

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL IN COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD AT HERITAGE CENTRE, COBH, ON THURSDAY, 28TH MAY, 2020

Present - Councillors A. Barry, C. Rasmussen, A. O'Connor S. Sheppard,
S. O'Callaghan, S. O'Connor

Officials Present:

Mr. S. O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer
Ms M. McSweeney A/Staff Officer

Community Fund Allocations, 2020

P. Lynch circulated a document to the Members setting out his recommendations for allocation of the General Municipal Allocation of €183,394. He stated that 93 applications seeking a total allocation of €513,539 were received.

Community Contract:

P. Lynch stated that in line with previous years, he was recommending €10,000.00 to each of the main organisations working with the Council i.e. Carrigtwohill/Glounthaune/Cobh Tidy Towns, and €5,000 to Little Island Tidy Towns and €3,500.00 to Knockraha area Community Assoc.

Cllr. Rasmussen requested that Cobh Tidy Towns be given more than €10,000 due to the enormous contribution it made towards tourism in Cobh. Following discussion, it was agreed that this group may be considered for further funding at a later date.

Capital Grants :

P. Lynch stated that he was recommending a grant of €10,000 to each of 5 applications received.

Residents Associations:

P. Lynch stated that in 2020, estates representing 1920 houses applied and a total of €11,600 was being recommended. This allocation was in line with grants allocated in 2019.

Amenity Grants :

P. Lynch stated that a total of 4 applications received were not being recommended for funding. Of those, one group had received funding for the past three years and was therefore excluded under the scheme; one application had been withdrawn after the closing date by the applicant; two applications were from organisations based in Glanmire which was now within the City boundary and therefore outside of the scope of the County Council scheme.

Members noted that due to Covid 19 a number of organisations may not be in a position to fulfil their application requirements. It was agreed to review any requests from organisations who would be offered a grant and who would not be in a position to carry out the approved projects. It was also agreed that where funding had been recommended for events which were not going ahead, and where no expenditure had been incurred, that money would be retained by the Municipal district and the matter would be re-examined in September.

The Scheme indicates:-

Projects costing €7,000 or less	: €5,000 or 75% of the total project cost
Projects costing between €7,000 and €20,000	: €5,000 or 50% of the cost of the project

P. Lynch stated that once he had applied these criteria, he was left with requests of approx. €147,000 and an available fund of €74,894 or just under 57% of the requests. He had rounded the recommendations to the nearest €25.00.

Cllr. Barry requested that an allocation be granted to Cul Ard Estate in Carrigtwohill, they missed the deadline for the application. There are a number of council houses in the estate, therefore, he recommended that an allocation be granted to them.

It was agreed to allocate the sum of €1,000 to the Cul Ard Residents Association.

Cllrs. Rasmussen and Sheppard stated that Cobh Red Cross were carrying out substantial works across all of East cork without any support from the local authority. They accepted that the organisation had not applied either for a Community Fund grant or for the recent Emergency payment fund advertised by the Council. However, they indicated that they were in favour of a grant in the region of €2,500 being made available to them. All members indicated their support for this approach.

Based on the allocations as set out above, a balance of €11,009 remains in the Community Fund Scheme, 2020, the allocation of which can be considered at a later date together with any other monies granted to various clubs that may not be in a position to use their allocations due to COVID 19 restrictions.

Cllr. A. O'Connor requested that in the letter of allocation to the various Residents Association that a recommendation for the use of non pesticides be requested, and pollinators be encouraged. It was noted that Cork County Council is currently preparing a policy in this regard and that once this is in place, the letter of offer can be amended to reflect this.

It was also agreed that the allocations to the housing estates would be on the understanding that all green areas in the various estates, particularly in areas where two residents' organisations dealt with adjoining areas, would be maintained.

Following the discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. Rasmussen, that the final list of recommendations would be forwarded to the members for formal approval at the June meeting of the Cobh Municipal District.

Any Other Business

Sean O'Callaghan stated that it was intended to hold the next Town Team meetings for Cobh and Carrigtwohill within the next week or so. It was agreed to hold the Cobh meeting on Tuesday 2nd June at 2.00 pm, in advance of the monthly Municipal district meeting. It was also agreed to hold the Carrigtwohill meeting on Friday 5th June at 9.30 am in the Community Centre.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer