



MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**held at Dunmanway Municipal Pool and MS Teams at 11.00am
on 6TH November 2023**

- Members Present:** Cllrs Paul Hayes, Deirdre Kelly, Caroline Cronin,
Declan Hurley, Danny Collins
- Member on MS Teams:** Cllr. Karen Coakley, Patrick Gerard Murphy
- Member Apologies:** Cllrs Ross O'Connell, Joe Carroll
- In attendance:** Noreen O' Mahony, S.E.O. W.C.M.D.
Jacqueline Mansfield, M.D.O. W.C.M.D.
John Ahern S.E.E. Skibbereen
Ruth O'Brien, S.E.E. Bantry
Martina O' Driscoll, Meeting Administrator W.C.M.D.

Cllr. D. Collins presided.

Statutory Meeting

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (a) **Minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 2nd October 2023**

*Proposed by Cllr. Declan Hurley
Seconded by Cllr. Paul Hayes*

Resolved:

"That the minutes of Municipal District meeting (as circulated) of 2nd October 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach."

MATTERS ARISING

Members highlighted the bottleneck issue at Castle Street which was causing damage to cars parked on the street and requested an update on providing a carpark off Castle Street in Dunmanway for residents. The M.D.O. advised that a design and Part 8 would be required for both a short- or long-term solution to parking on Castle Street and it was emphasized that any solution should cater to the parking needs of the entire town. In response to this, the members requested the initiation of the Part 8 process.

In response to an update on the design and costs required for the Ballineen Toilets the M.D.O. noted that the design has not been finalised yet so a costing for the project is not currently available.

The Member highlighted the need for attention to be paid to the facade of the municipal pool and the M.D.O. noted the matter and will look into it.

A member expressed thanks to John Ahern S.E.E. for the flushing works at the Dock in Union Hall which had made a great improvement in the seaweed issue there.

An update was sought on Chateaulin Orchard in Clonakilty and the M.D.O. noted that a tree quote had recently been accepted and they were now engaging with consultants on the project. The first phase of the project would deal with reinstating the stone wall and procuring a stone mason was currently underway.

In reply to a query on whether the public toilet in Inchadoney was on the maintenance list for the new outdoor staff the M.D.O. noted that it was not included currently but this can be reviewed once the new staff member is recruited into public convenience maintenance.

Suspension of Standing Orders

A member called for a suspension of standing orders to discuss the recent changes at Divisional Manager level and the members present agreed. Michael Lynch was recently appointed Divisional Manager West, had met West MD Councillors, was introduced to the new team, discussed issues relating to West MD and was beginning to familiarise with West. Then further changes were made to the 3 Divisional Manager posts. No disrespect towards the newest incoming West Divisional Manager Lorraine Lynch, but this creates a lot of uncertainty. If Valerie OSullivan does not get the permanent Chief Exec post, which is expected to be interviewed for before Christmas, further changes could be made. This is a lot of change, causing uncertainty, leading into election time. A member mentioned if it were to be sent to full Council, members would be told at full council it is an executive matter. Members present decided and requested that their concerns be passed on to full Council.

2. STATUTORY BUSINESS

Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993

Cois na hAbhainn, Clonakilty

That, being satisfied that a public right of way exists over it, and the road is of general public utility, Cork County Council hereby declares pursuant to Section 11(1) of the Roads Act, 1993 the following road to be a public road: -

ESTATE NAME	LOCATION	LINEAR METRES
Cois na hAbhainn	Clonakilty	117

On the proposal of Cllr. Pau Hayes and seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly the public right of way above was approved by the members.

The members expressed thanks to Mr. Ian O'Regan for his hard work in resolving the issues at this estate and progressing the public right of way.

3. NOTICES OF MOTION/ FOGRA RUN

(a) Proposed by Cllr. Declan Hurley, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly

“That the West Cork Municipal District would support the Board of Management and the Parents Association of Ballincarriga National School with installing two speed activation signs to address safety concerns with pupils crossing the public road from the drop-off and pick-up area on the opposite side of the road.”

Report from John Ahern S.E.E.

A scheme for improvement works to the present layout at the Ballinacarriga National School is currently being designed by the Traffic and Transportation department of Cork County Council. An update on the progress of that scheme will be provided for the next MD meeting as this scheme may also include portable speed measuring devices which would be funded under that scheme. Separately an application for funding for a portable speed measuring device (one allowed per area) is being made this week. The location for deployment of this will depend on what measures are included in the design of the scheme for Ballinacarriga.

(b) Proposed by Cllr. Danny Collins, seconded by Cllr. Caroline Cronin

“That Cork County Council would set the wheels in motion to find a new museum for Bantry town.”

