

# **MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING** **HELD ON TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY AT CARRIG HOUSE, COBH**

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

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

An apology for his absence was received from Mr. G. O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer.

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

**In-Committee Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024** – On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the minutes were adopted.

**In-Committee Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024** - On the proposal of Cllr. A. Barry, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the minutes, as amended, were adopted.

**Monthly Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024** - On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. A. Barry, the minutes were adopted.

Cllr. Sean O'Connor announced that he was retiring and not contesting the next local election. Cllr. O'Connor was first elected in 1985 to Cobh Urban District Council. The members and officials spoke warmly of his 39 years of service to the town of Cobh and the wider community in County Cork.

## **2.0 Matters Arising.**

### **Valley Road:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that the signs had been ordered and will be put up in the next few weeks.

### **Carrigtwohill:**

R. O'Sullivan gave the members the results of a traffic survey carried out in Carrigtwohill. Over a 6-day period over 47,000 vehicles, including 1,800 HGV's. He stated that the planned URDF may solve some of these issues. Cllr. A. Barry stated that the traffic monitoring did not give the volume of traffic for during the day, the situation was worse on a workday. He stated that the numbers given were frightening and as more development was planned for Carrigtwohill would only get worse. The lack of an upgrade to the N25 was causing problems, traffic travelling through Carrigtwohill was a serious issue and the sooner the public realm improvements were carried out, the better. Cllr. A. O'Connor thanked the staff for carrying out the survey, the yearly total for traffic going past the school really stood out.

**Pearse Square:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that he had not yet examined Pearse Square in relation to the provision of an Age Friendly parking space but would do so in the next few weeks.

**Templemichael Terrace:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that the engineers were still awaiting funding allocation before drawing up a list of works to be undertaken. Cllr. S. O'Callaghan asked if there was a timeline for the allocation of funding. R. O'Sullivan replied that it would normally have been announced by now.

**Leamlara/Lisgoold:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that the signs had been ordered and put up.

**Lackenroe/Lahern Bridge:**

R. O'Sullivan stated the bridge was still on the list for repairs, which would be carried out as soon as possible. Cllr. O'Callaghan stated that given the age of the bridge at Lahern it would need sympathetic repairs. R. O'Sullivan replied that one of the Council's own masons was very capable of carrying out the repairs required.

**Carrigane Road:**

R. O'Sullivan sought clarification of the location for new signage from Cllr. Barry. Cllr. Barry stated that the volumes of traffic had increased since the new estate was occupied.

**Fota Rock to Ballyadam:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that he has still awaiting a reply from TII. He will contact them again.

**Midleton Street/O'Rahilly Street:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that the bollards had been repaired, he was waiting for Irish Water to fix the leak. Cllr. Rasmussen expressed his frustration at how long it was taking to get the leak near the old butchers' shop on Midleton Street repaired, it was over 12 months and asked that Irish Water be tied down to a date.

**Birds' Hill:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that the wall had been repaired.

**Hillcourt, Cobh:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that the estate had been added to the drain cleaning list. Cllr. Rasmussen asked that Harbour Hill be put on the list for drain cleaning,

**Tay Road:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that the drains had been added to the list for the machine to clean.

**Assumption Place:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that the road still needed to be inspected, he would attend to it in the coming weeks.

**Public Lighting:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that the issue had been reported to the ESB, and he would pursue the complaint.

**Top of the Hill:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that the road was scheduled for repair, however he was awaiting the velocity patcher.

**Whitepoint:**

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that the signs had been put up regarding oncoming buses.

**Carrignafoy:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that the pothole was due to be repaired by the velocity patcher.

**West View:**

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that the junction was scheduled for improvements.

**Barrymore Avenue:**

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that the repairs would be carried out in the next few months.

**Rinn Ronain:**

R. O'Sullivan stated the railings had been repaired.

**Belvelly Bus Stop:**

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that he was still waiting on the final design, he has spoken to the bus company about an alternative in the meantime. Cllr. Rasmussen asked who was responsible for erecting the sign at the Carrigaloe Bus stop. R. O'Sullivan stated that this was the bus companies' responsibility.

**Carrigtwohill:**

R. O'Sullivan stated that as the Castle Lake estate was not in the charge of the Council, the contractor would install the double yellow lines required at the entrance to Aldi.

**Cobh:**

R. O'Sullivan confirmed that works to the footpath at Hardware House have been scheduled and the road lining contractor was currently in town and was working on the works listed. Cllr. Rasmussen sought clarification that Glenanaar was included for double yellow lines.

**Litter Warden:**

P. Lynch confirmed that interviews had been held for a replacement traffic/litter warden, the post had been offered and accepted. However, there was as yet no start date for the new warden as training and garda vetting procedures still had to be completed. Cllr. Rasmussen sought assurance that Saturdays would be included in the roster for the traffic wardens, he also sought an update on the position of 2 campervans who were overstaying their time. P. Lynch stated that a 6 day service was envisaged for the wardens. He confirmed that a total of 14 fines had been issued for one campervan and 5 for the second, some of which had been paid. He stated that the byelaws do not allow for the removal of a campervan which stayed over time however the owners could be taken to court for non-payment of fines.

**Five Foot Way/Parking:**

P. Lynch stated that the caravan had been removed from the Five Foot Way by a contractor.

He had also spoken to the Principal of St. Marys National School about using the school yard as a public car park during the summer months, permission has yet to be sought or granted by the Board of Management and he awaits their decision.

**E.V. Charging Points:**

Cllr. Rasmussen sought an update on electric vehicle charging points.

**Top of East Hill/Frenches Wall:**

Cllr. Rasmussen asked if the sign had been ordered, R. O’Sullivan confirmed that it had.

**College Manor:**

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that a pothole had opened up on the Carrignafoy side. R. O’Sullivan to follow up.

**Whitepoint Turning area:**

Cllr. S. Sheppard sought an update on the closure of the turning area. R. O’Sullivan stated that it would be done in 3-4 weeks once the R.I. programme was finished.

**Carrignafoy:**

Cllr. S. Sheppard asked for an update on the provision of a yellow box near the entrance to the track. R. O’Sullivan to follow up.

### **3.0 Comhfhreagras / Correspondence.**

P. Lynch stated that the only correspondence received was from Maura Damery regarding the naming of the new estate which had been circulated together with a copy of the Council’s procedure on naming housing estates. The estates section had confirmed that the naming of the estate had been done in accordance with Cork County Council’s policy. Cllr. Rasmussen stated he had been in contact with Mrs. Damery and felt that the councillors should have been made aware of what names were being proposed for the estate. Cllr. Sheppard stated that there was no connection between the locality and the name. Cllr. Barry stated that a lot of the names being proposed for estates in the district were appalling and that there was a ‘globalised’ and ‘anglicised’ element to the names which was not appropriate. Cllr. A. O’Connor stated that there was significant room for improvement in the naming of estates and queried whether the members had some powers under the Local Government Act to change same and requested legal advice on this. Cllr. Barry asked what the policy in relation to naming roads was as there were some strange road names appearing on Google maps. R. O’Sullivan replied that as far as he was aware roads were given a local roads number, he would check the procedure regarding names.

P. Lynch stated that he had emailed Watergrasshill Tidy Towns committee regarding their query about posters for the upcoming election.

### **4.0 Tuairiscí ó Ofigigh / Officer's Reports.**

No reports were presented under this item.

## **5.0 Tuairisc ó Oifigeach Ceantair Bardasacha / Municipal District Officer's Report.**

P. Lynch presented the up-to-date figures for the various funds from 2023. He confirmed that all the organisations that had applied for funding under the Community Fund, Town Development Fund and the Amenity, Capital and Community funds for 2024 had been notified.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. Sheppard, the members agreed to allocate €10,000.00 from the unspent 2023 Town Development Fund to Cobh Juvenile G.A.A. Club.

P. Lynch stated that the new cashless parking system was still not ready to be implemented, there were difficulties in getting the new system synchronised with the traffic wardens' handheld devices.

## **6.0 Fograí Rún / Notices of Motion.**

- 1. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Sinéad Sheppard:**  
That Cobh MD would put a digital speed sign on the main entry road on the approach to Carrig na bhFear village.

Cllr. Sheppard stated that cars are speeding through the Village and causing problems for the residents, particularly houses on left hand side going in. R. O'Sullivan replied that a speed survey would be carried out and a concealed entrance sign erected.

On the proposal of Cllr. Sheppard, seconded by Cllr. O'Callaghan, the motion was carried.

- 2. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**  
That a full road repairs be listed for the whole Assumption Place estate in Cobh along with vital repairs to the poor state of footpaths in the estate.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that it was important that this estate was put on the list for resurfacing, it was one of the older estates in town. R. O'Sullivan stated that funding was a huge issue.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the motion was carried.

- 3. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen:**  
That the Fota road be included for regular road sweeping as the truck has to travel in and out the road as he comes to the town to commence road sweeping.

Cllr. Rasmussen acknowledged that this was a difficult road to clean, given the traffic volumes, however cleaning had been carried out recently and it should be easier to keep on top of it. R. O'Sullivan will investigate.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. Sheppard, the motion was carried.

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

That this municipal would consider removing steps and closing access in Flower Hill adjacent to No. 3 in response to the continuous anti-social behaviour and all that comes with it following a request from local residents. This follows on from a similar closure a number of years ago in the same area.

Cllr. Rasmussen stated that this area was very dirty and residents don't use the access due to anti-social behaviour. The Residents Association supported the removal of the steps. Cllr. O'Connor stated he was reluctant to close areas off, perhaps if the lighting was improved and shrubbery cut back, the access could be left open. Cllr. Rasmussen replied that the connectivity was very poor and the road was around the corner. P. Lynch stated that this area was a Public Right of Way and a process existed to formally extinguish rights of way.

On the proposal of Cllr. Rasmussen, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Connor, the motion was carried.

**5. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:**  
Could this Municipal District investigate the effects of water runoff from the solar farm north of Carrigtwohill as a matter of urgency. The increase in water entering the Woodstock and Water Rock streams from this site needs to be investigated.

Cllr. Barry stated that the poor drainage around the solar farm was affecting all the other farms and residents in the area. No measures had been taken to retain water on the site, all of which ends up in Carrigtwohill and the Waterrock Road. Cllr. O'Connor stated he fully supported the motion. R. O'Sullivan replied that he would bring the issue up with the planning and environment section and speak to the developer.

On the proposal of Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. Rasmussen, the motion was carried.

**6. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:**  
That this Council write to Minister Eamonn Ryan and the other Cork based Ministers outlining our concerns regarding the serious issues around the provision of onshore facilities to progress offshore wind energy. Unless this issue is immediately dealt with the potential impact for the harbour area would be extremely serious.

Cllr. Barry stated that this was a hugely important issue and had recently been at a presentation on wind energy. Developers were reluctant to take the financial risk and the state must support the provision of infrastructure, Port of Cork was not eligible for state funding the opportunity to progress offshore wind energy projects must not be lost.

On the proposal of Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. Rasmussen, it was agreed to bring the motion to Full Council.

**7. To consider the following Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Anthony Barry:**  
That the road from Glanmire to Knockraha be relined as it badly needs to be done due to the number of residential properties there and the speed of motorists using it.

On the proposal of Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. A. O'Connor, the motion was carried.

## **7.0 Aon Ghnó Eile / Any Other Business.**

### **Cllr. C. Rasmussen:**

#### **7.1 Doctor Parking Space:**

New doctor located above Cobh Pharmacy, could one of the 30min parking spaces be turned into a Doctor only space. P. Lynch replied that a medical permit had been issued to the Doctor, which allowed him to park in any valid parking space but doesn't cover parking in loading bays.

#### **7.2 Tay Road:**

Has the sign been put up yet? R. O'Sullivan to check. Is the road going from the new estates down to the Tay Road to be widened. R. O'Sullivan stated that the land on either side was in private ownership.

#### **7.3 Newtown Road:**

Large sections of the road have totally disappeared. R. O'Sullivan stated it was listed for works.

#### **7.4 Ballymore:**

Slow down signage needed. Engineer to examine.

#### **7.5 Marinegate:**

The boundary fence is broken. Engineer to examine.

#### **7.6 Lake Road/Leonards Lodge:**

Potholes. Engineer to examine.

#### **7.7 Harbour Row:**

Buses driving on Harbour Row which is not capable of taking same, last week a 52 seater turned at the Bench, could signage be put up near the Hardware House store. Engineer to examine.

### **Cllr. S. O'Callaghan:**

#### **7.8 Corbally to Lakenroe Road:**

Road lining is required from Corbally to the Lakenroe Road. Engineer to examine.

#### **7.9 Glounthaune Football Club:**

Lining is needed at the junction near the Glounthaune Football Club, there is a Stop sign but no line on the road. Engineer to examine.

#### **7.10 Whitechurch:**

A raised pedestrian crossing is required to slow down traffic. R. O'Sullivan stated that no funding was available to upgrade the existing crossing by the school.

**Cllr. S. O'Connor:**

**7.11 Harbour View:**

Large trucks are mounting the footpath, which has now been damaged, also pothole. Engineer to examine.

**Cllr. A. Barry:**

**7.12 Whitechurch:**

More signage is required to slow down traffic on the two straight stretches of road leading into the village. Engineer to examine.

**7.13 Eirgrid:**

The road opposite the sub station has been left in an appalling state. R. O'Sullivan stated these works would be carried out by the contractor during the summer months.

**7.14 Aldi/Castlelake Junction, Carrigtwohill:**

The sequencing of the lights at the junction leading to the primary school is very bad, leading to chaos. Engineer to examine.

The land between Carrigtwohill Community College and the new road is fenced off and the layout doesn't make sense. Cllr. A. O'Connor stated he understood that this area was to form a biodiversity area under plans for the public realm, it was his opinion that the school could develop the biodiversity area ahead of those plans.

**7.15 Cedar Esatate:**

P. Lynch stated that there was no update so far.

**7.16 Station Road, Carrigtwohill:**

The stop line is too close to the lights, buses can't negotiate the turn. Engineer to examine.

**Cllr. A. O'Connor:**

**7.17 Barryscourt:**

Recent resurfacing of the road has covered the water control units belonging to houses in the area. Engineer to examine.

The members agreed that the June meeting would be held on 4<sup>th</sup> June and that the Annual Meeting would be held on 1<sup>st</sup> July immediately prior to the Monthly Meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Cathaoirleach

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Municipal District Officer.