

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD VIA MS TEAMS ON MONDAY 6th DECEMBER 2021.

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

Officials: Mr. S. O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer
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

1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of MD Budget & Monthly Meeting held on 1st November 2021.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 1st November 2021, were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising

Norwood School:

G. O'Hora stated the amended drawings were awaiting the approval of the Green School Co-Ordinator, he hoped that the Section 38 would proceed early in the New Year.

Ballinaltig Cemetery:

G. O'Hora stated that a full repair had been undertaken on the wall and the works were now completed. Cllr. S. O'Callaghan stated that she was very pleased with the works carried out at the cemetery.

College Manor:

G. O'Hora stated that the works were now complete.

Carrigtwohill Community College:

G. O'Hora stated that extra signage would be erected soon.

Barryscourt:

G. O'Hora stated that no response had been received from TII and as a result the Councils' own contractor would now carry out the works as soon as the weather permitted.

Ballymore:

G. O'Hora stated that the inclement weather had further delayed the works, these would be carried out as soon as practicable.

Elmwood Grove:

G. O'Hora replied that works were now complete.

Cobh MD R.I. Roads Programme:

G. O’Hora stated that the RI programmes had been emailed to the members as requested last week.

America’s Cup:

P. Lynch stated that the matter was on the agenda for Full Council for next Monday.

Watergrasshill Lights:

G. O’Hora stated that the installation of the lights had commenced and the lights should be switched on in the next few weeks, a new driver feedback digital sign had also been installed at the road junction and the Gardai were actively monitoring the junction to encourage a reduction in speed.

Old Cork/Dublin Road and Mallow Road:

G. O’Hora stated that letters had been sent to the landowners to request that they cut the hedgerows on their lands.

Retrospective Permeability in Housing Estates:

P. Lynch stated that this matter had been referred to the Planning SPC and discussed with the Director of Services, as a result it was determined that the matter was best dealt with by the Roads SPC. Cllr. A. O’Connor indicated that he was happy to have the matter referred to the Roads SPC.

Ballywilliam:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the sign had been acquired and would be put up soon.

Watergrasshill:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the had been in discussion with the Traffic and Transportation Section and that the works were scheduled for mid-2022.

Carrigane Road:

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

Riverside Rise, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the potholes had been repaired and the sign acquired.

Ballynoe Hill, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the hedge had been cut.

Town Centre, Cobh:

R. O’Sullivan had completed a walk through with the Irish Water engineer and had pointed out the repairs to be carried out.

Belmont, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the green area had already been cut once in 2021 and would be done again in the New Year.

High Road, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the hedgerows had already been cut back but would be done again shortly.

College Manor:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen expressed his thanks for the works carried out at College Manor

Ballywilliam:

Cllr. S. O'Connor enquired as to the progress regarding the ESB pole at Ballywilliam, G. O'Hora replied that he was in discussions with the ESB regarding same.

Aherns Place:

Cllr. S. Sheppard also expressed her thanks for the works at College Manor. She stated that she now had a letter from the residents of Aherns Place in respect of the tree that had been considered previously for cutting; G. O'Hora agreed to review the matter. Cllr. Sheppard asked if the re lining of the stop sign on the road at the Ballyleary side of the roundabout had been carried out as agreed. G. O'Hora to pursue.

3.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence

P. Lynch stated that no correspondence had been received.

4.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigh / Officer's Reports

G. O'Hora stated that he was in ongoing discussions with the Roads Design Office in relation to new bus stops at Belvelly, he wanted to consult with as wide a group as possible to ensure the safest outcome and hoped to have the report completed in the New Year. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated he was disappointed that the report had not yet been completed but understood that it was a complex issue.

G. O'Hora stated that the public consultation period for the Section 38 on Bishops Street was now complete and he would have a report for the February meeting.

5.0 Tuairisc ó Oifigeach Ceantair Bardasacha / Municipal District Officer's Report:

P. Lynch presented the Municipal District Officers report for December which detailed the updated amounts spent under the GMA and TDF.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Connor seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen it was agreed to allow Carrigtwohill G.A.A. use the Capital grant allocated in 2019 to carry out safety works to the entrance to the grounds instead of works to the main pitch.

P. Lynch stated that there was now an additional amount of 1,750.00 to be allocated under the GMA, as one group is unable to carry out their proposed project.

