

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD VIA MS TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 4TH MAY 2021.

Present: Cllrs. S. Sheppard, A. Barry, C. Rasmussen, A. O'Connor, S. 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
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

An apology for his inability to attend was received from Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer.

1.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí / Confirmation of Minutes of MD Meeting held on 6th April 2021:

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 6th April 2021 were adopted.

2.0 Matters Arising:

Connolly Street, Cobh:

Cllr. S. O'Connor enquired as to whether there was any feedback from Coastal Management. P. Lynch replied that to date no response had been received, but he would follow it up.

College Manor, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the road lining has been completed.

Burma Steps, Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the repairs had been completed.

Derelict House on Carrignavar to Whitechurch Road:

P. Lynch stated that a Derelict Sites Notice had been issued. A response had been received and was being considered.

Potholes in Cobh:

G. O'Hora confirmed that there was an ongoing programme of works filling potholes.

Tay Road, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that the Driver feed-back sign had been vandalised and damaged beyond repair. CCC bought a new replacement sign and new sign has now been put in place.

N25 Encampment:

G. O'Hora stated that the site had been vacated and closed up.

Norwood Park Sign:

G. O’Hora stated that the new digital traffic speed sign had being ordered and sign would be erected on the Norwood Park road during mid-June.

Whitepoint, Cobh:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the contractor had been contacted in relation to the works and repairs would be carried out shortly.

College Manor Pedestrian Crossing:

G. O’Hora stated that the type of bollards referred to by Cllr. Sheppard were not suitable for the pedestrian crossing at College Manor and road lining was the best option for the location.

Traffic Calming at Bayview Estate, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that children at play signs would be erected at the estate entrance shortly.

Belvelly/Carrigaloe:

G. O’Hora stated that a meeting on site was scheduled to take place soon with the bus operators, Gardai and residents to discuss bus stop locations.

Newtown:

G. O’Hora stated that the boundary wall struck by a car is privately owned and therefore not the responsibility of the Council.

Anchorage:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the pillar would be repaired next week.

Speed Limits:

G. O’Hora stated that there was no database of speed limits, but that members should contact him if they were aware of discrepancies between actual speed limits and those displayed on GPS devices.

Section 38 Carrigane:

G. O’Hora sought clarification on the exact location from Cllr. A. O’Connor and then informed the members that there were no specific traffic calming measures planned for this area,

West View:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the water on West View was as a result of a damaged surface water pipe and was scheduled for repair.

Five Foot Way, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that footpath damage had been discussed with the contractor and the Contractor will carry out repairs to the footpath shortly.

Old Church Cemetery:

P. Lynch confirmed that a contractor was to be appointed here shortly.

Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill:

G. O’Hora confirmed that he was examining erecting additional signs at Cul Ard.

College Manor, Cobh:

G. O’Hora stated that the Council would endeavour to engage with the developer and contractor regarding the closure of the ditch bordering College Manor near the water tower.

Castleview,

G. O’Hora stated that the drains at Castleview were listed for cleaning.

Lands at Glanmire:

P. Lynch stated that the FAI had made an application for an extension to the lifetime of the planning permission for the site and they had indicated that they intended to carry out the works if this is granted. Cllr. A. Barry asked if there was a clause in the lease requiring development of the site within a particular timeframe. P. Lynch agreed to look for this information.

Top of the Hill, Cobh:

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that she had raised the very poor condition of the road at Top of the Hill last month, but it had not been recorded in the minutes. G. O’Hora confirmed that road would be repaired over the coming weeks.

Footpaths/Pothole, Cobh:

Cllr. S. O’Connor sought clarification on the widening of the footpath opposite the Anchorage. G. O’Hora confirmed that a contractor had been appointed and the works due to start soon. Cllr. C. Rasmussen thanked the engineers for the progress made on making the footpaths around the town wheelchair accessible. Cllr. Rasmussen asked that the large potholes in Middleton Street be filled as a matter of urgency.

23/24 West Beach, Cobh:

Cllr. S. O’Connor raised concerns about the on-going issues at 23/24 West Beach. S. O’Callaghan confirmed that the process of dealing with same had commenced and that this process should be allowed to run its course.

Hedgy Boreen, Glounthaune:

Cllr. A. Barry asked whether or not there was a starting date for the resurfacing here. G. O’Hora stated that CCC were examining widening the road verge on the Hedgy Boreen road and for this reason the proposed 2021 road resurfacing works have being postponed until 2022.

3.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence

P. Lynch confirmed that no correspondence had been received.

4.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh / Officer's Reports

Public Lighting Programme:

G. O’Hora outlined the proposed Public Lighting Programme which this year would focus on 4 locations at Knockraha, Watergrasshill, Rockmount/Whitechurch and Carrigtwohill.

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

Part 8 Traffic & Transportation, Little Island:

P. Lynch stated that a briefing for the members on the Part 8 for Little Island was proposed for Thursday at 4.00 p.m., the members agreed to the date and time.

