

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 15TH OF OCTOBER AT 11.00AM

Chair: Cllr Michael McCarthy

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

Officials: Philippe Beubry, Michael Delahunty, Nancy Byrne, Steve Coverdale and Eamonn Morrissey

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

- (a) The October meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer
The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr John Brennan and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) 3 Year Draft Restoration Improvement Programme

Following the meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer held in committee on 15th of October at 10.45am the following motions were ratified in public:

- **Funding to accommodate the provision of passing bays**

It was proposed by Cllr Millea, seconded by Cllr Fitzpatrick and agreed that a letter would be sent to the Department seeking increased funding to accommodate the provision of passing bays as required, during road works.

- **Adoption of Road Works Scheme for Castlecomer Municipal District.**

It was proposed by Cllr Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr Fitzpatrick and resolved:-

"That the draft Restoration Improvement Programme as circulated at the Municipal District Meeting held on 15th October 2018, be and is hereby adopted.

(b) Winter Services Plan 2018-2019

Philippe Beubry circulated details of the Priority 3 Winter Maintenance route to the members and reminded them that the salting of this route during periods of severe weather is dependent on driver's goodwill.

Contributions were received from the members in respect of the following:

- Clarification sought whether Knocknew Hill was being dealt with by the Kilkenny Area.
- IFA support and involvement during severe weather was discussed and the importance of advance planning both with the IFA and relevant contractors on the ground as has happened in the past was acknowledged.
- Cllr Fitzpatrick highlighted that the army had not been included on the circulation list.

(c) Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme and Local Improvement Scheme

Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme

Nancy Byrne circulated details of Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme applicants to the members.

Contributions were received from the members in respect of the following:

- Clarification was sought in respect of criteria for eligibility to the scheme and also the percentage of local contribution required. These queries were dealt with by Philippe Beubry.
- Clarification was also sought in respect of how the Council monitor potential damage to laneways during harvesting works by Coillte. Philippe Beubry outlined details of pre and post conditioning surveys completed.

Local Improvement Scheme

Philippe Beubry advised that 3 new applications submitted under the Local Improvement Scheme remain to be rated and the revised list will be circulated to the members at the November Municipal meeting.

Contributions were received from the members in respect of the following:

- Clarification was sought in respect of criteria for eligibility to the scheme and also the percentage of local contribution required. These queries were dealt with by Philippe Beubry.

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 public lighting in Fr Raftice Place, Moneenroe

Nancy Byrne circulated an update provided by Joe Daly, Executive Technician. It was acknowledged that the issues identified in Fr Raftice Place with sections of the estate poorly lit have been the experience throughout Kilkenny and a list has been compiled by Mr Daly.

- Development in Coon Village at the Old Creamery Site.

Cllr Brennan acknowledged that representatives from the Council have visited the site.

- Visibility at Kealy's Lane. Aughamucky.

Philippe Beubry outlined details of Special Works scheduled for completion before the end of November at this location.

- Safety measures at the new Housing Estate, Moneenroe

Cllr Brennan outlined his concerns in respect of various outstanding works at this estate. It was clarified that responsibility for these works will rest with the contractor who built the houses. Philippe Beubry confirmed that a taking in charge application has been received.

(b) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

- Gateway Scheme

Cllr McCarthy confirmed that the Gateway Scheme terminated approximately 1.5 years ago. A conversation ensued in respect of the TUS Scheme with clarification provided that the TUS co-ordinator for the county is located at Patrick Street, Kilkenny.

- Pothole filling

It was agreed that Philippe Beubry would liaise with the General Services Supervisor for the Castlecomer West Area in respect of issues raised.

- Bus Shelters

Cllr Cavanagh was provided with an update regarding the provision of a bus shelter in Johnstown.

- Safety at Foulkscourt

Cllr Cavanagh outlined details of representations received regarding speeding at Foulkscourt.

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

It was agreed this item would be placed on the agenda of the November meeting.

(c) Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick

- Water connections for Paulstown and Gowran housing estates.

Mary Mulholland confirmed that this item had been raised by Tim Butler at a recent meeting with Irish Water. She advised that an update will be provided to the members at the November meeting or circulated in advance of the November meeting should it become available.

(d) Cllr Mick McCarthy

- Jet vac machine to be utilised more in the Municipal area of Castlecomer.

Cllr McCarthy asked that following the success of the street sweeping rota a formal rota would also be implemented for the jet vac machine. Philippe Beubry outlined details of the current use of the jet vac machine in the Municipal District which he deems satisfactory.

(e) Cllr Maurice Shortall

- Broadband

Cllr Shortall asked that Mary Mulholland speak to the Chief Executive, Colette Byrne with a view to raising awareness for towns and villages with economic dividend to be prioritised under the national broadband rollout.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Details of forthcoming meeting involving the Synergy Network Group, Castlecomer and high profile politicians were outlined.
- Potential employment in Castlecomer which is in jeopardy was outlined.
- Implications of topographic issues for Castlecomer
- Update sought in respect of request issued to Minister John Paul Phelan to attend meeting. Michael Delahunty provided an update to the members.

Mary Mulholland clarified that Local Authorities are not providing the broadband infrastructure. She advised that what Kilkenny County Council had undertaken to do and had done was to provide a forum to shine the light on this issue.

- Ballyragget Junction N77 / Patrick Street

Philippe Beubry confirmed that he will examine the need for re-texturing at this location and also confirmed that new road marking will be provided at the location this week.

- Lower Acorns, Castlecomer

Cllr Shortall thanked Philippe Beubry for work completed with residents in the Lower Acorns.

5. Notices of Motion

(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh received 22nd of September 2018

To request an update on the number of houses built or otherwise acquired by Kilkenny County Council to address the housing needs in the Castlecomer Municipal District over the last year; and an update on the proposals for the period ahead.

(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh received 22nd of September 2018

Further to my previous Notice of Motion at a County Council meeting, to request an update on the work undertaken and/or incentives introduced to encourage the use of existing properties in rural and urban parts of the Castlecomer Municipal District Area in view of the national housing shortage and the heritage and environmental value of such an approach.

The two Notices of Motion above were dealt with collectively. Mary Mulholland provided details of the Buy and Renewal Scheme and the Repair and Leasing Scheme and outlined complexities encountered with both schemes. Mary also provided details of the appointment of Evelyn Graham as Vacant Houses Officer for Kilkenny County Council. It was agreed that in the second or third month next year Mary Mulholland would provide an update to members on Evelyn's progress. Michael Delahunty highlighted that difficulties associated with vacant houses in town and villages have also been highlighted during the recent Health Checks undertaken.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

(a) Broadband

Cllr Fitzpatrick sought clarification why 'Broadband' was omitted from the agenda after agreement had been reached at the October meeting that it would be included on future agenda. Michael Delahunty confirmed that it will be included on future agenda.

8. Any other business

(a) Request for deputation

A request for a deputation received from Denis Hynes in respect of dangerous cross roads in Goresbridge was circulated to the members with the agenda. Following protracted discussion the decision of the Municipal District members was to defer receipt of this deputation pending a meeting on site between Philippe Beubry and the signatories included on the request.

(b) Date for Municipal District Budget meeting to note.

It was agreed that the Statutory Budget meeting for the Municipal District of Castlecomer will take place on the 5th of November at 1.45pm followed by the Ordinary November meeting at 2pm.

(c) Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018 update to note.

Michael Delahunty outlined details of €652,280 awarded to Kilkenny under the 2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

(d) CCTV Scheme

Cllr Cavanagh enquired whether there was any other funding stream available to assist community groups with costs associated with running this scheme . A conversation ensued regarding both data protection and financial issues associated with the scheme.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____