

Minutes of East Cork Municipal District Held on 7th July 2014 at 11.00 a.m. at The Lodge, Midleton, Co. Cork.

LATHAIR:

Mayor Noel Collins presided.

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

Ag Freastal::

Joe McCarthy, Municipal District Officer.
Dave Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer.
Christy Ring, Senior Executive Engineer.
Paul Murray, Executive Engineer.
Mary Flynn, Assistant Engineer.
Helen Mulcahy, Municipal District (Youghal Office).
Geraldine O' Connell, Municipal District (Youghal Office)

Cllr. Collins extended sympathies to the family of Stacey Dunlea who died tragically in a house fire at the weekend.

1. Minutes of Meeting Held on 12th June, 2014:

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th June, 2014 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy and unanimously adopted by the Members.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

• Municipal District Functions

The District Officer circulated to the members a number of documents regarding Municipal District Functions. The District Officer informed the Members that these functions were set outlined in three parts namely:

1. Reserved functions to be performed by Municipal District Members of which there are 45 functions.
2. Reserved functions to be performed by either the Municipal District Members for Cork County Council 24 functions.
3. Reserved functions to be performed solely by Cork County Council numbering 130.

The District Officer elaborated many of the sole Municipal District Functions amount merely to procedure such as adopting or using the term Cathaoirleach, the process of organising meetings, adopting statements in relation to local economic and community plans for consideration by the elected council, budgets and establishing community funds. He also emphasized that in exercising their functions the Municipal District Members must do so in a manner which is consistent with the policies, strategies, programmes and plans of Cork County Council.

Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of "Paid Parking" and asked if the revenue from Parking Machines would remain within the town. The District Officer informed the Members that parking revenue currently being accumulated in Youghal would be distributed within the town only, in line with the 2014 budget which was adopted last January. A function reserved to Municipal District Members is the making of a resolution to determine the manner in which fees in respect of parking shall be disposed of (Ref No. 27).

Cllr. Hegarty informed the Members that he is opposed to paid parking and believes it is a contributing factor to many of Youghal town centre's problems. Cllr. Hegarty requested a breakdown of the last two budgets for Midleton and Youghal in advance of November's estimates meeting to consider all budgetary options.

• YSEDG Presentation

Aileen Murray, Director of the Youghal Socio Economic Development Group gave a presentation to the Members on "A Partnership Approach" and informed the Members that she was seeking support for the groups intended expansion into the wider East Cork area and was also seeking two Municipal District Council Members to join the steering committee. It was agreed that two Members would be nominated at the September meeting.

3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members for transaction at Meeting. Standing Orders – Consideration and, if so adoption of:

The Municipal District Officer informed the Members that he had circulated to them a copy of the Draft Standing Orders issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and suggested that these be further considered at a Special Meeting of the Municipal District Members.

4. Other Business Set Forth in the Notice Convening the Meeting:

Cllr. Collins raised the issue of roads drainage and footpaths and stated that he felt he was steering a sinking ship given the scant progress being made in relation to replies being received regarding representations. Cllr. Collins cited the case whereby funding approved for a footpath on the Midleton/Whitegate Road to Saleen NS remain un-provided despite the tens of thousands of euro collected through road, property and water taxes. Cllr. Collins stated that he was of the opinion that road tolls were a national disgrace with the revenue received from same being spent on the roads in the U.K. Legislators he stated had killed the heart of rural Ireland with their "topsy turvey" local government reform that has muzzled the voice of the people.

Cllr. Linehan Foley on a point of information raised the issue of ongoing road problems and asked if she would remain in communication with Paul Murray, Town Engineer regarding representations. The Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that it would be best if concerns were fed in through local offices of Youghal or Midleton. It was also agreed that a Municipal District e-mail address be set up in due course.

The Municipal District Officer informed the Members that the Municipal District Council will operate primarily to be as convenient as possible for the people within the Municipal District, roads he stated is one of the primary issues in the county and throughout the whole country with the main factors being funding and resources which are vital to the upkeep of same.

5. Notices of Motion:

5.1.1 Cllr. Noel Collins, received in 6th June, 2014:

"Council give general clean up to Ballycraheen Strand and Car Park, Cloyne, and similar works at Inch Strand, Whitegate and Ahanesk Strand, Carrigtwohill".

Action: The Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that some litter had been collected at Ballycraheen Strand recently while Inch Strand has been inspected by An Taisce who gave a

good review on same. He also stated that there is great community involvement regarding the upkeep of Inch Strand and given the much reduced level of staffing at present community involvement on any of the smaller beaches would be greatly appreciated.

5.1.2 Cllr. Noel Collins received on 6th June, 2014:

“Council attend to the collapsed road at entrance to Rocky Road, Midleton near houses 1 and 2 Townspark. Major works of similar nature, requested by residents of Ballyroe, Cloyne and Kilva, Midleton, where roads are now almost “No Go” areas. (correspondence with local engineers).

Action: The Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that due to local limestone geology, subsidence is an issue around Midleton with the Rocky Road being affected recently. He also informed the Members that a large section of the Rocky Road had been closed recently to enable 20 tons of stone be brought in to fill the void and also stated that some of the area around the Rocky Road forms part of the driveway to local houses thus being a matter for property owners to address. In relation to Ballyroe and Cloyne the Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that this area had been attended to some weeks ago but would be re-inspected and the potholes at Kilva had largely been attended to.

