

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIGTWOHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE, CARRIGTWOHILL ON TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2020.

Present: Cllr. 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
Mr. R. O'Sullivan, Executive Engineer
Ms. C. McDonnell, Cobh Municipal District

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes:

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

2.0 Matters Arising:

Norwood Hill, Cobh:

G. O'Hora stated that a traffic survey would be carried out next week.

Top of the Hill:

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

Carrigane Road:

G. O'Hora confirmed that the overgrowth obscuring the sign was cut back and that a tree was to be removed.

Rushbrooke Manor

G. O'Hora confirmed that the damaged road gully was repaired.

Lake Road:

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that the railings had been repaired.

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.

Footpath at Aldi, Carrigtwohill:

G. O'Hora stated that consultations with the landowner on construction of a new footpath were ongoing.

Speeding at Roches Row, Cobh

G. O'Hora confirmed that a speed survey was carried out and no issues were found.

Speeding at Ahern Place, Cobh

G. O'Hora said that he would consider the options available.

Marsh Road, Cuskinny, Cobh

G. O’Hora said that the verges would be cut back and additional signage provided.

Verges at Cuskinny and Ballymore, Cobh

G. O’Hora confirmed that some of the verges had been cut back and that letters would issue to landowners to cut back their overgrowth. He also said that a SLOW sign would be erected in the area.

Burma Steps, Cobh

R. O’Sullivan confirmed that repair work was listed but it would not happen in 2020.

Public Lighting at Glencree Road

G. O’Hora confirmed that he had contacted Cork County Council’s public lighting engineer to have the lights turned on.

Toilets at Five Foot Way

P. Lynch confirmed that he was due to meet the architect in the next 2 weeks.

CCTV in Cobh Town Centre

P. Lynch confirmed that he had referred this matter to the Director of Corporate Services and is awaiting a response.

Letter to the Municipality of Kolbuszowa regarding the introduction of an LGBT ideology-free zone.

P. Lynch confirmed that this letter as drafted by Cllr. A. O’Connor had issued.

Works at Ballywilliam

Cllr. S. O’Connor expressed his thanks for the work carried out by Council workers at Ballywilliam.

Barrier for the back road by The Anchorage, Cobh

Cllr. S. O’Connor stressed the need to erect a barrier outside the footpath for school children. G O’Hora confirmed erection of a barrier outside the footpath is being examined.

Connolly Street Embankment Cllr. S. O’Connor stated that the residents of Connolly Street were concerned about the condition of the embankment and feared a possible landslide.

Table Ramps at either end of Cuskinny Marsh

Cllr. A. O’Connor asked if table ramps could be installed at either end of Cuskinny Marsh to address speeding cars. G. O’Hora said that he would investigate the matter but that ultimately, speed was a matter for the Gardaí.

Site for sale at Bishop Roche Park

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked for an update on the site previously owned by Cobh Town Council and asked if the proceeds of the sale would return to Cobh. S. O’Callaghan said that the Section 183 for the sale of the property would come before the members.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that any funds raised from the sale of this site would be retained by Cobh Municipal District.

Footpath at Whitepoint

G. O’Hora confirmed that the footpath at Whitepoint would be repaired and a bollard installed to prevent buses mounting the footpath.

R639 – Glanmire, overgrown verges

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan said that the verges need to be cut back along the R639 but that there was knotweed in some locations. G. O’Hora said the knotweed locations along the R639 would be examined and locations would be treated during October when the plant growth slows down.

Conlonstown Road:

G. O’Hora confirmed that the erection of additional road safety signs was listed for work.

Dangerous Structure at East Beach, Cobh

P. Lynch told the Members that a Dangerous Structure Notice had been served and Cork County Council’s solicitors are engaging with the owner’s solicitors.

6 West Beach – Derelict site

Cllr. S. O’Connor enquired about the derelict site at 6 West Beach, Cobh. P. Lynch said that a Derelict Site notice had been served and the owners had been in contact to confirm that they had obtained planning permission to develop the site.

3.0 Correspondence:

P. Lynch told the Members that he had received a letter from the O.N.E. in relation to the development of 8 Harbour Row, Cobh as veteran support centre and small hostel for homeless veterans. The O.N.E. are requesting utilising 4 parking spaces outside the premises for skips/trailers to remove rubble from the site. On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. Sheppard it was agreed to waive the charges set out in the Pay Parking Bye Laws for the spaces.

