

**Minutes of the February Meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 at 11.00 am**

**In the chair:** Cllr John Brennann

**Present:** Cllrs Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick, Denis Hynes and Michael McCarthy

**In attendance:** Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Martin Mullally, Ms Mary Mulholland, Ms Nancy Byrne and Mr James Brennan

**Receipt of Deputation without Notice**

Mr Martin Mullally advised that a request for receipt of a deputation had been received on behalf of the Castlecomer Discovery Park and clarified the position with regard to the receipt of a deputation without notice as per Standing Orders. Members agreed unanimously to receive the deputation.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-**

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

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr Michael Delaney and agreed.

**2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:**

**(a) Broadband**

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed that Mr Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer had attended a meeting with Cellnex during the past week. Mr Prendiville advised that Cellnex indicated that they were interested in putting infrastructure in Castlecomer with their surveys due to commence in the coming days.

**(b) 2020 Road Works Scheme**

Mr Philippe Beubry circulated details of the 2020 draft Road Works Scheme. A summary of public lighting schemes provided since 2015 were also circulated. Mr Beubry outlined details of increased funding received under the various categories of the Road Works Scheme. Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members thanked Mr Beubry for the delivery of a fair and balanced draft Road Works Scheme.
- Members requested that the following works be considered for inclusion in the next 3 Year Road Works Scheme – the remainder of LP 1810 Kilrush to Belville Road, works to resolve flooding issue on road between 2 families of Delaneys at Whiteswall Upper, infill and extension of public lighting at Canal Road, Johnstown, public lighting at Paulstown National School, replacement of public lighting at the Pit Yard, Moneenroe and public lighting at Tullaroan Sports Field.
- Replacement bins for Johnstown, Freshford and Urlingford.
- Clarification sought on salting in Kilmanagh

**Adoption of the 2020 Draft Road Works Scheme for the Municipal District of Castlecomer**

It was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Michael Delaney and resolved:- "That the proposed 2020 Road Works Scheme as circulated at the Municipal District Meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, be and is hereby adopted.

**(c) Community – Rural Development Update**

Ms Mary Mulholland provided an update to members on Community and Rural Development funding including the 2019 Town and Village Renewal Scheme and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.

**(d) Illegal Dumping at Bring Banks**

Mr James Brennan updated members on issues associated with the Bring Banks located within the Castlecomer Municipal District Area including details of work completed by contractors Glassco Recycling Ltd and David Gertberg. Mr Brennan provided details of a meeting which had taken place with Glassco Recycling Ltd 3 weeks prior to Christmas 2019 to tackle the problem of illegal dumping at Bring Banks during the Christmas period. Mr Brennan also provided details of fines issued and prosecutions taken for the years 2018 and 2019.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members thanked Mr Brennan for the information provided and acknowledged the progress which has been achieved by the Environment Team.
- Greater publicity required on the presence of cameras at Bring Banks.

**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**

**- Ballyragget Landfill Remediation Project (deferred from the January meeting)**

Cllr Fitzpatrick highlighted the poor condition of the roadway leading to the Ballyragget Landfill Remediation Project during works and also the lack of consultation which had taken place between the contractor involved and residents on the roadway. Cllr Fitzpatrick also sought clarification on the status of this laneway on the Local Improvement Scheme list, details of which were provided by Mr Beubry.

**- Road Markings in Coan (deferred from the January meeting)**

Cllr Fitzpatrick confirmed that Mr Beubry is giving this issue attention.

**(ii) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh**

**- Eir Poles**

Cllr Cavanagh highlighted the problem of disused and dangerous Eir poles throughout the county. Works completed by Eir in the past to remedy this problem were acknowledged. It was proposed by Cllr Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Cavanagh and agreed that a representative from Eir would be invited to a meeting of the Municipal District to update members on this issue.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that this was a countywide issue and appropriate for attention through the Director of Services, Roads.

**5. Notices of Motion**

None

**6. Correspondence**

None

**7. Matters arising from minutes**

**(a) Naming of Estate – ‘New Houses, Canal Road, Johnstown’**

Mr Martin Mullally sought suggestions for a name for this estate located at Canal Road, Johnstown and was requested to consult with the residents of the estate on the issue.

**8. Reception of Deputation**

**(a) Reception of Deputation - Foróige, the National Youth Development Organisation – Courthouse in Castlecomer**

Ms Bernie Meally, Foróige Area Manager South East and Mr Jimmy Ryan, Youth Officer, Youth Skills Kilkenny provided a detailed presentation which outlined details of the work completed by Foróige and details of the many services provided and progress achieved to date by Foróige since commencing at the Castlecomer Courthouse in 2014 as well as their aspirations for the future.

Members thanked the group for their attendance at the Municipal meeting, acknowledged the tremendous work delivered by Foróige in the Castlecomer area and were unanimous in their support for an extension of their lease at the Castlecomer Courthouse.

**(b) Reception of Deputation – The Castlecomer Discovery Park**

Ms Cathy Purcell, Mr Tony Kenny and Mr Tony Walsh attended the meeting on behalf of the Castlecomer Discovery Park. Mr Walsh provided details of various measures implemented since Christmas 2019 by the Board of Management to strengthen the Castlecomer Discovery Park's financial control side including amendments to the staffing structure and franchising of the café. Mr Walsh highlighted difficulties associated with the seasonal nature of the Discovery Park. He acknowledged subvention received each year from Kilkenny County Council and grant assistance provided to date and concluded by requesting financial support in the amount of €150,000 from Kilkenny County Council.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members acknowledged the huge significance of Castlecomer Discovery Park to the town of Castlecomer.
- Measures implemented by the Board of Management in recent months were acknowledged.
- The number of staff employed by the Park were acknowledged.
- A query was raised as to what other measures could be taken by the Council to support the Discovery Park going forward.
- Members agreed to support the Discovery Park's request for financial support but it was also highlighted that there could be no return for similar support.
- The need for a greater media campaign to highlight the variety of activities available in the Park was raised.
- Encouragement of shops to open during weekends was raised.

Mr Martin Prendiville acknowledged the measures implemented by the Board of Management in recent months.

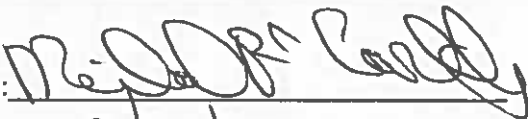
**9. Any other business**

**(a) Fix date for the March Municipal Meeting**

It was agreed that the March meeting would take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March at 11am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:



Date:

16/6/20

