

Minutes of East Cork Municipal District Held on 5th May, 2015 at 2.00 p.m. at The Mall House, Youghal, Co. Cork.

I LATHAIR:

Mayor Noel Collins presided.

Cllrs. O' Sullivan, McCarthy, Linehan Foley, Hegarty & Buckley.

Ag Freastal:

Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer.

Mr., Maurice Manning, Senior Executive Officer.

Christy Ring, Executive Engineer.

Paul Murray, Executive Engineer.

Helen Mulcahy, Municipal District (Youghal Office).

Geraldine O' Connell, Municipal District (Youghal Office)

Apologies were received from Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hegarty which was seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley the Members unanimously agreed that a deputation from Midleton Lions Club be heard before the business of the meeting commenced.

4.1 Deputation from Midleton Lions Club:

A deputation from Midleton Lions Club gave a presentation to the Members regarding the location of site to provide sheltered housing for the towns elderly citizens.

The Members thanked the deputation for their briefing and asked if they were aware of any particular site close to the town centre. The deputation informed the members that they would be seeking provision of a site as near as possible to their existing building.

The Members stated that they were very aware of works provided by Midleton Lions Club and also stated they ether is a major housing crisis at present for the over 65's and informed the deputation that as a full Council they would support the group in whatever way possible.

1. Confirmation of Meeting held on 7th April 2015 and Confirmation of Minutes of Special Meeting held on 21st April, 2015.

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th April, 2015 and the minutes of Special Meeting held on 21st April, 2015 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley and unanimously agreed by the Members.

1.2 Matters arising from the Minutes of 7th April, 2015 & Special Meeting held on 21st April, 2015.

1.2.1 Christmas Lighting.

Cllr. McCarthy raised the issue of the amount of €18,000 for Christmas Lights stated in the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the 21st April and queried what this amount relates to.

The Municipal District Officer informed the Members that this amount relates to the provision of Christmas Lighting in the Youghal area.

1.2.2. Local Roads Maintenance Provision.

Cllr. Buckley once again requested a report on allocations made in the past two or three years to the former Midleton & Youghal Town Councils in order to investigate the impact of the Local Roads Maintenance (Local Property Tax) provision.

1.2.2 Change of time of Meeting.

Cllr. Hegarty informed the Members that he had to attend a C.P.G. at 11.00 a.m. on the day of the June meeting and asked if the Members were in agreement to hold the monthly meeting at 2.00 p.m. The Members were in full agreement with this proposal.

1.2.3. Community Grant Scheme.

Cllr. Hegarty raised the issue of the Community Grant Scheme and queried if it is Fr. O' Neills Camogie Club or Fon Ballymacoda Playground Ltd. is benefiting from the grant Scheme.

The Municipal District Officer, Mr. Joe McCarthy informed the Members that he will check the applications and revert back to the Members on this issue.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

2.1 Schedule of Works – Details of Services and Operations.

The Municipal District Officer, Mr. Joe McCarthy circulated the following report on the Schedule of Works – Details of Services and Operations:

At their meeting held on 7th April, 2015 the Members approved a Schedule of Works for the East Cork Municipal District for 2015 with a Budget of €3,567,913 in respect of Roads and a Budget of €2,784,376.64 in respect of other functions and operations. Details regarding Regional and Local Roads Maintenance and Improvement Grants funding, funding through the Local Property Tax, funding from Cork County Council for roads and footpaths and funding through the Low Cost Safety Schemes Grant, were given. However the Members requested additional details in relation to the Budget in respect of the other functions and operations to be carried out in the Municipal District and these are set out hereunder:

B08 School Wardens/Road Safety – Budget Amount €19,800

This element of the Budget provides for the employment of School Wardens at several locations throughout the Municipal District in addition to funding training programmes, equipment supply and ancillary and related requirements, for example the promotion and improvement of road safety.

B09 Car Parking/Parking Enforcement – Budget Amount €229,860.33

This provision relates exclusively to the provision, management and maintenance of public car parks, primarily in Youghal and to a lesser extent in Midleton, where significant off street public car parks have been developed over the years by the former Town Councils. In most cases capital costs have been recouped but in relation to the more recent developments acquisition and development costs continue to arise.

Parking enforcement again relates to the towns of Midleton and Youghal and gives rise to costs in respect of pay, equipment, equipment maintenance (parking machines and signage etc.), stationary, administration of fees and fines, prosecutions and training. The overall budget of €229,860.33 can

be attributed as €71,000 in respect of the provision, management and maintenance of car parks and €158,860.33 in respect of parking enforcement split between both towns with the higher proportion attributable to Youghal.

