

Comhairle Contae Chorcaí Cork County Council

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT of West Cork held on MS Teams at 11.00am on 11th June 2021

Members present: Cllrs. Karen Coakley, Ross O'Connell, Katie Murphy, Paul Hayes, P.G. Murphy, Declan Hurley, Deirdre Kelly, Joe Carroll

In attendance: John Ahern S.E.E.
Ruth O'Brien S.E.E.
Mac Dara O h-Ici, S.E.O. M.D.W.C.
Clare Zuk, S.S.O. MDWC
Martina O'Driscoll C.O. M.D.W.C.

Cllr. D. Collins presided.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

*Proposed by Cllr. D. Hurley
Seconded by Cllr. K. Coakley*

Resolved:

"That the minutes of the MDWC Meeting held on 7th May 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

MATTERS ARISING

In reply to Cllr. P. Hayes's request for an update on the Fáilte Ireland Lease for Baltimore Old Railway Station and Bull Point, the S.E.O. confirmed that there had been no developments in the matter.

Cllr. P. Hayes and Cllr. D. Hurley sought an update on the staffing report previously sought, in response the S.E.O. advised that staffing was a matter for the Executive and a workforce plan is in place which governs Council staffing.

Cllr. K. Coakley sought an update on her request for speed ramps to be installed on the road at Union Hall playground and Baltimore Playschool and what measures were taken to reduce speed on Townshend Street, Skibbereen. Mr. J. Ahern S.E.E. noted that works were due to get underway in Union Hall in the coming months and this will be reviewed during those works. Mr. Ahern also advised that he will review Baltimore and Townshend Street also in due course.

Cllr. R. O'Connell requested an update on the road safety measures requested for the road past Barleycove beach. Ms. R. O'Brien S.E.E. advised that she would follow up directly with Cllr. O'Connell on the matter.

In reply to Cllr. D. Collins's request for an update on his request for slow down signs at Upper High Street Drimoleague and also sought an update on a wheelchair space at Upper High Street, Drimoleague. Mr. R. O'Brien S.E.E. advised that tenders for road marking had been received and line marking works would be completed in the coming weeks.

STATUTORY BUSINESS

Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

- a. Grant of Right-of-Way and Wayleave at Shrone, Glengarriff, Co Cork to John O'Sullivan, River Lodge, Shrone, Glengarriff, Co Cork.

Members agreed to postpone a decision on the above Section 183 until a more detailed map can be provided to them from the Property Section.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Proposed by Cllr. K. Coakley, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll

"I call upon this Council to re-instate outdoor staff with immediate effect to maintain our graveyards."

Cllr. K. Coakley raised her concerns about overgrowth and the condition of footpaths at St. Patrick's Cemetery. Cllr. Coakley also advised that Abbeystrewery and Chapel Lane cemeteries were in need of maintenance and queried if the income derived from the selling of grave plots was used for the upkeep of graveyards. Cllr. Coakley questioned if staff retirements in the area resulted in poor maintenance of graveyards and requested that the maintenance of cemeteries be a priority for the Council. Members expressed their full support for Cllr. K. Coakley's motion and collectively requested a comparative staffing report outlining the numbers in the various road areas ten years ago and currently. Cllr. J. Carroll and Cllr. P. Hayes expressed concern that graveyard maintenance was no longer completed by council staff and queried whether it was cost effective to outsource maintenance work. Cllr. D. Collins requested a report of the maintenance schedule of graveyards due to the reduced budget.

The S.E.O. MacDara O'Hici advised members that in general, maintenance of graveyards is completed by a combination of contractors and local community groups and not Council staff. The S.E.O. noted that the budget has been cut this year which affects the level of maintenance to cemeteries and advised members that extra resources or an increase in the GMA allocations could be reviewed by the members at the next budget meeting. The Senior Executive Engineers Mr. J. Ahern and Ms. R. O'Brien both advised they will list the different maintenance regimes in burial grounds.

Proposed by Cllr. R. O'Connell, seconded by Cllr. D. Collins

"That this council urgently see to it that adequate road safety measures at the junction of the R-572 and L-4927-69 outside Glengarriff to prevent the imminent danger associated with a blind-spot that has recently been created due to the development of an extension to a house at said junction. This should, at the very least, include mirrors on the opposite side of the road and speed bumps on the Castletownbere side of the junction."

Report from Ruth O'Brien, S.E.E.

