

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIGTWOHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 7th DECEMBER 2020.

Present: Cllr. S. Sheppard, A. Barry, C. Rasmussen, S. O'Connor, A. 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. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Deimhniú Miontuairiscí:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 7th November 2020 were adopted.

Cllr. O'Connor raised the issue of slope stability at Connolly Street which had been omitted from the Minutes of the November meeting. R. O'Sullivan stated that this location had been examined and confirmed that as a priority, it will be built up early in the New Year.

2.0 Matters Arising:

Speeding at Ahern Place, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that the proposed construction of two build outs at Ahern Place would be put on hold until further discussions take place.

Verges at Cuskinny & Ballymore, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that agreed verge cutting works was continuing at these locations.

Knotweed

G. O'Hora confirmed that the knotweed at locations previously identified by members had now been treated.

Assumption Place, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the drain at Assumption Place had been repaired

Footpath at 5 foot Way

G. O'Hora confirmed that Sorensens had repaired the footpath at the 5 Foot Way.

Selling of Cars at Little Island

G. O'Hora confirmed that this matter had been forwarded to the Gardaí.

Overgrowth at Leonard's Lodge, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that this matter would be dealt with this week.

No Parking Sign at Donelan Tce./Barrymore Avenue

G. O’Hora confirmed that the sign would be erected shortly.

Blocked Drains at Ballytyrasna/Little Island

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

Rubbish at Boreen Dearg

G. O’Hora confirmed that the rubbish had been collected.

Footpath across from College Manor, Cobh

G. O’Hora confirmed that the footpath had been repaired and that further signage was to be erected.

Resurfacing at Spy Hill, Cobh

G. O’Hora confirmed that the resurfacing had been completed.

Barrier at the school crossing at Carrignavar National School

G. O’Hora confirmed that the second barrier was listed for repair.

Toilets at Whitepoint

P. Lynch told the Members that the Architects’ Department had expanded the project to provide for 2 units, but the cost was too expensive. They are now preparing drawings for a single unit.

3. Correspondence:

a) P. Lynch referred to letter received from Eirgrid.

Cllr. A. Barry raised his concerns about the road resurfacing in Carrigane after the proposed works are completed by Eirgrid. He has asked for a full reinstatement of the roads once the work is done.

b) P. Lynch notified the Members that a plaque to the Irish who lost their lives on UN Peacekeeping Duties in The Congo would be unveiled on Friday 11th December at The Bible Garden, Cobh.

c) P. Lynch notified the Members that he had received a letter from Michael & Tania Burke of Truly Scrumptious asking whether they could trade until the end of January in the Promenade, Cobh. As other Casual Traders were granted a 3 month extension due to Covid 19, on the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Connor seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to extend their licence until the end of January 2021.

4. Officers’ Reports:

G. O’Hora advised the members that that he was inviting submissions for LIS/CIS Schemes for 2021. He asked that Members submit details for proposals for the footpath programme and the public lighting programme.

G. O’Hora told the Members that the Gardaí had requested that double yellow lines be placed on the L-3004 road, Glounthaune outside private houses at location adjacent to Fitzpatrick’s shop and a yellow box place on the L-3004 road nearby Fitzpatrick’s shop.

There was no objection to this request from the Gardaí.

5. Municipal District Officers’ Report:

P. Lynch presented the Municipal District Officers Report for December.

General Municipal Allocation

P. Lynch told the members that Carrigtwohill United AFC were allocated an Amenity Grant of €4,000 in 2020 for improvement of facilities in the clubhouse. They are now seeking to change to works to the juvenile pitch and purchase of equipment. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, this change was adopted.

P. Lynch told the Members that Cobh Pirates RFC are seeking to extend the lifetime of their 2019 Amenity Grant to 31st May 2021. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, this extension was adopted.

Village Enhancement Scheme

P. Lynch advised that the various lockdowns as a result of COVID-19 have slowed progress on this scheme. At present, the Watergrasshill Community Council have come forward with a single project which officials are happy with in principle. The Community Council is currently preparing detailed costings for this project.