C04 Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences – Budget Amount €218,974.43

This Budget covers a total of 8 public conveniences in the Municipal District. There are four Automatic Public Conveniences and one conventional public toilet in the town of Youghal, two Automatic Public Conveniences in Midleton Town and one conventional toilet in Ballycotton and another in Redbarn. The contracts for the Automatic Public Conveniences are perceived as costly, however the contracts cover all maintenance and material costs and the units are extremely robust and vandal proof thus eliminating significant costs in repairs and replacement which arise in connection with conventional public toilets. The Automatic Public Conveniences also eliminate the very costly negative effect which arises from reports of unsightly and apparently badly maintained public toilets, even though this condition is caused by irresponsible vandalism and not by any failure on the part of local authorities.

D.1101 – Heritage Services – Budget Amount €142,000

This budget provision supports heritage conservation, promotion and regeneration. It provides funding for local match funding which generates grant funding through initiatives such as the Heritage Towns Initiative, for example restoration work on the Town Walls and recent conservation and restoration of the floor in St. Mary's Collegiate Church. It also supports the preparation and progress of plans such as the Heritage Led Plan for Enhancement of the Public Realm and promotional projects such as branding and tourism information strategies.

E05 – Litter Management – Budget Amount €39,415

Included in this programme is pay for litter prevention in the deployment of Litter Wardens and for litter clean up activities.

E06 – Street Cleaning – Budget Amount €408,648.50

This is one of the areas of significant cost and expenditure. Both of the former Town Councils in Youghal and Midleton put significant resources in funding and staff deployment towards street cleaning in the town centres. The split is almost half and half with €200,537.50 attributable to Midleton and €208,111.00 attributable to Youghal. As the description infers a high intensity regime of street cleaning, as in regular sweeping of town centres and other streets and public spaces, throughout the year but more intensively in the high season was annually maintained in both towns. Litter bins provided in high numbers require daily attention in emptying and disposal of the waste gives rise to significant costs. Costs for the disposal of waste also arises where clean ups are necessary to deal with waste arising to any significant extent outside of the areas catered for in the cleansing regime and in relation to circumstances where illegal dumping occasionally gives rise to litter blackspots.

E09 – Maintenance of Burial Grounds €174,306.00

Most of the expenditure in relation to these operations, €155,814.00, is attributable to Youghal and wide environs with the balance of €18,492 attributable in the remainder of the Municipal District. This reflects the historical circumstances of population distribution, the operation and responsibilities of the Youghal Joint Burial Board and that the graveyards operation and management in Midleton are the responsibility of the Parish.

E10 – Safety of Structures and Places €189,000.00

Here again, as might be expected, the greater part of the expenditure, €140,000 plus, is attributable to the historic Youghal Area stretching from Youghal itself to Garryvoe and relates to a great extent to water safety in connection with beaches, rivers and quays including the employment of lifeguards and lifesaving equipment. The balance of the funding includes similar activities in the rest of the Municipal District and such issues as derelict sites and dangerous structure and places.

F01 – Leisure Facilities Operations €189,000.00

Most of the expenditure, €169,000.00, arises from commitments and responsibilities in connection with the public swimming pool and leisure centre at Claycastle, through Claycastle Leisure Company Limited. Loan charges require payment of €109,000. The balance of €60,000 provides funding for maintenance works in connection with the swimming pool and leisure complex and for the management company Claycastle Leisure Company Limited, which company is responsible for the management of the facility, in relation to its obligations regarding payments in connection with the lease of the land, office accommodation, water charges, financial accounts, VAT returns etc.

F03 – Outdoor Leisure Operations – Budget Amount €489,208

This is the highest expenditure area in the Municipal District Budget and reflects the resources committed to maintaining the high standards of presentation, landscaping, cleanliness and care of public parks, amenity areas, public walkways and promenades and beaches. The magnificent beach in Youghal alone requires expenditure of almost €125,000 with additional funds attributable to other beaches in the Municipal District. Both Youghal and Midleton have significant numbers and scale of public parks, amenity areas and public walkways requiring a high level of expenditure, just under €145,000 for Midleton and a little over €205,000 for Youghal.

F04 – Community, Sport and Recreation Development – Budget Amount €464,218

This is the second highest expenditure area in the Municipal District Budget and includes for the Municipal District Amenity, Community Contracts and Capital Contracts Grants totaling €231,218. The Members have already considered the matter of grants and are aware of the many community groups and organisations supported and the variety and value of the projects and activities which this support will enable and progress. The Members have noted inherent support to the economic activities in the town centres through Christmas Lighting Schemes, Festivals and Tourism Promotion and furthermore in the allocation of funding from the Town Development Fund of €120,000, also included in this budget. Finally this budget also includes funding for the maintenance of Corporate Buildings, particularly in Youghal where several buildings of historic and heritage importance were vested in the former Youghal Town Council and are now the responsibility of Cork County Council, in the amount of €113,000.

F05 – Operation of Arts Programme – Budget Amount €90,000

This provision of €90,000 supports Enterprise Youghal through Hatherton Limited, in the management and maintenance of St. Mary's College for start up office units etc in the amount of €40,000, management and maintenance of the St. Mary's College Gardens €30,000, Youghal Chamber of Tourism and Development €13,000 and Youghal Socio Economic Development Group €7,000.

G02 – Operation and Maintenance of Piers and Harbours – Budget Amount €22,670

This is a relatively modest provision with just under €5,000 attributable to Youghal and just under €8,000 to the rest of the Municipal District in relation to the operation and maintenance of piers and harbours generally and the balance of nearly €10,000 to fund the operations of the Youghal Harbour Board in connection, in the main, with the commercial activity associated with the redeveloped Greens Quay area in Youghal Harbour.

G03 – Coastal Protection – Budget Amount €9,940.00

This even more modest provision is used to enable minor general maintenance works in coastal areas.

H07 – Operation of Markets/Casual Trading – Budget Amount €5,174.00

This is the smallest provision in the Municipal District Budget reflecting the low level of activity in relation to the operation of markets and casual trading. The Members may be aware that the review of Casual Trading Bye Laws for County Cork is presently ongoing and that there has not been any significant activity throughout most of the County for many years in connection with Casual Trading. This is an area gaining in popularity and has potential to bring benefits and encourage economic activity. It is now generally recognised that the operation of Casual Trading in Midleton on Saturday mornings has significantly enlivened the town and increased business throughout the town on Saturdays. Much of the credit for this success must be ascribed to the Midleton Farmers' Market group and their commitment to achieving the highest standards of product quality, product variety and mix and the excellence of service and presentation. Credit must also be ascribed to the former Midleton Town Council who supported the carrying out of Casual Trading from the outset, even in the face of local opposition, and for the investment in providing a very pleasant, attractive and safe area as the Designated Casual Trading Area at the Fair Green. The former Youghal Town Council supported the operation of Casual Trading at several locations in the town for many years with beneficial effects. The allocation of funds is in the amount of €3,174 in respect of Midleton and €2,000 in respect of Youghal.

J01 – Corporate Building Costs – Budget Amount €118,199.38

This provision is solely for the operation and management of the primary Municipal District offices, that is the former Youghal Town Council and Midleton Town Council offices. As the Members know these buildings provide office accommodation for Municipal District Staff, Roads Area Staff, Water Services Staff, Rates Collection and Rent Collection Staff, public offices and meeting rooms. The Mall House also contains The Mall Arts Centre and facilitates District Court sittings. Associated costs include lighting, heating, water charges, cleaning and supplies. I should also mention facilitation of meetings in relation to Health and Safety, Training and other conferences. The allocation of the funding follows budget provisions made by the former Town Councils, €64,819.38 in respect of Midleton and €53,380 in respect of Youghal.

Cllr. Hegarty requested a break down of the provision of €18,492 in relation to the maintenance of Cemeteries and also requested a list of caretakers for each Cemetery be provided.

Cllr. Hegarty raised the issue of Coastal Protection and requested clarification on the amount of €9,940 towards same. The Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Maurice Manning informed the Members that this funding was based on the Budget formerly provided in the Southern Division Budget and allocated to the Area Engineers Offices to facilitate minor works.

Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of the amount of €19,800 regarding School Wardens and asked

what this amount covered. The S/Director of Services, Mr. Maurice Manning informed the members that this amount covered the cost of existing School Wardens. Cllr. Linehan Foley asked if there was any update on the Junior Warden Scheme. Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer informed the Members that nothing had progressed with this matter presently but he would follow up on same for the June meeting.

2.2 Grants 2015 – Schedule of Grants as agreed at Special Meeting held on 21st April 2015.

A Schedule of Grants as agreed at Special Meeting on 21st April, 2015 was circulated to the Members. On the proposal of Cllr. McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Buckley the payment of Grants as set out in the Schedule was unanimously approved by the Members.

2.3 Disposal of Properties:

The Municipal District Officer, Mr. Joe McCarthy informed the Members that he has received notification in relation to 3 disposal of properties and stated that formal notification will be forwarded for the June meeting.

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.

