

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD VIA MS TEAMS ON MONDAY 4TH OCTOBER 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 Suspension of Standing Orders:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, it was agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the list of National Development Plan road projects announced by the government. Cllr. C. Rasmussen expressed his disappointment and frustration that the R624 was once again omitted and that there was no mention of when this project would be undertaken. The upgrade to the R624 had long been promised and was vital to the future economic growth of Cobh and the Great Island, given the numbers using the road on a daily basis. Following a brief discussion by the members, it was agreed that P. Lynch would write to the Minister for Transport, Eamonn Ryan, to express the members disappointment on the failure to include the upgrade to the R624 once again and to ask that this vital project be considered further by the Department..

2.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of MD Monthly Meeting held on 6th September 2021.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O'Connor seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 6th September, were adopted.

3.0 Matters Arising:

Ballymore Graveyard:

G. O'Hora stated that the grass had been cut and a maintenance programme had been drawn up, the grass was due to be cut again this week.

Norwood School:

G. O'Hora stated that a drawing had been prepared in relation to traffic calming works and the school and residents would be consulted shortly.

Donegal Hill

G. O'Hora stated that he had met residents on site and clearing works would be carried out on the corner, the works had now been listed.

Ballinaltig Cemetery:

G. O’Hora stated that a structural inspection had now been carried out, he was seeking funding for the repairs and a contractor would be appointed as soon as funding was secured.

Belmont, Cobh: G. O’Hora corrected last months’ minutes which stated works would be carried out in the next few weeks as part of the RI roads programme, the works will actually be considered as part of next years’ R.I. programme.

Valley Road, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that repairs have now been completed.

Carrigaloe

Irish Rail have completed the works.

Kilahoura Road

G. O’Hora stated that the works had been listed and will be carried out in the next few weeks.

Coomo East & West:

G. O’Hora stated that drainage works had been carried out on the road and the problem in this area was water running off private land onto the road.

Belvelly:

G. O’Hora stated that the road lining had been completed at this location, including a yellow box.

Pearse Place, Carrigtwohill:

G O’Hora confirmed a traffic survey was currently being conducted and he would have an update for next months’ meeting.

East Hill/Summerfield:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the overgrowth had been cut back.

Harbour Row:

G. O’Hora stated that the footpath had been examined and confirmed that there was substantial settlement, he was seeking funding for the repairs.

Pearse Square:

Manhole cover loose. Engineer referred matter to Irish water.

Glenmore Road:

G. O’Hora stated that the works had been completed and the potholes repaired.

College Manor:

G. O’Hora stated that a road lining contractor had been appointed and works were listed for this location.

West End, Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora confirmed the verges had been cut back near the G.A.A. field.

Bin:

G. O’Hora confirmed new bin put in place by the bus stop.

Cycle Path:

G. O’Hora had discussed the issue with the traffic and transportation section, who will examine the issue further.

Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora stated that the overgrowth had been cut back. Cllr. A. Barry stated that the laneway also needed to be looked at, there was history of problems in the area.

St. Josephs Cemetery, Little Island:

G. O’Hora stated that the subsidence would be dealt with under the 2022 R.I. programme.

Courtstown Road, Little Island:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the road verge had been cut back.

Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the matter had been referred to CCC’s traffic and transport Dept.

Hardware House/East + West Beach, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the repairs at this location were the responsibility of Irish Water and Sorensen’s.

Playground:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the gate had been repaired.

Dawn View, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that a new sign had been put up.

College Manor:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the overgrowth had been cut back.

Cúl Árd, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. O’Connor stated that the overgrowth on internal roads within the estate was interfering with the footpaths. G. O’Hora replied that resources did not allow for cutting back overgrowth within estates, that the residents associations usually undertook this work.

Elmwood Grove, Cobh:

Cllr. S. O’Connor enquired about the sign and footpaths for Elmwood Grove.

Ballymore:

Cllr. S. O'Connor also raised the issue of road lining at Ballymore. G. O'Hora confirmed that this had been listed.

4.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence

1. P. Lynch circulated the response from the NTA regarding the bus route to Whitechurch. Cllr. A. O'Connor noted the response.
2. P. Lynch stated that a report had been received in relation to the pumping station at Slatty Bridge. Cllr. Barry queried the annual running costs which P. Lynch were included in the report which he would circulate to the members after the meeting.

5.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigh / Officer's Reports

1. Section 38 Glounthaune:

G. O'Hora gave an update on the Section 38, informing the members that no submissions had been received following the public consultation period.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Callaghan seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed to proceed to the next stage.