P. Lynch read email received from Cormac Ó Súilleabháin regarding proposed public transport and cycle/pedestrian interventions within East Gate. C. Ó Súilleabháin has offered to brief the Members on the wider aspects of the scheme on Monday 14th September via MSTeams. It was agreed that any Members interested in the briefing would contact P. Lynch

4.0 Officers’ Reports:

G. O’Hora told the Members that CCC had applied to Government for funding to implement Covid 19 active travel measures and Cobh MD had been allocated €590,000. Funding was allocated for various projects throughout the MD.

G. O’Hora advised the Members that a Section 38 had commenced for traffic calming measures under 3 schemes, one in Carrigtwohill to provide a raised pedestrian crossing and two in Cobh to provide a zebra crossing at Canon O’Leary Place and a crossing at the junction of Bishop Street and Middleton Street. G. O’Hora circulated drawings for both.

G. O’Hora advised that other projects would be undertaken in other villages across the Municipal District.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan asked if the proposed footpath works at Whitechurch could be extended from the Community Centre to Dromgarrif Lane. G. O’Hora said that it would be examined as part of the Covid 19 active travel measures.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if the Members could be notified of a start date for the works.

Cllr. Barry congratulated G. O’Hora on securing the funding under the Covid allocation.

G. O’Hora told the Members that to avail of the funding, the works would have to be completed by November.

Cllr. A. Barry asked whether it was possible to apply for an extension of time to complete the works.

5.0 Municipal District Officers Report:

General Municipal Allocation

Application from Erin’s Own GAA Club seeking to change the project for which their grant of €10,000 was allocated in 2019. The original application was for pitch remediation works and they are now seeking to carry out works to the juvenile pitch, installation of flood lighting and renovation of storage building.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, the change was approved.

St. Patrick’s Square, Residents’ Association – Amenity Grant

P. Lynch told the Members that due to a technical systems error, an application submitted under the scheme by St. Patrick’s Square Residents Association was not included in the list of application circulated to the Members. He advised Members that estates similar in size were allocated a grant of €250, and recommended that this be done.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the grant was approved.

Licences

P. Lynch referred to an email received from Truly Scrumptious who operate a coffee stall in John F. Kennedy Park, Cobh. They have requested that they be allowed trade on Bank Holiday Mondays in addition to their existing licence. On the proposal of Cllr. S. O’Connor, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, this was approved.

Old Church Cemetery

P. Lynch advised the Members that local funeral directors have indicated that there is a demand for a Columbarium Wall in the Old Church Cemetery in Cobh. Members were advised that it will be necessary to engage a contractor to see what the requirements are to facilitate this.

P. Lynch also told the Members that he had received a number of enquiries in relation to the possibility of providing one or more memorial benches in the Old Church Cemetery, Cobh. P. Lynch also said that a number of queries have also been received in relation to providing memorial benches at a number of other locations around the town. In this regard, P. Lynch said that it would be important that the Municipal District have a policy in place, which he would research. He welcomed the Members' view on same.

6.0 To consider the following Notice of Motion in the names of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:

“That this Municipal District would conduct a full review of the parking arrangements in Cobh with a view to possibly changing the present arrangements for next year. This would include looking at allocating areas in the centre of the town for short time parking and also including the full use of the local schools car parks as well. A committee should be set up with representatives from all interested parties to determine the best course of action.”

Cllr. S. Sheppard said that it would be a good idea to meet with the business people in relation to any possible changes.

P. Lynch advised the Members that some changes could be done by resolution of the Members. Other changes however, would require a change to the parking bye-laws which would involve a Public Consultation.

Cllr. S. O'Connor stated that Cobh was a tourist town and that he would not be in favour of reducing the parking time limit along the town. He also said that he would have concerns as local businesses need ample time for shopping.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that he wanted to hold a meeting in the next fortnight.

S. O'Callaghan said that they would have to comply with the regulations.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, it was agreed that P. Lynch would check how many people can attend a not statutory meeting. He would also give Members information regarding parking changes that would require changes to the byelaws.

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

“That this Municipal would look at implementing proper traffic calming measures on the Tay Road on the Western side heading towards Rushbrooke in an effort to safe guard local residents and pedestrians.”

G. O’Hora said that this work could be examined as part of a low cost road safety scheme in 2021. In the meantime he would arrange to have the verges cut back.

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

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

“That this Municipal would look at improving access for wheel chair and buggy users to the footpaths in the town of Cobh.”

P. Lynch said that an application has been made for funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and that he was awaiting a decision.

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

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

“That the provision of new active travel infrastructure (particularly footpaths and controlled crossings) leading to Glounthaune school (Scoil Náisiúnta an Chroí Naofa) be given consideration should further funding for such works become available.”