We are progressing a design for the realignment of the junction in question and we hope to carry out these works under a Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme this year, subject to agreement with relevant landowners. In the interim, Castletownbere Area Office has improved the road markings and improvements to signage are also proposed. The issue of speeding on the R-572 is a matter for An Garda Síochána.

Cllr. R. O'Connell requested driver feedback signs be installed as a measure to reduce speed at this junction and Ms. R. O'Brien S.E.E. noted this and revert to Cllr. O'Connell.

Proposed by Cllr. R. O'Connell, seconded by Cllr. D. Collins

"That this council resurface and erect a safety rail at the small slipway down to Cadogan's Strand from the R592 so that people with disabilities and the elderly can access the beach without stress and/or risk of injury."

Report from Ruth O'Brien, S.E.E.

Cadogan's Strand is accessed officially by two areas; Coosheen and Trá na Oileann. This small slipway off the R571 is in fact an unofficial entry point onto Trá na Oileann, which is accessed through a small gap in a wall. Cork County Council does not encourage swimmers to access the beach from this point, primarily as there is no provision for safe parking here, due to the fact that the entrance is directly onto the busy R592.

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Municipal District Officers Report

The M.D.O. distributed copies of the Municipal District Officers Report – 11th June 2021 which was welcomed by Members who acknowledged the efforts of all involved.

Bantry Culvert Progress Update

Ms. Ruth O'Brien outlined to members an update on the progress of Bantry Culvert.

Section 38

Mr. John Ahern S.E.E. outlined to members details of the Section 38 due for public consultation at Chapel St, Dunmanway and Glandore village.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. P.G. Murphy congratulated the Bantry National Learning Network on their West Cork Home Focus outreach project for its recent success in receiving an award for their mental health programme was selected by the WHO as one of just 25 programmes globally for inclusion in a new initiative to promote person-centred and rights-based approaches in community mental health services.

Cllr. K. Coakley also congratulated The Skibbereen Ludgate as recent winners of the Digital Changemakers category at the DigitalTown Awards.

Cllr. R. O'Connell requested an update on the line markings to be reinstated on Schull Pier. Ms. R. O'Brien S.E.E. noted the matter and will follow up with the Area Engineer Mr. Niall Chamberlain.

Cllr. R. O'Connell queried when the existing toilets at Barleycove beach will be available to the public. Cllr. P. Hayes sought an update on whether the West Cork MD would be installing showers and toilets and requested toilet facilities be put in place at Lough Ine. The S.E.O. advised that the MD area was well ahead at providing toilet facilities and were exploring solutions which are more environmentally friendly as they could utilize mains systems. He advised that facilities are being provided at Inchydoney, Barleycove and Long Strand and the Barleycove toilets would be opened during the bathing season.

Cllr. K. Coakley queried whether the 80km speed limit on Glencurragh road could be reduced and requested a sign to be reinstated at the old pitch and putt pitch advising of the speed limit. Mr. John Ahern S.E.E. agreed to review the area and reinstate the sign.

Cllr. K. Coakley complimented the Engineering staff on the recent resurfacing of the Main Street Carpark and requested ASD friendly car spaces to be provided within the carpark. The S.E.O. explained that any such spaces would not have legal effect and suggested that the existing Age Friendly Spaces may be suitable to be used for this purpose.

Cllr. K. Coakley queried whether on street music would be provided during the summer months similar to last years Project Act music initiative. The S.E.O. noted the issue and will review what arrangements can be made.

Cllr. K. Coakley sought an update on the Skate park at Skibbereen playground. Mr. J. Ahern S.E.E. advised that a date for commencement of works was imminent.

Cllr. D. Kelly queried an update on the Shiplake embankment.

Cllr. D. Kelly queried when the shower facilities would be made available for the public following the easing of COVID 19 restrictions at the Dunmanway Swimming pool complex. The M.D.O. Clare Zuk advised that the current operation is for 'rinse only' at all swimming pool.

Cllr. P.G. Murphy advised that members should highlight the recent IARO report with National Public Representatives which outlined a disparity in funding within Cork County, and Cllr. D. Collin's advised that it would be discussed at Full Council. Cllr. D. Hurley requested that a copy of the report be forwarded to the Taoiseach.

Cllr. D. Collins queried when the speed limits review was open and Mr. John Ahern S.E.E. advised members that the next Speed Limit review is due in 2022 and submissions can be sent into Road Design Office in Mallow marked 'Countywide Speed Limit Review'.

Members agreed to hold their AGM on Monday 5th July at 10.45am followed by the July M.D.W.C. meeting at 11.00am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH _____

DATE _____