P. Lynch told the Members that he had spoken to a rep from Watergrasshill Community Council and that they were hoping to appoint a consultant for detailed design and costings this week. Drawings will be submitted for approval early in the New Year.

Litter Fines

Cllr. S. Sheppard raised the issue of the increase in the cost of dealing with illegal dumping in 2020. She commended Clodagh Meade, Litter Warden in her efforts and said that dumping had become a huge issue.

Cllr. S. O’Connor stated that there are major problems with illegal dumping in rural areas.

Cllrs. S. O’Callaghan asked if members of the public can be fined for leaving bottles /recycling at full recycling bins . P. Lynch confirmed that if a recycling bin is full, the public need to take the bottles/recycling home otherwise they can receive a litter fine.

6. Disposal of Property Land at Bishop Roche Park, Cobh

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. O’Connor, it was agreed to dispose of lands at Bishop Roche Park, Carrignafoy, Cobh, together with Right of Way

as marked on accompanying map to Nigel Smith, for the consideration of €181,000.00. The disposal was approved on the condition that as the property had previously been a Cobh Town Council property, the proceeds from the sale would be retained by the Cobh Municipal District for projects in Cobh.

7. Notice of Motions

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

“That this Municipal would conduct a full review of the pedestrian crossings at Smalls Well, looking at the width of the new footpath on Laundry Hill and also at the one as you turn right onto Middleton street taking into consideration the delays the new layout is causing to traffic in top of the hill.”

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the recent build outs are causing new issues at this junction and said that extra signage needs to be erected. He said that there are constant complaints regarding the changes in this area and added that the current situation is very dangerous.

Cllr. S. O’Connor stated that there are backlogs at school time coming from Ticknock and Carrignafoey.

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that traffic calming and facilitating pedestrians crossing was the reason behind the work. However the width of the build outs are now causing large delays and it is now not safe for pedestrians. She said that the public view is that the footpath is too wide.

G. O’Hora stated that the purpose of the traffic calming works at this junction was to slow traffic and allow pedestrians to cross the road safely and that this has been achieved. He stated that the junction would continue to be monitored and asked that it remain as is for a period of 6 months, after which it could be reviewed. In the meantime, he would arrange additional signage to be erected.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if the bus stop at Park Lane could be moved further along the road as it is continuing to cause tail backs. G. O’Hora stated that he would speak with Cobh Connect regarding moving the bus stop.

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

“That this Municipal would write to Irish Water and the Water section in County Hall to begin the process for getting a new water main laid in Elton Estate owing to the regular breaks in the pipes in the estate.”

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

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

“That this Municipal would consider erecting a driver feedback sign on Cuskinny Hill in an effort to get drivers to slow down.”

G. O’Hora stated that he would arrange a speed survey to be carried out at this location.

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

“That this Municipal District get a report regarding Slatty pumping Station.
1 Hours of operation since the new sluices were installed.
2 Costs associated with maintenance of same.”

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the motion was adopted. It was agreed that P. Lynch would write to the County Engineer to seek the report.

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

“Could a report be given as to when the repairs to the wall on the tidal side of Pottery Road will be done.”

G. O’Hora told the members that funding had been sought for this repair in 2020 but had not been successful. He said that he would reapply for funding again in 2021.

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

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

“Could improvement works to Ballinacleithe Bridge be investigated as it is completely unsuitable for present day use.”

Cllr. A. Barry told the Members that a landowner was willing to provide land to widen the bridge.

G. O’Hora stated that he would arrange to carry out an assessment of the road alignment at Ballinacleithe Bridge.

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

7.7. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Alan O’Connor:

“To ask whether dog fouling bags distributed by the municipal district are biodegradable, and, if not, to propose that a biodegradable alternative be sourced for future stock.”

P. Lynch confirmed that all the dog fouling bags that Cobh M.D purchase are biodegradable. He told the members that Cobh M.D. currently work with Tidy Towns groups in Cobh and Carrigtwohill who distribute bags to shops etc. The Tidy Towns groups also fill dispensers which Cobh M.D. supplied. He also said that residents’ groups in Little Island refill the dispensers. Currently Cobh M.D purchase all the bags from the U.K, but this may have to be looked at in terms of Brexit.