5.1.3. Noel Collins received on 6th June, 2014.

“Directional Sign to Ballinacurra at Lakeview Roundabout. Clean graffiti from directional signs at Waterrock Cross and a general brush up to all directional signs”.

Action: The Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that the responsibility for signage rests with the NRA and its contractor but stated that he would have the matter referred to them again.

5.1.4 Noel Collins received on 6th June, 2014.

“Council report on the number of lifeguards to be employed on the beaches of East Cork. Paint and refurbish toilets in Ballycotton and Garryvoe”

Action: The District Officer informed the Members that there are 3 lifeguards per hut on duty every weekend for the months of July and August, with 2 lifeguards on duty from Monday to Friday. The Members were also informed that there are 4 huts in total being 2 in Youghal, 1 in Garryvoe and 1 in Redbarn.

The Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that due to the present lack of resources he would be hopeful that the new Labour Activation Scheme involving the long term unemployed might provide some solution regarding the upkeep of toilets in Ballycotton and Garryvoe.

5.1.5 Cllr. Michael Hegarty, received on 30th June, 2014.

“Replacement painting of double yellow lines at Castlemartyr outside Old Parochial House”.

Action: The Senior Executive Engineer agreed to investigate same.

5.1.6 Cllr. Hegarty, received on 30th June, 2014.

“That traffic calming measures be put in place on the approach road to Ballymacoda Village from the Knockadoon direction”.

Action: The Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that he would refer this matter to the Road Safety Officer in Mallow to investigate same and also to address the provision of

funding for this road.

5.1.7 Cllr. Hegarty received on 30th June, 2014.

“Flooding outside Daly’s and Fogarty’s houses on the N25 opposite the cemetery in Killeagh. Update on repairs at wall at Moll Goggin’s Corner and when will works commence on boardwalk reinstating”.

Action: Paul Murray, Executive Engineer informed the Members that the gully outside of Daly’s and Fogarty’s houses runs into a slope drain, and that the County Council intended to resolve this issue on a temporary basis.

The Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that an overall scheme had been planned for Killeagh including the replacement of water mains and drainage issues, he also stated that much of the complicated solutions would require passing through private lands or other complex routes. Maintenance he stated was the best solution in the short term while a major costly capital project remained the long term remedy.

In relation to Moll Goggin’s Corner the Senior Executive Engineer informed the Members that tenders had been submitted and a Contractor should be appointed within the coming weeks. The works he stated should take 3 to 4 months and once these are complete Irish Water will lay pipes to complete the Main Drainage Scheme in this area.

Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of funding to repair the viewing platforms at this location. The Senior Executive Engineer stated that this could be investigated under a heritage scheme.

In relation to the reinstatement of the Boardwalk the Municipal District Officer informed the Members that a report has been prepared by Malachy Walsh and Partners which focuses on improving the stability and resilience of the Boardwalk. Tenders he stated will be sought shortly.

6. Correspondence:

No correspondence was received.

7. Any Other Business:

A) Cllr McCarthy requested the provision of extra life belts at frequently visited point of the Owenacurra and Dungourney Rivers. Cllr. Collins seconded this suggestion.

B) Cllr. McCarthy requested the provision of traffic calming measures on the Midleton to Whitegate road. Cllr. McCarthy stated that even though there is a pedestrian crossing at the entrance to the Cotswolds Estate cars are travelling at excessive speed on this road. The Senior Executive Engineer stated he was of the opinion that traffic planning as conducted on the ‘dark road’ near the Lakeview Roundabout might be appropriate, he stated that lack of funding prevented the recommendations of a traffic study on the Midleton to Whitegate Road being implemented. He informed the Members that Cork County Council made representations to the NRA to have the road designated a national route, but to no avail. As it remained a regional road, local funding would be needed to address problems. He stated that a set of flashing lights have been erected in this area recently which he stated may have a positive impact and he would be hopeful a second set may be installed, until then he stated it was a matter for the Garda to deal with speeding on this road. Cllr. McCarthy stated that she understood funding constraints were in place but felt this matter should be prioritised.

C) Cllr. McCarthy raised the issue of the Midleton Food & Drink Festival and asked if stall fees could be waived as an exception for this year and the organisers were undergoing financial difficulties. The Mayor asked that this request be submitted in writing.

D) Cllr. O' Sullivan raised the issue of a treatment plant in Mogeely and stated that the residents in a nearby housing estate were complaining of a smell emanating from same. Cllr Hegarty informed the Members that this smell was not emanating from the Council Treatment Plant as it would have been inspected by the EPA. The Senior Executive Engineer suggested that Cllr. O' Sullivan investigate if the plant in question was operating under a licence from the County Council's Environment Section.

E) Cllr. Linehan Foley raised the issue of traffic calming on Cork Hill at Costcutters and asked if there was any update regarding same. The Executive Engineer informed the Members that the Road Safety Officer had investigated this matter and had agreed that there were safety issues at this location due to the fact that there was a busy petrol station/supermarket at this location with there being approaches to several housing estates and also it being the main thoroughfare to Pobalscoil na Tríonóide, but stated that traffic calming measures be put on hold due to the fact that there was pipe laying to take place at this location in conjunction with the Main Drainage Scheme Cllr. Linehan Foley asked if flashing yellow lights be installed as a temporary measure here. The Engineer agreed to investigate same in line with the 2015 roads budget.

This concluded the business of the meeting.