

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HELD AT CARRIGTWOHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2020.**

**Present:** Cllr. S. Sheppard, A. Barry, C. Rasmussen, S. O'Connor, A. 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 Consideration of Draft Budgetary Plan for the Cobh Municipal District.**

P. Lynch outlined the draft budgetary plan to the Members. He explained that there while there were a number of reductions compared to 2020, the Town Development Fund, Village Enhancement and General Municipal Allocation would remain unchanged. He advised that the Pay budget was due to increase in 2021, as a result of the pay rise to all public servants in October 2020 and that any reductions in the budget were due to non-pay elements.

S. O'Callaghan stated that the Chief Executive was hopeful of additional funding.

Cllr. A. Barry asked what was the different from last year and said that he would not be in favour of agreeing the budget until it is known whether additional funding would be forthcoming. He also said that he would not be in favour of cutting back services.

Cllr. S. Sheppard said that she would like to see what extra funding the Chief Executive can obtain prior to agreeing to the draft budgetary plan. She also asked if the Members could be furnished with a report on Coral Leisure for the next meeting of the Municipal District.

Cllr. S. O'Connor said that he was not prepared to vote until a final figure is notified.

S. O'Callaghan stated that there was a statutory obligation on the Chief Executive to circulate the plan to the members.

Cllr. C. Rasmussen stated that these were unprecedented times, and no-one wants to see cuts to services. He asked what the last date for a decision was. S. O'Callaghan confirmed that today was the last day.

Cllr. A. O'Connor fully agreed with the sentiments of the other members.

P. Lynch stated that the overall cut to the budget was in the region of between €40,000 and €50,000 and advised members that their views would be taken into consideration at the full budget meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to reject the draft budgetary plan in its current form.

## **2.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Deimhniú Miontuairiscí:**

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. O’Callaghan, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were adopted.

## **3.0 Matters Arising:**

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

G. O’Hora stated that Signs were now ordered and would be installed at this location during early 2021.

### **Cobh Footpaths:**

G. O’Hora stated that CCC crews were presently working through the approved list of footpath repairs.

### **Footpath at Aldi, Carrigtwohill:**

G. O’Hora stated that he was awaiting permission from Aldi in relation to the final section of footpath, also he continued to liaise with the developer and the insurance section of Cork County Council and would have a report for next month’s meeting.

### **Speeding at Ahern Place, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that he proposed to construct two build outs on Ahern Place, before the entrance to St. Colman’s Square to slow traffic and also to install additional signage in 2021.

### **Verges at Cuskinny & Ballymore, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that agreed verge cutting works was continuing at these locations.

### **Barrier for the back road by the Anchorage, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that having examined the existing footpath on the back road, he will carry out repairs and extend the footpath width.

### **Knotweed**

G. O’Hora confirmed that work had commenced on spraying areas of knotweed in the M.D. area.

### **Dangerous Structure at East Beach, Cobh:**

P. Lynch informed the members that the owner of the building had indicated that stabilisation works would be carried out. In response to a query from Cllr. Rasmussen, he stated that the Council intended following up with the owner to ensure that the substantive works to secure the building would be carried out as soon as possible. He indicated however that the current works being undertaken on behalf of Irish Water in the area may delay the carrying out of such works.

**Cuskinny Hill, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that the verges had now been cut back in this location. He said that there was already sufficient road safety signage in this area.

**Watergrasshill:**

G. O’Hora stated that he would re-examine the possibility of moving the disabled parking space closer to the post office to facilitate elderly residents collecting their pension.

**Ballyadam:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that verge cutting works and additional signage had been listed for the Ballyadam area.

**Carrigtwohill:**

G. O’Hora stated that the road lining at the junction of Church Road and Main Street would be done next week.

**Ballymore Cemetery, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that no staff were available at present to carry out further grass cutting works and that a cut had been carried out earlier in the year and usually such works were only carried out once a year. He queried whether it was possible that members of the local community would be in a position to cut the grass. Cllr. C. Rasmussen agreed to consult with local residents and revert.

**Wharton’s Corner, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that road drains at Wharton’s corner had being cleaned out.

**Connolly Street, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the boat had now been removed.

**Leonard’s Lodge, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the he would contact the owner of the property regarding cutting back the hedging and if not successful, the council would cut it back as it is obstructing visibility for motorists.

**Assumption Place, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the drain at Assumption Place had been repaired.

**Rushbrooke:**

G. O’Hora stated that the bin outside Ellen’s Kitchen had been replaced.

**Trees, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora stated that the trees around Cobh Ramblers pitch were listed for cuttings, however when the crew arrived to carry out the work, some of the residents asked them not to cut the trees. As the matter was initially raised by Cllr. S. Shepperd, she agreed to contact the residents again.