Cllr. Collins highlighted that the current building is not wheelchair accessible and it is also not possible to extend the building and queried whether the plans for the new proposed Music Centre could accommodate the museum.

Report from Ruth O’Brien S.E.E.

Different locations have been considered over the past number of years and unfortunately Cork County Council does not have any suitable property in the town centre to which to relocate the museum.

(c) Proposed by Cllr. Danny Collins, seconded by Cllr. Caroline Cronin

“Following my motion in the past to find an area for a skatepark in Bantry, I am calling on Cork County Council to use the area in Newtown that is going to be the old playground in the near future for a skatepark.”

Report from Ruth O’Brien S.E.E.

The existing playground property at Newtown would not be suitable for the construction of a new skatepark. Other locations within CCC plots of land are currently being considered but would be subject to a Part 8 and funding.

(d) Proposed by Cllr. Caroline Cronin, seconded by Cllr. Danny Collins

“I am calling on Cork County Council to prioritise the completion of the car park at Greenmount Road in Ballydehob. This car park is very near to completion but has been untouched for a considerable amount of time. Its completion will provide much needed parking spaces in the village and alleviate congestion especially during the busy times of school drop off and collection.”

Report from Ruth O’Brien S.E.E.

The completion of this car park would provide much needed parking in Ballydehob, and a funding application shall be made as soon as a suitable funding stream has been identified.

(e) Proposed by Cllr. Karen Coakley, seconded by Cllr. Paul Hayes

“I call upon this Council to update on the plans to complete the footpaths on both sides of Bridge St, Skibbereen.”

Report from John Ahern S.E.E.

The southern side of Bridge St. received a new paved footpath in 2022. This was grant funded under the National Transport Authority’s (NTA) Town and Village scheme following a funding application by Cork County Council in 2021. An application for 2023 funding for the opposite side of Bridge St. was submitted by Cork County Council to the NTA in 2022. However, as members are aware, no new funding from this stream was provided to Cork County Council in 2023.

Bridge St, Skibbereen is again amongst the schemes for which a 2024 funding application from this stream is being submitted to the NTA.

4. REPORTS & CORRESPONDANCE

(a) MDO Report.

The MDO briefed members on the MDO report.

(b) Update on Part 8 for the Mill Culvert Upgrade Project in Bantry

Ruth O’Brien S.E.E. advised the members that the Part 8 will be advertised in the near future following the recent public participation day.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members expressed thanks to the Bantry Area outdoor staff and Ruth O’ Brien S.E.E. for the hard work done over the Bank Holiday weekend preventing flooding from the high spring tides in Bantry town. It was noted that staff were visible at all hours over the weekend pumping water from the streets and the members commended their hard work.

In response to a query on the request for pelican lighting to be installed at Glengarriff, Ruth O’Brien S.E.E. noted the matter for follow up with the contractor.

An update on the walkway between Skibbereen Community School and the primary schools was requested and in response John Ahern S.E.E. advised that the works on the walkway had been delayed due to ongoing wet weather.

In response to a query on the resurfacing of the road entrance to the Skibbereen Soccer club, John Ahern S.E.E. noted that this was not a public roadway entrance.

A member reported a bad dip in the road at Holly Hill in Aughadown causing unsafe road conditions, Ruth O'Brien noted that this issue had been identified to the TII and a funding application had been made to rectify the issue.

A member expressed thanks to the M.D.O. for her help when meeting with the Dunmanway Community Council who were successful in getting funding from Eirgrid.

A query in relation to the watery boureen in Clonakilty and whether it could be resurfaced was made by a member and the M.D.O. noted the matter for follow up.

A member wished the Clonakilty Tidy Towns well with their Pride of Place nomination in Armagh this weekend for their Biodiversity Garden project.

Members referred to the discussions with Failte Ireland regarding the proposed lease of the Old Railway building in Baltimore to a local community group and expressed their disappointment at the news that the building has now been sold to a private developer. They queried why the proposed plan to facilitate a lease with Failte Ireland and the local Community group was not successful. The S.E.O. noted that Cork County Council were in discussions with Failte Ireland regarding a sublease to the local community group but as there was no adequate business plan made available from the group the Council could not progress the matter any further. The members requested that the MD write to Failte Ireland to seek an account of what had happened.

The members welcomed the S.E.O. Noreen O'Mahony to the West Cork Municipal District and said they were looking forward to working together into the future.

The members expressed their condolences to John Ahern on the recent passing of his father-in-law, Mr. Tadg Manning.

The members agreed to hold the December WCMD meeting at Dunmanway Municipal Pool on the 4th December 2023.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH _____ **DATE** _____