

Comhairle Contae Chorcaí Cork County Council

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT of West Cork held on MS Teams on 4th January 2021

Members present: Cllrs. Karen Coakley, Ross O’Connell, Katie Murphy, Paul Hayes, P.G. Murphy, Declan Hurley, Deirdre Kelly, Joe Carroll

In attendance: John Ahern S.E.E.
Ruth O’Brien S.E.E.
Mac Dara O h-Ici, S.E.O. M.D.W.C.
Justin England M.D.O. M.D.W.C.
Mary T McCarthy S.O. M.D.W.C.
Martina O’Driscoll C.O.

Cllr. D. Collins presided.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

At the proposal of Cllr. P. Hayes, seconded by Cllr. K. Coakley, the minutes of the Municipal District of West Cork meeting held on 7th December 2020 were confirmed and then signed by the Cathaoirleach.

In reply to a query from Cllr. K. Coakley regarding the construction of Skibbereen Skate Park, Mr. J. Ahern S.E.E. noted that the equipment was delivered to Skibbereen on 17th December 2020 and the contractor is due to commence works early January 2021. In reply for an update on her request for the installation of a footpath in Baltimore from Harrington’s Cross to Baltimore Holiday Homes at the December 2020 meeting, Mr. J. Ahern S.E.E. noted that the works are complex and require further investigation.

Cllr. P. Hayes requested that information on the salting of roads is relayed to members or circulated on C.C.C. social media.

Cllr. J. Carroll asked for an update on a request for the installation of a footpath at Templebryan, Clonakilty where a recent planning application for housing development was refused due to the absence of footpaths. Mr. J. Ahern S.E.E. reported that he had visited the location with Mr. M. Tobin

E.E. and noted that further exploration is required due to the narrow width of the road and the presence of several private properties/entrances.

The S.E.O. informed members that he has received a quotation of between twelve and thirteen thousand euro for the design of a public convenience in Ballineen. In line with Procurement Guidelines the S.E.O. will formally seek three quotations and tender for same can then be advertised. The S.E.O. noted that funding will be required to design, build and operate the Ballineen facility. Members requested a report on funding that was originally allocated for refurbishment of the Ballineen public convenience and outlined the requirement for a long term plan for the development and maintenance of public conveniences in West Cork. Members discussed the inadequate numbers of outdoor staff in West Cork and noted that public convenience facilities should be installed in all public amenities i.e. beaches/playgrounds. Cllr. P. Hayes recommended the consideration of eco friendly public conveniences. The Members agreed to await receipt of three quotations for the design of the public convenience at Ballineen before consideration of funding.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Proposed by Cllr. D. Hurley, seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes

- a. "That this Council designate a section of Deasy's Carpark in Clonakilty for a Skate Park"

Cllrs. D. Hurley and P. Hayes noted that a community group in Clonakilty have identified a suitable site for a Skate Park in a section of Deasy's Car Park which would be greatly appreciated by the youth of Clonakilty. Cllr. Hayes acknowledged that some elderly residents have raised concerns about the proximity of the park to their homes.

The M.D.O. noted that funding has been sought for a Skate Park in Clonakilty over the past few years. The M.D.O. noted concerns expressed by residents and informed members that the area in question is also used as an over-flow car park. The M.D.O., with the agreement of Members, asked for the site to be assessed for appropriateness and that consideration be given to other sites before designation of the site in question.

Proposed by Cllr. D. Hurley, seconded by Cllr. D. Collins

- b. "That this Council repair the warning lights at Castledonovan National School and install rumble strips on the approach to the School."

Report from Ms. R. O'Brien S.E.E.:

The road was resurfaced in 2020 and line marking Contractors are booked to repaint the school warning signs on the road, however, there hasn't been a suitable weather window for those works

since. Infratech fixed the lights temporarily, but the lights stopped working again and Infratech are to return and replace a part. A reminder was sent from the Bantry Area Office two weeks ago.

Proposed by Cllr. K. Coakley, seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes

“I call upon this Council to commence talks with Bus Éireann to move the bus stop from Bridge Street Skibbereen to a safer and more convenient location.”

Cllr. K. Coakley recommended that the bus stops in Skibbereen should be relocated to Market Street and to the Cathedral on North Street as the current location at Bridge Street causes congestion and traffic tailbacks thus hindering the progress of emergency vehicles.

Cllr. J. Carroll expressed his disagreement with Cllr. Coakley’s suggestion and noted that that section of the town needs regeneration which the removal of the bus stop would not provide. Cllr. Carroll requested a Traffic Plan for the town which would be of benefit to businesses and residents.