G. O’Hora said that he was hoping to upgrade the existing uncontrolled pedestrian crossing subject to funding.

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

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan asked if the grass verge could be cut back and utilised as extra space. Engineer to examine.

10. Any Other Business

Cllr. S. O’Connor:

10.1 Cllr. O’Connor thanked G. O’Hora and R. O’Sullivan for the clean up at the new cemetery, Cobh.

10.2 Cuskinny Hill, Cobh – Cllr. S. O’Connor asked if a “Bad Bend” sign could be erected at Cuskinny Hill. Engineer to examine.

10.3 Loose Manhole covers at College Manor and Inis Alainn, Cobh – Cllr. S. O’Connor asked that the manhole covers be fixed as they are very noisy when cars

drive over them. Engineer confirmed noisy manhole covers would be examined and request for repaired forwarded to Irish Water.

Cllr. A. O'Connor:

10.4 Baryscourt – Cllr. A. O'Connor asked if a pedestrian crossing could be provided at the Family Resource Centre. Engineer to examine.

10.5 Bog Road – Cllr. A. O'Connor asked if pedestrian signage could be erected on The Bog Road. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:

10.6 Ballytrasna Road – Cllr. S. O'Callaghan stated that the shores across from the G.P's surgery were full of gravel. Engineer confirmed roads gullies have been listed for cleaning.

10.7 Watergrasshill – Cllr. S. O'Callaghan asked if the disabled drivers space between Centra and the Post Office could be moved closer to the Post Office to facilitate those with disabilities accessing the Post Office. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. A. Barry:

10.8 Ballyadam – Cllr. A. Barry asked if the verges could be cut back and signage erected to facilitate pedestrians.

10.9 Carrigtwohill – Cllr A. Barry said that the Carrigtwohill Community Alert Group have 10 signs that need erecting. R. O'Sullivan said that he would agree locations with the group and arrange to have the signs erected.

10.10 Cllr. A. Barry raised the issue of road lining on the slip road at the junction of Church Road and Main Street, Carrigtwohill. Engineer to examine.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen:

10.11 Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if grass cutting could be carried out at Ballymore Cemetery, Cobh. Engineer to examine.

10.12 Cllr. C. Rasmussen thanked the Council on behalf of Norwood School for the works done to provide the 2nd entrance to facilitate social distancing.

10.13 Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if a speed check could be carried out at Wharton's Corner, Cobh. Engineer to examine.

10.14 Blocked drains – Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if drains could be cleared throughout the town. Engineer confirmed road gully cleaning would commence in Cobh town shortly as part of CCC's drain cleaning programme.

10.15 Derelict Sites - P. Lynch to bring a report to the October meeting.

10.16 Boat at Connolly Street – Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if the boat could be removed as soon as possible. R. O'Sullivan stated that Council staff have made a number of attempts to remove the boat but were unable to do so as the boat was

occupied on each occasion. It was agreed that contact would be made with An Garda Síochána in relation to this matter.

Cllr. S. Sheppard:

10.17 Cllr. S. Sheppard stated that there was a crack in the road with a hollow underneath by the traffic lights near Ahern's Place. Engineer to examine.

10.18 Hedge at Leonards Lodge, Cobh. Cllr. S. Sheppard asked if the hedge could be cut back as it is obstructing traffic sightlines. Engineer to examine.

10.19 Cllr. S. Sheppard raised the issue of water running down the roadway by Ellen's Kitchen, Rushbrooke, Cobh. Engineer to examine.

10.20 Blocked drain. Cllr. S. Sheppard raised the issue of a blocked drain by the post box opposite Assumption Place. She said that when it rains, that entire side of the road floods. Engineer to examine.

10.21 Bin at Ellen's Kitchen, Rushbrooke. Cllr. S. Sheppard asked if some bars could be inserted in lid of the bin to prevent domestic rubbish being dumped in the bin and also to prevent birds taking rubbish out. Engineer to examine.

10.22 Trees near Cobh Rambler's pitch – Cllr. S. Sheppard asked if some of these trees could be cut back. Engineer to examine.

P. Lynch told the Members that the Heritage Centre would be available for Council Meetings on Mondays for the next few months.

Cllr. A. O'Connor asked if it was possible to rotate the meetings between Cobh, Carrigtwohill and Watergrasshill.

Cllr. S. O'Connor said that the Parish Centre in Cobh would also be available for meetings.

It was agreed that meetings would be held in Cobh Heritage Centre going forward.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach.

Municipal District Officer.