



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**held at Dunmanway Municipal Pool and MS Teams at 11.00am on 4<sup>th</sup>  
September 2023**

- Members Present:** Cllrs Paul Hayes, Deirdre Kelly, Joe Carroll,  
Caroline Cronin, Ross O'Connell, Patrick Gerard Murphy,  
Declan Hurley
- Member on MS Teams:** Cllrs Danny Collins, Karen Coakley
- In attendance:** Jacqueline Mansfield, M.D.O. W.C.M.D  
John Ahern S.E.E. Skibbereen  
Ruth O'Brien, S.E.E. Bantry  
Eimear O'Neill, Staff Officer W.C.M.D.  
Órla Chambers, Meeting Administrator W.C.M.D.  
Claire Levis, Meeting Administrator W.C.M.D.

Cllr. J. Carroll presided.

**Statutory Meeting**

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- (a) Minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023

*Proposed by Cllr. D Kelly*

*Seconded by Cllr. C Cronin*

**Resolved:**

"That the minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

- (b) Minutes (as circulated) of Special 'In Committee' meeting re: the Implementation of the Town Centre First Policy approach to Skibbereen & the Implementation of a pilot scheme to grant public concession at specific Council owned properties of 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023

*Proposed by Cllr. D Kelly*

*Seconded by Cllr. C Cronin*

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of “in committee” Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.”

- (c) Minutes (as circulated) of Special ‘In Committee’ meeting re: Bantry Culvert Upgrade of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023

***Proposed by Cllr. D Kelly***

***Seconded by Cllr. C Cronin***

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of “in committee” Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.”

**MATTERS ARISING**

No matters arising

**2. STATUTORY BUSINESS**

**Section 183 –Notices**

In accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

- (a) **Barnahulla, Drimoleague, Co. Cork**

**Situation:** Disposal of land at Barnahulla, Drimoleague

**Area:** c. 0.27 acres

**Acquired From:** In Cork County Council ownership since 1981

**Dispose To:** Peter Dunican

**Consideration:** €10,000.00

On the proposal of Cllr. Deirdre Kelly, seconded by Cllr. Declan Hurley, members approved the above disposal and recommended it to full plenary Council for consideration.

- (b) **Section 73 of the Roads Traffic Act 1993**

Extinguishment of right of way at Ardaturrish More, *Glengarriff*

On the proposal of Cllr. Caroline Cronin, seconded by Cllr. Ross O’Connell, members approved the above extinguishment of right of way.

### **3. NOTICES OF MOTION**

*Proposed by Cllr. Declan Hurley, seconded by Cllr. Caroline Cronin*

"That Cork County Council give an update on its plans to provide additional public car parking on Council owned lands at Castle Street in Dunmanway".

A member stated that the residents are very frustrated by this matter as their cars are constantly getting damaged. Cars are parking on footpaths in order to stop this from happening but this not a solution as it is illegal to park on a footpath. Off street parking for the residents is needed. This has been an issue for a long time now and the MD SEO was to update the members as they were told it is not a Roads issue.

The MDO responded that the Traffic Warden could monitor parking on footpaths, as parking on footpaths is not permitted. Members stated that the traffic warden should not be imposed on the residents.

A Member asked if the entrance at the access to the site, as a temporary measure, could be examined, there may be room for a dozen car spaces. The cost might not be excessive for just hardcore and lining it. MDO stated that there is no funding in place to facilitate development of the site at Castle Street. The member asked if his proposal could be considered and asked for a costing to be done.

The MDO responded that a costing for a temporary measure could be looked in to. Any proposal, be it temporary, must be for the benefit of the whole town.

*Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy joined the meeting*

*Proposed by Cllr. Ross O'Connell, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly*

"That this council would put in place adequate waste collection facilities and CCTV (along with signs stating 'No littering - CCTV in operation') at Ballyrisode Beach car park to prevent further rodent infestations, and subsequent closures, of the beach going forward".

*Report from Ruth O'Brien S.E.E.*

The recent rodent issue at Ballyrisode may have arisen from several contributing factors, not particularly from general waste and while the issue seems to be currently resolved, we are continuing to monitor the situation. We would not recommend installing bins at a remote location such as Ballyrisode, as they inevitably attract domestic rubbish. We will look at the signage there to see if it can be improved.

A member queried why West is the only area without bins, East & South have them at their larger busy beaches, and it should be the same across the County. Bin design has changed in

recent years so the issue of domestic waste being disposed of in the bins should not be a factor now. Council staff could do litter collection as part of their role. There is a change in legislation also recently as regards CCTV ie; the installation of CCTV without GDPR issues, so the area could be monitored. Members stated there should be personal responsibility too, and the use of CCTV can be complicated.

Ruth O'Brien, S.E.E. stated that there have been no issues with domestic rubbish being dumped at Ballyrisode to date, and that she would have concerns regarding locating bins there, as Ballyrisode is secluded and it could lead to domestic waste being dumped. She reiterated that it appears that the rodent issue had arisen from several contributing factors, not particularly from general waste. There is a straightforward solution to one of the possible contributing factors, that is being looked in to. One of the Members asked if they could be notified when the solution has been found. The MDO stated that Cork County Council are following 'An Taisce's campaign of 'Pack it in' 'Pack it out', and in reply to Council staff carrying out refuse collections at beaches, monies and resources are not available to carry out these duties at the many smaller beaches and the funding would have to be reallocated from another existing source.

#### **4. REPORTS & CORRESPONDANCE.**

##### **MDO report.**

The MDO briefed members on the 2023 Community Recognition Fund including the amounts approved for the various groups which amounts to €535,000.00 for the West Cork area. The Members stated that this is very welcome news for Community groups.

A Member asked when the draw down for the funds is, and the 60% that needs to be spent by 6<sup>th</sup> October this year, is that per project or county-wide spend. The MDO responded that the final draw down will be October 2024, and the 60% interim deadline spend is County-wide. A Member asked if Cork County Council will meet this 60% deadline, and if not can Cork County Council apply for leeway. The MDO responded that it is possible, as a number of the projects proposals are purchase of items, vehicles, small projects, though she is not aware of the status of the projects in other MDs, just West Cork MD projects.

A Member queried what the situation is with Chateaulin Orchards CRF project. The MDO responded that quotes for a tree survey is being sought to ascertain the health of the existing trees, and quotations for re-building the stone wall, these works are required first before any landscaping can be carried out. The Member queried if Tidy Towns could be given an update on their project. The MDO agreed to provide Clonakilty Tidy Towns with an update regarding the Community Recognition Fund West Cork MD project at Chateaulin Orchards Town Park.

The MDO provided details of the 2023-2024 Hedge Cutting Scheme. Cork County Council is in a position this year to fund a minimum of 92% towards hedge cutting applications. A member asked if there were less applicants applied this year compared to last year. The MDO stated that the numbers may be lower, but one of the reasons for this, is in 2022, some applicants

applied as a group and individually, once this came to light, it was rectified, and the true grant amount sought in 2022 was closer to the 2023 figures.

The MDO updated Members on the Public Concession for Trading on Cork County Council Lands, Pilot Scheme 2023. Five traders were deemed eligible for scheme, which was advertised recently - 4 no. traders to trade at Dromderrig, Kinsale and 1 no. trader at Timoleague. The Pilot will run until 30th September. A Member queried that information regarding the Scheme was to be circulated, and had not received it, but it was clarified that the information was circulated as requested. The Member requested that should the scheme go ahead in 2024, he would like the scheme process discussed in advance of the next summer season.

The MDO provided details of the ORIS Blue Pool, Glengarriff project, funded by DRCD and Cork County Council. The project involved the upgrading of approximately 1600m of existing walking tracks within the Blue Pool area in Glengarriff, West Cork, to make the pathways as accessible as possible for those less able. The project also included the installation of new seating and viewing areas. The Members commended the MD staff involved in this project.

The MDO provided an update regarding Derelict Sites, informing the members that correspondence has been made with 10 no. property owners ie; 3 no. Clonakilty, 2. no. Dunmanway, 3 no. Skibbereen and 2 no. Castletownbere. Some progress has been made to date; one property has been repainted/repared and is no longer considered potentially derelict; another owner is liaising with Cork County Council's Mallow office regarding the Repair & Lease Scheme, and hopes of avail of this scheme; one property is currently for sale, another owner carried out some minor works after consultation, but further works is needed.

When asked if there is a process in place to establish if a site is derelict, the MDO stated that yes there is. This is an informal approach to begin with, establishing ownerships, inspections of sites/properties, making contact with owners outlining works to be done. If no progress, this is followed by issue of Notices. If still no progress, the next step is to place derelict sites/properties on a Derelict site register, where a derelict sites levy would be implemented, until such time as works are carried out. A Member asked if the Members could get a list of the properties and names of the owners. The MDO stated that under data protection one could not release personal details.

The MDO informed the Members that Barleycove Pontoon will be taken back into storage on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September, as the bathing season comes to a close.

The MDO proceeded to read a response from Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the N71 speed limit. West Cork MD had written to Transport Infrastructure Ireland in July, advising TII that West Cork MD Members wished to appeal the TII's decision to increase the speed limit from 60kph to 80kph for a short section of the N-71 between Ouvane Falls and Cronin's Service Station/Eagle Point Campsite, and requested the speed limit be reduced back to 60kph. Transport Infrastructure Ireland, in its response, advised Cork County Council that

– “ *there are no plans to revisit the speed limit review process in the near future, but Cork County Council may wish to keep the area under review and assess it again in due course.*”

## **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Members asked that an update be given regarding Baltimore weighbridge.

A Member informed the meeting that the Beach wheelchair facility at Inchydoney is up and running.

An update regarding Clonakilty Fire Station was requested. The MDO stated that nothing further has been received to date. Members asked if an update could be given at the next Western Divisional Meeting. The MDO agreed to pass on the request.

When asked about the toilets at Long Strand the MDO stated that the matter is ongoing.