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

8. Any Other Business:

Cllr. S. O'Connor:

- 8.1 Cllr. S. O'Connor asked if the owner of the land at Ticknock Hill could be written to regarding the overgrowth coming from his land as it is scratching cars.
Engineer confirmed CCC will write to the landowner requesting overgrowth to be cut back.

Cllr. A. O'Connor:

- 8.2 Slow Sign north of the bridge by Carrigtwohill Train Station:
Cllr. A. O'Connor raised the issue of the Slow sign by Carrigtwohill train station which is partially blocked by vegetation.
Engineer to examine.
- 8.3 VMS Sign at Carrigane:
Cllr. S. O'Connor raised the issue of the battery which was stolen from the VMS sign at Carrigane.
Engineer confirmed battery was stolen from the VMS sign and a new battery had been ordered.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

- 8.4 Refill of Salt bins
Cllr. S. O'Callaghan asked if there was a charge for a refill of salt bins.
G. O'Hora said that the first fill was free and any subsequent fill costs €20.
- 8.5 Bus Stops at Watergrasshill
Cllr. S. O'Callaghan asked when the bus stops will be installed in Watergrasshill.
G. O'Hora to confirm.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen

- 8.6 Subsidence on roads in Cobh
Cllr. C. Rasmussen raised the issue of settlement on Cobh roads by Laundry Hill, Hilltop and Cobh Hospital.
Engineer confirmed locations would be repaired.
- 8.7 Speeding on the Newtown Road, Cobh:
Cllr. C. Rasmussen raised the issue of speeding on the Newtown Road, Cobh. He asked whether the Council could make an area available to facilitate the parking of a speed van if the Gardaí want one in this location.
Engineer to examine.
- 8.8 Cul de Sac Signs in Cobh:
Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if Cul de Sac signs could be erected at Hawthorn Terrace and Riverside, Rushbrooke, Cobh.
Engineer to examine.

Cllr. A. Barry

8.9 LIS Scheme, Carrigtwohill.

Cllr. A. Barry asked if the GAA Pitch on the west end of Carrigtwohill was in the ownership of the Council and whether it would be suitable for a LIS Scheme. Engineer to examine.

8.10 Covid 19 Garda Checkpoint on N25 at Cobh Cross

Cllr. A. Barry raised the issue of the location of the Covid 19 Garda checkpoint by Cobh Cross. He stated that it had caused major tail backs and many of the backroads in and around Carrigtwohill were damaged due to the huge increase in traffic using them. He asked if the Superintendent could be written asking if the Gardaí could work with CCC engineers to find a more suitable location for any future checkpoints.

Cllr. S. Sheppard

8.11 Whitepoint Drive, Cobh.

Cllr. S. Sheppard asked for an update on the provision of a No Parking sign on the turning bay at Whitepoint Drive as it was delayed due to the Irish Water works. Engineer to follow up.

8.12 Doggy Bin at Whitepoint Drive, Cobh

Cllr. S. Sheppard asked if doggy bin could be moved to the 1st turning point at Whitepoint Drive. Engineer to examine.

8.12 Hedge Cutting at Cluain Ard, Cobh

Cllr. S. Sheppard raised the issue of overgrown hedging in Cluain Ard, which is not taken in charge by the Council. She asked if the residents were to cut back the hedging, would the Council facilitate them by taking it away.

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that if the residents arranged for the hedge to be cut CCC will collect and dispose of the hedge cuttings.

P. Lynch notified the Members that virtual Town Team Meetings would have to be held prior to Christmas. He said that he would email the Members tomorrow in relation to agreeing dates for the meetings.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen express thanks to the Council on behalf of the residents of Barrymore Avenue for the hedge cutting and footpath repairs/cleaning.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked that the January meeting of Cobh M.D. take place in the Cobh Heritage Centre (if it is open). Otherwise he suggested Cobh Parish Centre as an alternative venue.

This was agreed by the Members.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen said that he would like to remember former Cobh M.D. Councillor Claire Cullinane, R.I.P. whose anniversary occurs at this time. All Members and staff concurred with the sentiment.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.