

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Proceedings of Ordinary Meeting of Ballincollig/Carrigaline Municipal District held in Council Chamber, Floor 2, County Hall, on Tuesday, 18th April, 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Derry Canty (Cathaoirleach) presided. Councillors: Mary Rose Desmond, Joe Harris, Deirdre Forde, Marcia D’Alton, Seamus McGrath, Eoghan Jeffers, Michael Murphy, Daithi O’Donnabhain.

ABSENT: Councillor John A. Collins.

IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin O’Regan, Municipal District Officer, Madeleine Healy, Senior Executive Engineer, Sarah O’Sullivan, Clerical Officer.

1: MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. McGrath and seconded by Cllr. D’Alton, the minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20th March, 2017, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

On the proposal of Cllr. Desmond and seconded by Cllr. McGrath, the minutes of the proceedings of the Special Meeting held on 1st March, 2017, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Cllr. D’Alton

(i) Cllr. D’Alton asked if there is an update from the Planning Department on Marino Point.

Kevin O’Regan advised that he has received an email from the Planning Department, advising that there is no record of the bond back to 1976. Kevin O’Regan advised that the email received from Cllr. D’Alton did not include details of the bond but an extract of minutes from a Dáil meeting.

Cllr. D’Alton said that she would check and would forward the information to Kevin O’Regan if it had not been sent.

(ii) Cllr. D’Alton advised of a correction to the minutes in relation to the Glenbrook to Raffeen Greenway Part 8 Manager’s Report. Cllr. D’Alton advised that she had suggested the area from Murph’s Pub to Herons Wood could have been concentrated on.

(iii) Cllr. D’Alton advised of a correction to the minutes in relation to the Castlewhite Road/N71 junction. Cllr. D’Alton advised that there is also no lane at the junction for those coming from the West Cork direction.

Kevin O’Regan advised that he has written to TII to request a report on the matter and a response is awaited.

2: CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Report on Part VIII submissions for the development of a new combined Walking & Cycling Route from the Regional Park, Ballincollig to proposed Amenity Park in Fionn laoi.

Kevin O’Regan advised that a report on the matter was circulated to Members prior to the meeting and noted that the matter is before Members for consideration. Kevin O’Regan advised that the biggest issue raised in relation to the route is Fionn Laoi, which is a separate private development developed under a separate planning permission. Kevin O’Regan advised that if the estate was finished and taken in charge the public areas would then be a matter for the Council.

A discussion followed and Members raised a number of issues on the matter. They included the following:

- The consequences of the Part VIII may impact on residents and they are afraid they may get additional traffic; there is no provision to protect residents.
- The railings on the first section are on the resident's side and they will not be on the resident's side on the second section of railings.
- Residents have health and safety concerns regarding children accessing the Regional Park and they want the railings located to stop children running out in front of cars.

Kevin O'Regan advised that the Council's long term aim is to link the walkway into the Regional Park and this is linked to the Recreation and Amenity Plan. Kevin O'Regan advised that his understanding is that residents want the Council to carry out works in their development. Kevin O'Regan advised that if the area is within the Fionn Laoi development it is not part of the Part VIII. It is a matter between the residents and the developer.

Following a query that the Planning Department are asked to express the concerns of the residents to the developer, Kevin O'Regan advised that if the development has been developed in accordance with the planning permission granted then the Planning Department has no role. The Members as public representatives or the residents association can approach the developer; the Council however has no role in the issue.

(b) Village Enhancement Scheme.

Kevin O'Regan advised that an update report on the matter was circulated to Members prior to the meeting and noted that the scheme will run in Ballinora/Waterfall in 2017. Kevin O'Regan advised that he has met the local Community Association and they have submitted proposals, which have been discussed with the local area engineer.

(c) Municipal District Civic Receptions.

Kevin O'Regan advised that the agreed protocol and certificate was circulated to Members prior to the meeting for information purposes. The protocol and certificate are to be used where a Municipal District decides to have a civic reception. The matter was agreed at Council level in order to increase the profile of Municipal Districts. Following questioning from Members, Kevin O'Regan advised that it is a decision of Members if a cause is deserving of a Municipal District reception, it is not geographically based.

Kevin O'Regan advised that he had spoken to Billy Coleman of Douglas Community Association following the launch of the Municipal District Paint Scheme in Douglas, who advised that they want to build locally on their winning of the Pride of Place Award and increase their profile. They feel that Cork County Council is the best vehicle to accomplish this. Kevin O'Regan advised that he had agreed to discuss the matter with Members and noted that Members could consider holding a civic reception for Douglas Community Association.