P. Lynch stated that an amount of €3,087.00 remained in the Town Development Fund, the litter warden was seeking funding of €1,237 for branded high vis jackets and other equipment for a project involving secondary school pupils. On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Callaghan seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen the funding request was agreed.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen proposed that the remaining funds of €3,600 be divided equally between Friends of Cobh Hospital, Carrigtwohill Community Centre, and Cobh Community Centre; the proposal was seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard.

Derelict Sites:

P. Lynch stated that several derelict site notices had been issued since the last meeting and 4 sites were to be removed from the list after the owners had carried out the requested works. He advised that the issue of Derelict sites would be included on the Agenda on a quarterly basis, starting from January 2022.

Parking Issues:

P. Lynch outlined the amounts allocated to date under the Pay Parking Dividend and reminded the members that as pay parking had been suspended for most of 2021, that the remainder of the allocation for this year would not be as much. Cllr. Rasmussen enquired as to whether any further progress had been made on a decision in relation to a new system for parking county wide. S. O'Callaghan replied that a decision was still awaited from County Hall. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that there was a growing reluctance among many of the Councillors to reintroduce pay parking throughout the County, Cllr. Sheppard stated that the longer the issue remained unresolved, the harder it would be to get the public to support the need for pay parking and pointed out that many local projects had been funded by the proceeds. P. Lynch stated that if alternative methods were introduced for paying for parking i.e. a phone app instead of machines, then the current dividend should be sufficient as there would be less need for physical infrastructure.

Parks Use Policy:

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to allow the Farmers Market to operate on Wednesday 22nd December, instead of Friday 24th December 2021.

Funfair Licence:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to issue a Funfair Licence to Ms. S. Piper for 11th and 12th December 2021.

Tidy Towns Awards 2021

P. Lynch presented the members with the results achieved by five communities throughout the Municipal District in the 2021 Tidy Towns Awards. Cobh was judged to be Ireland's Tidiest Large Town, only 2 marks behind the overall winner, which was a remarkable achievement. The works of the volunteers in the Tidy Towns organisation was commended by all present. Cllr. S. Sheppard expressed her thanks for the support given by G. O'Hora and R. O'Sullivan and all Council staff to the work of the Tidy Towns Committee.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme:

P. Lynch announced that a grant of €187,000.00 had been secured by Cork County Council under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and would be used to upgrade the existing walkway at Carrigrenan, Little Island, as well as installing additional signage and benches and upgrading the existing car parking facilities, works will commence in 2022. The members welcomed the news.

6.0 Report from Cobh Parking Committee

P. Lynch stated that the committee had recommended several 30 min parking zones in the Town Centre and he would circulate a map to all the members showing the proposed areas. There was still a legal process to go through, which would involve a public consultation process. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard it was agreed to commence a public consultation process with businesses in the town centre and Top of the Hill areas, with a view to having the issue on the agenda for the February meeting for a decision by the members.

7.0 To agree date for January 2022 Monthly Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to hold the January meeting on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

8.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion

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

That consideration would be given to introducing some form of traffic calming measures on the Newtown road to help control the high speed in this area and to ensure that residents can exit their homes safe from speeding cars.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the road was very busy and narrow, buses were also using the road, causing considerable concern to residents. G. O’Hora stated that the average speed on this road was 52km and that the cars parked on both sides were acting as a speed deterrent to slow traffic on the road.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed the engineer would erect additional signage and new road markings.

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

That consideration would be given to introducing some form of traffic control measures at the Cross River Ferry area on the Cobh side owing to the level of cars parking dangerously in this area.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the area in and around the car ferry was very dangerous for children who use the ferry to access schools on the other side of the river due to the number of cars parking in the area.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that the engineer would meet with Cllr. Rasmussen on site to discuss the provision of additional road safety signage.

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

That consideration would be given to replacing the old railings surrounding the old town hall on Lynch’s Quay as they look in very poor condition.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the railings were in very poor condition and a danger to the public. P. Lynch replied that as far as he was aware the Tidy Towns Committee was preparing to clean and repair the railings.

- 8.4 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:**
That Cork County Council identify an area around Harper's Island as a wildlife sanctuary and that this would cover an area from Slatty to Little Island.

