

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 17TH OF SEPTEMBER AT 11.00AM

Chair: Cllr Michael McCarthy

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

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

Apologies: Mary Mulholland and Cllr Maurice Shortall
Members extended their best wishes to Cllr Shortall for a speedy recovery.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:-

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

2. The Synergy Network Group, Castlecomer – Broadband

A group representing the Synergy Network Group, Castlecomer attended the Municipal meeting following an invitation from Management. Fiona McHardy highlighted from the outset that although the information contained in their presentation was particular to Castlecomer, it was representative of what is being experienced across rural Kilkenny. The group consisted of Fiona McHardy, Declan Rice, Ger Ferris, Kathy Purcell, John Comerford and Warren Byrne and apologies were extended on behalf of Willie Forde. They provided a detailed presentation which gave an overview on the following:

- Background and formation of the Synergy Network Group.
- Recent key town centre activities in Castlecomer which involved investment in excess of €12 million.
- Employment and potential additional employment in the town which is being jeopardised as a result of poor quality broadband.
- Details of the day to day impact of poor quality broadband on businesses including :- The Avalon, Eurospar, The Discovery Park and The Prince were outlined.

Declan Rice detailed funding available under the Regeneration Programme and confirmed that KLP will talk to members as appropriate.

Steve Coverdale updated members on the roll out of the National Development Plan.

Contributions were made by all members in relation to the following:

- Members acknowledged the progress which has been achieved in the Town of Castlecomer and thanked those involved for their investment.
- The gravity of the situation was acknowledged with jobs and the town's economic future in jeopardy.
- Implications of topographic issues around Castlecomer were discussed.
- Disappointment with the National Broadband Plan's failure to deliver for rural Ireland.

The group were thanked for the detailed presentation provided and withdrew from the meeting.

It was agreed that 'Broadband' would remain as an agenda item for future Municipal meetings. It was also agreed that future discussion on this issue would take place in conjunction with Colette Byrne, CEO and Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer.

It was proposed by Cllr Millea, seconded by Cllr Brennan and agreed that Minister John Paul Phelan be invited to meet with the Castlecomer Municipal District members and officials on this issue.

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) 3 Year Draft Restoration Improvement Programme

Members agreed that this item would be deferred to a special meeting in committee.

(b) Environment Update – Bring Banks Urlingford

Eamonn Morrissey updated members regarding location identified for Bring Banks in Urlingford. He also responded to request made at the July Municipal meeting for the provision of additional white bottle bank facilities in Johnstown and Freshford and confirmed investigations undertaken had confirmed that these additional facilities were not warranted.

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

None

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

Items submitted by the members

(a) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

- Ramps and 'Children at Play' signs for the Lower Acorns, Castlecomer

Philippe Beubry to investigate.

- Removal of debris from Woodsgift left after a vehicle was burned out.

Eamonn Morrissey provided update to the members.

- Repairs to footpaths and provision of bins in Urlingford

Eamonn Morrissey updated members regarding bins. Philippe Beubry confirmed that footpaths at this location will be considered for inclusion under the next 3 Year Road Works Programme.

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

It was agreed a response to this item would be provided at the October meeting.

- Road at Brucana leading to O'Gradys and Luptons.

Philippe Beubry confirmed that maintenance works will be completed as soon as the roads crew are available.

(b) Cllr Maurice Shortall

Update on:

- Broadband
- CLAR

- Ballyragget - Junction N77 / Patrick Street

- Lower Acorns, Castlecomer

These items were deferred to the October meeting

(c) Cllr John Brennan

Update on:

- Local Improvement Scheme
- Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme

Philippe Beubry provided an update on both schemes.

- Traffic calming and road markings in Clogh Village.

Philippe Beubry provided an update.

6. Notices of Motion

(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh received 27th August 2018

"That following the successful completion of repair works on the Freshford Road in Johnstown, first requested four years ago, similar works be undertaken on Castletown Hill as far as

the boundary with county Laois and, given the improved economic climate, that such repair works take place at the earliest opportunity”.

Philippe Beubry to investigate.

(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh received 31st August 2018

“That talks would begin immediately with the residents close to Togher Way, Urlingford as to what can be done with the very problematic area of “No Man’s land” which has been a disaster area for many years. The area needs to be landscaped without delay in consultation with all of the local residents”.

Cllr McCarthy provided an update to the members.

7. Correspondence

(a) CLAR funding update

Members welcomed the news that 11 applications submitted had been successful and acknowledged the work completed by Frank Stafford, Collette Byrne, CEO and Michael Delahunty. Michael Delahunty informed the members that it is now time to start looking at applications for funding under the 2019 scheme. A conversation ensued regarding the Minister’s announcement of a review of the scheme.

(b) Response from Minister Kevin Boxer Moran TD in relation to flooding in Freshford

It was agreed that this correspondence would be taken as read.

8. Matters arising from minutes

None

9. Any other business

(a) Anthony Ryan

Cllr Cavanagh asked that the member’s best wishes be extended to Anthony Ryan, Tullavolty who is due to retire from the Castlecomer West Roads Depot in the coming weeks.

(b) Repairs at Main Street, Urlingford

The work completed by Philippe Beubry was acknowledged.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____