The Members asked if the one-way system in Clonakilty (up via McCurtain Street & down Patrick street) has been successful. John Ahern, S.E.E. informed the Members that it has been extended until the end of September to ascertain if it is working but the initial feedback is positive from residents, Gardaí and so it may well be kept in place for the long term at the end of the extended trial period.

Union Hall-seaweed backing up in the dock/lagoon area-can it be cleared by opening the hatch to the lagoon. John Ahern, S.E.E. stated that there is a hatch closed there for a reason but he needs to look into its purpose and he will revert.

The Members asked if a report could be given at the Western Divisional meeting as regards Clonakilty bay sewage issue. The MDO responded that the Environment Dept. are aware of the issue and are currently looking in to it. Members asked if it could be reported on at the next Divisional meeting. The MDO said, investigations are still ongoing to determine the cause.

The Members wished to thank John Ahern and his team for their work in Dunmanway town and that this will hopefully put an end to flooding on Chapel Street which will give peace of mind to the residents there.

The members queried the T.I.I.'s directive to install two metre-wide footpaths, and that it is not feasible everywhere as the roads themselves are not wide enough to allow cars to pass each other, for example in Dunmanway. John Ahern stated that two metre-wide footpaths are installed everywhere possible and feasible to fit between the building lines. Widening the footpaths also has a traffic calming effect as it narrows the carriageway, thereby having a benefit of reducing the speed of traffic in urban streets.

A Member queried the level of the footpath at Galvin's garage, Dunmanway, that it had not been risen so there is a difference in levels, therefore a wheelchair user could have difficulty.

John Ahern, S.E.E. stated that the contractors returned and carried out works there and this was one of the items on the snag list.

A Member queried if bollards could be placed in Enniskeane village as people are parking on the footpath and a wheelchair/mobility scooter user cannot pass on the footpath

A Member remarked that the road by the piggery in Dunmanway is in very bad condition.

There was a query regarding pedestrian access at Sackville street, Dunmanway and John Ahern, S.E.E. said that this proposal is on a list for funding for design of junction.

Members queried what the situation is, as regards the toilets in Ballineen, that the matter needs to be progressed. The MDO was asked that an update be provided for the next meeting.

A Member identified that the lighting on the pier in Cape Clear is flickering and asked if it is due to be replaced and if so, will it be the most up to date energy efficient lighting that will be used. Ruth O'Brien responded that a contractor is in the process of examining them and yes it will be the most up to date energy efficient lighting that is used where replacements are needed.

A Member stated that the footpaths in Schull were supposed to be done last year and they were not and they were told they would be done this year. Is there any update on when this will be carried out. Ruth O'Brien, S.E.E. responded that she would check regarding this and would come back.

- Clean up of public car park including cutting back adjacent overgrown trees
- Line marking in car park
- New push lawnmower and strimmer
- Small shed for storage
- Small concrete pad for wheelie bin storage for street cleaning
- Road markings for the school warning (now complete)
- Landscaping green area with low maintenance planting
- Minor repair works to surface of playground

The area of ground to the rear of Pairc Naomh Eoin Council Housing Estate in Goleen is overgrown. Ruth O' Brien confirmed that she would contact the Housing Department in relation to same.

A Member raised the question regarding the Cork to Skibbereen road surface being very rough and if something can be done to it. John Aherne, S.E.E. responded that the situation with the proposed Culvert is live at the moment. An application for funding to TII has also been made to repair the surface in the meantime.

Ballylickey walkway, half of it maintained by the Ballylickey group and it is cut back but the other half needs to be cut back. Ruth O'Brien, S.E.E. responded that this is the landowners responsibility and now that it can be cut back contact will be made with the landowners.

A Member asked if the shortfall monies for the Christmas lights in Clonakilty, full €10,000 will be available for the lights. The MDO advised that, arising from the 2022 claims received to date, €3000 was identified as available to be reallocated, and that there are a few claims yet to be received, and MD would have a better picture as to whether any further unspent funding from 2022 Amenity Grants will come available to make up the shortfall. The MDO asked if all Members were in agreement, that these un-spent Amenity Grant 2022 monies can be reallocated for this purpose, as this was not agreed at any previous meeting, and all the Members agreed.

A Member stated that the road to Inchigeelagh, off the Bantry line is overgrown and landowners in the area should be contacted to cut the hedging.

A Member queried if the site in Castle Street could be funded through the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. The MDO advised that the scheme does not say either way whether providing carparking is eligible or ineligible, and if it were, it would likely to be low down the priority list for approval by DRCD for grant assistance, as it is a project that could be deemed as something that could be done by a local authority as part of their normal works. Also, the Department grants are generally for projects that are permanent in nature, are of a large scale, detailed, permissions in place etc., and require a lot of preparatory work in advance of applying for a large grant. The timeframe to apply for the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2023 is too short a turn around for such a project.

The MDO informed the Members that works at the VEC site Dunmanway is well underway.

John Aherne, S.E.E. stated that funding was found to install a path in Skibbereen from Gortnaclohy to the existing path linking the secondary school down to the primary schools, and the Members stated that this is a welcome addition.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**CATHAOIRLEACH** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_