5.0 Tuairisc ó Oifigeach Ceantair Bardasacha / Municipal District Officer's Report:

P. Lynch circulated the Municipal Officer’s report, including the responses received from the four organisations whose funding applications under the 2021 Community Fund Scheme had been deferred. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the updated recommendations of the Municipal District Officer, as set out below, were adopted.

Organisation	Grant
Cobh Ladies Football	€1,050.00
Cobh Boxing	€625.00
Glounthaune Community Association	€2,100.00
Irish Heritage Trust / Fota House Arboretum & Gardens	€1,700.00

P. Lynch reported that a response had been received in relation to the Derelict Sites notice issued in Carrignavar and this was being considered by officials.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen enquired what is happening with the open site at 6 West Beach. P. Lynch replied that the property was being examined in relation to the Derelict Sites Register. He advised that planning permission had been granted for redevelopment of the site.

In relation to Derelict Sites generally, P. Lynch stated that the Council policy was that if no progress is observed after the service of Derelict Sites Notices, then a levy could be placed on the site. A valuer had been engaged in respect of several sites, with a view to imposing the Derelict Sites Levy from 1st January 2022. P. Lynch stated that it has proved very difficult to make progress on any site due to the restrictions imposed on the construction industry by Covid 19.

Cllr. A. O’Connor queried the status of derelict apartments at Castlelake, Carrigtwohill. P. Lynch replied that the site was not on the Derelict Sites register and that the Council had engaged with the owner who stated that works would be carried out as lockdown eases. Members asked that the owners would be pressed to ensure the building remained safe.

Cllr. A. Barry queried the difference between Derelict and Dangerous Structures. P. Lynch clarified that a Dangerous Structure was one which was a danger to the public in the opinion of the Council and a Derelict Structure was anything which was unsightly. He stated that the sites in Carrigtwohill would be reviewed and pursued if necessary.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that Cobh was on the CEO's list to monitor Derelict Sites. S. O'Callaghan suggested that a special meeting could be held to discuss the Derelict Sites Register in conjunction with the Planning Department. He also suggested that enquiries could be made to enquire what grants or funds are available to develop them. Cllr. S. Sheppard agreed that Cobh M.D. could act as a pilot to tackle dereliction.

6.0 Allocation of Town Development Fund

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the following list, which had been circulated previously by P. Lynch for projects under the Town Development Fund were approved.

Organisation Name	Grant
Cobh Municipal District Paint Scheme	€15,000.00
Cobh Heritage Town Map	€1,200.00
Greening of Cobh for St. Patrick's Day	€1,500.00
Cobh Carillon Committee	€1,500.00
Cobh Sea Angling Club – 2021 European Boat & Line Class Championships	€5,000.00
Cobh Sea Angling Club – 55 th International Deep Sea Angling Festival	€1,750.00
See You In Cobh – Christmas Event	€2,000.00
Cobh Tourism – Events	€3,150.00
Cobh & Harbour Chamber – Tourist Office	€5,000.00
Cobh Summer Swing – Events in Promenade	€1,500.00
Cobh & Harbour Chamber – Christmas Lights	€12,500.00
Cobh Tourism – Annual Contribution	€7,500.00
Cork Young Filmmakers – Cork Film Centre	€1,000.00
St. Benedict's Priory – Restoration of Garden of Song	€3,400.00
Cove Sailing Club – Upgrade of Marina	€18,000.00
Cobh Tidy Towns – West View Paint Scheme	€10,000.00
Carrigtwohill Business Association – Tourist Trail & Installation of Outdoor Gym Equipment	25,000.00
Carrigtwohill Community Council – Purchase of Awnings	5,000.00

7.0 Review of Municipal District Litter Management Plan

P. Lynch stated the legislation requires that the Litter Management Plan be reviewed every 3 years, the current plan was adopted in May 2018. The Review of the plan would be advertised in the local press and all Tidy Towns Groups and Community Associations would be contacted across the MD. The Plan would be available for inspection for 6 weeks from the date it was advertised. All submissions received, together with management comments would be circulated to the members for consideration. The Plan needs to be amended to take into account the boundary changes since it was adopted i.e. the removal of Glanmire, North City Environs and Glenville and the addition of Watergrasshill and Haulbowline Park. The amended document will be presented to members for adoption at a future meeting. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed to commence the Review of the Litter Plan.

8.0 Disposal of Property

On the proposal of Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan seconded by Cllr. A. Barry it was agreed to Grant of Wayleave to facilitate Council Turnkey Development at Watergrasshill, Co. Cork, to Irish Water for the consideration of €1.

9.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion

1. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:

That Cobh MD look at pedestrians' safety measures in the Norwood school area. Particularly now with the new estate Martello being right alongside the school.

