

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 5th OF NOVEMBER AT 2.00 PM

In the chair: Cllr Michael McCarthy

Present: John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Pat Fitzpatrick, Patrick Millea and Maurice Shortall

In attendance: Philippe Beubry, Senior Executive Engineer, Michael Delahunty, Senior Executive Officer, Nancy Byrne, Municipal District Staff Officer and Mary Mulholland, Director of Services

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

- (a) Special meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer held on 15th of October
The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed .
- (b) October Ordinary meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer
The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed .

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Broadband

Mary Mulholland updated the members regarding ongoing discussions in which Sean McKeown, Director of Services is involved. She advised that there are no concrete proposals that the National Broadband Plan will deliver prior to 2021. Mary advised that Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer is liaising with a private developer and a number of technical solutions have been identified which are subject to planning permission. She confirmed that this developer is due to attend a pre planning meeting on Tuesday, 6th of November on this issue. Mary acknowledged the role of the Synergy Network Group Castlecomer, KLP and Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer in progressing this issue and advised that it was preferable to follow this option to the end prior to investigating alternative options.

Members thanked Mary for the update provided and acknowledged the positive news. It was agreed that Steve Coverdale would be invited to the December meeting to provide an update to the members. Members also asked that a reminder letter of invitation would issue to Minister John Paul Phelan to attend a future meeting on this matter

(b) Local Improvement Scheme

Philippe Beubry advised that all applications submitted under this scheme are currently being rated and the rated list will be circulated to the members at the December meeting. Members acknowledged that an additional allocation of €360,000 had been received and also acknowledged Cllr Brennan's work to have this scheme restored. Philippe confirmed that he had not yet received a breakdown on how the allocation received will be split. He also provided clarity to the members on the criteria for eligibility to the scheme.

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.

Items submitted by the members

(a) Cllr John Brennan

- Update on provision of broadband for Castlecomer

Item dealt with under 2(a) above.

- **Road repairs in Ballyragget Town.**

Members complimented Philippe on his proposal to deal with the partially collapsed road alongside CYMS Hall, Ballyragget which avoided the necessity to close the N77 during works.

- **Update on the public lighting programme.**

Cllr Brennan confirmed that this issue had already been satisfactorily dealt with by Philippe.

(b) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

- **Report on upgrading of sewerage treatment at Togher Crescent, Urlingford**

It was agreed that Michael Delahunty would email the response received from Ken Boland, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services to Cllr Cavanagh.

5. Notices of Motion

(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh received 24th of October 2018

That the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government be requested to amend the rules for additions to the Register of Electors. That he be requested to allow Peace Commissioners, Public Representatives, Clergy men and women and school Principals to witness the signatures of new applicants. That he also be requested to provide funding for a comprehensive updating of the register of Electors before the next Local Elections.

Following discussion, agreement was reached that the first part of this Notice of Motion would hold more clout if it was endorsed by AILG in advance of being submitted to Minister John Paul Phelan. Cllr Fitzpatrick confirmed that he had no difficulty in bringing this Notice of Motion to the attention of AILG.

In relation to the issue of funding, Michael Delahunty advised that the field workers were cut in 2010 and the position of Revenue Collectors has changed substantially and has been subsumed into office based staff officers under a restructuring agreement in light of the changing nature of the finance function to an EFT payment system and in the former Revenue Collector role which had been largely door to door based collection. He advised that the maintenance of The Register is a matter for the Council but people have a personal responsibility also to keep their own register details updated. He advised that the fieldworker exercise was last carried out in advance of the 2014 Local Elections and that Kilkenny County Council was one of the last, if not the last Local Authority, to undertake a field worker process. In the light of budget position he did not envisage the return of the field worker exercise.

(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh received 24th of October 2018

That Kilkenny County Council would write to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government seeking funds to convert Heating system in Local authority Homes from Gas to Solid Fuel where feasible on a phased basis.

Members discussed the financial burden placed on tenants with gas and oil heating costs. Mary Mulholland advised that the only retro fitting programme available from the Department was to remove solid fuel stoves. She highlighted the cost implications for Kilkenny County Council as a result of tenant's failure to properly maintain solid fuel stoves and clean chimneys. It was agreed that Mary Mulholland would speak to Housing Technical staff to establish how the cost of the various heating systems compare.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

Cllr Cavanagh requested that reference to 'bus shelter in Johnstown' under item 4(b) in the October minutes be amended to read 'bus shelter in Urlingford'.

8. Any other business

(a) Request for deputation – Urlingford Tidy Towns

Following lengthy discussion, it was agreed a more positive experience would be achieved by all if the precise details of items the deputation wish to raise were received in advance of their attendance at the Municipal meeting. It was agreed to obtain these details and circulate them to members in advance of receiving the deputation. It was also agreed the deputation form would be amended to facilitate receipt of additional information and also that meetings would convene at 10.30 when a deputation is due to be received.

Proposed by Cllr Millea,

Seconded by Cllr Fitzpatrick and **Agreed**

"That a deputation from Urlingford Tidy Towns would be received at the December meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District."

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____