**Footpath at Five Foot Way:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked when the footpath at the five foot way would be repaired. G. O’ Hora confirmed that Sorensens were commencing work on it this week.

**Traffic Calming Measures in Carrig Na Bhfear**

G. O’Hora stated that he would look at the possibility of providing traffic calming measures at this location in 2021, subject to funding.

**Site at Little Island:**

G. O’Hora stated the selling of cars on the site in Little Island was a matter for the Gardaí as the Council had tried to contact the car owners.

**Road Lining:**

G. O’Hora stated that having examined location, that the road lining would be extended between Cork Golf Club and Cork Plastics at Little Island.

**Potholes:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the hot box would be in Cobh next week to carry out hot patch road repairs.

**Hartlands Point, Cobh:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that the grass in Hartland’s Point had been cut.

**Whitechurch:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that some of the verges on the Old Mallow Road will be cut back subject to available funding.

**Bin at Little Island:**

G. O’Hora confirmed that an extra bin was provided near the Centra shop in Little Island.

**Battery Strand, Cobh:**

P. Lynch advised the members that he was awaiting a reply from Coastal Management in relation to his request for the balance of the funding required to carry out a report on the stability of the cliff.

**Toilets at Whitepoint:**

P. Lynch advised the members that the architects’ department were currently working on the design of the new toilet facility at Whitepoint.

**Public Toilets in Cobh:**

Cllr. S. Shepperd stated that the public toilets in Cobh were really clean and well maintained and she asked that this be conveyed to the relevant staff.

**4. Correspondence:**

P. Lynch referred to the response which had been received from the Municipality of Kolbuszowa. Cllr. A. O’Connor said that this was a satisfactory response and the members agreed that the twinning arrangement would continue.

P. Lynch referred to an email received from Truly Scrumptious in which they asked if their licence could be extended to 8pm until the end of December. This was approved subject to an agreement for closing the gate at Kennedy Park being put in place.

**5. Officers' Reports:**

G. O'Hora advised the members that the section 38 consultation period for traffic calming works at L3680 in Carrigwohill and R624, L2990 and L2992 in Cobh was finished and only 1 submission was received. The submission was received from the Gardaí and they are in favour of the works. A Director of Services order would now be sought for the works to proceed.

**New Traffic System at Top of the Hill:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen raised his concerns with the new system at the Top of Hill stating that it was very tight.

R. O'Sullivan stated that a yellow box would be installed outside The Park to facilitate exit and entry. Cllr. S. O'Connor said that if cars are parked in this area, it will cause difficulties. It was agreed to look at taking out some of the parking spaces in this area.

G. O'Hora said that the road scheme was designed to slow traffic down at the busy town centre junction, but issues raised by members will be monitored once the works are completed.

**Parking in Cobh Town Centre:**

P. Lynch informed the members of a proposal to provide short-term parking spaces close to businesses with a high turnover of customers. P. Lynch also referred to the previously discussed proposal for a one way system at Casement Square and confirmed that the owner of the hardware store was happy to trial this. On the proposal of Cllr C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Shepperd, it was agreed to recommend further consideration of these changes to the working group set up to look at parking in Cobh.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Shepperd, seconded by Cllr. C. Rasmussen, it was agreed to implement free parking in Cobh for the month of December.

Cllr. S. O'Connor asked if a local taxi driver could be invited to the next meeting of the Parking Group to discuss the taxi rank. Members agreed and asked Cllr. O'Connor to progress this.

**6. Municipal District Officers' Report:**

P. Lynch presented the Municipal District Officers Report for October.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the following grants were approved.

Carrig Eoin Residents Association	€ 350.00
Cobh (Great Island) Community Centre	€ 1,575.00
Cobh Tidy Towns	€ 4,000.00

Whitechurch & Waterloo Community Assoc.	€ 1,300.00
Carrignavar Community Council	€ 600.00
Watergrasshill Ladies GAA	€ 2,000.00
Watergrasshill Soccer Club	€ 700.00
Cobh Museum (includes €950 transferred from TDF)	€ 1,200.00
Total	€ 11,375.00

On the proposal of Cllr. S O'Connor seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, the following grants were approved under the Town Development Fund / Project ACT

Cobh & Harbour Chamber Tourist office	€ 5,000
Installation of Christmas Lights for Cobh (annual allocation)	€ 7,500
Carrigtwohill Business Assoc. Promotional Video for businesses in town	€10,000
Cobh Tourism Annual Running Costs	€ 5,000
Cobh Tourism Events organised	€ 1,750
Cobh People's Regatta Contribution towards costs incurred	€ 500
Carrigtwohill Business Association Christmas Lights	€ 1,800

An amount of €950 is to be transferred to supplement the Community Fund allocations listed above.

Members noted that an amount of €15,000 had previously been approved under Project ACT for additional Christmas Lights in Cobh.

#### **4 East Beach Cobh**

P. Lynch advised the members that work is currently underway which will remove the immediate danger. R. O'Sullivan to examine the provision of a pedestrian zone.

#### **Harper's Island Wetlands**

P. Lynch notified the members that Harper's Island Wetlands won the Munster Category in the Excellence in Placemaking Awards 2020.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, it was agreed to write a letter of congratulations to Glounthaune Community Association who had submitted the application.

7. **To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**  
That this Municipal would erect pedestrian warning signs in the Ballymore area from the church down the hill in the direction of the school owing to the high speed of some motorists in the area.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Shepperd, it was agreed that the engineer would examine additional road safety signage for this area.

8. **To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**  
That this Municipal would complete a programme of full repair to the ornamental streetlights on the full length of the town.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen seconded by Cllr. S. Shepperd, it was agreed that the engineer would complete a survey on the lights and prepare costings for repair.

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

Owing to the fact that people can only walk short distances in and around the town due to restrictions that all the fallen leaves on the footpaths would be removed as a matter of urgency and that any blocked drains would be freed as part of this process as some of the areas are in a dangerous state.

G. O’Hora advised the members that a programme of works had already commenced to free blocked drains and remove fallen leaves.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr. S. O’Connor.

**10. Any Other Business:**

**Cllr. S. O’Connor:**

**10.1 No Parking Sign:**

Cllr. S. O’Connor asked if a No Parking sign could be erected on the gate to the back entrance of Donelan Terrace/Barrymore Avenue, Cobh. Engineer to examine.

**Cllr. S. O’Callaghan:**

**10.2 Signage at Conlonstown:**

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan thanked the engineers for the provision of signage at Conlonstown.

**10.3 Flooding in Ballytrasna:**

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan raised the issue of flooding by the Centra shop in Ballytrasna. Engineer to examine.

**10.4 Island Cross:**

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan raised the issue of water running down into the cul de sac from Island Cross. Engineer to examine.

**10.5 Ryefield, Whitechurch:**

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan raised the issue of flooding in the Ryefield area of Whitechurch. G. O’Hora stated that CCC had commenced drainage works on the Ryefield road and he will apply for more funding in 2021 to complete Phase 3 drainage works on the road.

**10.6 Boreen Dearg:**

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan said that the ditches need to be cut back, potholes need filling and rubbish collected, all at Boreen Dearg. Engineer confirmed potholes has been repaired.

**Cllr. C. Rasmussen**

**10.7 Footpath at Whitepoint, Cobh:**

Cllr. C. Rasmussen thanked the engineers for the completion of the footpath at Whitepoint.

10.8 Footpath across from College Manor, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen raised the issue of repair works needed. G. O’Hora stated that this would be added to the footpath repair list.

10.9 Bus Stop at Park Road, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked if the bus stop at Park Road could be moved further away from the corner as it causes tail-backs for traffic turning onto Park Road. Engineer to examine.

10.10 Resurfacing of Spy Hill, Cobh:

Cllr. C. Rasmussen asked when the resurfacing of Spy Hill was due to start. G. O’Hora confirmed that works would commence next week.

**Cllr. A. Barry**

10.11 Cul-de-sac sign at Ballyrichardmore.

Cllr. A. Barry asked if cul-de- sac signs could be erected in Ballyrichardmore as cars are turning off the N25 assuming they have access through to Waterrock. Engineer to examine.

**Cllr. S. Shepperd**

10.12 Carrignavar National School.

Cllr. S. Shepperd thanked the engineers for providing the barrier at the school in Carrignavar. She asked if signage could be erected to let motorists know that there is a school crossing up ahead. Engineer to examine.

10.13 Public Lighting at Cluain Ard, Cobh

Cllr. S. Shepperd raised the issue of a number of public lights not working in Cluain Ard, Cobh. It was agreed that she would email P. Lynch with the details.

10.14 Signage at the Velvet House Cross, Cobh

Cllr. S. Shepperd asked if a stop sign could be erected on the Ballywilliam approach to the roundabout.

10.15 Speeding at Whitepoint Estate, Cobh

Cllr. S. Shepperd asked if measures could be put in place to address the speeding from Whitepoint Estate onto the main road. Engineer to examine.

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



**Cathaoirleach**

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**Municipal District Officer.**