Members commented that the notice given for the recent launches of the Streetscape Paint Scheme was tight and more notice should have been given. Kevin O'Regan advised that one weeks' notice was given to Members for Municipal District Streetscape Paint Scheme launch.

Following discussion, Members agreed to hold a Municipal District reception for Douglas Community Association, Winner of the Pride of Place over 5,000 population category 2016 at the May Municipal District meeting.

(d) Town Approaches Fund 2017.

Kevin O'Regan advised that the report circulated to Members prior to the meeting includes the proposed works across the Municipal District, with enhanced cleaning across the Municipal District and specific projects. Members welcomed the report on the matter and a discussion followed.

Following questioning from Members, Madeleine Healy advised that the location on Ballea Road, Carrigaline, is across from the soccer club. Following a question on grass cutting on the town approaches, Madeleine Healy advised that the contractor will be appointed in the next few days. Madeleine Healy advised that she will speak to Don O'Sullivan following an issue raised with the standards of grass cutting in Ballincollig.

3. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

To consider the Grant of Wayleave and Right-of-Way at Douglas, Co. Cork to Cado Pvt. Limited, Cinema World, Douglas, Co Cork for the consideration of €10,000 plus Council's costs of €750.

Kevin O'Regan advised that the information circulated to Members prior to the meeting was received from the Property Section. Kevin O'Regan advised that Members can forward queries to him for the Property Section and the matter can be deferred until the May meeting if that is the Members wish.

Madeleine Healy advised that the matter related to the cinema site and noted that there is an open planning application on the site. The proposed Wayleave is to allow access to the site, it is not a transfer. Madeleine Healy advised that the location is the road opposite McDonalds, not the relief road.

Following discussion, Members agreed to forward queries for further information to Kevin O'Regan and defer the matter until the May meeting.

4. GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION 2017/TOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND 2017

Kevin O'Regan advised that following on from the two queries from the March meeting, Carrigaline Mens Shed have responded and will be allocated €10,000 as agreed. The works in Rochestown are being dealt with through the Town Approaches Fund and the works have commenced. Following questioning from Members, Kevin O'Regan advised that he did not arrange a meeting with the Rochestown Community Development Group but was invited to meet with them.

Cllr. McGrath asked if grass cutting was previously agreed in the green areas in Pinecroft and Palmbury Orchard and if not, proposed that funding be set aside from the GMA. Kevin O'Regan advised that no funding had been set aside in this regard, the only funding agreed was for verge cutting. An extensive discussion followed and Members raised the following issues/points on the matter:

- It was agreed in 2016 to carry out a once off cut in Pinecroft and to revisit the matter this year.
- Pinecroft estate has a lot of issues and allowances should be made, the matter should be discussed at Development Committee.
- There is difficult terrain in Bracken Court, Palmbury and Pinecroft estates and these are exceptional circumstances where residents should be given assistance in order to keep the areas from looking shoddy.
- The wider area needs to be looked at such as Sarsfield Road, Muskerry Estate, Castlepark and Innishmore where there are aging populations and there is an issue of dumping at Innishmore.

Madeleine Healy advised that the matter has the potential to get escalate and noted that if agreed there should be a short list as a number of estates have generous green areas that are cut by residents. Madeleine Healy advised that she has received more requests from residents associations to cut grass and there may be an issue if grass is cut in one estate while the residents of neighbouring estates are paying to get their grass cut.

Following a request from Members, Madeleine Healy agreed to get a cost for carrying out three grass cuts in Bracken Court, Palmbury and Pinecroft estates. It was agreed to put the matter on the agenda for the May meeting.

5: NOTICES OF MOTION

To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Deirdre Forde:

1. "That the Engineer has a tree surgeon check the safety of trees overhanging the main road and repair the gap in the fence at the car parking area in St. Joseph's Terrace, Rockenham, Passage West."

Cllr. Forde advised that trees on the main road were previously marked but never followed up and trees are now protruding over the wall onto the main road.

Madeleine Healy advised that the trees were checked a number of years ago and were ok. Madeleine Healy advised that the area is on a list to be re-examined to see if works are required.

2. "That this Municipal District considers the proliferation of ad hoc postering and how to tackle same in context of anti litter laws."

Cllr. Forde advised that the issue should be discussed as it can be seen in a number of places. Cllr. Forde advised that it was proposed to have certain areas for advertising a number of years ago and noted that Douglas Village is a disgrace.