4.1 Deputation from Midleton Lions Club. (Heard at the start of the meeting).

5. Notices of Motion.

5.1.1 Cllr. Michael Hegarty received on 30th March, 2015.

“That a reduced speed limit be introduced in conjunction with the local Gardai from Whitewell Cross to the Lower Aghada GAA Pitch”. Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer understood that an 80 km/h speed limit applies t

o this road and that the matter could be considered as part of the next county review of speed limits. Cllr. Hegarty suggested that it could be addressed in consultation with An Garda Síochána. The S/Director of Services advised that consideration of speed limits is a county wide function and it was not advisable or intended that speed limits would be considered on a piecemeal basis but would be reviewed as part of the county review. Mr. Christy Ring, Executive Engineer agreed to examine the matter of signage in the

area and to put in place any additional sign required.

5.1.2 Cllr. Michael Hegarty received on 30th March, 2015.

“That the footpath on Cork Road, Killeagh be completed at the area adjacent to the Eircom building also footpath repairs at Ladysbridge village and directional sign post to be replaced”.

Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer informed the Members that he was in touch with Eircom in relation to the removal of a wall at this location and stated that drawings were currently being prepared to forward to Eircom.

5.1.3. Cllr. Michael Hegarty received on 30th March, 2015.

“When will repair work commence on the Mountuniacke to Dungourney Road and from Connells Cross, Ballymacoda to Ightermurragh, Ladysbridge?”.

Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer informed the Members that these works are on a works programme for this year and the work would be starting at Mountuniacke.

5.1.4. Cllr, Michael Hegarty, received on 30th March, 2015.

“Road markings and stop sign at O’ Keeffe’s Cross, Ballymacoda be installed urgently”.

Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer will investigate this matter.

5.1.5. Cllr. Michael Hegarty, received on 30th March, 2015.

“Road repairs at Kilmacahill and Ballyduff, Cloyne”.

Mr. Christy Ring, Executive Engineer will investigate this matter.

5.1.6 Cllr. Noel Collins, received on 30th March, 2015.

“Council report, if all works are now complete for the taking in charge of Ashwood Crescent Estate, Midleton”.

Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer informed the Members that this matter has been referred to the Estates Department of Cork County Council and stated that he will write to them once again on this matter.

5.1.7. “Council report when the monitoring of the Traffic Lights, at rear of Church Lane, will be corrected to help ease the traffic congestion in the area”.

Cllr. McCarthy supports this motion and stated that traffic entering and exiting both Lidl and Aldi Supermarkets is causing a gridlock problem at this location

Mr. Christy Ring, Executive Engineer informed the Members that he will investigate this matter and see if any tweaking can take place on this system.

5.1.8 Cllr. Noel Collins, received on 30th March, 2015.

“That funding be made available for the dredging to some area of the two rivers that flow through Midleton town, where household refuse and other materials have been dumped, resulting in obnoxious smells”.

The Municipal District Officer, Mr. Joe McCarthy informed the Members that these works were always carried out by local community groups such as Tidy Towns.

The S/Director of Services, Mr. Maurice Manning informed the Members that costing of the works would have to be determined and if a local community group were prepared to carry out the works, Cork County Council would look after the cost of the disposal of the rubbish and would also provide the materials needed to carry out the works.

5.1.9 Cllr. Noel Collins, received on 30th March, 2015.

“Council receive a deputation from Midleton Lions, Club to put forward proposals, for additional sheltered housing for the elderly in Midleton”.

Deputation heard earlier in the meeting.

5.1.10 Cllr. Noel Collins, received on 30th March, 2015.

“Council report when the planning proposals recently presented to Cllrs will be set in motion in Waterrock”.

The S/Director of Services, Mr. Maurice Manning informed the Members that once the Public Consultation Process on the Water Rock Plan is complete the Planning Policy Unit will revert back to the Members.

Cllr. Hegarty informed the Members that the closing date for submissions was today (5th May, 2015) at 4 p.m.

5.1.11 Cllr. Noel Collins, received on 30th March, 2015.

“To facilitate the growing population of Ballinacurra and environs at Local and National Elections, Cork County Council, agree the provision of a Polling Station at Ballinacurra G.A.A. Club House”.

The Municipal District Officer, Mr. Joe McCarthy informed the Members that this was a matter for the Returning Officer and agreed to write to her on this matter.

5.1.12 Cllr. Aaron O’ Sullivan, received on 25th April, 2015.

“That ‘no entry’ lines be painted on the quay end of O’ Rahilly Street following incidents of cars driving against flow of traffic”.

Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer agreed to investigate this matter.

5.1.13 Cllr. Aaron O’ Sullivan, received on 25th April, 2015.

“That measures be examined to reduce the speed of vehicles at the St. Mary’s Church end”.

Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer agreed to investigate this matter.

5.1.14 Cllr. Aaron O’ Sullivan, received on 25th April, 2015.

“That the speed limit be reduced on Strand Street and measures be examined to deal with the dangers of vehicles coming in such close proximity to residential houses on right hand side”.

Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer informed the Members that he has requested the Design Office in Mallow to preparing a proposal to replace the footpath on the left hand side of Strand Street.

Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of a gap at a manhole cover outside Gael Scoil Coran. Mr. Paul Murray informed the member that this item was on a snag list of works to take place on Strand Street.

5.1.15 Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, received on 25th April, 2015.

“That East Cork Municipal District call on Cork County Council to progress or start on Phase 2 of the Boardwalk in Youghal”.

Cllr. Linehan Foley requested that a CPO be put on the land in question to progress Phase 2 of the Boardwalk. Cllr. O’ Sullivan seconded this motion.

The S/Director of Services, Mr. Maurice Manning informed the Members that he is very supportive

of this motion but stated Cork County Council would be very reluctant to go down the CPO route. Mr. Manning stated that a commitment to provide funding for this project would go a long way and suggested that the Members lobby the relevant Departments for funding now that a general election was looming.

6. Any Other Business:

1. Cllr. Linehan Foley requested an update on the footpath at the playground in Mogeely.

Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer informed the Members that Mr. Dave Clarke was to request an update on this matter.

2. Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of her recent request to have the seat at the viewing balcony at the Lighthouse be transferred to Summerfield and informed the Members that a resident from Youghal has been in contact with Cllr. Linehan Foley and stated that she would like to donate a seat in memory of her late husband at Summerfield. It was suggested that Cllr. Linehan Foley liaise with Helen Mulcahy, Youghal Office regarding this request.

3. Cllr. Linehan Foley advised that she had raised the issue of the viewing balcony at Moll Goggin's Corner at a plenary meeting of the Council and had been informed that the issue should be considered at Municipal District level.

Cllr. Collins requested that John Laphorne of the Non National Roads office be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council to discuss the matter.

The S/Director of Service, Mr. Maurice Manning informed the Members that this was not the responsibility of the roads office as it is a particular problem that has arisen due to coastal erosion and stated that a funding source such as the Department of Transport and Tourism or Failte Ireland be identified to lobby for funding.

The Members requested a report on the position of the viewing balconies as they felt if some stage there was a collapse of the balconies it may bring part of the main road also.

Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer informed the Members that John O' Donovan carried out a study on the viewing platforms.

Cllr. Hegarty supported Cllr. Linehan Foley's suggestion that Minister Ring and Failte Ireland should be made aware of the matter and be asked to consider the provision of funding. Cllr. O' Sullivan agreed that the viewing balcony should be restored and also suggested that an engineering study should be carried out. A report had previously been prepared by John O' Donovan Limited and had concluded that the viewing platform was a separate issue to the subsidence of the road, which matter had been addressed. Cllr. Hegarty stated that some agency must be responsible in relation to the viewing platform and that every effort should be made to identify a source of funding to reinstate the platform.

4. Cllr. O' Sullivan raised the issue of roads markings in Mogeely village which need to be painted.

5. Cllr. O' Sullivan informed the Members that he was deeply disappointed that Youghal was not included in Failte Ireland's newly launched marketing product "Ireland's Ancient East". Cllr. O' Sullivan stated that as a member of Cork County Council's Tourism Committee he had received assurance that the town would be included in the Ancient East project after being rejected for the Wild Atlantic Way Project and informed the Members that he would be pursuing the matter further.

Cllr. McCarthy informed the Members that she was of the opinion that the Ireland's Ancient East Initiative was 'set in stone' as yet and stated that David Stanton TD was seeking an explanation from Failte Ireland.

Cllr. O' Sullivan stated that he had tabled a motion to the Minister for Tourism, Pascal Donohue calling for an explanation and had not to date received a reply.

6. Cllr. Linehan Foley requested the provision of a yellow box towards the centre of DeValera Street. Mr. Paul Murray, Executive Engineer agreed to investigate same.

Vote of Congratulations:

The Members proposed a vote of congratulations to the following:

1. St. Johns Bosco Soccer Club, Midleton on winning the County Cup.
2. Conor Coyne, Youghal on winning the Golf Muskerry Senior Scratch Cup.

Votes of Sympathy:

The Members proposed a vote of Sympathy to the following.

1. Jim & Mary O' Brien on the death of Helen O' Brien.
2. The Family of the late Martha Crowley, School Warden for Carrigtwohill.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING