

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT COBH HERITAGE CENTRE, COBH ON MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER, 2020.

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

Officials: Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer,
Mr. G. O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

Apologies: An apology for their inability to attend was received from both Cllr. S. O'Connor and Mr. S. O'Callaghan

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Deimhniú Miontuairiscí:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 8th September 2020 were adopted subject to the following amendments:

10.1 Cllr. S. O'Connor wanted to record his thanks to Mr. Colman Rasmussen for the clean-up at the new cemetery, Cobh.

10.12 Cllr. C. Rasmussen thanked the Council on behalf of St. Josephs School for the works done to provide the 2nd entrance to facilitate social distancing.

2.0 Matters Arising:

Norwood Hill, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that a Driver Feed Back Sign would be installed at this location during early 2021.

Cobh Footpaths:

G. O'Hora stated that CCC crews were presently working through the approved list of footpath repairs.

Footpath at Aldi, Carrigtwohill:

G. O'Hora stated that he was awaiting permission from Aldi in relation to the final section of footpath, also he continued to liaise with the developer and the insurance section of Cork County Council and would have a report for next month's meeting.

Speeding at Ahern Place, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that he proposed to construct two build outs on Ahern Place, before the entrance to St. Colman's Square to slow traffic and also to install additional signage.

Verges at Cuskinny & Ballymore, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that agreed verge cutting works would continue to be carried out over the next number of weeks.

Toilets at Five Foot Way, Cobh:

P. Lynch stated that he had met the quantity surveyor working on the detailed design for the project and further meetings were scheduled.

Barrier for the back road by the Anchorage, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that having examined the area, he proposed to extend the footpath from the swimming pool entrance to connect with the footpath across from College Manor, however a railing would not be installed. Cllr. Rasmussen spoke on behalf of Cllr. O’Connor who had first raised the issue and welcomed the installation of a new footpath. However, he pointed out that this was not the area about which Cllr. O’Connor had concerns, rather it was on the opposite side of the road, where the existing footpath outside of College Manor was not wide enough for the number of school children using it. Cllr. O’Connor had pointed out that the footpath followed a bend in the road and posed a hazard to the children using it. G. O’Hora agreed to discuss matter with Cllr. O’Connor and re-examine the location.

R639 – Glanmire

G. O’Hora confirmed that areas of knotweed along the R639 had been listed for treatment and that if the members were aware of any other locations where knotweed was a problem on public sites to contact him.

Dangerous Structure at East Beach, Cobh:

P. Lynch informed the members that the owner of the building had indicated that stabilisation works would be carried out and that he would follow up to ascertain a start date. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that he was worried that in the absence of a definite start date and timeline that the building would be stabilised and left indefinitely in this state, while the road works would be unable to be completed or implemented in full also.

Tay Road, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that he would examine possible traffic calming scheme for the road and request funding for scheme under a Low-Cost Safety Scheme in 2021

Glounthaune School:

G. O’Hora stated that he was presently examining upgrading the existing uncontrolled pedestrian crossing outside Glounthaune NS to a zebra crossing.

Cuskinny Hill, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the provision of additional signage had been listed for this location.

College Manor, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the manhole covers were the property of Irish Water, who had been advised of same.

Bog Road:

G. O'Hora confirmed that additional signage for this location had been approved and would be erected shortly.

Barryscourt, Carrigtwohill:

G. O'Hora stated that an uncontrolled crossing was in place, a complete junction upgrade was being examined, subject to funding.

Watergrasshill:

G. O'Hora stated that having examined the area he was satisfied that the location of the disabled space was adequate and did not propose moving it as there was an additional disabled space located near the Centra shop. However Cllr. O'Callaghan pointed out that the space under discussion had been provided at the request of a resident of that area who had subsequently died, the space would be of more use to the village as a whole if it were closer to the post office. G. O'Hora agreed to re-examine the issue.

Ballyadam:

G. O'Hora confirmed that verge cutting works and additional signage had been listed for the Ballyadam area.

Carrigtwohill:

G. O'Hora stated that the road lining at the junction of Church Road and Main Street had been included in the present programme of works.

Ballymore Cemetery, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that no staff were available at present to carry out further works and that a cut had been carried out earlier in the year and usually such works were only carried out once a year. He queried whether it was possible that members of the local community would be in a position to cut the grass. Cllr. C. Rasmussen agreed to consult with local residents and revert.

Wharton's Corner, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that road drains at Wharton's corner had been cleaned out.

Connolly Street, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the boat had now been removed.

Ahern's Place, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that the road had been repaired near the traffic lights.

Leonard's Lodge, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the hedge had been listed for cutting and would be cut shortly.

Assumption Place, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the drain at Assumption Place had been listed for repair and works would be carried out shortly.

Rushbrooke:

G. O’Hora stated that the bin outside Ellen’s Kitchen cafe was of the old concrete type which he proposed to replace with a newer black bin with a lid.

Trees, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the trees around Cobh Ramblers pitch were listed for cuttings.

3. Correspondence:

P. Lynch stated that no response had been received from the Municipality of Kolbuszowa to the letter sent from the Members and a follow up email. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that given that no response had been received to the concerns raised by the members and that it was obvious that the values and sentiments held by the people of Cobh and Ireland differed so strongly from those expressed by the people of Kolbuszowa, that it was perhaps time to re-evaluate the future relationship between the two towns. Cllr. A. O’Connor stated that the correspondence had been in the nature of a fact finding mission, which had not succeeded. It was agreed by the members that P. Lynch would investigate the process to cancel the twinning process and would revert for the next meeting.