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that a child had been hit by a car in the area, more children are being encouraged to walk or cycle to school. She queried whether funding under the Green initiative to widen the footpath or put in railings. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that a lot of traffic was still going against the flow. G. O'Hora replied that he was aware of the members concerned and CCC was presently examining new road safety signage and traffic calming measures for the roads.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the motion was adopted.

2. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sean O'Connor:

That some street lighting would be installed on the new section of footpath between the entrance to Cluain Ard and the entrance of to Cooline estate on the Ballyleary Road. This would have a major impact on this section of roadway, which has a number of very sharp bends.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Connor seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that this location would be included in the lighting programme for 2022.

3. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sean O'Connor:
That Íarnród Éireann would be asked to cut back the overgrowth on the metal fencing dividing their property on the main road at Carrigaloe between the railway bridge and the entrance to Marino Point.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Connor seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that a letter would be sent to Íarnród Eireann.

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

As the work on the pier and parking area of the old town hall is nearing completion with the drainage scheme that we would look at the possibility of utilising the remaining space there for public parking

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the works were almost complete, and the Council should now engage with the Port of Cork to increase public parking in the area. P. Lynch stated that the area referred to was currently leased to a business. He also advised that the site was outside of the area covered by the Parking Bye Laws so enforcement of any rules would not be possible for the Traffic Wardens.

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

That we would consider painting a yellow box on the Carrignafof road near the entrance to College Manor estate along with signage to remind motorists about slowing down in the area.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that G O'Hora would investigate the provision of a yellow box and additional road safety signs on the road.

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

That we would make arrangements to repair fully the damaged and unsightly electrical cables on the Burma steps and that work is done to ensure that the cables cannot be damaged again.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen expressed his thanks for the works done to date on the Burma Steps, however some cables were still on the ground and were a hazard.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed the engineer would follow up with the Public Lighting Section.

10.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business:

Cllr. A. Barry:

Election Posters:

Cllr. Barry stated that a discussion needed to take place now in relation to election posters. He asked if it was possible to ban election posters or have them confined to

one area only. P. Lynch replied that there was a specific exemption for election posters in the Litter Act, any proposed ban on posters was a matter for legislation instead of the local authority. Cllr. S. Sheppard suggested that this matter could be discussed at full Council.

Carrigtwohill Resurfacing:

Cllr. Barry stated that a resident who lived in an area currently being resurfaced has raised the issue of cars pulling in in front of her house, where the road is quite wide, but the resurfacing doesn't extend in as far as the wall of her property, which is creating problems for her. Engineer agreed to contact resident and examine.

Castleview:

There is a large chestnut tree on the right hand side of the estate which is very dangerous. Engineer to examine and agreed if the tree is in a dangerous condition would arrange to have it cut down and made safe.

Knockraha/Windsor Hill:

On the Knockraha/Windsor Hill road, between the Goldcrop premises and AOC, there is a large rock exposed near the ditch. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

Ahern Place, Cobh:

Could a speed ramp be put in near the corner. Engineer to examine.

Glasson's Avenue:

Residents looking for a speed ramp. Engineer to examine.

Footpaths, Cobh:

The footpaths at Norwood Park, above tennis club, and the entrance to Elmwood Grove are both damaged. Engineer to examine and list footpaths for repair.

Vote of Sympathy:

Cllr. Rasmussen expressed his condolences to the wife and family of Finbarr O'Driscoll, former Councillor and employee of Cobh Town Council who had passed away since the last meeting. All of the members and staff also expressed their condolences.

Cllr. S. O'Connor:

Harbour Row:

To facilitate traffic flow on Harbour Row, either yellow boxes or laybys should be put in along the street. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

Lighting Programme:

Cllr. O'Callaghan expressed her concern that there was no mention of lights being put in at the back of the Ashbourne Hotel. G. O'Hora stated that he was seeking funding for this project outside of the public lighting programme.

The Fairways, Little Island:

Cul de sac signs for The Fairways. Engineer confirmed new Cul de Sac sign would be erected at the estate entrance.

School Road, Whitechurch:

Additional signage needed prior to the pedestrian crossing on School Road, Whitechurch. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. S. Sheppard:

Community Grants:

Two residents' associations had missed the deadline for the Community Grants. P. Lynch asked Cllr. Sheppard to forward details so that he could follow up.

Whitepoint Estate:

The footpaths are in very bad condition, Cllr. Sheppard has been in contact with Irish Water, it will be another 3 years before they replace the water pipe, in the meantime the footpath will have completely disintegrated. G. O'Hora replied that the pipe was asbestos and very fragile, he will examine the area and carry out temporary repairs to the damaged footpaths.

Carrignafoy:

Residents have complained about anti-social behaviour in the fields behind the water tower and the Spires. The Gardai have been contacted.

Congratulations:

Cllr. Sheppard congratulated Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen on his forthcoming marriage to Mary and wished them both well for the future. The members and staff also wished to be associated with the well wishes.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHOIRLEACH

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER.