

MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY ON MONDAY 17TH OF JUNE DIRECTLY AFTER THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WHICH COMMENCED AT 11.00 AM

In the chair: Cllr John Brennann

Present: Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick, Denis Hynes and Cllr Michael McCarthy

In attendance: Philippe Beubry, Senior Executive Engineer, Nancy Byrne, Municipal District Staff Officer, Martin Prendiville, Director of Services and Michael Delahunty, Meetings Administrator

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) April meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed.

(b) May meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

None

3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Council for transaction at such meeting.

None

4. Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting.

None

5. Notices of Motion

None

6. Correspondence

(a) Broadband

Michael Delahunty outlined details of the response received from the offices of Minister Michael Ring, Minister John Paul Phelan and Minister Heather Humphreys in reply to issues raised by Mary Mulholland, Director of Services in respect of the provision of high speed broadband in Castlecomer. The response received from Minister Ring's office advised that Minister Bruton would be better suited to address the issues raised as the rollout of the National Broadband Plan does not fall under the remit of the Department of Rural and Community Development. They also advised that queries relating to Eir's rural deployment of high speed broadband is a matter for the commercial operator and one in which their Department has no direction and therefore should be directed to Eir.

The response received from Minister Phelan's office advised that as the issue of broadband and the rollout of the National Broadband Plan is a matter for the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, the request for the Minister's attendance at a meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District would be referred to Minister Bruton.

An acknowledgement of receipt of the correspondence issued was received from Minister Humprey's Office with no further follow up received at the time of the June Municipal Meeting.

Martin Prendiville advised that Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer is continuing to work on this issue. He advised that it's a very technical issue with slow progress and confirmed that it has been difficult to get Eir to the table. Mr Prendiville confirmed that he would hope to have an update on this issue at the July Municipal District meeting. The members expressed their disappointment at the lack of engagement. Cllr Fitzpatrick requested that the Executive revert to Minister Richard Bruton for a response and that Minister John Paul Phelan be invited to attend the July Municipal District Meeting. Cllr Cavanagh outlined details of a meeting which she attended on the 14th of May last in Freshford involving Leader where details of grant aid to assist with the preparation of plans for broadband provision were outlined. Mr Prendiville confirmed that he will report back to the July Municipal District meeting on grant assistance as raised by Cllr Cavanagh.

7. Matters arising from minutes

None

8. Any other business

(a) Items for future agenda.

Michael Delahunty advised that an update from Leader on the recently launched Castlecomer branding would be beneficial. Philippe Beubry confirmed that he will have an update on the Road Works Programme for the July meeting. Members agreed that a similar approach to that undertaken in 2018 would be beneficial with each Service Area invited to the Municipal District meetings to provide an update to members.

Michael Delahunty clarified that if members wish to include an item on the agenda, this item should be submitted to Nancy Byrne within the appropriate time frame.

(b) Chain of Office

Cllr Cavanagh proposed that the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District would have a Chain of Office available to them to use while attending civic receptions etc and in this regard sponsorship would be sought for its provision or alternatively a Chain of Office no longer utilised by the Council be used. Cllr Fitzpatrick expressed his dissatisfaction with Cllr Cavanagh's proposal to seek sponsorship. Following discussion and following Martin Prendiville's recommendation it was agreed that this item was more appropriate for discussion by the CPG.

(c) Footpath at Paulstown

Cllr Hynes raised the issue of the provision of a footpath at Kellymount, Paulstown. Philippe Beubry confirmed that he is investigating the provision of a footpath at this location in conjunction with the Road Design Office. He also advised that there are a number of constraints including site suitability and available resources. It was agreed that Philippe Beubry would provide a further update at the July Municipal District meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach: _____

Date: _____