

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH ON MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER, 2019.

Present: - Cllrs. P. O'Sullivan, A. Barry, C. Rasmussen, S. Sheppard, S. O'Connor & A. O'Connor.

Officials Present:

Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer
Mr. G. O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

An apology for their inability to attend was received from Mr. S. O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer and Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer

1. DEIMNHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ:

Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Monday 7th October, 2019
Confirmation of Minutes of Budget Meeting held on Monday 21st October, 2019

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the minutes of both meetings in October were adopted.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

Whitechurch: G. O'Hora stated that he had received the results of the traffic survey carried out on the L3002 road in Carrignavar village (Outside the Carrigwell housing estate) and the average vehicle speed on the road over a five day period was 45Km/hr. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that she had ongoing meetings with the residents in the area and that there were still issues with sightlines at the housing estate entrance and that community representatives stated speed was an issue in the area. G. O'Hora stated that the estate road entrance sightlines were affected by a private stone wall (house entrance) in the vicinity and that the entrance road stop line had been moved out as far as was possible to improve sight lines, he would continue to monitor the situation.

Ballymore/Marlogue Woods, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated he would install repeater speed limit signs in the area.

Highlands, Glounthaune: G. O'Hora stated some footpath repairs had been carried out in the area and more footpath remedial works in the estate would be included in next year's footpath programme.

Ballywilliam Road, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated he would arrange for the hedging to be cut back and try to include an extension to the footpath in next years' programme. However, as much of the land involved was in private hands, any extension would take time and would have to include a land search to establish ownership. Cllr. S. O'Connor

stated that he was in contact with the owners who had no objection to moving the ditch back.

Carrigtwohill: G. O’Hora stated that speed limit repeater signs would be erected in the area. Cllr. A. O’Connor requested that the area would be considered under the next speed review.

Air Quality Monitors: P. Lynch stated that he had responded to T. O’Leary and requested that the motion be included in the next SPC meeting agenda.

Cobh Connect Bus Stops: G. O’Hora stated that he had met the manager from the bus company and discussed current bus stop locations with him and on inspection the current bus stop location seemed the safest one for the alighting passengers. Cllrs. C. Rasmussen and S. Sheppard disputed this position and stated that in their opinion the passengers were endangered by the current location and that it was, together with the ongoing road works, contributing to traffic chaos in the Top of the Hill area and should be moved to the other side of the Park Road Centre entrance. G O’Hora agreed to further discuss the bus stop location at Park road with bus operators and highlight Councillors concerns.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he had been in contact with the landowners near the proposed bus stops for Carrigaloe, Belvelly and Fota, who were willing to meet with Council officials on site to discuss any required works. Cllr. S. Sheppard had spoken to staff at Cobh Connect who also wished to meet with the members.

Whitepoint: G. O’Hora stated that the footpath would be raised at this location.

College Manor, Cobh: G. O’Hora stated that a location would have to be agreed for the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing, there are currently 2 possible locations. One uncontrolled crossing could be included in next years’ programme.

Harper’s Island: It was agreed that the civic reception for Harpers Island would be linked to the official opening of the nature trail to take place in 2020.

Killavallig, Carrignavar: G. O’Hora stated that he had inspected the area but could not locate the road referred to by Cllr. P. O’Sullivan at the last meeting. Cllr. O’Sullivan to point out the exact location on the map.

Glounthaune/Caherlag: G. O’Hora stated that he had written to the owners involved regarding the hedges, the road verges had already been cut back by the Council.

Doctors Space, West Beach, Cobh: Cllr. S. O’Connor confirmed that he had spoken to the owner of the car park on West Beach, who agreed to provide an additional parking space for the Doctors on West Beach.

Thomas Kent Street, Cobh: Cllr. Sheppard enquired as to the progress of the installation of a yellow junction box at Thomas Kent Street, stating that she had spoken to all the residents in the area who were in favour of same being placed at a ‘pinch point’ on the street. Cllr. S. O’Connor stated that he had spoken to at least one resident who objected strongly to same. G. O’Hora stated that a road lining contractor had been appointed to line the yellow box.

3. **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the serving of a Notice on a Dangerous Structure at East Beach, Cobh.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that as a result of the notice served on the owners of the property at East Beach, the work on the Lower Harbour project had ceased for a time. He asked how long the owner had to respond to the issues raised in the notice, what is the plan to rectify the situation, why did it take so long to issue the notice, is there a plan to survey the other buildings in the area and is it the contractors' responsibility to carry out this work. P. Lynch responded by saying that it took time to ascertain who the owners were and that it took three attempts to service the notice, which was eventually affixed to the front of the property. There were no plans to carry out a survey of the rest of the buildings as the Council does not have the resources to do so. P. Lynch stated that the Council had the power to instruct the owner to carry out necessary works and if the owner refuses or fails to carry out the works to either carry out the works themselves and recover the costs or to seek to get a court order requiring the owner to carry out the works. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the future of the Lower Harbour Scheme was at risk, that there was only a certain window of time to carry out the work and that the contractors were now seeking to work over the Christmas period. P. Lynch stated that Irish Water would need to work with the business owners regarding continuing the works during December.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

P. Lynch stated that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting.

5. **OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

P. Lynch stated that it was proposed to suspend Pay Parking in Cobh from 1st to 31st December, as had happened in previous years, however illegal parking would still be monitored and fined.

6. **RURAL WATER COMMITTEE:**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, Cllr. Anthony Barry was nominated to Cork County Council's Rural Water Committee.

7. **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER'S REPORT:**

P. Lynch updated the members on the number of claims under the General Municipal Allocation, the Town Development Fund and the amount collected to date from the Camper Van facility. He stated that one application had been made by the municipal

district under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme in 2019 for a walkway at Carrigrenan, Little Island. Unfortunately this application was not successful. At the request of the members, P. Lynch to circulate the email outlining the refusal to all members.

- 8. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:**
“That Cobh Municipal Council would look at taking steps to have the town listed as an Autism friendly status town in Ireland.”

Cllr. S. Sheppard outlined some of the criteria that would need to be undertaken by the business community and others to be listed as Autism friendly, at the moment only Clonakilty had this designation in County Cork. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that P. Lynch would contact his counterpart in West Cork to find out what inputs the Council had in the process.

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

“That this Municipal District would outline the plan for the building of the outdoor toilet at the five foot way and that the design and timing of this structure would be agreed now that the drainage scheme has started in the town.”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he was reviving this project now in view of the fact that Irish Water were currently carrying out works in the town, it had been agreed at a previous meeting that the project would have to wait until the drainage scheme was in progress. P. Lynch stated that a basic design had been agreed but the exact location had yet to be decided.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry it was agreed that P. Lynch would contact the relevant departments to progress the project.

- 10. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**

“That we would look at possible solutions to the traffic delays at Harbour Row with consideration given to reducing the width of the foot path or making it a one way system.”

Cllr. C. Rasmussen expressed his annoyance at the traffic chaos in Harbour Row and queried why it was not possible to expedite works in the area to relieve the congestion by tying in with the current works being undertaken. In his opinion, the footpath needed to be reduced to improve traffic flow and it was pointless to wait until the current works were completed and then to dig up the road again for the proposed streetscape. G. O’Hora stated that a streetscape master plan for the entire town (from Harbour Row to Westbourne Place) needed to be drawn up and approved as works could not be undertaken in piecemeal. P. Lynch stated that it was only at the last Council meeting that it had been agreed to extend the streetscape works to Harbour Row in consideration of the overall streetscape and queried if Cllr. Rasmussen was now seeking something different. Cllr. Rasmussen responded by stating that the streetscape

would not be completed for another three years, but Harbour was due to be dug up shortly and could not preparatory work be carried out now as part of those works. P. Lynch stated that it was a matter of funding; it was not possible to carry out works at this juncture, to both the Town Centre and Harbour Row.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, it was agreed that P. Lynch would request that preliminary drawings for the streetscape would be presented at the earliest possible opportunity.

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

“That we would look at a possible pedestrian crossing in College Manor following requests from parents and residents owing to the heavy volume of traffic on this road which is now making the road very dangerous to cross.”

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that this motion had already been discussed.

12. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Padraig O'Sullivan:

“That this MD asks TII to clarify its position on the installation of noise mitigation measures for areas abutting national roads. In addition to this can the TII outline what studies it has undertaken to assess the impact of noise in the Dunkettle/Kilcoolishal/Little Island areas and clarify if there are plans to mitigate against the impacts of noise in these areas.”

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated it was very difficult to get sound barriers installed on roads adjacent to National Roads.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry it was agreed to amend the motion as follows: *“That this Council asks TII to clarify its position on the installation of noise mitigation measures for residential areas abutting national roads. In addition to this can the TII outline what studies it has undertaken to assess the impact of noise on residential areas abutting National Roads and clarify if there are plans to mitigate against the impacts of noise in these areas”*, and forward to full Council for consideration.

13. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Padraig O'Sullivan:

“That this MD would carry out remedial works in the Killavarrig and Sluggera areas of Whitechurch.”

G O'Hora confirmed road remedial works was scheduled to be carried out shortly.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed to adopt the motion.

14. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Pádraig O’Sullivan:

“Following on from a successful installation of gym equipment in Carrignavar village that this MD would continue its good work in the public park by upgrading/repainting old/obsolete playground equipment where appropriate.”

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that P. Lynch would contact the Amenity Engineer to assess the state of the equipment, identify a solution and cost same.

15. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sean O’Connor:

“That this MD would ask that prior to the next Municipal meeting that all providers of broadband in Cobh would be invited to address the MD members to discuss the ongoing difficulties of broadband in Cobh.”

Cllr. S. O’Connor presented a detailed assessment of the problems with broadband in the Cobh area.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Connor, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that Cllr. O’Connor would forward the information in his possession to P. Lynch, who would contact the companies involved.

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

“That this Municipal District writes to the TII regarding their plans for the upgrading of the Cobh interchange with the N25.”

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the current interchange was not fit for purpose and it was a hindrance to the development of both Carrigtwohill and Cobh.

On the proposal of Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. A. O’Connor, it was agreed that P. Lynch would write to TII.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS/AON GHNÓ EILE:

17.1 Carrignafoy, Cobh: Cllr. S. O’Connor raised the issue of additional signage at the roadway leading from the Water Tower to the Carrignafoy road. Engineer confirmed signage to be erected shortly.

17.2 Bellevue Terrace, Cobh: Cllr. S. O’Connor stated that additional signage or lines were needed at the start of Bellevue Terrace to deter parked cars from obstructing access. Engineer to examine.

17.3 Ticknock, Cobh: Cllr. S. Sheppard raised the issue of the work being done by the contractors on Ticknock, the road had been left in an appalling condition and the footpath had been damaged. G O’Hora confirmed water main/road reinstatement works was been carried out by Irish Water. He had

already contacted them regarding condition of the road and was due to meet with them on poor standard of road reinstatement works.

- 17.4 **Patricks' Day Festival, Cobh:** Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that a new committee had been set up to organise the St. Patricks Day parade for 2020, they hoped to expand the parade into a daylong festival to include market stalls and a marquee in the promenade, the group were seeking funding in the region of €5,000 to €7,000 from the Council for the year 1 set up costs. P. Lynch replied that he would examine the funding available and revert to the members at the next meeting.
- 17.5 **Ballydanielmore, Cobh:** Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the boreen at Ballydanielmore had been cleared during the summer, but that the road badly needs to be resurfaced. Engineer to examine.
- 17.6 **Carrigtwohill:** Cllr. A. Barry stated that more flooding had occurred in Carrigtwohill near the Aquagym. And further flooding had occurred near the Family Resource Centre and children had been marooned in the building. Engineer confirmed road drainage remedial works had been carried out by CCC since the flooding.
- 17.7 **Station Road, Carrigtwohill:** Cllr. A. Barry stated that the hedge on the left hand side of the road needs to be cut. Engineer to examine.
- 17.8 **Aldi, Carrigtwohill:** Cllr. Barry stated that planting in the car park at the front of the Aldi supermarket was obstructing sightlines. Engineer to examine.
- 17.9 **Coolgrene Road, Glanmire:** Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated that this road was badly in need of repair. Engineer confirmed road listed for remedial repair.
- 17.10 **Buck Learys Cross:** Cllr. P. O'Sullivan welcomed the granting of a Low Cost Accident Scheme for this location.
- 17.11 **Glounthaune Road:** Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated that this road was wider than it used to be following works and was now in need of road lining. Engineer to examine.
- 17.12 **Dark Road, Glanmire:** Cllr. P. O'Sullivan also sought lining for this road, however G. O'Hora confirmed road speed limit repeater signs would be erected along the road shortly.
- 17.13 **Brooklodge East, Glanmire:** Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated a drain or channel of some description was needed to deal with rainwater flowing down the hill. Engineer to examine.
- 17.14 **Watergrasshill National School:** Cllr. P. O'Sullivan stated that barriers were required to direct traffic to the left, towards the roundabout, when exiting the school. Engineer to examine.

- 17.15 **Little Island:** Cllr. P. O’Sullivan requested signage near the cemetery prohibiting HGV’s. Engineer confirmed signs would be erected shortly.
- 17.16 **Little Island:** Cllr. P. O’Sullivan requested double yellow lines near the shop. Engineer to examine.
- 17.17 **Castlevew, Little Island:** Cllr. P. O’Sullivan stated that there was a large depression in the road near Castlevew. Engineer confirmed road drains had already be cleaned and road depression repaired.
- 17.19 **Allotments, Cobh:** Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the roadway leading to the allotments was in very bad condition. Engineer confirmed road verge was listed for cleaning.

This concluded the business of the meeting.


CATHAOIRLEACH


MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER