

# Comhairle Contae Chorcaí Cork County Council

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## MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT of West Cork held on MS Teams at 11.00am on 7<sup>th</sup> May 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.  
Clare Zuk, S.S.O. MDWC  
Martina O'Driscoll C.O. M.D.W.C.

Cllr. D. Collins presided.

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

*Proposed by Cllr. D. Hurley  
Seconded by Cllr. K. Coakley*

### Resolved:

"That the minutes of the MDWC Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

### MATTERS ARISING

In reply to Cllr. K. Coakley's request for an update on extending the opening hours of the ETB walkway between Skibbereen Community School the S.E.O. noted that he would look at this in the coming weeks.

Cllr. K. Coakley sought an update on her request for speed ramps to be installed on the road at Union Hall playground. Mr. J. Ahern S.E.E. will review this issue shortly.

## **STATUTORY BUSINESS**

### **Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

- a. Disposal of land at Scart Road, Bantry, Co Cork, 0.0065 hectares/0.0160 acres to John Pat O'Brien, East End, Ballydehob, Co Cork.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Collins seconded by Cllr. K. Murphy, members approved the Disposal of land at Scart Road, Bantry, Co Cork, 0.0065 hectares/0.0160 acres to John Pat O'Brien, East End, Ballydehob, Co Cork for a consideration of €1 and recommended it to full plenary Council for consideration.

- b. Disposal of land, grant of right-of-way, and grant of wayleaves at Castletownbeare, Co Cork, to facilitate Castletownbeare Sewerage Scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr. P.G. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. D. Collins, members approved the Disposal of land, grant of right-of-way, and grant of wayleaves as follows - Disposal of land measuring 0.7223 hectares, Grant of right-of-way measuring 0.1114 hectares, Grant of wayleave measuring 0.1114 hectares, Grant of wayleave measuring 0.0639 hectares, Grant of wayleave measuring 0.0102 hectares, Grant of wayleave measuring 0.0026 hectares, Grant of wayleave measuring 0.0078 hectares at Castletownbeare, Co Cork to Irish Water to facilitate Castletownbeare Sewerage Scheme for a consideration of one euro and recommended it to full plenary Council for consideration.

### ***Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994***

- a. *Pursuant to the provisions of Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, Cork County Council hereby gives notice of its intention to introduce the following road works on the L-4727-0 Reenrou West, Bantry, Cork. Install tabletop ramp pedestrian crossing and belisha beacons and all associated road markings.*

*Ms. Ruth O'Brien S.E.E. notified the members of the above Section 38 notice for their information.*

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

### ***Proposed by Cllr. K. Coakley, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll***

*"I call upon this Council to seek formal permission from Fáilte Ireland and to request Bull Point & The Old Railway Station, Baltimore on a 99 year lease".*

*Cllr. K. Coakley provided background information to the members on Bull Point and the Old Railway Station in Baltimore and outlined the economic and tourism benefits to the local community if both locations could be developed.*

*Cllr. Coakley mentioned that she had been in correspondence with Fáilte Ireland and informed the meeting that Fáilte Ireland is willing to lease both areas to Cork County Council at a nominal cost and that Baltimore Community Council are proposing to clean up Bull Point and boost its amenity value. Cllr. Coakley agreed that significant funding would be needed to develop the Old Railway Station which could be undertaken at a later stage, but Cork County Council should negotiate a formal lease from Fáilte Ireland for both locations as a first step. Members praised Cllr. Coakley's efforts in drafting this motion and expressed their complete support for the initiative.*

*The S.E.O. noted that a draft lease had been sent to the legal department from Fáilte Ireland in relation to a lease of the old railway station house to facilitate a sub lease to a group who were aiming to develop a marine heritage centre there and Cork County Council needed to clarify whether any correspondence from Fáilte Ireland was in relation to this transaction. The S.E.O reminded the meeting that they had previously got a briefing in relation to this proposal which included the estimate of renovating the building. The S.E.O informed the meeting that substantial finance would be required to bring the former railway property up to a condition where it would be possible to open it up as a public building and no budget was currently made available for this. The S.E.O. requested that any correspondence already obtained from Fáilte Ireland be directed to the legal department and where there was an existing transaction being dealt with through the council's Property and Legal departments any correspondence in relation to the transaction should be directed through this channel.*

***Proposed by Cllr. R. O'Connell, seconded by Cllr. D. Collins***

*"That this council erect adequate signage and road markings at Schull Pier to protect and aid the fishermen operating out of Schull before another expected busy summer of tourism in West Cork, which severely impacts their work and safety."*

Cllr. O'Connell described the difficulties fishermen experience at Schull pier during the busy summer months with cars parking along the pier preventing fishermen from accessing their equipment on the pier. Cllr. O'Connell noted that double yellow line markings on the pier had faded and requested that they be reinstated and extra signage be installed to deal with the issue. Cllr. O'Connell also highlighted difficulties with the pontoons being overcrowded with leisure craft making it difficult for fishermen to land their catch. The S.E.O. advised members that Schull pier was a multi-use pier which included fishing and ferry operations as well as leisure use. He agreed that he will arrange reinstatement of line markings on the pier and renew signs where appropriate. The S.E.O. advised members that a charging regime was in place at other piers such as Kinsale, Baltimore and Union Hall which helped to regulate the use of the pontoons and piers and noted that this could be explored within the piers and harbour byelaws currently being drafted.

