

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH
ON MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY, 2020.**

Present: Cllrs. A. Barry, C. Rasmussen, S. Sheppard, S. O'Connor & A. O'Connor.

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
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

1.0 Disposal of Property

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to suspend standing orders and hear the briefing from Mr. L. Singleton, Senior Engineer, regarding the Grant of Lease, Right of Way and Wayleave at Bottlehill, Co. Cork first.

Mr. L. Singleton began the briefing by advising that Brookfield Renewable Recycling Ltd. intended submitting a planning application for a wind farm containing 22 turbines and circulated maps showing the locations of all 22 turbines; however he emphasised that the Council was only concerned with the 4 turbines on Council land. He stated that the boundaries of 3 Municipal District Council's intersect on the land at Bottlehill, 2 turbines would be located within the Fermoy Municipal District and 2 in the Cobh Municipal District, while the access roads are located in the Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District. He outlined the current regulations regarding the minimum distance required from the turbines to any dwelling houses and stated that the turbines on Council land all complied with the regulations. He stated that new regulations were being drawn up which required that the minimum distance would be 4 times the tip length of the turbine, which in this instance would result in a distance of 676m, while the nearest house was 867m away, again well outside the distances required.

Mr. Singleton then outlined the terms of the options and lease agreement with Brookfield Renewable Ireland Ltd and the financial outcomes that these would provide for Cork County Council. He acknowledged that it was not possible to give precise income figures for Cork County Council given the nature of the business but indicated that the returns would be significant. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that communication with the local residents had been poor. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the residents were concerned with the distances from the turbines and wished to see them increased. Cllr. A. Barry queried if the turbines could be accommodated in the forested area to the north of the site, while Cllr. A. O'Connor asked if the current proposal was the one preferred by the Council. Cllr. A. Barry stated he would welcome proper engagement between the developers and the local community prior to this matter coming before full Council on 24th February.

L. Singleton stated that Cork County Council had not been involved in the information meetings briefing the public and that this project was a strategic development project and would be sent directly to An Bord Pleanála for decision. The original project had looked for between 35 and 40 turbines but had now settled on 22, with 4 on Council land. The current layout was the best achievable given the constraints of the development plan and the conservation of nesting grounds for the hen harrier.

P. Lynch stated that 3 options were open to the members:

1. Recommend acceptance of the terms to full Council
2. Recommend rejection of the terms to full Council
3. Make no recommendation to full Council

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed to forward the disposal to full Council without making any recommendations at Municipal District level.

2.0 Deimhniú Miontuairiscí/Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 6th January 2020 were adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 20th January 2020 were adopted.

3.0 Matters Arising

Cobh Connect Bus Stops: G. O'Hora stated that having examined the proposed bus stops for Carrigaloe and Belvelly, he had concerns relating to the safety of passengers alighting from the bus. The locations proposed could accommodate a bus stop on the outward journey from Cobh to Cork but it was difficult to find a suitable safe location for a stop on the return journey. The risks to pedestrians in both locations were significant, as the road width did not allow for the addition of a footpath under the railway bridge at Carrigaloe, nor could passengers be safely accommodated at Fota.

Streetscape, Cobh: P. Lynch stated that a further meeting was scheduled with the architect in relation to providing final drawings for the Cobh streetscape, it was hoped that the Part 8 process would be completed before the end of 2020. S. O'Callaghan reminded members that funding was only in place to bring the project to Part 8; however he was hopeful that once the project got that far, further funding would be provided to progress the project on a phased basis under the URDF fund. Cllr. S. Sheppard queried if it were better to scale back the proposals at this stage, S. O'Callaghan advised that it would be better to plan for a larger project and implement it on a phased basis as funding becomes available. Cllr. C. Rasmussen

wanted to ensure that there was public consultation for the project; he was assured that this would take place during the Part 8 process.

Pedestrian Crossing, College Manor, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated that he hoped to include construction of two uncontrolled pedestrian crossings in College Manor in this years' footpath programme, he would have a full list for the members of proposed footpath works for the next meeting.

Preaching House Steps, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated that some works had been carried out at this location, including cutting back the overgrowth; the repairs to the steps would be carried out as part of the footpath programme.

