

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of East Cork Municipal District Held on 4th January at 10.00 a.m. at Aras Cuimhne an Phiarsaigh, Youghal Road, Midleton.

I LATHAIR: Cathaoirleach Michael Hegarty presided.
Cllrs. O' Sullivan, McCarthy, Linehan Foley, Collins & Buckley

Ag Freastal:: Mr. Maurice Manning, S/Director of Services
Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Christy Ring, Executive Engineer
Ms. Mary Flynn, Assistant Engineer
Mr. Joe McCarthy, East Cork Municipal District Officer
Ms. Susan Murphy, East Cork Municipal District

Leathscéal: Ms. Helen Mulcahy, East Cork Municipal District
Ms. Geraldine O'Connell, East Cork Municipal District

Cllr. Collins moved a vote of sympathy to Cllr. Hegarty on the death of his father-in-law.

Cllr. Linehan Foley moved a vote of sympathy to Ms. Helen Mulcahy on the death of her mother.

Cllr. Hegarty moved a vote of sympathy to Christy Ring, Executive Engineer on the death of his father in law.

The Members unanimously agreed.

1. Minutes of Meeting Held on 7th December, 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th December, 2015 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan and unanimously adopted by the Members.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

2.1 Clockgate.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, East Cork Municipal District Officer informed the Members that Failte Ireland will provide funding of €200,000 towards the Clockgate in Youghal and that Cork County Council will provide interim and additional funding. Should the Planning Department advise that a Part 8 process be undertaken he would ask that the Members now approve initiating that process if required. The Members unanimously supported this.

3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members for transaction at Meeting.

None

4. Other Business set forth in the notice convening the Meeting.

None.

5. Motions and Information

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael Hegarty suggested that all motions be deferred and dealt with at a later by way of reports except for motions relating to flooding issues which had already been dealt with at the Special Meeting.

Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley wanted to raise two of her motions as they were important.

5.1.9 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 23rd December, 2015

“Calling on East Cork Municipal to resurface Castle Road, Knockadoon as a matter of urgency , the school bus is unable to collect children for school with pot holes”.

She said that this road was impassable before the recent flooding and asked that it be investigated and repaired as a matter of priority.

5.1.11 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 27th December, 2015

“Calling on East Cork Municipal to make sure Irish Water reinstate Tides Carpark now that work is complete”.

She informed the Members that the Contractors had gone off site and asked could the Municipal District Officer write to Irish Water to make sure that this car park is reinstated.

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer then briefed the Members in relation to the flooding that had affected the town and its environs over the last week. He informed the Members that we had received 402mm of rain in December and a further 59mm fell on 1st and 2nd January. The average rainfall for December, January and February is 370mm and we have experienced 461mm since 1st December.

He informed the Members of the sequence of events in Midleton from 29th December, 2015. On Tuesday 29th December, 2015 almost 40mm of rain fell. There was flooding in the Woodlands Estate, Midleton and Railway Cottages, Mill Road and Dwyers Road, Midleton.

Then the Dungourney River burst its banks and there was significant flooding on Main Street, Distillery Walk and the Baby Walk.

The Kiltha River in Castlemartyr burst its banks resulting in flooding on the N25.

There was flooding on many local roads including Garryvoe, Knockane and Mogeely.

The N25 was, and continues to be flooded east of Castlemartyr.

There was an immediate response by Cork County Council. There were emergency road crews deployed, the Army, Civil Defence and Red Cross crews were called in. People were evacuated from their homes.

Sandbags were made available to members of the public. Sandbagging reduced the water level on Main Street by about a foot.

The Owenacurra river peaked before high tide.

The Dungourney River peaked at or after high tide. It remained high even after the tide dropped. The Civil Defence continued to pump to the river and it eventually dropped later on Wednesday.

A private pump was brought in for lower Main Street.

Diversions were put in place in many areas including lower Main Street, Middleton and on the N25.

There was flooding in Lauriston late Wednesday night/early Thursday morning. Fire Services were mobilised and there was significant pumping carried out in this area. The estate became dry on Friday.

On Friday 1st January, 2016 diversions on the N25 were ongoing. A further 39mm of rain fell between 1st/2nd January, 2016. There was significant flooding in Middleton RFC. The Baby Walk flooded again but this was not as significant as earlier in the week. There was continuous pumping in operation. The measures that had been put in place stopped Lauriston flooding again.

Mr. Clarke informed the Members that the ground water level is at an unprecedented high and that all areas will be assessed once the levels recede. The priority would initially be regional and local primary roads.

He reiterated that the Council were providing skips to families and businesses that were affected. Families that were living in Council accommodation that had been damaged were being rehoused.

He told the Members that the Council were deploying all available resources to roads affected and that the water level on all roads was continuously monitored.

Cllr. Pat Buckley praised Cork County Council for their response to the flooding. He also thanked the Fire Service, Civil Defence, Red Cross, business owners and farmers for their immediate response.

Cllr. Susan McCarthy agreed with Cllr. Buckley and thanked the Council, the Fire Service, Civil Defence, Red Cross, business owners and farmers for their immediate response. She said that this was a natural disaster of an unprecedented level.

Cllr. Linehan Foley agreed with Cllrs. Buckley and McCarthy and said that the rural community must be looked after not just the people living in the town. She said that she was surprised that there was not a T.D present at the meeting.

Cllr. O'Sullivan thanked every group who helped in any way over the last week. He said that the Council are not fully aware of the damage that has been caused but that we will have to move quickly to assess it.

Cllr. Hegarty informed the Council that there are many local volunteers available to help in any way to get the roads reopened and passable. He said that it is crucial that we put pressure on the O.P.W to prioritise Midleton for flood relief works. He said that all Members need to put pressure on T.D's to raise the matter in the Dáil. He suggested that a flood activation group needs to be formed immediately and that the Members should liaise with Skibbereen and Bandon prior to setting it up.

Cllr. Noel Collins said that funding needs to be made available as soon as possible to prevent any future flooding. He was shocked at the severity of the flooding and he praised the Defence Forces, Cork County Council, Red Cross and the Fire Service for their hard work and dedication over the past number of days. Cllr. Collins said he was pleased to see the Chief Executive, the Mayor and Mr. Clarke in the town and he said that this helped to boost public morale. Cllr. Collins also informed the Members that he had visited the O.P.W headquarters in Dublin and expressed his dissatisfaction with the lack of progress in putting a scheme in place for Midleton. He was told that no consultants or funding had yet been allocated for Midleton. He urged that the East Cork Municipal District and Cork County Council need to put pressure on O.P.W to expedite funding.

Cllr. Linehan Foley enquired as to whether farmers can help clear areas where landslides occurred. Mr. Clarke said that there's no problem in farmers clearing ditches but if there's any significant damage done to an area then he advised that the farmer call the Council before beginning.

Cllr. Buckley enquired as to whether the Council can apply for emergency funding. Cllr. Hegarty said that an assessment of all affected areas must be carried out first and that figures must be brought to a cabinet meeting.

Cllr. Hegarty thanked the Members for their co-operation and again praised Mr. Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer and Mr. Ring, Executive Engineer, local businesses, homeowners all Council Staff, the Army, the Fire Service, the Red Cross and the staff of the Park Hotel and Castlemarty Resort and Midleton College for their help and he reiterated the fact that Midleton town was open for business.

The Members agreed that the next meeting of the East Cork Municipal District will take place on February 1st, 2016 at The Mall House, Youghal at 11.00 am.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING