



MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT held at Dunmanway Swimming Pool and MS Teams at 11.00am on 3rd July 2023

Members Present: Cllrs Paul Hayes, Deirdre Kelly, Joe Carroll, Patrick Gerard Murphy, Karen Coakley, Danny Collins

Member on MS Teams: Cllrs. Caroline Cronin

In attendance: Mac Dara Ó Hicé, S.E.O. W.C.M.D
Pauline Lynch, M.D.O. W.C.M.D
John Ahern S.E.E. Skibbereen
Ruth O'Brien, S.E.E. Bantry

Claire Levis Meeting Administrator W.C.M.D.
Orla Chambers, W.C.M.D.

Cllr. J. Carroll presided.

Statutory Monthly Meeting

1. ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH

Members thanked Cllr Declan Hurley and complimented him on his role as Cathaoirleach for 2022-2023.

Cllr Deirdre Kelly proposed Cllr Joe Carroll for Cathaoirleach, and this was seconded by Cllr Patrick Gerard Murphy.

2. ELECTION OF LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH

Cllr Patrick Gerard Murphy nominated Cllr Danny Collins, and this was seconded by Cllr Declan Hurley.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

a) Minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 2nd June 2023.

Proposed by Cllr Karen Coakley

Seconded by Cllr Gerard Patrick Murphy

Resolved

“That the minutes of the MDWC meeting held on the 2nd June 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach as amended”

MATTERS ARISING from Minutes 2nd June 2023

Members discussed the recent increase in speed limits on the N-71 in Ballylickey and stated that they had received numerous complaints from local residents following the erection of the new speed limit signs, the previous week.

The Members had supported the proposed extension of the reduced speed limit to beyond Snave beach, however they are completely opposed to the speed limit increasing from 60kph to 80kph for a short section of the N-71, between the Ouvane Falls and Cronins Service Station / Eagle Point Campsite. The area in question is a very busy and popular walking route, linking Eagle Point and Cronins with the Ouvane Falls. Furthermore, the construction of footpaths is to commence along that section of the N-71 in September of this year.

The Members wish to appeal the decision to increase the speed limit at that location and to have the speed limit reduced to 60kph again.

Members asked again re the new weigh bridge in Baltimore and expressed their frustrations at the delays in progressing the project. In reply to this the S.E.O. state that the planning section had been contacted regarding this and it does require planning. This possible would involve a Part 8. Further updates will be given as they are known.

In response to an update query on the toilets in Long Strand. The S.E.O. stated that a long term solution was being explored and a decision on that would be made within weeks.

An update on the tender process for the Clonakilty fire station was requested and the S.E.O. noted that an update was requested from the Environment Director of Services but no response has been received as of yet. The S.E.O. stated this would be followed up on.

The issue of the beach wheelchair at Inchadoney beach not being in use was discussed and it was stated that the Director of Services Municipal District and Rural Development Niall Healy would be forwarding on a response.

Members expressed their dissatisfaction that at the new playground in Clonakilty the Wheelchair swing is un operational due to issues with its access. The swing needs to be away from other members of the public due to the swing of the chair which is why it was locked up. The access to the swing needs to be looked at urgently eg. a key pad to ensure it is accessible to all who need it.

Members asked for updates on the surface of the road at the roundabouts in Clonakilty.

In Reply John Ahern An application for Funding to temporarily repair and resurface the localised worst areas of the two roundabouts has been submitted to TII. The complete resurfacing of both will be included in a larger scale resurfacing Project further down the line by TII.

John Ahern updated the meeting regarding North St and the Cork Rd

Bollards have been placed where street furniture has been removed on North St which will reduce the length of parking on the street to accommodate a longer distance of street for two-way traffic. The satellite navigation companies have been advised to direct east bound traffic from the top of Townsend St out Ilen St and Bridge St to the by-pass.

An update on the installation of the proposed Culvert at Cork Rd is due on or around July 24th and a decision on applying for funding for the resurfacing of the section of Cork Rd by the garage will be guided by that.

2. STATUTORY BUSINESS

Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001

Consideration under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) – Bantry Peace Park Playground, Newtown and Townlots, Bantry; Installation of a new, inclusive playground within an existing amenity area at the Peace Park, the construction of a small ancillary car park and all associated groundworks, the new playground shall replace the existing playground at Newtown Bantry – Report of Chief Executive.

The Members were briefed on the Chief Executive’s Report on the proposed Part 8.

Members welcomed the Part 8 stating that this would add to the town. This was closer to walk to the town centre than the older playground. The older one had to share its car park with the GAA therefore parking was at a premium at certain times.

This proposed new playground is next the MUGA therefore the entire area can service a wide age group of children which would suit a lot of families. It was confirmed that the sensory garden, pergolas and willow tunnel will remain.

This was proposed by Cllr Patrick Gerard Murphy and Seconded by Cllr Danny Collins.

3. NOTICES OF MOTION

Proposed by Cllr. Ross O’Connell seconded by Cllr. Danny Collins

“That Cork County Council provide an update on any plans for further grave spaces in Schull.”

Cllr O’Connell stated asked the Executive for an update on this stating that it had reached a critical level in Schull but in other graveyards also in the West.

Cllr. Collins reported to members that he was recently contacted by a member of the public distressed that they were unable to purchase a grave in Schull graveyard for their gravely ill sister.

Members suggested that Cork County Council put an advertisement in the papers asking for local people to offer any local land for the purpose of additional graveyards.

The S.E.O. stated that a CPO to purchase land is the last resort and that any Cork County Council land should be examined first to see if it is suitable. The S.E.O. stated that he would follow up with the Property Section.

4. REPORTS & CORRESPONDANCE.

MDO Report.

A member asked about the unclaimed monies from Community Grants and the S.E.O stated that the Members would have the opportunity to re allocate the monies should this happen.

Members commented on the Hedge Cutting restrictions stating that owners of properties are afraid to cut their ditches because of these restrictions. Members stated that health and safety should take precedence over any environmental concerns.

On the subject of the newly refurbished Town hall in Skibbereen the members commented that the cost was too high. The S.E.O stated that the costs are negotiable depending on the occupier. Members commended Cork County Council on the works.

On behalf of the members the mayor welcomed the news of the reopening of the Dursey cable car and expressed thanks for the new pontoon in Heir island.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A member queried works being done on a regional road from Goleen to Crookhaven and asked why it could not be done outside tourist season as there was a sailing event. Ruth O'Brien stated this was the time recommended for the works as set out in the IAT Guidelines and furthermore, all events need to be notified to the Council in a timely manner.

In reply to a query in relation to the Bridge in Allihies Ruth Obrien stated there would have to be discussions with Landowners and then a Section 38 would have to be applied for to the OPW and following that, a Part 8 process would be undertaken.

In response to a query for an update the extension of the Joe Walsh Walkway the S.E.O. stated that Cork County Council was waiting on the formalisation of the entrance to the Technology park.

Members asked for a vote of sympathy be sent to Martin Fleming family. Martin Fleming worked in the Clonakilty Office.

In response to a request for a bin on the pier in Sherkin Island the S.E.O stated that they were subject to abuse but however would look into it.

A Member thanked Roads office for the Speed activation lights in Drimoleague. In response to further funding of these activation lights Ruth O'Brien stated that there was no general funding for these. A Member asked for these lights in Lowertown at the Humpback bridge.

A Member mentioned that the road surface between Drimoleague and Skibbereen is very poor.

Members complimented those involved with the Dunmanway Road works.

Members queried the membership scheme in Dunmanway pool. They suggested that it seems to be beneficial for those who attend daily but not others. The S.E.O. stated that currently this was a pilot scheme and that further schemes would be examined.

A member requested a pontoon be placed in Bere Island. Ruth O'Brien stated that it was unclear as to who would be responsible for this and this would have to be clarified.

Members congratulated Cllr Collins on his role as County Mayor for 2022 / 2023.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAORILEACH _____ **DATE** _____