

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT COBH HERITAGE CENTRE, COBH ON MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2020.**

**Present:** Cllr. A. Barry, C. Rasmussen, S. Sheppard, A. O'Connor, S. O'Connor & S. O'Callaghan

**Officials:** Mr. P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer  
Mr. G. O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer  
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District

An apology for his inability to attend was received from Mr. S. O'Callaghan, SEO.

**1.0 Suspension of Standing Orders**

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen it was agreed to suspend standing orders to allow C. O'Suilleabháin present an update on the Little Island Sustainable Transport Interventions and the Bus Shelter Program.

C. O'Suilleabháin, Cork County Council Traffic and Transportation Section, stated that two bus shelters had been approved for Watergrasshill, one outside the Arts Centre, and the other adjacent to McCarthy's Commercial, subject to NTA funding. Contracts would be issued in Q4 2020 and installed in 2021.

He confirmed that ARUP had been appointed in March as consultants to the Little Island Sustainable Transport Interventions. Arup would start by carrying out an assessment of the needs of the residents and employees in the island and focus on the best place to site the interchange to facilitate the cycle, pedestrian, rail and bus routes, again subject to NTA funding. The Part 8 process would start in early 2021.

In relation to the cycle corridor from Bury's Bridge to Carrigwohill, Mr. O'Suilleabháin stated that a consultant had also been appointed to draw up detailed proposals for the section of the cycle corridor from Glounthaune Railway station to Carrigwohill, to be issued in Q4, on foot of the public consultation earlier this year. It was hoped to appoint a consultant in relation to the section from the station to Bury's Bridge later in 2020.

Cllr. Rasmussen asked if there was any information regarding the bus shelters for Cobh, Mr. O'Suilleabháin confirmed that he had discussed same with the NTA and hoped to get funding.

Cllr. A. Barry asked if was still envisaged to put in a bridge to connect the cycle/rail and bus route, Mr. O'Suilleabháin confirmed that it was, but subject to funding and finding the most appropriate place to install it.

## **2.0 Confirmation of Minutes:**

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting hold on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2020 and the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June, were adopted.

## **3.0 Matters Arising:**

### **Land at Glounthaune Railway Station:**

P. Lynch stated that he had met representatives from the Men's Shed group in relation to this and was due to meet them again this week.

### **Norwood Hill, Cobh:**

G. O'Hora stated that a traffic survey was being carried out, once the results had been received, he would be able to assess the need for a digital speed sign.

### **Top of the Hill:**

G. O'Hora stated that the drains had been cleaned out.

### **Whitepoint:**

G. O'Hora informed the members that the signs had been ordered and would be erected shortly.

### **Conlonstown Road:**

G. O'Hora stated that the road was surveyed and additional road safety signs would be erected on the road.

### **Carrigane Road:**

G. O'Hora confirmed that the overgrowth obscuring the sign was listed to be cut back and that the potholes had been repaired.

### **West View, Cobh:**

G. O'Hora confirmed repairs had been carried out to the road and he would look at what additional signage was needed in relation to speeding on the hill, he reminded the members that it was a 50Km/hr zone. A further reduction to the speed limit on the road could be examined as part of the national speed limit review in 2022.

### **Rushbrooke Manor**

G. O'Hora confirmed that the damaged road gully would be repaired in the coming week.

### **Lake Road:**

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that the railings had been fabricated and was awaiting galvanizing and would be put in place as soon as possible.

### **Battery Strand, Cobh:**

P. Lynch stated that engineers from the Coastal Management section had produced a preliminary report which confirmed that the cliff face was at a medium to high risk of

collapse. The estimated cost of a full report from a team of consultants was in the region of €60-€90,000, the members had already approved a budget of €15,000. P. Lynch informed the members that works to repair the cliff face would be in the region of €500,000. Cllr. Rasmussen queried if the OPW was involved in any discussions regarding the works and stated that a plan was needed in order to proceed as there were further problems evident elsewhere particularly in Connolly Street. P. Lynch stated the costs given to the members related to land in Council ownership only but that the bulk of the cliff face was in private hands. He was also to revert to members regarding the possibility of releasing parts of the prepared report to the members. Cllr. S. O'Connor stated that he had raised problems being experience by a householder on Connolly Street with Coastal Management. G. O'Hora stated that he had spoken to engineers from Coastal Management about this issue.

**Pedestrian Crossing:**

G. O'Hora stated a Section 38 had commenced for traffic calming measures and uncontrolled pedestrian crossings at Cannon O'Leary Place, Cobh. The drawings were available for inspection by the public at the Glanmire roads office and Carrighouse, Cobh and submissions were invited. He agreed to circulate the details to the members.

