

MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY ON FRIDAY 12TH OF JUNE 2020 DIRECTLY AFTER THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT'S ANNUAL MEETING WHICH COMMENCED AT 12 NOON

In the chair: Cllr Michael McCarthy

Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick, Denis Hynes and Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh via conference call

In attendance: Mr Martin Prendiville, Director of Services, Mr Philippe Beubry, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr Martin Mullally, Meetings Administrator, Ms Nancy Byrne, Municipal District Staff Officer and Ms Annette Fitzpatrick, A/Senior Executive Officer, Community

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) *February Meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer*

Mr Martin Prendiville requested an amendment under item 2 (a) as follows, revise Semtex to read Cellnex.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr John Brennan and agreed.

(b) *May Meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer*

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Denis Hynes, seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) *Broadband*

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed that Cellnex have identified a site in Castlecomer for the provision of infrastructure and have applied for planning permission for infrastructure in Johnswell. Mr Prendiville confirmed that Eir have extended their fibre link in Castlecomer. Mr Prendiville highlighted that COVID 19 had slowed matters, however progress is being achieved. Mr Prendiville also highlighted the difficulties encountered by Mr Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer trying to contact Eir.

It was agreed that Mr Martin Mullally would issue a reminder to Eir on invitation previously issued inviting Eir to attend a meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer.

(b) *Grants:-*

(i) *Community*

Details of the 2020 Town and Village Renewal Schemes and 2020 CLÁR Scheme was circulated to the meeting.

- *Town and Village – Accelerated Measures in response to COVID 19 (new for 2020)*

Ms Annette Fitzpatrick confirmed that this was a new scheme for 2020 and focuses on immediate interventions that can be delivered in the short term to assist Towns and Villages to adapt to COVID 19. Ms Fitzpatrick provided details of 2 grants available, deadline for receipt of applications and advised that the Area Officers are working on projects for inclusion under the Scheme.

- *Standard Town & Village Renewal Scheme*

Ms Annette Fitzpatrick confirmed that there is a particular emphasis this year on projects that support the economic and social recovery of Towns and Villages in response to COVID 19. Ms Fitzpatrick provided details of minimum and maximum grant available, closing date for receipt of applications and confirmed that the grant amount for 2020 is increased to 90%.

- *CLÁR*

Ms Annette Fitzpatrick provided relevant dates and details of minimum and maximum grant available under the scheme. Ms Fitzpatrick clarified that unsuccessful 2019 CLÁR applications must be re-submitted in order to be considered under the 2020 Scheme.

Ms Fitzpatrick was thanked for the information provided, congratulated on her new role and withdrew from the meeting.

(ii) Business Re-start

Details of re-start grants for small and micro businesses were circulated to the meeting. Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed that the re-start grant which is being provided by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation will be administered in Kilkenny County Council by the Finance Department. Mr Prendiville went through the information circulated and dealt with members queries. He confirmed that the grant will be the amount of the rates demand for a business in respect of the calendar year 2019 only, subject to a minimum of €2,000 and maximum of €10,000 and in the event that the rates demand was reduced on appeal, the appeal rate will apply to an amount of the grant if the grant is over €2,000. Mr Prendiville confirmed that 515 applications had been received to date and 71 grants paid to date averaging €4,000. Mr Prendiville also confirmed that the feedback received has been quite positive and asked members to encourage applicants to ensure applications are properly completed to avoid unnecessary delays in administering the grant.

(c) Local Improvement Scheme update

Mr Philippe Beubry provided an update on the 2020 Local Improvement Scheme. Mr Beubry confirmed that €105,000 funding had been received from the Department and that an offer had been made for works and is proceeding in respect of Sherman's Lane, Donoughmore.

(d) Community Involvement Scheme update

Mr Philippe Beubry provided an update on the 2020 Community Involvement Scheme. Mr Beubry confirmed that €223,000 funding had been received from the Department, 4 offers had been made for works with 3 proceeding and a question mark over the fourth.

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

None

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

(a) Items submitted by members

(i) Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick

That Kilkenny County Council would ensure that electric charge points are installed in all Towns and Villages.

Cllr Fitzpatrick highlighted the requirement for electric charge points to be installed in all Towns and Villages throughout the County which he advised would provide some small help to encourage a green agenda. It was agreed that Mr Martin Mullally would bring this matter to the attention of Director of Services, Roads.

(ii) Cllr Michael McCarthy

Timber excavation at Grants Wood, Donaguile, Castlecomer.

Cllr McCarthy sought clarification as to whether there was a bond in place in respect of these works. Mr Philippe Beubry clarified that a condition attached to planning applications for a new forestry entrance requires the applicant to liaise with the Area Office and submit an application for a road opening licence. However, as there was already an entrance in place at the site of this development this condition did not apply. It was agreed that Martin Mullally would liaise with Mr Denis Malone on the issue.

5. **Notices of Motion**

None

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Matters arising from minutes**

None

8. **Any other business**

(a) **HD15 Programme update**

Mr Philippe Beubry circulated details of a proposed TII Safety Scheme situated in Castlecomer between the Castlecomer Garda Station and Deen River Bridge. Mr Beubry went through the several improvements for pedestrians contained in the proposed scheme and confirmed that it will be 100% funded by TII, is progressing to design with expected completion in 2021. Members welcomed proposals contained in the plan and Cllr Fitzpatrick and Cllr Brennan requested that discussion take place with nearby residents in advance of any works.

(b) **Request for Reception of Deputation – Conahy Residents Group**

Members agreed that in line with COVID 19 restrictions and HSE Guidelines it would not be appropriate to receive a deputation at the July Municipal Meeting but the deputation would instead be received at the September Municipal meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:

M. D. R. C. G. G. G.

Date:

20 / 7 / 20