Cllr. Barry stated that it had been brought to his attention that shooting on the foreshore adjacent to Harpers Island was causing problems for the birds in the sanctuary.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed to find out what powers the Council had in this regard. It was also agreed that P. Lynch would circulate a map showing suggested areas prior to writing to the relevant Minister.

- 8.5 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:**
That this Municipal District write to the housing Dept of Cork County Council requesting the streetlights in Cluain Cairn be fixed. Cork County Council own over fifty percent of the properties in the estate.

Cllr. Barry outlined the difficulties being experienced by the residents in the estate.

On the proposal of Cllr. Barry seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed that the engineer would follow up with the public lighting section.

9.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business

Cllr. A. O'Connor:

9.1 Carrigane Road:

Could another streetlight be put up on the Carrigane Road, between Rocklands and Cul Ard. G. O'Hora replied that if a site location map were provided, he would try to include it in the 2022 Public Lighting Programme.

Cllr. S. Sheppard:

9.2 Assumption Place:

Cllr. Sheppard stated she now had a letter from all the residents in relation to the tree. G. O'Hora stated that they had carried out some preliminary cutting and had now engaged a tree surgeon to carry out further pruning of the tree.

9.3 Sullivan's Place:

A resident had prevented Council staff from carrying out tree pruning works during the year; however several other residents now wish those works to proceed. Engineer to examine.

9.4 Cobh Hospital:

Works carried out by a resident to their private dwelling had damaged the footpath near Cobh Hospital, leading to a fall by a pedestrian. Engineer to examine.

9.5 Spar Shop:
Double yellow lines needed, engineer to examine.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

9.6 Roadside Verges:
Cllr. O'Callaghan enquired what was the Councils policy in relation to residents placing stones, rocks etc. on the roadside verges adjacent to houses in rural areas. G. O'Hora replied that the placement of material on the roadside is discouraged and in some cases the items removed, as these items are a danger to road users, particularly at night.

Cllr. A. Barry:

9.7 Carrigtwohill:
The footpath used by students accessing the school needs to be cleared as it is very muddy. Engineer to examine.

9.8 West End, Carrigtwohill:
Potholes at West End, Carrigtwohill and at Ballyregan. Engineer to pursue.

9.9 Election Posters:
The councillors agreed to put the issue of whether or not to allow election posters at the next election on the agenda for January.

Cllr. S. O'Connor:

9.10 Great Island:
The overgrowth was very extensive at the back of the Great Island. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

9.11 Top of the Hill:
Cllr. Rasmussen enquired whether the potholes at the Top of the Hill could be repaired before Christmas. The lights also need attention. G O' Hora confirmed road would be repaired before Christmas and lights examined.

9.12 Cuskinny:
The wall at Cuskinny car park was in need of repair. Engineer to examine.

9.13 Lake Road:
Road lining was needed on Lake Road and the back road at Carrignafoy. Engineer to examine.

9.14 Ballynoe:
Stop sign at Ballynoe needs to be re-painted and road lining is needed on the Tay Road. Engineer to examine.

9.15 Loading Bay:

The writing indicating the presence of a loading bay outside the Centra shop on West Beach is very small, causing considerable problems for motorists. Engineer to examine.

9.16 Tay Road:

Further traffic calming measures are needed for the Tay Road, speed is still a problem for the pedestrians and cyclists who use the road and the wildlife. Engineer to examine.

9.17 Cllr. Claire Cullinane, RIP:

Cllr. Rasmussen expressed his sympathies on the fifth anniversary of Cllr. Claire Cullinane's death, the members and staff concurred.

9.18 Storm Barra, Red Alert:

Cllr. A. Barry enquired as to what arrangements were in place to deal with emergencies during the approaching storm. P. Lynch advised that the Municipal District office would be closed on Tuesday as a result of the Red Weather alert and that all calls would be transferred to the Council's Emergency Number. Members asked that details of the number be circulated to them. G. O'Hora advised that sandbags were available to the public as high tides were forecasted and once the red weather warning was lifted CCC staff would remove fallen trees from roads and assist any areas flooded.

9.19 Christmas Wishes:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen wished the Elected Members and Staff a safe and Happy Christmas and thanked everyone for their hard work during the past year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHOIRLEACH

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER