

**MINUTES OF COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2024 AT CARRIG HOUSE,
COBH.**

Present: Cllrs. A. Barry, G. Curley, D. Finn, S. O’Callaghan & S. Sheppard.

Officials: P. Lynch, Municipal District Officer
Ms. A. Walsh, Cobh Municipal District.

An apology was received from Cllr. C. Rasmussen and from Ms. Noreen Brennan, Senior Executive Officer for their inability to attend.

1.0 Consideration of Draft Budgetary Plan for the Cobh Municipal District

P. Lynch introduced the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2025 and stated that a figure for roads maintenance was not included in the figures presented. He stated that there was no change in the General Municipal Allocation, Town Development Fund or Village Enhancement Scheme figures for 2025, overall there had been an increase in the budget for the coming year.

Cllr. S. Sheppard asked if other Municipal Districts had passed their budgets, P. Lynch replied that to the best of his knowledge some had accepted while others had rejected the budgets presented.

Cllr. Sheppard stated she appreciated the work officials had put into preparing the budget, but would be recommending rejecting the one presented, as she hoped to get an increased allocation at Full Council.

Cllr. G. Curley asked if this budget was rejected, is there a possibility of an increased budget? He asked if repairs to the leisure centre were included in the budget as the steam room in Coral had been out of action for some time. He stated that he rejected the budget as presented.

Cllr. A. Barry stated that the budget was not keeping pace with inflation and as the Cobh MD had a higher industrial base and a greater contribution to LPT, then it should received a higher allocation than the other MD’s. The industries in the area expected more and the social infrastructure needed investment. He stated that he could not pass this budget.

Cllr. D. Finn stated that he agreed with the points presented and in light of the increased property tax expected a better return and he would be seeking a bigger allocation at Full Council.

Cllr. S. O’Callaghan noted that while the budget for street cleaning had increased, the one for litter management had decreased, litter was one of the biggest issues facing the Municipal

District. She noted that it was difficult to balance the books however it would be remiss of the members not to fight for a bigger allocation.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Finn, seconded by Cllr. G. Curley the budget was rejected.

2.0 Any Other Business:

Christmas Parking Arrangements:

P. Lynch stated that in line with other years, it was proposed to have free parking for the month of December, he reminded members that the wardens would still be on duty to prevent illegal parking and monitoring time limits.

Bank Motion:

P. Lynch asked if members were happy to go ahead with the proposed amendments, the members indicated they were.

Cuskinny:

P. Lynch stated that the engineer had received a quote of €6,750.00 + VAT for the proposed barrier at Cuskinny. He stated that the current budget did not allow for such expenditure, however if the members agreed, he suggested that the project could be funded from the GMA or TDF in 2025. On the proposal of Cllr. Sheppard, it was agreed that the programme would be presented as part of the TDF for 2025.

Kilquane Cemetery:

P. Lynch stated that the proposed extension could not go ahead due to the presence of a recorded National Monument in the centre of it. The only choice now left was to go back to the community in order to find an alternative site. P. Lynch to request a map showing the extent of the buffer zone needed around the monument and forward same to Cllr. Barry.

Whitechurch Cemetery:

P. Lynch stated that further testing had been carried out last week and if this was in order then it was possible to proceed to Part 8 without reverting to the members. Cllr. S. O'Callaghan requested a timeline, P. Lynch replied that he did not yet have one.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District Officer.