**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 22ND OF SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 11AM**

Chair: Cllr M.H. Cavanagh

Present: Cllrs J Brennan, P Fitzpatrick, M McCarthy, P

Millea and M Shortall.

In attendance: P Beubry, Castlecomer Area Engineer,

B Mernagh. A/Director of Services

M Delahunty, Meetings Administrator

T Lauhoff, Thomastown Area Engineer

S Foley, Callan Area Engineer

N Byrne, Castlecomer Area Office

1. **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 21st July 2014:-**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr J Brennan, seconded by Cllr P Fitzpatrick and agreed.

1. **Reception of Deputation - Castlecomer Discovery Park**

The group consisted of Liz Nolan, General Manager and Michael Brook, Chairman. Liz Nolan provided a detailed presentation to the members outlining 3 Phases of development at CDP. Phase 1 when in 2009 Exodea Europe Consultants were contracted to assess the potential of CDP and made various recommendations including a focus on recreational / adventure activities and new revenue streams were identified. Phase 2 which comprise developments & achievements which have taken place at CDP during the life of their business plan (2010 – 2015). Details of target markets which CDP aim to attract were outlined. Phase 3 which comprise development proposals beyond the life of their current business plan. Members were advised details of application submitted for Leader funding for zip wire, high ropes and abseiling which was turned down. Members were also advised details of other proposals being examined including family friendly biking trails, extension of water based activities, open cast mine adventure area, animal sanctuary, sensory garden & maze and junior adventure trail via new woodland hut village. Details of profit / loss for the years since 2009 were outlined to the members, projected income for the years 2014 & 2015 were also outlined & members were advised this projection was investment dependent. This concluded the presentation. Michael Brook then spoke to the members. He asked the members to bear in mind where CDP had came from in the past 20 years and advised what he wished to do was to convince members of the enormous potential which existed to develop CDP as a leading attraction in the South East. He believed CDP had successfully undergone 20 years probation and with the help of agencies including Leader, KCC & Bord Failte they could achieve in the next 5 what would otherwise take another 20 years. . He confirmed that a new submission had not been made to Kilkenny County Council for funding and concluded by advising members that CDP need help to develop their product and asked members for their ideas

Members thanked representative from CDP for their presentation and were unanimous in their support. They acknowledged CDP’s contribution to the North Kilkenny Area and also what has been achieved to date and expressed their enthusiasm and good wishes for future development proposals. Members emphasised the need for CDP to find new revenue streams and become self sufficient.

The group then withdrew.

Cllr P Fitzpatrick advised details of €20,000 funding committed for CDP by P O’Neill, Director of Services and J Mulholland, A/Chief Executive.

1. **Proposed Extinguishment of Public Right of Way at Corbetstown, Ballyfoyle – Road No LT58652**

Proposal to publish Notice of Intention to Extinguish the Public Right of Way at

Corbetstown, Ballyfoyle – Road No LT58652 was proposed by Cllr M Shortall,

seconded by Cllr P Fitzpatrick and agreed.

1. **Business adjourned from a previous Meeting:-**

Items submitted by Cllr M H Cavanagh to meeting of 21st of July 2014:

* **Playground for Lisdowney**

A report received from Claire Goodwin, Parks Department was circulated to

the members.

* **Seskin Bridge**

The problem of flooding at Seskin Bridge was discussed. PBeubry advised an application for funding was made to the OPW last year but none was received. Cllr P Millea suggested that PBeubry would talk to his counterpart in Laois with a view to resolving this issue. PBeubry advised members that any proposal would have to be agreed with the OPW.

* **Road from the Square in Johnstown**

P Beubry advised that works at this location will be considered for inclusion in the next Multi Annual Road Works Programme.

* **Safety Measures at Tubrid Cross**

P Beubry advised that he is currently compiling a list of works for inclusion

under the 2015 Low Cost Accident Scheme and confirmed works at this

location will be included.

* **Lane at Clonmantagh leading to Minogues, Glendons and Mantons**

It was agreed that P Beubry would meet with Mantons to clarify what portion of the lane is public and what portion is private.

* **Update on Freshford Graveyard Car Park**

P Beubry advised that Planning Application submitted by the Community Group was deemed invalid. The Group involved are to re-submit application and once Planning Permission is granted PBeubry advised that he will sit down with the Group. Cllr M McCarthy advised that drawings are currently being prepared in respect of these works.

* **Ramps in Galmoy Village**

Members complimented the Council in respect of resurfacing works recently completed in the Village. PBeubry advised that the Department of Transport have requested details of Council policy as it relates to the provision of ramps with a view to achieving consistency countrywide. Clarification was sought as to whether previous requests for the provision of ramps will be honoured first if policy is reviewed.

1. **Items submitted by members**

**Cllr M H Cavanagh**

- **Dangerous Bends at Barna, Freshford**

PBeubry advised that the location has poor vertical and horizontal alignment. The possible acquisition of a vacant house at the location to provide a solution to the problem was discussed and it was agreed that PBeubry would contact Michael Coakley to discuss the issue.

- **Ramps in Tougher Lawns, Urlingford**

Cllr M H Cavanagh identified the location for the required ramp as the entrance into Riverside Park and was advised by PBeubry that this issue is receiving attention.

* **Fallen Trees in the River Goul**

PBeubry advised that DFoley, Area Roads Technician has confirmed that Fallen Trees in the River Goul have been removed.

1. **Budget 2015**

M Delahunty advised members that in accordance with new legal provisions vested on the members of Castlecomer Municipal District they are required to hold a Budget Meeting. He advised members that the rules governing this Budget Meeting require that the meeting be held between 6th and 10th of October, only one meeting can be held, this meeting cannot be adjourned and decisions from this meeting will be forwarded to the Budget Meeting of the Plenary Council. He advised that the Budget Meeting of the Municipal District will deal with discretionary spend drawn from all budgets. He advised that the Chief Executive sets out the General Municipal Allocation which will be divided among Municipal Districts in a fair and equitable manner based on needs and resources. Members sought clarification as to whether the Multi Annual Roads Programme already agreed would stay in tact and were advised it would. Members expressed concern that adequate briefings would be provided to them in advance of this Municipal District Budget Meeting. Members were advised that this item was due for discussion at CPG meeting scheduled for that afternoon which would provide further clarification. It was also stated that the Head of Finance will be providing an information pack to members in advance of the meeting and that he will be attending all Municipal District budget meetings.

Members agreed Friday 10th of October at 10o’clock as the date for Budget Meeting for the Castlecomer Municipal District. Members also agreed that the October meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District scheduled for 20th of October would not be held but if any item requiring urgent consideration could be discussed after the budget meeting and that the monthly meeting is to resume as normal in November.

1. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

Cllr P Fitzpatrick raised the issue of sign maintenance and replacement of signs. He acknowledged that this work is currently receiving attention and expressed his thanks for the work being done.

1. **Any Other Business**

The abolition of the Goul Drainage Committee was discussed. It was agreed

that M Delahunty would provide clarification at the October meeting in relation to the status of money remaining in Goul Drainage Committee budget.

The condition of Massford Road and flooding problems which exist at the location were discussed. Members requested that re-surfacing of this road be brought forward from 2016 to 2015 Road Works Programme and if this was not feasible that drainage works be expedited to 2015. PBeubry advised that he will aim to complete drainage works in 2015 and re-surfacing of this road will take place in 2016.

Cllr M Shortall raised a query in relation to Galmoy Group Water Scheme. He advised details of an individual whose well had been affected as a result of mining at Galmoy and who now receives a water supply from Galmoy Group Water Scheme. Cllr M Shortall queried whether individuals affected in this way and living within a certain radius of the Mine would be exempt from Water Charges. B Mernagh advised that Galmoy Group Water Scheme has not been taken over by Irish Water. He advised that Irish Water will not take over this scheme without a recommendation from Kilkenny County Council. He advised that included among requirements Kilkenny County Council sought from Galmoy Mine before they would make this recommendation ,was confirmation that all individuals whose water supply had been adversely affected by the Mine were satisfied and there was a clean customer base on which IW could begin to impose charges. B Mernagh confirmed that confirmation of this had not been received from the Mine

The importance of returning questionnaire to Irish Water was discussed and media present were asked to raise awareness of this issue.

Communication with Irish Water was discussed and the issue of public reps going unanswered was highlighted. It was suggested that the Irish Water representative who attended meeting of Kilkenny County Council in March should be invited to attend another meeting. Billy Mernagh advised that Irish Water have suggested that meetings with members will occur regionally. It was agreed that this issue would be discussed at CPG meeting.

The effect of the additional and unforeseen expenditure incurred on Central Access Scheme as a result of the protests and court proceedings was discussed btriefly with members expressing serious concern on the implications for the Municipal District & Council budgets.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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