Kevin O'Regan advised that he was in contact the Environment Department, who are preparing a Policy on the matter through the Environment SPC. The proposal is to have a Policy in place this year outlining what is permitted and the time limits around an event etc. They are looking at all aspects of postering, signage etc and the policy should be going to Members for consideration in the next few months for consideration.

Kevin O'Regan advised that the anti litter unit can be emailed regarding particular issues and gave the email address to the Members. The NRA is taking a pro-active approach in their areas with regard to taking down posters and the litter warden will be visiting Carrigaline to look at issues in the area.

A discussion on the matter followed and Members supported the motion. Following questions from Members, Kevin O'Regan advised that there are no litter wardens in Douglas and noted that Apcoa could be contacted regarding extending their duties to cover litter enforcement.

Cllr. Forde advised that the area should have the ambience and environment of a village and not to be advertising boards.

To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Joe Harris:

1. "That the Council would repair the light in the grotto in Grange Park. The estate has a lot of elderly residents and some renters, this makes it very difficult to organise a residents association."

Cllr. Harris advised that the grotto is a landmark in the Grange area and asked that the light be repaired.

Madeleine Healy agreed to look at the matter.

2. "That the Council would cut the green area in Grange Park for this year."

Cllr. Harris advised that he wants the area included for consideration.

Madeleine Healy advised that she would not support cutting the grass in Grange Park as it does not have a terrain issue as with the other estates suggested.

To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Seamus McGrath:

1. "To request a report outlining the usage figures for the public toilet in Carrigaline. To consider the option of relocating this to a suitable location adjacent to the playground."

Madeleine Healy advised that the annual income is approximately €450.00. Kevin O'Regan advised that the annual expenditure for the toilet is in the region of €10,000 to €15,000.

Cllr. McGrath noted that there are alternative toilet facilities in the area and that a better location for the toilet would be the Community Park as there are future plans for the development of the park. Cllr. McGrath asked that the suggestion be considered further as the toilet would receive better usage. Cllr. McGrath was supported by the Members.

Madeleine Healy agreed that the location would be more suitable and advised that she will investigate if possible as there would be a funding requirement. Madeleine

Healy advised that the cost of relocating the toilet in Ballincollig was €15,000 with minimal works and the estimated cost of relocating the toilet in Carrigaline would be €20,000.

Members supported Cllr. McGrath's motion but noted that moving the toilets will require a funding source to pay for the works. If the funding was from the MD own resources it would have potential impact on spending on other areas.

In response to a comment that there is no toilet available on the Rochestown walk, Kevin O'Regan advised that the new owners of Rochestown Inn indicated that they will make the toilets available to the public when the premises re-opens.

2. "To seek an update on the previous suggestion to release some of the taxi rank on the Old Carrigaline Road, Douglas, for public parking during daytime hours."

Cllr. McGrath advised that he has made this suggestion a number of times as the taxi rank is taking up valuable spaces in daytime hours. Cllr. McGrath advised that the taxi rank is taking up 10 parking spaces and noted that signage is required. Cllr. McGrath advised that the details can be worked out, for example the taxi rank could come into place after the pay parking times.

Kevin O'Regan advised that he has made a number of enquiries and noted that under the taxi bye law regulations new bye laws may be required. This could have far reaching consequences and a response is awaited. Kevin O'Regan advised that signage will be used if possible and agreed to report back to the Members on the matter. Following questioning from Members, Kevin O'Regan advised that Peter O'Donoghue is looking at freeing up 8-9 spaces in the area.

Following a request from Cllr. Jeffers, Madeleine Healy agreed to repaint the taxi space lines outside Eco's restaurant.

3. "To seek an update on any plans to improve pedestrian safety and provide a safe Crossing on the Ballea Road, Carrigaline."

Cllr. McGrath requested an update on the matter and noted that there is an issue of pedestrian safety.

Madeleine Healy advised that when the funding required was not forthcoming, traffic calming signage was put in place. The intention is to resurface the area and look at something further but the area is part of Irish Water works and has been deferred until next year. There is a plan for lights and a crossing at Nova Court on the inner western relief road. Madeleine Healy advised that she does not want to carry out works that will be rendered useless by a near future scheme.

Cllr. McGrath asked that some elements to slow traffic be looked at next year.

Cllr. Jeffers noted that speed is an issue in the area and suggested bigger road signs and yellow strips are put in place.

Madeleine Healy advised that there are two flashing signs that tell the speed a vehicle is travelling at but do not record the speed.