***Proposed by Cllr. D. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. D. Hurley***

*"That this Council would review the road markings and/or signage on the approach to Market Square in Dunmanway. In the last week two cars travelling from the west turned onto the Plaza at Nealums Corner."*

Report from Mr. John Ahern S.E.E.

Signs and road markings are installed as per the Traffic Signs Manual which is underpinned by legislative Roads Acts. On R586 one way, No Entry road markings in accordance regulations are in place at the lower southwest end of Market Square. In addition to the No Entry Line it must be accompanied by the regulatory signs defined in Chapter 5 of the Traffic Signs Manual: i.e. No Entry Signs (RUS 050) on both sides of a one-way road at its junction with an intersecting road. Where a speed limit of 50km/h applies to all roads at a junction, the sign prohibiting the appropriate turn may be omitted in accordance with Chapter 5. We will arrange for two new No Entry Signs (RUS 050) to be installed at the junction.

Cllr D. Hurley requested that the installation of ramped pedestrian crossings be explored if any road maintenance measures are being explored in the future.

***Proposed by Cllr. D. Collins, seconded by Cllr. K. Murphy***

- a. "I am calling on Cork County Council to erect slow down signs at Upper High Street Drimoleague from both sides coming from the village and at the turn off at the G.A.A. grounds".

Report from Ms. Ruth O'Brien S.E.E.

We could explore the option of getting 'SLOW' painted on the road instead, it might be more effective than additional signage in the village. I will have a look at it on the ground and revert.

***Proposed by Cllr. D. Collins, seconded by Cllr. K. Murphy***

- b. "That the council repair the wall at Moyny Bridge Drimoleague just above the Nursing Home".

Report from Ms. Ruth O'Brien S.E.E.

A section of the parapet wall of the bridge was demolished by a vehicle and unfortunately, we do not have details of the vehicle to claim for the repair of the wall from their insurance. I have estimated the repairs at approximately €12,000 - €15,000, which is probably somewhat conservative, given the requirement for scaffolding, traffic management etc. I am currently look at options to source funding for the works.

***Proposed by Cllr. D. Collins, seconded by Cllr. R. O'Connell***

- c. "With works on the culverts in Bantry in the coming years, I am calling on the Council to act now on a new design for some parts of the town such as a strategic reimagined design for The Quay area, Wolfe Tone Square and New Street taking in the concept of traffic flow, parking, shrubbery planting and outdoor seating, this would have to be done with public

consultation and when a design would be agreed on it would be done at the same time as with the culvert works are to be started”.

Report from Ms. Ruth O’Brien S.E.E.

It is acknowledged that there is an opportunity to enhance the public realm and use of streets and public space in Bantry, following the major infrastructural projects, which are planned for the town.

Section 3.3.19 of the Local Area Plan outlines that “the vision for the town centre is to make it a more attractive location to live, recreate and carry on business. Potentially this could include substantial environmental improvements such as pedestrianisation, streetscape improvements and mechanisms to prioritise the movement of pedestrians / cyclists over traffic.

Delivery of this is dependent on the delivery of the relief road. All projects should take cognisance of and be informed by a proposed overarching plan to improve the infrastructure and public realm within the town. Options for funding a strategic design, sympathetic to the architectural and historical core of the town should be explored, including funding streams such as the GMA, which may be an option for funding such a design, if the Elected Members are agreeable.

Members welcomed Cllr. D. Collins’s motion and supported the approach that improvement works should align with Civil works where possible. The S.E.O. noted that developing a design plan would require funding to be set aside from 2022 budget and Ms. Ruth O’Brien S.E.E. advised members that discussions were already underway with local businesses to develop further outdoor seating at New Street.

***Proposed by Cllr. P. Hayes, seconded by Cllr. R. O’Connell***

“Given the increased number of people enjoying our beaches at present and over the coming months, I ask that this council brings forward the commencement of weekend lifeguard cover”

In reply to Cllr. P. Hayes’s motion the S.E.O. advised that training and induction of lifeguards had started and the current beach lifeguard schedule from June until mid September was still in place due to constraints in budget and resources.

## **REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr. D. Hurley requested an update on the Staff report previous sought at the MD meeting. Both Senior Executive Engineers advised members that 2 additional seasonal staff had been appointed to Skibbereen, Schull and Castletownbere area. The S.E.O. noted that the Divisional Manager had addressed the issue at the Western Committee meeting outlining that staffing was an executive function, but he would review previous minutes to clarify the matter.



## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

In response to Cllr. K. Coakley's request for traffic calming measures to deal with an issue with cars speeding on Townshend Street, Skibbereen, Mr. J. Ahern S.E.E. noted that while Gardai are the traffic authority the recently installed pedestrian crossing may reduce speeding cars at this location and he will assess if signage may also be required.

Cllr. K. Coakley reported an issue with users accessing Baltimore Playschool as its on a very busy road and she requested traffic calming measures or a pedestrian crossing to be installed there. Mr. J. Ahern S.E.E. noted the issue and will assess what can be done.

Cllr. K. Coakley reported parking issues causing problems for residents in Lough Hyne and asked if double yellow lines should be considered. The S.E.O. advised that parking rules exist even when beauty spots are busy, and it remains primarily the responsibility of road users to respect the rules, other road users and property owners. Mr. John Ahern S.E.E. advised that additional parking signs may be considered. Cllr. K. Coakley said she would bring up the matter at her next Joint Policing Committee meeting.

In response to Cllr. Coakley's request for an update on the mooring improvements at Crookhaven, the S.E.O. confirmed that a contract to inspect the moorings had recently been finalised.

Cllr. K. Coakley requested that monies be put aside for the Streetscape painting and improvement scheme from the 2022 budget as the scheme was a great success where it was in place previously, and she expressed her disappointment that no monies were put aside for 2021.

Cllr. R. O'Connell reported fading road markings in front of the emergency access barrier at Barleycove and requested that they be repainted. He also showed members a sample of road signs that clearly marks the emergency access barriers and requested that they be considered for installation. Ms. Ruth O'Brien S.E.E. noted the issue for the attention of the Executive Engineer Mr. Niall Chamberlain.

In response to Cllr. R O' Connell's request to have temporary bollards/cones installed on the dykes between Carbery Cottage and Barleycove Hotel due to the steep decline at the verge side which is regularly used as a pull in point for passing traffic, Ms. Ruth O'Brien S.E.E. advised road delineators may be beneficial to address this issue in the interim.

Cllr. R. O'Connell highlighted the dangerous condition of the steps at Corran Dock pier and asked for the algae to be removed from the steps at this busy fishing spot and Ms. Ruth O'Brien S.E.E. noted that the Executive Engineer Mr. Niall Chamberlain would review the condition of the steps at this pier.

In response to Cllr. P. Hayes's request an update on completion timeline of fencing and signage which is being installed at Inchadoney to improve pathways and protect the dunes the S.E.O. Mr. O'Hici advised that signage was being explored for the area to highlight that it is a SAC but also noted that we are limited in terms of fencing options as the dunes are in private ownership.

In response to Cllr. P. Hayes query on providing tutorials for applicants of Grant Schemes the S.E.O. stated he will look at what may be available to assist in this matter.

Cllr. D. Hurley expressed his dissatisfaction with the fading line markings at pedestrian crossings in Dunmanway, Ballineen, and Enniskeane. Pedestrian crossings had warning lights as well as line markers to distinguish them according to the S.E.E. Mr. J. Ahern and proposals were in the works to upgrade the line markings.

Cllr. D. Collins highlighted that bad conditions of many piers across the Cork coastline and raised concerns about the minimal amount of DAF funding received in Cork county. Cllr. Collins queried whether a meeting should be set up with Minister McConville to discuss this matter. The S.E.O. advised members that while Cork county has 216 piers and slipways there are very little charges collected which could fund improvement works, and the Piers and Harbour byelaws being currently drafted may address this lack of funding.

The S.E.O. Mr. O'Hici responded to Cllr. D. Collin's request to have parking byelaws revised due to complaints that town residents are obtaining parking fine tickets by outlining that residents never had reserved rights to park outside their premises, however, the issue may be considered as part of a review of the parking byelaws.

*An extension of time was proposed by Cllr. K. Coakley and seconded by Cllr. D. Kelly to conclude the business matters of the meeting*

Mr. J. Ahern S.E.E. responded to Cllr. D. Kelly's request for an update on the Chapel Street works by stating that the flood control section was liaising with the OPW on the TJ O'Connor report and that attempts were being made to merge the footpath and storm water works on Chapel Street.

Members agreed to hold the June M.D.W.C. meeting on the morning of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 11.00am, as the first Monday in June 2021 is a public holiday.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_