key to the project and this had been completely disregarded. Cllr. A. O'Connor expressed his dismay for the situation and supported the other members.

M. McSweeney stated that representatives from Eirgrid had wanted to meet with the members today, but given the constraints of the budget meeting, she had postponed the meeting. Cllr. Barry welcomed the input of Eirgrid, but was frustrated as the road closures had now been granted and all that could be done was to mitigate the disruption to locals by forcing people who used the small local roads as a 'rat run' back onto the N25. G. O'Hora replied that the road closures are necessary to allow the contractors to carry out the works safely. Local diversions will be put in place and Cork County Council will be carrying out remedial works to these roads to improve usability for the locals. Cork County Council and the contractors will monitor the roads and carry out repairs as required to the diversion route.

9.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

- 9.1 **West Beach, Cobh:** The drop into the drain outside the Centra supermarket is dangerous. Engineer confirmed drain were scheduled for repair.
- 9.2 **Leeview Court:** Pothole. Engineer confirmed pothole was scheduled for repair.
- 9.3 **Harbour Hill:** The road is subsiding. Engineer to examine.
- 9.4 **O'Rahilly Street:** The road is badly damaged at the top of the street, as are the footpaths. Engineer confirmed footpath was scheduled for repair..
- 9.5 **School Safety Works:** The ongoing works at top of the Hill caused chaos, there was no signage at Belvelly diverting traffic. Also the ramp at Aherns Close is level with the footpath, is this safe, are bollards required? Engineer confirmed a bollard would be placed at the corner.
- 9.6 **Top of Hill:** Irish Water have confirmed that the water running down the hill is not from a water break, this needs to be investigated further before the weather gets colder. Matter to be referred to Uisce Eireann for repair.
- 9.7 **Walterstown:** Drain at Walterstown on road before the school is broken and damage is being done to a wall and needs sorting. Engineer confirmed drain were scheduled for cleaning.
- 9.8 **Bishops Street:** When will the trees be cut back on Bishops street. Engineer confirmed trees will be cut back mid Nov

- 9.9 **Rushbrooke:** Some greenery was cut back on the wall opposite the Dockyard but loads more needs to be done. Engineer to examine.
- 9.10 **High Road:** The water issue on High Road needs more work to get sorted before the cold snap comes in. Engineer confirmed a drain were scheduled to be constructed on the road.
- 9.11 **Belvelly:** The water valve at Aherns farm near Belvelly was covered over when the surface was relaid. Can this be sorted. Engineer to examine.
- 9.12 **The Spires:** In the Spires work on fixing a section of the road needs to be done . A gap of 4 inches has appeared in a section of about 3 metres in the middle of the road at the back of the estate. Engineer confirmed road were scheduled for repair.
- 9.13 **Tay Road:** Large pot hole has reopened at the bottom of the boreen onto the Tay road from Ballyleary road. Engineer to examine.
- 9.14 **Harbour Hill:** The 3 drains on Harbour Hill are blocked. Engineer confirmed drain were scheduled for cleaning.
- 9.15 The drain at the Clifton corner needs to be unblocked. Engineer to examine.
- 9.16 **Signs:** Reminder that we need to get more work done on the old and faded signs around the town well in advance of the new tourism season. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

- 9.17 **Watergrasshill:** The hoarding has been damaged around the derelict site at Bishops Island, there is some anti-social behaviour as a result. Engineer to examine.
- 9.18 **Glencree:** There is subsidence affecting a property, the road in question is on the boundary with the City. G. O'Houra replied that he had spoken to the property owner and was working with the City Council to agree a programme of works.

Cllr. A. Barry:

- 9.19 **Hedgy Boreen:** A lot of potholes on this road leading to the Carrigane and Lisgold Road. Engineer confirmed potholes were scheduled for repair.
- 9.20 **Carrigtwohill:** The road outside the Garda Station, following works by Irish Water, has subsided. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. S. O'Connor:

- 9.21 **Connolly Street:** Any response from the Coastal Management section about the embankment at Connolly Street. M. McSweeney replied that a reminder had been sent.
- 9.22 **Glavins/Stack Terrace:** The road surface is in very bad condition. Engineer confirmed road surface was scheduled for repair.

Cllr. S. Sheppard:

- 9.23 **Whitechurch:** There is a depression in the footpath and a pothole from flooding. Engineer confirmed footpath was scheduled for repair.
- 9.24 **Mount Crozier, Cobh:**
Road flooding. Engineer to examine.
- 9.25 **Assumption Place, Cobh:**
Flooding near the post box. Engineer confirmed drain were scheduled for repair.

M. McSweeney stated that she and Cllr. A. O'Connor had met with Anette Quinn, County Archeologist, to discuss which of the 4 historic churches within the Municipal District should be chosen for preservation. On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to select the Wallingstown Church in Little Island.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.