2. Section 38 Bishop Street:

G. O'Hora stated that the scheme had been advertised last week and the public consultation process started.

3. Cemetery Capacity in Cobh:

P. Lynch stated that currently the Old Church Cemetery had approximately 120 plots for sale, the proposed Columbarium Wall would occupy between 20 and 30 plots. The it would no longer be possible to purchase graves in advance, in line with Cork County Council Cemetery Byelaws. Templerobin cemetery in Ballymore did not have any plots for sale and had not had for some time. St. Colman's cemetery, which is in the ownership of Cobh Parish, had approximately 50-60 unsold plots, but an additional 30-40 plots could be provided with some works.

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

P. Lynch circulated the Municipal District Officer's report to the members, he stated that the ORI grant for Spike Island Coastal Walkway had been extended to November.

It was agreed to hold a meeting to discuss the Cobh Public Realm Enhancement Plan on 11th October at 2.30 p.m. Cllr. A. Barry queried if this meeting would be last monthly meeting held remotely. P. Lynch replied that infrastructure is being installed across all the Municipal Districts to allow for blended meetings. Cllrs. C. Rasmussen

and S. O’Callaghan expressed their frustration at the continued restrictions on meeting in person.

7.0 To agree nominee for Board of Cobh (Great Island) Community Centre DAC.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Connor seconded by Cllr. A. O’Connor, Cllr. Rasmussen was nominated and agreed to take up the role.

8.0 To agree date for meeting to consider Draft Budgetary Plan for 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Connor seconded by Cllr. A. O’Connor, it was agreed the meeting would take place at 2.30 p.m. on 1st November.

9.0 Allocation of Balance of Community Fund Scheme

1. GMA Allocations:

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the following allocations were agreed in line with the recommendations of the Municipal District Officer.

Ballynoe Farm Cobh Residents Association	€400.00
Hillcrest Estate Watergrasshill Residents Association	€250.00
Woodlawn Estate Watergrasshill Residents Association	€250.00
Castle Manor Carrignavar Residents Association	€250.00
St. Colman's Square Cobh Residents Association	€250.00
Chapel Field Knockraha Residents Association	€150.00
Corryfield Glounthaune Residents Association	€150.00
Watergrasshill Communication Board	€800.00
Watergrasshill Grotto Committee	€200.00
Ard Aoibhinn Residents Association	€325.00
Carrignavar Community Council	€2,750.00
Whitechurch & Waterloo Community Association	€2,000.00

2. Town Development Fund Allocations:

There was considerable debate regarding the proposed allocations under the Town Development Fund. P. Lynch stated that a late application had been received from Glitz dance group who wished to hold a fundraiser for Cobh Hospital, additional funding was also requested by Cobh Summer Swing for a Christmas market and Cobh Chronicle for

an advert. Cobh Tourism suggested that it refund part of their grant to support the costs of painting West View, the cost of the paint was already being sponsored.

All of the members queried the appropriateness of painting privately owned houses under the Paint Scheme which had previously been restricted to commercial premises in the main part of the town. The members had been happy to alter the conditions of the Paint Scheme to assist Cobh Community Hospital to paint their premises but were reluctant to expand it to include private houses. The members also had issues with the suggestion from Cobh Tourism that they would hand back €5,000 of their grant to support the painting initiative. The members also felt that if Cobh Tourism did not have a specific project in mind for the money, then it should be returned to the Council and it would be up to members to re-allocate same.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Connor seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that the amounts outlined should be paid to Cobh Chronicle and Cobh Summer Swing, additional information was sought from Glitz to ascertain the costs involved in hosting the fundraiser and the proposal to contribute to the painting of West View was rejected.

10.0 Disposal of Property:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard it was agreed to the Disposal of lands at Bishop Roche Park, Carrignafof, Cobh, together with Right of Way as marked on accompanying map to John Griffin, for the consideration of €150,000.00.

11.0 Review of Cobh Municipal District Litter Management Plan

P. Lynch stated that the main changes in the Litter Plan related to the boundary changes, he then outlined the submissions received. It was proposed that the officials would meet twice a year and report back to the members on whether the various targets/actions in the litter plan were being met. Cllr. Rasmussen requested that the plan be sent to the people who had made submissions and stated that the work done by the outdoor staff in relation to litter was much appreciated. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that she agreed with some of the targets/actions in the plan, but disagreed with others, some areas are under resourced, however in the grand scheme of things, the Council was doing a good job. Cllr. Sheppard didn't agree with some of the submissions which advocated more bins, she said domestic rubbish was being dumped in a lot of the public bins. Cllr. A. O'Connor expressed his support for the views put forward.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the Litter Plan was adopted.

12.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion

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

That a full report is given on the plan for the remedial works on the building known as the old town hall clock tower from the Port of Cork and Cork County Council.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he was aware that a report into the condition of the building had been prepared and that he understood that this report included recommendations in relation to the works to be carried out to the property. He asked when the necessary works would happen and who would pay for it. It was agreed that P. Lynch would follow up with the property owners in this regard.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Sheppard

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

That works be done on repairing sections of the road from outside the Town Hall all the way along West Beach.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the road was particularly bad near Connie Doolan's.

R. O'Sullivan stated that the velocity patcher was due to come to Cobh shortly to carry out necessary works to the town centre. He also stated that he intended to examine the areas of the road where Irish Water had carried out works with the Irish Water contractor.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Sheppard.

3. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:

That this Council write to Airtricity and request that the lights on the new Glounthaune walkway be energised as soon as possible. This facility has been hugely popular and as the nights are drawing in there is a serious issue with the health and safety of both pedestrians, cyclists and indeed motorists.

Cllr. Barry stressed that the lack of lighting in the area raised considerable safety concerns.

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

4. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:

Carrigtwohill Community College currently operates from a temporary site at Tullegreine. It was never envisaged that it would be still in this location and will remain so until September 23 at the earliest. Due to the large number of students attending CCC, safety issues are arising on a daily basis. Can the council install some safety measures at this location.

Cllr. Barry again stressed the safety issues at this location. G O'Hora confirmed he will examine erecting additional road safety signs at the location.

On the proposal of Cllr. Barry seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed that the engineer would investigate the possibility of erecting temporary signage.

5. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:
That this Council write to the Chief Superintendent of Cork North Division requesting extra Gardaí for Carrigtwohill. Due to the rapid population growth of this town recently it is essential that Garda numbers keep pace with this development.

Cllr. Barry stated that Carrigtwohill was the fastest growing town in the country and needed to have extra resources allocated to it.

On the proposal of Cllr. Barry seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed that a letter would issue to the Chief Superintendent. It was also agreed that Cllr. Rasmussen would raise the issue at the next Policing Board meeting in Cllr. Barry's name.

13.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business

Cllr. S. O'Connor:

13.1 23/24 West Beach:

P. Lynch stated that an independent engineer's report had now been received in respect of the property and forwarded to both owners.

13.2 Ballywilliam:

The ditch had been removed and replaced with a concrete footpath, however there was now an ESB pole in the middle of the road. Engineer confirmed he will discuss with ESB networks and request pole be relocated to footpath verge.

Cllr. A. Barry:

13.3 Carrigtwohill:

The hedge near Annsgrrove needs to be cut back. Engineer to write to the IDA and request boundary hedges be cut.

13.4 West End, Carrigtwohill:

The drains at the West End are badly blocked. G O'Hora confirmed drains are listed to be cleaned.

13.5 Barryscourt:

The pedestrian crossing area at Barryscourt is still in need of signage. R. O'Sullivan to contact TII.

13.6 Community Alert Signs:

There are still several signs to be put up. R. O'Sullivan is to meet representatives to decide on the final locations.

13.7 Broadband:

There is no definite timeline for the roll out of broadband for Cobh. Could NBI be invited to the next meeting? P. Lynch to invite for November meeting.

Cllr. A. O'Connor:

13.8 Rushbrooke:

When is the speed assessment to take place? There are also issues on the main R624. R. O'Sullivan replied that the problems are caused by the sightlines of residents exiting their own driveways.

13.9 Battery Strand:

Could signs be put up explaining why the access has been shut off. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

13.10 Courtstown Road, Little Island:

Thanks for cutting grass at Courtstown.

13.11 Ard Cashel:

Additional Children at Play signs are needed for the estate where it opens onto O'Shea's Boreen. G O'Hora confirmed he would examine erecting new safety signs at location.

13.12 Blossomgrove:

Sign needed for Blossomgrove. G O'Hora confirmed he would examine erecting new safety signs at location.

13.13 Whitechurch:

Could letters be sent to landowners to cut back the hedges on the Old Mallow Road, leading to Whitechurch. Engineer to follow up.

13.14 Knockraha:

Could more lights be installed at Knockraha, between the Church and Goggins' Hill. Engineer to examine as part of his 2022 public lighting programme.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

13.15 Ballard:

Thanks for repairing the dip in the road.

13.16 Brookvale:

Problems at Brookvale. Engineer to follow up with Irish Water.

13.17 Whartons Corner:

Would it be possible to meet on site to discuss location of a pedestrian crossing. Engineer to follow up. Engineer and Councillor met on site and engineer confirmed he would examine a new pedestrian crossing at location.

13.18 Glenmore Hill:

The road surface leading to the beach is very bad. Engineer to examine and list for remedial repair.

13.19 Promenade:

Would it be possible to extend the Tea/Coffee Licence for the Promenade beyond one year? Current licence is an annual one, which is unfair to any trader who invests in the location. P. Lynch to investigate and revert.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.