

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD VIA MS TEAMS ON MONDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 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 Consideration of Draft Budgetary Plan for the Cobh Municipal District

P. Lynch presented the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2022 to the members for their consideration, he explained that all the increases proposed in 2022 were directly related to an increase in pay rates in October 2021 and that there had been no change to the non-pay budgets for most areas. P. Lynch proceeded to outline the various facilities and operations covered by each section.

Cllr. A. Barry sought further clarification in relation to the allocation for Haulbowline and queried whether it was sufficient. Cllr. C. Rasmussen also queried why the Cobh MD was providing the funds if the Carrigaline MD crews were carrying out the work. He wanted the island to be removed from the Cobh MD area. P. Lynch explained that Haulbowline had always been part of the Cobh area and boundary change would be needed to remove it, such a change was not possible before the next general election. Cllr. Barry sought clarification on the actual amount allocated to Haulbowline and asked if the work required costs was more than this, does the funding come from elsewhere. P. Lynch stated that any work done on Haulbowline had to stay within this budget. S. O'Callaghan clarified that in reality the budget was for the Carrigaline MD to spend, the inclusion of this amount in the Cobh MD for purely for accounting purposes for this year only.

Cllr. A. Barry took issue with the 50% reduction in the GMA and TDF, he stated that there had been an explicit agreement that these funds would not be reduced when the LPT had rate had been agreed, he would not be supporting the budget as outlined. Cllr. A. O'Connor also disagreed with the cuts to the GMA and TDF, he quoted the CEO as saying that in some areas not all the funds had been spent, this had not been the case in the Cobh area. Cllr. S. O'Callaghan stated that she did not agree with the reduction and requested given the extraordinary circumstances of the past 18 months, that additional time should be given to groups to organise events. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the councillors had fought hard for the establishment of the GMA and TDF and that these funds were the only ones they had control over and that next year more clubs and groups would be looking for funding as things returned to normal. He also stated that more work should be done in some of the graveyards owned by the Council and advocated rejecting the budget outright. Cllr. S. Sheppard also stated her objections to the proposed budget, she said that councillors could not do their job of supporting the

communities which elected them in the face of these cuts. Cllr. S. O'Connor stated he supported his fellow members and could not vote for this budget.

The members unanimously agreed to reject the budget.

2.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of MD Monthly Meeting held on 4th October 2021.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 4th October 2021, were adopted.

Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of MD Special Meeting held on 11th October 2021.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 11th October 2021, were adopted.

3.0 Matters Arising

National Development Plan:

P. Lynch confirmed that a letter had been sent to the department following the recent announcement of projects under the National Development Plan, to date no response had been received.

Norwood School:

G. O'Hora stated that a meeting with the Green School Co-ordinator and the Principle had taken place, as a result the scheme drawings required amendments, once this work had been completed a Section 38 would be required, which would be prepared by the end of 2021, he had also applied for funding for the traffic calming scheme.

Donegal Hill:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the works were now complete and the road relined.

Ballinaltig Cemetery:

G. O'Hora stated that he had submitted a funding request for this work and was awaiting a response.

Harbour Row:

G. O'Hora stated that a contractor had been appointed and the works should commence on the footpath in the next week or two. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that this area had badly flooded last week and asked what the long term plan was. R. O'Sullivan stated that this area did not normally flood and asked for the exact location, in the meantime he would examine the drains in the area.

College Manor:

G. O'Hora had visited the site with the contractor, however the weather was so bad that work couldn't commence. The road lining work has been prioritised for the next few weeks and is dependent on the weather.

Old Town Clock Tower:

P. Lynch had been in contact with the Port of Cork regarding the remedial works for the Old Town Clock and had obtained contact details for the engineer in charge of the works and left a message.

