

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 16TH
JANUARY 2017 AT 11.00AM**

Chair: Cllr P Fitzpatrick

Cllrs: J Brennan, M H Cavanagh, McCarthy, P Millea and M Shortall.

Officials: M Delahunty, M Mulholland, N Byrne, P Beuby and J Coyne

Cllr P Fitzpatrick opened the meeting by welcoming all those present and wishing them a very happy new year.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) December Meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District held on 19th December 2016.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr M McCarthy, seconded by Cllr P Millea and agreed:- "That the minutes of the December Meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District held on 19th December 2016 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved."

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Briefing on Library Services – Josephine Coyne, Acting County Librarian

JCoyne provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation to the members on the Kilkenny County Library Service with particular reference to the Castlecomer and Urlingford libraries. The presentation included comprehensive details of the various services available within the library service including free WIFI now available in all branches, free membership since 2016 and a new national library management system which is due to go live on 2nd February next. The presentation also provided figures to demonstrate the usage of the various services and also highlighted significant increase in usage of the Castlecomer and Urlingford Libraries. Details of overall spend on the library service were outlined and comparisons made with other local authorities. Details of new pilot project funded by the Department to provide open library in Castlecomer was outlined in detail.

Members welcomed the very positive and comprehensive presentation provided and raised a number of issues including:

- Concerns that the open library, if implemented across the service would eventually lead to reduction in staff
- Health and Safety concerns around new open library
- Need for increased investment in the library service
- Concerns that some books are being purchased from a UK company.

MMulholland advised that pilot open libraries have opened in Sligo and Tullamore. She advised that what has been learned from these projects will be incorporated into pilot for Castlecomer open library. She welcomed the

new initiative which she advised will allow greater access to the service and would consider that if anything would eventually lead to a need for additional staff. In relation to level of funding, MMulholland advised that Kilkenny County Council had performed badly in this area over the past number of years, however in 2016, the figure had been increased to its previous level.

It was also stated that staff reductions were not envisaged as a result of the Open Libraries initiative.

JCoyne advised that the pilot project will be closely monitored and Kilkenny County Council's Health and Safety Officer and Fire Officer will have to sign off on the project prior to its opening.

In response to a specific question J Coyne advised that in line with decision from the Department, Kilkenny County Council tendered nationally and Bertram Books, UK were successful in tender for supply of some children's books.

JCoyne was thanked for excellent presentation provided and withdrew from the meeting.

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

No items were raised.

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

Items submitted by members:-

Cllr M Shortall

(a) Safety at Corbetstown.

Dealt with in advance of the meeting.

Cllr M H Cavanagh

(a) Absence of signage in Rathpatrick and Waterland area to identify road numbers.

PBeubry advised that road numbers are provided on roads exiting regional roads only.

(b) Road from Eirke to Rathpatrick via Waterland in urgent need of re-surfacing.

PBeubry advised that he will consider this road for inclusion in the next 3 year multi annual roads programme.

5. Notices of Motion

No items were raised.

6. **Correspondence**
No items were raised.

7. **Matters arising from minutes**
Traffic Count – The Square, Castlecomer

Cllr M Shortall enquired whether there is anything back from the Road Design Office in respect of traffic count at The Square, Castlecomer and was advised by MMulholland that she has nothing back yet from Tim Butler, Director of Services on this issue.

8. **Any other business**
Salting

Cllr J Brennan sought clarification whether R426 was included on priority 3 salting route. PBeubry confirmed this road was included and outlined route covered during salting of this road.

Hedge Cutting

Members acknowledge progress which has been achieved in this area. Condition of ditches as you travel from Cave Bar towards Kilkenny City was raised, MDealhunty to pursue with the Kilkenny Area Office. Ditches owned by Galmoy Mine and in need of cutting were raised by Cllr M H Cavanagh. A conversation ensued in respect of how best to tackle problem of land owners who don't cut hedges, MDealahunty to investigate.

Illegal dumping over Christmas period

Cllr M Mccarthy asked that work completed by Environment Section, in particular DGallagher to deal with illegal dumping over Christmas period be acknowledged.

Roads

Preventative maintenance works currently underway on roads in the district and also the high standard of roads within the district were acknowledged with thanks.

Agenda – future meetings

Cllr P Fitzpatrick advised of agenda items for February, March and April meeting of the Municipal District.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____