To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr Eoghan Jeffers:

1. "That extra road traffic calming measures be put in place on Ballea Road, Carrigaline to reduce traffic speed and increase pedestrian safety."

Cllr. Jeffers advised that the matter had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

2. "As a measure to ease traffic on Frankfield Hill that an official two lane system would be implemented from below the entrance to Alderbrook to the junction at the bottom of Frankfield Hill."

Cllr. Jeffers asked if there is scope available with repainting lines and noted that there may be scope as far up as Hanleys for a 2 lane system.

Madeleine Healy advised that she can look to see if lines can be moved if the width is available.

Members supported Cllr. Jeffers in his motion.

Following a comment from Cllr. Harris that he previously submitted a similar motion for consideration, Madeleine Healy advised that the previous motion was in relation

to traffic exiting Alderbrook Estate and noted that the matter can be looked at if the yellow box put in place is not addressing the problem.

Cllr. Desmond advised that there is an informal 2 lane system from the N40 slip road to Douglas Community School and asked that a request be made to look at the matter.

Madeleine Healy advised that if the Section 85 gets the go ahead the alignment will be looked at. If it does not get the go ahead TII can be contacted.

3. "Following the announcement of the development of the Fellowship House on Spur Hill, a pedestrian footpath should be built on Spur Hill to give safe walking access to Togher and Sarsfield roads."

Cllr. Jeffers advised that there will be certain developments on the site and asked that the matter be flagged as an issue for the future as it needs to be addressed down the line.

Madeleine Healy advised that there is no available space without buying land and major construction would be involved.

To consider the following Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr. Marcia D'Alton:

1. "That Cork County Council would purchase the properties on Railway Street, Passage West currently advertised by NAMA as being for sale. This would offer the County Council unparalleled opportunity to rehabilitate the ongoing dereliction in the Steampacket Quay area of Passage West town centre and enhance the town's waterside frontage."

Cllr. D'Alton advised that the area has the most popular public amenity in the South Cork area and noted that there is no natural end to Steampacket Quay, it is derelict and a continuation of Railway Street where there are no businesses remaining. Cllr. D'Alton gave a background to Steampacket Quay and advised that it has the potential to be the jewel in the crown of Passage West town centre. Cllr. D'Alton asked that Cork County Council would consider purchasing the properties on Railway Street, Passage West. Cllr. D'Alton was supported by a number of the Members in her motion and a discussion on the matter followed.

Cllr. Forde also promoted the purchase of the derelict houses at the back of Douglas Village.

Kevin O'Regan advised that he checked the NAMA website that morning and the properties are listed as not for sale. Kevin O'Regan advised that he has been in contact with the Receiver and noted that there are a lot of complications in relation to the sale regarding the Title, vacant possession etc. Kevin O'Regan advised that the receiver, KPMG, would prefer to sell the properties as one lot. Information has been received from the Receiver, which is being examined.

2. "That Dock Terrace, Passage West, would be entered on the Derelict Sites register. If Dock Terrace has already been entered on the Derelict Sites register, that the Municipal District Office would outline the penalties incurred for same by the registered property owner."

Cllr. D'Alton advised that the properties have been vacant for 16 years and noted that she has received representations from residents enquiring about the status of the properties.

Kevin O'Regan advised that the properties are not on the derelict sites register. In 2013 the Receivers undertook works to have the properties painted and cleaned which at the time were sufficient to take them off the Register. Kevin O'Regan advised that he can arrange to have the properties inspected and will contact the new owner. Following questions from Members, Kevin O'Regan advised that the area will qualify under the Streetscape Scheme.

6: VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

Members congratulated Belvedere Hockey Ladies team on winning the Irish Challenge Cup.

7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Harris

(i) Cllr. Harris advised that a wall on Donnybrook Hill was replaced and trees removed, which has led to an infestation of rats in Shamrock Lawn estate, and asked that an exterminator be engaged to deal with the problem.

Madeleine Healy advised that it is a private estate and works and is not an issue for Cork County Council.

(ii) Cllr. Harris asked for an update on the bollards outside the park in Douglas as cars are now parking in the area.

Madeleine Healy advised that she is awaiting delivery of bollards and they will be put in place.

Cllr. Forde

Cllr. Forde proposed that Cork County Council investigates the feasibility of purchasing Barry's Field in Douglas for community use. Cllr. Forde advised that she believes there was a planning application where further information was sought and noted that it is the last green space in the village. Cllr. Forde advised that for the size of Douglas and the surrounding area this is a pivotal site and requested that the Municipal District Officer speak to management on the matter.

Cllr. Forde's proposal was supported by the Members.

Cllr. McGrath

(i) Cllr. McGrath asked for an update on the acquisition of driver feedback mobile signs.

Madeleine Healy advised that she will be acquiring a number of signs with a view to moving them around different locations. Madeleine Healy advised that she will contact Members regarding possible locations.

(ii) Cllr. McGrath advised that the walkway between Lehenaghmore and Lehenaghbeg is in an unkempt condition and noted that it was previously mentioned that gateway crew would carry out works in the area. Cllr. McGrath asked for an update on the matter.

Madeleine Healy advised that she is not sure if the area is in public or private ownership and agreed to look at the matter.

(iii) Cllr. McGrath advised of a previous motion in relation to path works at Shanbally and noted that the area is not included in main drainage works. Cllr. McGrath asked that the matter be looked at again.

Madeleine Healy advised that she was unaware that Irish Water had finished works and noted that they have to carry out reinstatement. Madeleine Healy advised that the path works would be costly and agreed to look at carrying out the works sequentially.

(iv) Cllr. McGrath advised that the road markings at the junction by Driscoll's pub in Douglas are unclear and noted that there has been a number of near incidents. Cllr. McGrath asked that the matter be looked at.

Madeleine Healy advised that she was unaware of near incidents or incidents in the area and agreed to look at the matter.

Cllr. Desmond

(i) Cllr. Desmond asked for an update on the issue of water pooling by the Topaz junction in Douglas.

Madeleine Healy agreed to investigate further.

(ii) Cllr. Desmond asked that a traffic danger issue on the road by KFC in Douglas be flagged.

Madeleine Healy advised that as part of the planning permission granted, a road safety audit would have to be submitted and looked at once the business was up and running.

Cllr. Jeffers

Cllr. Jeffers advised of a blocked drain at the entrance to Amberly estate.

Madeleine Healy advised that she is aware of the issue and trying to carry out works at the location.

Cllr. Canty

(i) Cllr. Canty advised that the road surface on the Carrigrohane Road from Poulavone to Inchigaggin has deteriorated and is in a bad state.

(ii) Cllr. Canty advised of grass growing on the footpath on the Carrigrohane Road at the city side.

(iii) Cllr. Canty asked for an update on the introduction of 30kph zonings in housing estates.

Kevin O'Regan advised that he will check the previous response for timelines and revert to Members.

Madeleine Healy advised that the matter is part of the speed limit review currently being carried out and there are no such zonings included. It is a question of effectiveness, there has been no change to speeds in areas where the 30kph zonings were introduced. Areas would have to have been included in the speed limit review and the chance has passed. Areas where traffic calming has been requested are separate to the 30kph zonings.

Cllr. McGrath advised that he supports the introduction of the 30kph zonings in estates and noted that the zonings were introduced with a view to being rolled out county wide.

Kevin O'Regan advised that he will seek clarification on the matter and revert to Members.

Cllr. D'Alton advised that although there was no change found to speeds travelled it is the beginning of the introduction of a 30kph ethos in estates.

Madeleine Healy

Madeleine Healy advised that following the February meeting she had advised the review committee of Members views regarding the speed limit review proposals for National routes and in particular those regarding the Bloomfield southbound carriageway where Members were against the proposed speed limit increase. TII has advised that the 50kph sign southbound of the carriageway is incorrect, it should read 60 kph. Once off the bend they propose to go up to an 80 kph speed limit and when onto the straight they propose to meet with the 100kph limit beyond Rochestown. Madeleine Healy read out a report on the matter from TII and agreed to forward the report to Members for their deliberation. Members thanked Madeleine Healy for her report on the matter and a discussion followed.

Madeleine Healy advised that she is required to revert to the review committee with Members views on the proposals for the Bloomfield southbound carriageway.

Members agreed that the speed limit at the Bloomfield southbound carriageway should not exceed 60kph.

Following questions from Members, Madeleine Healy advised that the incorrect sign will be changed to 60kph. Following a question on the reporting of incidents by Gardai to the local area office, Madeleine Healy advised that there are a number of schemes including the low cost safety scheme for local roads where accidents are looked at. Gardai are consulted regarding any speed limit changes and they can bring forward suggestions.

On the proposal of Cllr. Forde and seconded by Cllr. Harris, Members requested that a yearly report of areas with three or more accidents be circulated to Members.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Date: _____