Glounthaune Walkway:

P. Lynch has been in contact with the Traffic & Transportation Section who advised that an application has been made to the ESB for a connection, which they are still waiting for. Cllr. Barry stated that the wait was disgraceful, the lights are in place, the walkway is busy and a great success, a strongly worded letter should be sent to the ESB in relation to the delay in activating the lights.

Carrigtwohill Community College:

G. O’Hora stated that the road outside the school was on the current speed limit review and additional road safety signage would be considered on the road. Cllr. A. Barry requested that this be enacted as soon as possible.

Carrigtwohill Gardai:

P. Lynch confirmed a letter had been sent to the Chief Superintendent, but no response had been received to date. Cllr. Rasmussen confirmed that the issue was on the agenda for the next Policing SPC meeting.

Carrigtwohill:

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

West End Carrigtwohill:

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

Barryscourt:

G. O’Hora confirmed that he had contacted TII again and was awaiting a response, if the works were not carried out by TII in the next few weeks, CCC would carry out the works.

Community Alert Signs:

R. O’Sullivan to meet with Cllr. Barry and representatives to decide on the final few locations.

Broadband:

P. Lynch confirmed that a letter had issued to NBI, but no response had been received to date.

Rushbrooke:

G. O’Hora stated that the overgrown hedges were the responsibility of the landowners.

Ard Cashel:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the additional Children at Play signs would be put up in the next 2 weeks.

Blossomgrove:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the signs had been put up. Cllr. S. O’Callaghan stated she was delighted with the works carried out.

Whitechurch:

G. O’Hora confirmed that letters had been sent to landowners in the area reminding them to cut their hedges.

Wharton’s Corner:

G. O’Hora confirmed that R O’Sullivan had met with Cllr. Rasmussen on site and Cllr. Rasmussen is to discuss the matter further with the residents and revert.

Glenmore Hill:

G. O’Hora stated that hedge cutting had taken place in the area and drainage works.

Irish Water works, Cobh:

Cllr. Rasmussen enquired if the road outside of Hardware House was to be repaired by Sorensens, R. O’Sullivan replied that the remaining works at this location would be undertaken by Cork County Council. R. O’Sullivan is also to meet with the Engineer for Irish Water and walk the centre of town with him, to point out what else needs to be done.

Ballymore:

Cllr. S. O’Connor enquired about road lining at Ballymore, G. O’Hora replied that the works were listed, but that the weather had proved too inclement for the work to proceed.

Elmwood Grove:

Cllr. S. O’Connor sought an update. G. O’Hora replied that the sign and the works on the footpath would be carried out in the next few weeks.

St. Josephs Cemetery, Little Island:

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan sought an update on the subsidence outside the graveyard, also that the street sweeper seemed to be causing problems with the drains in the area and stated that there was no road lining on Clash Road where it met the Eastgate business estate. G. O’Hora replied that he had examined the road outside the cemetery, remedial repair works would be required, and he had sought funding for same. G O’Hora further confirmed the road lining works at Clash Road had been listed with the contractor.

Whitechurch:

Cllr. A. Barry expressed his thanks for the road works carried out at Whitechurch.

Kelly’s Bar, Cobh:

Cllr. S. Sheppard asked that the engineers re-examine the area around the pedestrian crossing outside Kelly’s Bar as there is considerable flooding. Also she was in contact with Irish Water regarding the road at this location, they say that the works have been completed, but it is in terrible condition.

R. O’Sullivan replied that there was a pipe in this location, which he will get cleared, also the remaining potholes etc. in that area were the responsibility of Irish Water to repair.

4.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence

P. Lynch stated that three letters had been sent following last months meeting, no replies had been received.

5.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigh / Officer's Reports

5.1 Cobh MD R.I. Roads Programme:

G. O’Hora presented the RI programme for the 3 years 2022 – 2024. He stated that he had drawn up the programme on the assumption that the funding for each year would be similar to this year’s, there may be room for small adjustments depending on funding. Cllr. Barry enquired whether it would be possible to get a map with different colours for each year.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the programme was agreed.

5.2 Speed Limit Review:

G. O’Hora presented the Speed Limit Review to the members, he outlined each of requests received and the recommendations of the Road Directorate Engineers and the reasons for same. Several of the members sought clarification on roads which they felt should have been included in the review and weren’t. G. O’Hora stated that traffic calming measures were being considered for some areas instead of adjusting the speed limit. Several of the members expressed dissatisfaction with the procedure for changing/reviewing speed limits.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Connor seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the Speed Limit review was adopted.

5.3 Paint Scheme:

P. Lynch circulated a report in relation to the Paint scheme which had first been introduced in 2016 and had been very successful. The report outlines the areas, primarily in Cobh town centre, that had benefited from the Scheme over the 6 years that it had been running He said that the introduction of a paint scheme for 2022 would depend on the funding available.

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

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

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. A. O’Connor it was agreed to grant an extension of time to 2022 to Rockmount AFC, in respect of a Capital grant they had received in 2020, due to the Covid restrictions they have been unable to complete the project within the original timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. O’Connor, it was agreed to allocate an additional €2,000 to Glitz Cabaret for their fundraiser in aid of Cobh Hospital.

P. Lynch stated that he had been in contact with the Archaeology department in relation to the suitability of the proposal by the Cork Branch of the Royal Naval Association. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor it was agreed to allocate €1,600.00 to the project.

P. Lynch confirmed that there was a balance of €3,000.00 to be discussed at the next meeting.

Derelict Sites:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen queried what was happening in respect of 23/24 West Beach. P. Lynch stated that there were ongoing discussions in resolving these issues and solutions are being explored. Cllr. S. O'Connor welcomed the news and stated that it was very positive.

Cllr. A. Barry enquired as to the whether the derelict houses in Carrignavar can be connected to the wastewater system, given the constraints there, even if they are repaired. P. Lynch stated his understanding, from comments at previous meetings in relation to the review of the County Development Plan, was that the restrictions on dwellings in the area did not apply here, as the houses were already in existence.

Cllr. A. O'Connor sought an update on the Castle Lake apartment complex in Carrigtwohill. P. Lynch stated that ownership of the site had changed recently, R. O'Sullivan confirmed that extensive works were being carried out at the location.

S. O'Callaghan stated that Derelict Sites were going to be on the agenda from 2022 onwards on a more regular basis. He confirmed that there was still some work to do on the spending code for the Public Realm and stated that funding request would be submitted in Q1 of 2022.

7.0 Disposal of Property

P. Lynch stated that he had been in contact with the Property Section and that the lands to be disposed of at Bishop Roche Park had no development potential.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Connor seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to dispose of the lands at Bishop Roche part to Maire Ireland for the consideration of €1.00

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, it was agreed to dispose of the lands at Bishop Roche Park to Donal & Joyce Clifford for the consideration €1.00.

8.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion

- 8.1 **To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:**
That this Council write to Minister Catherine Martin requesting that every effort be made to secure the America's Cup for Cork harbour in 2024.

Cllr. Barry stressed that the benefits of such a prestigious competition to the whole harbour area, any costs related to the provision of infrastructure for the project would be offset by the long term benefits to the people of Cobh and the entire harbour.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, it was agreed to amend the motion and bring it to full Council.

8.2 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan:

That Cobh MD would ensure that proposed public lighting between the Village of Watergrasshill and the Condonstown Junction would be erected and connected as soon as possible.

G O'Hora confirmed CCC public lighting dept were progressing the installation of the new public lights between Watergrasshill village and the Condonstown Junction and Installation works would be commencing mid-November.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan stated that the lead time between poles being put up and lights working was not acceptable.