4. Officers’ Reports:

G. O’Hora updated the members on the progress of several current Section 38 processes.

Proposed traffic calming works at main street Carrigtwohill, Bishops Steet, Westbourne place and Midleton street in Cobh was advertised in the Irish Examiner on the 11th September 2020. Final date for public submissions, 16th October 2020.

Section 38 process for proposed traffic calming works at Cannon O’Leary Place, Cobh and Whitechurch Pedestrian Crossing is complete. Construction work for schemes scheduled to commence late October 2020.

5. Municipal District Officers’ Report:

P. Lynch presented the Municipal District Officers Report for October.

General Municipal Allocation:

The members agreed to meet in Committee on 20th October to discuss the applications received for the unallocated funding. Details of the applications to be circulated by P. Lynch.

Village Enhancement Scheme:

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that Cork County Council will partner with the Watergrasshill Community Council to progress projects funded under the Village Enhancement Scheme.

Derelict Sites:

P. Lynch presented the members with a list of properties being considered for the Derelict Sites Register as well as a list of properties where a notice had been served.

Cllr. A. O'Connor raised the condition of a house in Carrigtwohill. P. Lynch clarified that as the property had collapsed internally this building was no longer considered dangerous and had not yet been placed on the Derelict Sites register as the owners were in discussions with Cork County Council. Cllr. C. Rasmussen also raised queries in relation to a site at Carrigaloe. P. Lynch replied that the owners of that site were also in discussions with Cork County Council regarding the future of the site.

6. Project ACT – Overview & Key Achievements:

The members noted the contents of the report. Cllr. A. Barry stated that the cones which had been installed in Carrigtwohill were no longer serving a purpose and should be removed, the flower boxes should also be pushed back. The bollards have worked out well and more should be installed outside the Community Centre.

7. Disposal of Property:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to dispose of land at Bishop Roche Park, Carrignafof, Cobh, to Donal Clifford, The Lodge, Bishop Roche Park, Cobh for the consideration of €1.00.

8. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:

“That this council would confirm that repairs needed to the footpath at the Five Foot Way as a result of the works carried out by Irish Water will be scheduled and a date given when these repairs will take place and that sections of road in areas where repairs have taken place by Irish Water but need additional work by council will also be scheduled by the council for repair.”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he had raised several areas of concern with the engineers, he felt that the repair works carried out by Irish Water were very poor and it took too long to carry out. The roadway on Spy Hill and near the Hardware House where the new road surface joined the existing was in very bad condition. Cllr. A. Barry stated that the road repairs carried out after a watermain had burst were very poor and that Irish Water must be held to account for shoddy workmanship. R O'Sullivan confirmed that stated issues with footpaths and members concerns had being brought to the attention of the resident engineering staff, the contractor and Irish water.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that the engineers would liaise with Irish Water to ensure that all repairs were carried out to national standards and in a timely manner.

9. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:

“That this council will provide an updated list of vacant and dangerous houses and sites in the Municipal District and would provide an update on their status”

As the information requested had been provided in the Municipal District Officer's Report, it was agreed not to proceed with this Motion

- 10. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**
“That this council would issue the report on the Battery Strand and that possible alternative funding be looked for to repair this amenity”

P. Lynch reminded the members that the estimated cost of the report was in the region of €60,000 and that €15,000 had been allocated by the members from the TDF. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the Cork County Council appeared to be putting the onus on the Municipal District to fund the works, when it was obvious that the Municipal District was not in a position to pay for same. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that given the current situation any amenity such as the Battery Strand should be at the forefront of priorities.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that P. Lynch would write to Coastal Management seeking the balance of the funding required for the report.

- 11. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:**
“That this municipal council would look at installing a crossing in the village of Carraig Na Bhfear to allow the children a safe crossing on route to and from school”

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that she had met with parents on the board of management for Carrig Na Bhfear National School in relation to the above. There was no safe place within the village for children to cross the road. G O’Hora pointed out there already was a pedestrian crossing on the main road outside Carrignavar NS and confirmed CCC were presently constructing new footpaths on main street to further improve pedestrian safety.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that that engineer would investigate traffic calming measures for this location.

- 12. Any Other Business**

Cllr. A. Barry:

- 12.1 Speed Review:**

Cllr. Barry enquired when the Speed Review would be undertaken. G. O’Hora replied that although the review would not be undertaken until 2021, members could submit proposals now.

- 12.2 Little Island:**

Cllr. Barry wanted an update on the site in Little Island selling cars. Engineer to revert.

- 12.2 Road Lining:**

Road lining was required between Cork Golf Club and Cork Plastics at Little Island. Engineer confirmed road lining would be carried out shortly.

12.3 Johnstown Close:

Pothole at Johnstown Close, Little Island. Engineer confirmed potholes are listed for repair.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

12.3 Potholes:

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to when the hot patcher would be in Cobh? G. O’Hora replied that he was working through a list of road repairs and “Hot Box” would be in Cobh in early October.

12.4 Hartlands Point, Cobh:

The residents of Hartlands Point were looking for a second cut of the grass on the green area. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan:

12.5 Whitechurch:

The verges on the Old Mallow Road need to be trimmed back. Engineer to examine.

12.6 Kilcronan Lane:

Verges very overgrown. Engineer confirmed he had only limited funding for verge cutting but would examine location.

12.7 R639:

Verges along the old Cork/Dublin Road need to be cut. G. O’Hora replied that there was very limited funding for verge cutting, which he reserved for junctions; however the engineer would investigate.

12.8 Little Island:

Residents of Little Island wanted an extra bin near the Centra shop, the shopkeeper had agreed to maintain same. Engineer confirmed he would supply the bin and as per agreement with the community the shopkeeper would look after and empty the bin.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathoirleach

Municipal District Officer.