Mr. J. Ahern S.E.E. noted that he raised the matter with Mr. Martin Walsh, Regional Operations Manager (South) Bus Éireann, and read correspondence received from Mr. Walsh:

“The Bus Éireann Road Passenger Bus Route through Skibbereen is Route 237

This route connects Skibbereen to :

- *Clonakilty / Bandon / Cork City and all intermediate towns and villages to the East*
- *Baltimore to the South*
- *Ballydehob / Schull / Goleen to the West*

This route traverses North St / Market St / Townshend St / Bridge St / Main St serving the above locations.

Currently Bus Éireann Route 237 through Skibbereen operates as follows :

- *Skibbereen to Cork services serve Bus Stops at Bridge St and North St.*
- *Skibbereen to Baltimore services serve Bus Stops at Bridge St and Market St.*
- *Cork to Skibbereen / Goleen services serve Bus Stops at Market St and Bridge St.*

The main Bus Stops in Skibbereen are on Bridge St.

The BE / NTA policy regarding the positioning of Bus Stops in towns and villages has always been to have them :

- *Safe location with good footfall*
- *Centrally Located*
- *Well lit*
- *Good pedestrian access*
- *Stops in both directions near each other*

The bus stops on Bridge St provide central, easily identified, well lit, safe areas for customers boarding and alighting from our bus services and are easy for customers to find – tourists and locals alike.

Any changes to traffic flow e.g. one way street will naturally have an impact on the viability and effectiveness of any location for a proposed Bus Stop.”

Proposed by Cllr. D. Collins, seconded by Cllr. P.G. Murphy

- a. “I call upon Cork County Council to widen the bridge at Derryduff, Borlin CC-L7242-001. 00. “

Report from Ms. R. O’Brien S.E.E.:

Derryduff bridge, on the L-47242-0, is included on the Bridge Rehabilitation Programme. I had looked for it to be included due to the issue with its width which was affecting access for larger vehicles. I will seek clarification from our Bridges Engineer, on his return to the office, that the proposed remedial works include its widening.

Cllrs. D. Collins and P.G. Murphy emphasized the necessity to widen the bridge to facilitate deliveries to farmers and businesses.

Proposed by Cllr. D. Collins, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll

- b. That this council undertake cleaning of drains in Drimoleague.

Report from Ms. R. O’Brien S.E.E.:

The drains in Drimoleague Village are being cleaned this week.

Members noted the necessity of frequent drain clearance in all towns and villages especially on occasions of severe weather forecasts. Ms. R. O’Brien S.E.E. noted that drains are cleared regularly by the sweeper which begins operations at 5 a.m.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- In reply to a request from Cllr. K. Coakley for a reduction in the speed limit of 100km at Kilcoe National School and for the erection of School Signposts on the N71, Ms. R. O’Brien S.E.E. undertook to contact Mr. N. Chamberlain E.E. Schull regarding signposts and advised that a Speed Limit Review will be conducted in 2022. Ms. O’Brien invited members to submit requests for Speed Limit Reviews by email which will then be included with submissions for same.

- Cllr. P. Hayes requested the erection of signage regarding parking at the Joe Walsh Greenway, Clonakilty as inconsiderate parking has caused inconvenience to residents in the area. The M.D.O. undertook to investigate same.
- In reply to a query from Cllr. P. Hayes regarding an arrangement to desludge a septic tank in Shannonvale, Mr. J. Ahern S.E.E. noted that he is not aware of any such agreement but will make enquiries re same.
- In a reply to a query from Cllr Paul Hayes regarding meeting with the Community in Shannonvale regarding a number of projects the MDO suggested that the meeting would take place when safe to do so in the context of Covid 19.
- In reply to a request from Cllr. D. Hurley for repairs to road near Ballinacarriga Covid Test Centre and a request for additional signage at the venue, Mr. J. Ahern S.E.E. noted that works are being carried out today on the road and that the Health Service Executive is responsible for signage but that the Council will assist the HSE in replacing / erecting signage if necessary.
- In reply to requests from Cllr. D. Hurley and Cllr. D. Kelly regarding a report on flooding at Chapel Street, Dunmanway, Mr. J. Ahern S.E.E. noted that a final report is expected to be published before the end of January 2021.
- Cllr. D. Hurley requested the resurfacing of the L-95863-2 cul-de-sac at Garranes, Dunmanway which is in a very poor condition.
- Cllr. D. Collins referred to his previous Notice of Motion regarding the councils plans for land on Church Road, Durrus, and requested an update on same.

VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

Members extended congratulations to Coxswain Kieran Cotter who retired on 30 December 2020, following forty-five years of service with the Baltimore RNLI Lifeboat and to crewmember Ronnie Carthy who retired following almost thirty years of service.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

To Adrian O'Brien E.E. on the death of his mother Helen O'Brien on 27-12-20 and to Brendan Minihane S.E.E. nephew of the late Helen R.I.P.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH _____

DATE _____