**Five Foot Way Toilets:**

P. Lynch stated an architect had now been appointed to progress the project and that he was due to meet with him in the coming weeks.

**Cobh Footpaths:**

G. O'Hora confirmed that some repairs had been carried out to the footpaths around the town and a contractor was recently appointed to carry out more extensive works.

**Dangerous Structure at East Beach:**

P. Lynch informed the members that the Chief Executive had authorised legal action in this case and the file had been sent to the legal department.

**Cobh Playground:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that part of the playground had been cordoned off as a result of subsidence associated with the Irish Water works. The playground would be repaired within the next two weeks, while the kerbing would be replaced this week.

**Aldi, Carrigtwohill:**

G. O'Hora stated that there had been consultations with the landowner on construction of a new footpath within the Aldi site, and landowner was in favour of the proposals, but further clarification was needed. Cllr. A. Barry stressed that any works had to be completed before children returned to school.

**4.0 Correspondence:**

P. Lynch stated an email had been received from Eirgrid, which had been circulated to the members. It was agreed that members would contact Eirgrid directly in relation to any issues they had with the proposals.

## **5.0 Officers' Reports:**

G. O'Hora circulated a drawing showing a proposed new pedestrian crossing to be located/constructed outside Whitechurch N.S and requested member's approval to commence a Section 38 (Pursuant to Provisions of the Road Traffic Act, 1994).

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan, it was agreed to commence the section 38 process for the above.

## **6.0 Review of Operation of Pay Parking Bye Laws:**

P. Lynch advised the members that a decision on the pay parking bye laws had been deferred from the last meeting, pending a discussion of same with the business owners at a Town Team meeting. Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that the businesses seemed happy to keep things as they were. P. Lynch stated that if the members wished the parking byelaws to remain as they were, he would instruct the wardens to enforce same. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, it was agreed that the Pay Parking Bye-Laws would remain as is and would be enforced. P. Lynch agreed to the members request to circulate details of this decision to all members of the Municipal District.

## **7.0 Municipal District Officers Report:**

P. Lynch stated that work is ongoing to finalise the draft public realm proposal. Members stated that one of the business owners near Casement Square had concerns regarding the impact of the proposals on his business. P. Lynch stated that the businessman should contact him regarding the issues.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen enquired if the wardens were monitoring businesses in relation to the placing of chairs and tables on the public footpath. P. Lynch confirmed that the wardens were aware of which businesses had a licence and were actively monitoring the situation.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Callaghan the revised timetable presented for the members' consideration of the County Development Plan was approved.

## **8.0 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinead Sheppard:** "That this Council look at signage and efforts for speed calming on Roches Row Cobh and also Glasson's Avenue Cobh."

Cllr. Sheppard outlined the difficulties faced by residents in both areas due to excess speed and increased volumes of traffic and also at Aherns Place, particularly at the junction with St. Colman's Square. G. O'Hora agreed to organise a speed survey on the roads and examine erecting additional road safety signage on the roads. G O'Hora pointed out that the Gardaí were the enforcement agency for traffic speed, and

members should contact the gardai to highlight their traffic speed concerns. Cllr. S. O'Connor stated that the removal of a hedge at the junction of Colman's Square and Aherns Place would alleviate the difficulty in exiting Colman's Square. The members were informed that the hedge in question was on private property.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, it was agreed that the engineer would re-examine the signage in the area.

**9.0 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the names of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen and Sinead Sheppard:**

“That this Municipal District would allocate a sum of money from the pay parking dividend for Cobh for Football to assist them in the development of the New Astro Turf facility in Cobh.”

Cllr. C. Rasmussen gave a brief background to the members regarding the project which was nearly ready to commence breaking ground. There was a shortfall in funding of between €25,000 and €30,000, which Cllr. Rasmussen proposed to augment from the Pay Parking Dividend. Cllr. Sheppard fully supported the motion, stating that all monies raised from parking in Cobh were spent in the town. P. Lynch gave details in relation to the Pay Parking Dividend. He advised that a balance of €18,465 remained in the fund, while an amount of €8,000 had been committed to the Jack Doyle Statue Project. He advised members that there would be no Pay Parking Dividend for 2020. Cllr. A. Barry enquired as to what stage the fundraising for the statue was at and whether it would be possible to use that €8,000 could be used for Cobh 4 Football now and reallocate further funds at a later stage to the Jack Doyle fund. Cllr. Rasmussen stated that his understanding was that some fundraising had been carried out but that the organising committee did not have sufficient funds at present to proceed with the project.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed to allocate €25,000 from the Pay Parking Dividend to Cobh 4 Football. It was further agreed that the funding for the Jack Doyle statue would be re-examined once the project was due to commence and the members would then source alternative funding from within the MD budget.

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

“That this Municipal would agree to erect pedestrian priority walking signs on the marsh road in Cuskinny in the interests of safety and that we again look at possible ways of pedestrianising the road and promoting the area as a safe walking area for people to enjoy the nature in the area.”

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that the area in and around Cuskinny had been a lifeline for people during the recent lockdown but with traffic now back at near normal levels was proving dangerous to pedestrian, longterm he would like to see a boardwalk along the route. G. O'Hora pointed out that a number of works had already been carried out in the area by CCC and was not possible to put in a footpath, as the road width and verge were too narrow, but he would examine erection of an additional road sign on the road to highlight walking route to motorists.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, it was agreed that G. O’Hora would look at additional signage in this area

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

“That this Municipal would look at cleaning the verges on the hills in the country area such as Cuskinny and Ballymore to widen the roads to allow for the numbers of people walking on these roads to do so safely.”

Cllr. Rasmussen again highlighted the dangers to pedestrians walking the roads in the more rural areas of the Great Island, stating that the verges needed to be cut back urgently. Cllr. S. O’Connor took the opportunity to express his thanks for the work done by Council workers at Ballywilliam Hill

G. O’Hora stated that the Council was precluded under the Wildlife Act from cutting back hedging but could cut/clean the road verges. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that the verges would be cleaned as soon as possible.

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

“That Cobh Municipal Council would follow up with the CE in relation to our request for CCTV to be installed in the town centre.”

Cllr. Sheppard stated that CCTV would discourage anti-social behaviour and help identify the culprits in relation to dumping or malicious damage, she added that the fund for CCTV was only available to the end of 2020. Cllr. A. Barry stated that there were ongoing issues in relation to who is considered to be the Data Controller in relation to CCTV for public streets, in some Counties, it was the Local Authority, in others it was the Gardaí: there was an urgent need to get clarification on this issue. Cllr. Sheppard stated that this matter had been raised at a previous meeting and that Sean O’Callaghan had undertaken to raise the matter with senior management.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Connor, it was agreed to put the motion on the agenda for the September meeting.

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

“That a letter be issued on behalf of the Municipal District, to the Municipality of Kolbuszowa, Poland (which is twinned with the town of Cobh), in which we assert our support and recognition of LGBT rights and freedoms, and in order to ask in friendship that they clarify their own position on same. The County of Kolbuszowa, within which the Municipality of Kolbuszowa is located, has passed a motion to introduce what are known as an ‘LGBT ideology-free zone’ whereby they have declared themselves ‘unwelcoming of LGBT ideology.’”

On the proposal of Cllr. A. O’Connor, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that Cllr. A. O’Connor would prepare a draft letter to the Municipality of Kolbuszowa for circulation to the members.

## 14.0 Any Other Business

### Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

- 14.1 **Burma Steps** – Cllr. Rasmussen stated that the walls were in very dangerous condition. Engineer to examine and list steps for remedial repair.
- 14.2
- 14.3 **Harbour View** – Cllr. Rasmussen stated that several residents had been in contact from Harbour View regarding letters they had received.

### Cllr. S. O’Callaghan:

- 14.4 **Watergrasshill** – Cllr. O’Callaghan stated that the parents of children on the autistic spectrum were trying to allocate dedicated hours for those children. P. Lynch stated that it was a public playground and the Council could not therefore restrict other children from accessing it, however if a local arrangement could be agreed with the Local Community Council, the Council would not have any objection.

### Cllr. A. O’Connor:

- 14.5 **Carrigtwohill** – Cllr. A. O’Connor enquired as to how many parking fines had been issued in Carrigtwohill to date. P. Lynch stated that to date there had been no fines issued.

### Cllr. A. Barry:

- 14.6 **Glencree Road** – Cllr. A. Barry stated that the Glencree Road had been taken in charge but that the lights had yet to be switched on. G. O’Hora confirmed he will contact CCC’s Public lighting engineer with the relevant pole numbers and request repair.
- 14.7 **Town Development Fund** – Cllr. A. Barry asked for clarification in relation to the recent announcement about projects funded under the town Activation Fund. P. Lynch stated that funding requests for projects which involved marketing and promotion of individual towns had not been approved. He stated that he had met with the Carrigtwohill Business Association in relation to clarifying their proposal and that he was due to meet with the Cobh & Harbour Chamber later in the week.
- 14.7 **Annacarton/Watergrasshill Road** – Cllr. A. Barry stated that the verges along this road need to be cut. Cllr. S. O’Callaghan stated that she had concerns that there was Japanese knotweed in some locations. Engineer to examine and list road verge to be cut.

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**

**Cathaoirleach.**

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**Municipal District Officer.**