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

8.3 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan:

I would call on this Municipal District to notify land and property owners of their responsibility under the Roads Act 1993 to maintain roadside boundaries on old Cork/Dublin, and old Mallow Road.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan stated that landowners should be reminded of their responsibility to maintain the hedgerows adjoining their lands. G O'Hora advised that a large number of letters had been issued by the Council to landowners across the Municipal District to this effect.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Callaghan seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the motion was adopted

8.4 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Alan O'Connor:

That this municipal district would continually assess opportunities for retrospectively introducing permeability measures for cyclists and pedestrians to estates which have been taken in charge (e.g. through the creation of gaps in walls), and to follow through with works when possible, as time, staff, financial resources, etc., allow.

Cllr. A. O'Connor outlined his reasons for the motion, stating that pedestrians were creating their own shortcuts by climbing over walls etc, which was dangerous. It would be much better to have a formal policy/means of creating pedestrian/cyclist access as needed in existing estates.

Cllr. Barry while agreeing with the principal of urged caution, creating access routes would facilitate the law abiding citizen but could also create opportunities for anti-

social behaviour. Agreement would have to be reached with all the residents in the area. Cllr. Rasmussen also agreed with the thrust of the motion but cited previous instances where such access routes had been closed off, following significant anti-social behaviour problems. S. O’Callaghan stated that the councillors all raised valid points and that perhaps the matter should be considered at County level and that the Planning SPC was the appropriate forum to introduce a formal policy for the issues put forward by the motion.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O’Connor seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to amend the motion and present it to the Planning SPC for consideration.

- 8.5 **To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Alan O’Connor:**
That an assessment be made of measures which might be taken to slow traffic/increase road safety on the roads through Whitechurch village.

Cllr. A. O’Connor stated that cars picked up speed after the pub and requested signage etc. to calm or reduce speed. G. O’Hora stated that major traffic calming works had been carried out in the village over the last few years and suggested a traffic speed survey be carried out.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O’Connor seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to amend the motion and carry out a speed survey.

9.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business

Cllr. S. O’Connor:

9.1 Ballywilliam:

Stop sign at junction with graveyard needs to be renewed. G O’Hora confirmed works had been listed with a contractor.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan:

9.2 Watergrasshill:

Update on the bus shelters for Watergrasshill and a timeline. County bus shelter contract to commence January 2022. Watergrasshill bus shelters programmed to be installed mid-2022.

9.3 The Mews, Whitechurch:

Footpaths are in very bad condition. Engineer confirmed the estate has not been taken in charge by CCC. Condition of the footpaths in the estate is the developer’s responsibility.

Cllr. A. Barry:

9.4 Slatty Bridge Pumping Station:

Having examined the report on the pumping station, he is concerned at the cost, there is no detail of how many hours the pumps have been turned on. Engineer to examine.

9.5 Carrigane Road:

Flooding at the junction between the Carrigane Road and Main Street, Carrigtwohill very bad last week. Engineer confirmed drains on the road had being cleaned.

9.6 Roches Garage, Carrigtwohill:

Irish Water carried out works near the junction with Roches garage which is now causing flooding. Engineer to contact Irish water.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

9.7 Riverside Rise, Cobh:

A stop sign is required, the pole has been put up, but not the sign. Engineer confirmed sign would be erected shortly.

9.8 Ballynoe Hill, Cobh:

The stop sign is overgrown with vegetation, and the road lining has faded. Engineer confirmed vegetation around sign would be trimmed and road lining works carried out shortly.

9.9 Ahern Place:

Cllr. Rasmussen sought an update. The engineer to arrange a site meeting to discuss.

9.10 Town Centre, Cobh:

Concerned about the state of the roads. R. O'Sullivan to walk town centre with Irish Water engineer and list roads for repair.

9.11 Belmont, Cobh:

Grass area in the centre of the estate only cut once. The hedging in the alleyway is very overgrown. Cllr. Rasmussen to provide exact address, engineer will examine.

9.12 High Road, Cobh:

The hedges on the High Road, near Leonards Lodge, are very overgrown. Engineer to examine.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.