Top of the Hill, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated he would contact the business owner, as the barrels had been removed temporarily, but had now been replaced.

Carrigtwohill: G. O'Hora stated that further works had been carried out at the Family Resource Centre, which he hoped would finally resolve the situation.

Traffic Control Measures for Housing Estates: G. O'Hora stated that Cork County Council had a Traffic Calming policy in place and a number of schemes had been carried out in estates. A number of driver feed-back signs had been provided throughout the Municipal District and there were plans to introduce more, as funding became available. However, if the residents of an estate were willing to contribute to the cost of the signs, it would be considered and would speed up the process, as ramps were not the preferred option. Cllr. S. Sheppard proposed a driver feed-back sign for Norwood Hill, while Cllr. Rasmussen stated that he would revert to G. O'Hora with a list of proposed locations.

Drain Cleaning, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated there was a drain cleaning programme in place which ensured that each drain was cleaned twice a year. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that twice a year was not enough for some of the drains which were constantly blocked by silt and debris rolling down the hills. G. O'Hora stated that if members supplied the locations of problem areas in the town, he would ensure that these drains were cleaned out more regularly.

Connolly Street, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated that he would refer this matter to Coastal Management Section.

Heritage Centre, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated that a ramp to access the footpath would be considered under the 2020 footpath programme.

College Manor, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated that the addition of a rail at this location would reduce the footpath to an unacceptable width, however he would re-examine the area in light of the members concerns regarding the safety of school children in the area.

Springfield Park, Cobh: G. O'Hora stated that the Council would provide a skip on this occasion provided that it was not used for personal domestic rubbish. Cllr. S. Sheppard

replied that she would speak to the resident of Springfield Park who proposed the clean up and will revert to Mr. O’Hora.

Rushbrooke Manor, Cobh: G. O’Hora stated that having examined the area, he proposed to replace the existing timber fence.

St. Colman’s Square, Cobh:G. O’Hora stated that he examined the area and had listed the road for repairs.

Carrigtwohill Traffic Warden: P. Lynch stated that wardens were due to start in Carrigtwohill this week.

Aherns Place, Cobh: G. O’Hora stated that repairs had been carried out at this location.

East Hill/Brighton Terrace, Cobh: G. O’Hora stated that the potholes had been repaired.

Middleton Street/Thomas Kent Street, Cobh: G. O’Hora stated that the laneway in question was private property. P. Lynch stated that he had raised the issue with the litter warden, who was to contact with one of the local businesses regarding same.

Carrigtwohill: G. O’Hora stated that this road area was listed for works.

Road sweeper, Cobh: G. O’Hora stated that he had reviewed the start time of the road sweeper in Cobh and was not in favour of starting at 6.00 a.m.in Cobh and was of the opinion that there would be less traffic during daylight hours. G. O’Hora proposed putting signage up the night before the road sweeper was due to arrive. Cllr. C. Rasmussen acknowledged that it was hard to find a balance.

4.0 Comhghreagas/Correspondence

P. Lynch stated that he had received no correspondence since the last meeting.

Cllr. A. O’Connor stated he had received correspondence from the NTA and he would circulate same to the members and officials.

5.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh/Officer’s Reports

5.1 Low Cost Accident Scheme

G. O’Hora stated that he had sought and received Department funding for a Low Cost Accident Scheme at Canon O’Leary Place, Cobh and Buck Leary’s Cross and would now be requesting the Roads Design Office to draw up the schemes for these locations.

5.2 Road Maintenance Works 2020

G. O'Hora presented the members with a map showing the 16 locations proposed for this year's Road Maintenance Works.

5.3 Road Improvement Works 2020

G. O'Hora presented the members with a map showing the 15 locations proposed for this year's Road Improvement Works.

5.4 Road Drainage Works 2020

G. O'Hora presented the members with a map showing the proposed locations for this year's Road Drainage Works. G. O'Hora stated that these works included verge cleaning and the provision of new drains and pipes.

5.5 Footpath/Lighting Programme 2020

G. O'Hora sought suggestions from the members for both these programmes which had not yet been finalised for this year.

5.6 Funfair Licence Application

P. Lynch presented the members with a list of dates received from Ms. S. Piper for a funfair to be located in the promenade. Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that these were the same dates as Summer Swing and sought clarification on how many stalls were going to be in promenade, how much they were being charged and what was the criteria for trading, he also sought a copy of the Summer Swing accounts.

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that there were ongoing discussions between the St. Patrick's Day Festival Committee and Ms. Piper in relation to operating a funfair during the festival; on that basis she proposed deferring the decision to the March meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to defer a decision on the Funfair Licence to the next meeting.

6.0 Tuirisc ó Ofigeach Ceantair Bardasacha / Municipal District Officer's Report**6.1 General Municipal Allocation:**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to extend the time allowed for Erin's Own GAA Club to complete the works applied for under the Capital Grant Scheme.

6.2 Town Development Fund

Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that she had been contacted by the 1916 Commemoration Committee regarding funding. P. Lynch replied that the group should apply

under the Amenity Grant Scheme and if the project was deemed appropriate for Town Development Funding, then it could be transferred to that scheme at a later date.

S. O'Callaghan stated that it was anticipated that repairs and improvements to the various steps in the town would also be funded from the Town Development Fund, as the Council wanted to fund some of the Public Realm Projects from its own resources.

The members welcomed the news that the Paint Scheme would get started earlier this year. S. O'Callaghan stated that the Paint Scheme would be launched this year with a media campaign to raise awareness of the scheme.

6.3 Village Enhancement Scheme

Following a discussion by the members, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that Watergrasshill would be the nominated community under this scheme for 2020.

6.4 Parking Issues

Following a discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to give Cobh Tidy Towns the additional funds, €3,500, needed to complete the works at the Five Foot Way.

6.5 Review of Bye-Laws

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to commence the process of revoking the Cobh Town Council Jarvey Bye-Laws 2011.

7.0 Fograí Rún/ Notices of Motion

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

“That this Municipal District would look at the possibility of providing bus shelters in suitable bus stops in and around the town of Cobh and that we would apply for the funding of the shelters if necessary.”

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that there was only one bus shelter on the island and asked how or where funding could be obtained for more shelters given the popularity of the bus service. G. O'Hora responded saying that the NTA provided funding for shelters, but there were conditions to be adhered to. He stated he would discuss with the Council's Traffic and Transportation section, in the meantime members could contact him with locations in advance of preparing a submission to the NTA.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the motion was carried.

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

“That this Municipal would look for an update on the drawing of the master plan for the 57 acres of Council land in Ballynoe and that we would exert pressure on the County Planners to expedite the plan as fast as possible.”

Cllr. Rasmussen requested that a drawing of the master plan be prepared sooner rather than later, as all future development of the site hinged on this plan.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that P. Lynch would write to the Director of Planning.

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

“That Cobh Municipal District Council would request the Port Of Cork Authority to outline the short term and long term restrictions to be imposed on the general public who walk the Deep Water Quay and The Five Foot Way on a daily basis.”

Cllr. S. O'Connor stated that the restrictions imposed by the Port of Cork were a threat to the public walkway.

The above motion, standing in the name of Cllr. S. O'Connor was discussed and it was agreed that P. Lynch would circulate correspondence previously received from the Port of Cork Authority.

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

“That Cobh Municipal District Council would grant permission to the officers of The Cobh Broad-Band Group to address the members in response to the correspondence received from Eir at a previous meeting.”

Cllr. S. O'Connor stated that members of the Cobh Broad-Band Group had received correspondence from Eir which they wished to bring to the attention of the members.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed that a member of the Cobh Broad-Band Group could address the next meeting of the Municipal District Council.

8.0 Aon Ghnó Eile/ Any Other Business

8.1 Traffic Management Survey, Cobh:

Cllr. S. Sheppard queried at what stage the Traffic Management Survey for Cobh was now at. P. Lynch stated that he had met with the engineer on this project who was of the opinion that any works within the Great Island would not solve the problems with access to the Island and it was imperative that this was addressed first. S. O'Callaghan stated that an assessment could be undertaken without a decision on the upgrade of the R624 Fota Road and he would raise the issue with the Traffic Management Section.

8.2 Ferris Wheel, Promenade, Cobh:

Cllr. S. O'Connor stated that several people had raised concerns regarding the provision of a Ferris Wheel at the Promenade in Cobh during the summer season. P. Lynch stated that the members had not been asked to make a decision on this proposal as the organisers were only in preliminary discussions with the Council and had yet to make a formal proposal. P. Lynch stated that as soon as such a proposal was submitted, it would go before the members for decision.

8.3 West View, Cobh:

Cllr. S. O'Connor stated that there were a number of potholes on West View. Engineer to examine and list for repair.

8.4 Belmont, Cobh:

Cllr. S. O'Connor reported that following the installation of ducting by Bord Gais, the road opposite number 44-68 needed attention. Engineer to examine.

8.5 Elmwood Grove, Cobh:

Cllr. S. O'Connor stated the name plate and cul de sac sign had been removed at Elmwood Grove. Engineer to examine.

8.6 Cobh Hospital:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that there was a large pothole on the corner near the hospital. Engineer to examine and list for repair.

8.7 The Crescent, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that a number of potholes had opened up on this road. Engineer to examine and list for repair.

8.8 Whitepoint, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen queried when the footpath would be repaired on the corner leading to Whitepoint and what was the situation with the bollards proposed for this location. G. O'Hora stated that the footpath had been listed for works.

8.9 Lower Road, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that there were a number of potholes on the Lower Road and leading down to Whitepoint. Engineer to examine and list for repair.

8.10 Canon O'Leary Place, Cobh:

Cllr. A. O'Connor queried why a tree had been removed from the corner of Canon O'Leary Place. G. O'Hora informed him that it had been in a dangerous condition.

8.11 Leamlara:

Cllr. A. O'Connor stated a wall had collapsed near the bridge at Leamlara. G. O'Hora replied that the wall was on private land, but he would talk to the landowner.

8.12 Clash Road, Little Island:

Cllr. A. O'Connor stated that he had been contacted in relation to anti-social behaviour on land at Clash Road. P. Lynch stated that the land in question was in private ownership and this was a matter for the landowner and Gardaí.

8.13 Velvet House Cross House Roads:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen enquired as to what was happening with the statue to be installed at the Velvet House Cross Roads. R. O'Sullivan replied that he should check with Cobh Tidy Towns, as this was their project.

8.14 Ballinvinny:

Cllr. A. Barry reported fly tipping of construction material on public land at Ballinvinny. Engineer to examine.

8.15 Aldi, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. Barry stated that he had checked the documents submitted in relation to the original planning permission for the carpark at Aldi, Carrigtwohill and can confirm that the current arrangements for the car park and planting were in breach of the planning. R. O'Sullivan is discussing matter with Aldi maintenance manager and seeking permission to construct a new footpath.

8.16 Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the laneway between Rocklands and Cul Ard needed to be cleaned up. Engineer to examine.

8.17 Barryscourt, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. Barry reported a number of potholes near Barryscourt. Engineer to examine and list for repair.

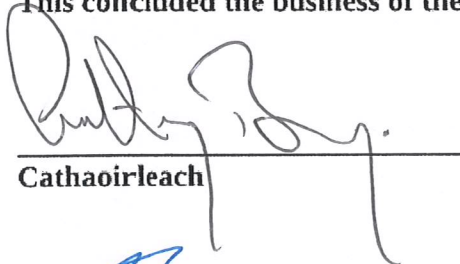
8.18 Cul Ard, Carrigtwohill:

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the roadsweeper was required on the main road in the Cul Ard estate. Engineer to examine.

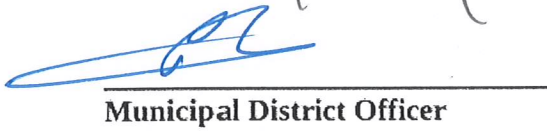
8.19 Five Foot Way, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen enquired as to the status of the provision of toilets for the Five Foot Way as the works are continuing apace there. S. O'Callaghan stated that the Cove Sailing Club wanted to combine their requirements for showers with the toilet block. P. Lynch to contact the architects department for an update.

This concluded the business of the meeting.



Cathaoirleach



Municipal District Officer