

**MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY ON MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020 AT 11.00AM.**

**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, Mr Seamus Kavanagh, Mr Shane Rafferty and Ms Nancy Byrne

**Apologies:** Mr Martin Mullally and Mr Philippe Beubry

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

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

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

(b) *June 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) *Broadband*

Mr Martin Prendiville advised that Mr Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer is currently on leave. Mr Prendiville advised that it has been difficult for Mr Coverdale to get Cellnex to the table for negotiations, however, it is hoped that there will be an update available for the September Municipal District meeting. Mr Prendiville also advised that if an update becomes available within the next 2 weeks it will be circulated to the members.

(b) *Road Works Scheme – Update*

A report prepared by Philippe Beubry which provided an update on:

- Urban & Village COVID 19 Accelerated Measures
- Road Works Scheme update
- Grass cutting operation
- Weed control

was circulated to the meeting.

Mr Shane Rafferty went through the report in detail and dealt with members queries.

Mr Seamus Kavanagh acknowledged the progress achieved on the 2020 Road Works Scheme despite a 7 week shut down as a result of COVID 19.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Mr Shane Rafferty and Mr Seamus Kavanagh were thanked for their attendance at today's meeting, the update provided and the work completed by Margaret O'Neill, Nancy Byrne and the 4 General Service Supervisors attached to the Castlecomer Area Office acknowledged.

- The volume of work completed to date under the 2020 Road Works Programme despite the 7 week shut down was acknowledged.
- The inclusion of pedestrian crossing at Kilkenny Street, Freshford under Low Cost Accident Schemes was welcomed and clarification sought on completion date for works.
- A request that an investigation be completed of recent damage to the Old Bridge, Ballyragget.
- Inclusion of works at Moyhora under Low Cost Accident Scheme were welcomed and the co-operation of the landowner acknowledged.
- Proposed works at Clogh National School under Low Cost Accident Schemes were welcomed. Traffic calming measures completed to date in Clogh were acknowledged and an issue of speeding through the village raised.
- A request that a review of traffic calming in Castlecomer be completed to ensure new developments don't negatively impact the town.
- Improvement works to the footpath on Kellymount Road, Paulstown under Special Works and their significance was acknowledged.
- Provision of flashing signs at Tullaroan National School and on the Clogh Road, Castlecomer were acknowledged.
- An update on the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Bradóg Way was sought.
- Overgrown ditches on the link road from Paulstown to the motorway was raised.
- Clarification sought on when notification of decision on Urban & Village COVID 19 Accelerated Measures was expected.
- An update on Castlecomer pedestrian bridge was sought.

Mr Seamus Kavanagh responded as follows:

- An investigation will be arranged of the Old Bridge at Ballyragget.
- Traffic calming in Castlecomer will be monitored by TII & Kilkenny County Council.
- Inclusion of a pedestrian crossing for Bradóg Way will be investigated for inclusion in future Road Works Scheme.
- Trimming of verges on link road from Paulstown to the motorway will be arranged.
- Investigative works for Castlecomer pedestrian bridge will be completed in 2020 and construction is expected in 2021. The project will be 100% funded by TII.

#### *Works on National Road Network*

- *N77 Ballyragget to Ballynaslee*

Mr Seamus Kavanagh confirmed that a combined application to An Bord Pleanála for planning approval preparation under section 177AE and CPO for the N77 Ballyragget to Ballynaslee Improvement Scheme is aiming to be submitted by the end of August 2020.

- Mr Kavanagh provided an update on Pavement Improvement Works at Oldtown.

#### (c) *ReStart Grant – Update*

Mr Martin Prendiville advised that €3.7m had been advanced from the Government with €3m paid out to date. Mr Prendiville confirmed that 920 applications had been received to date with 67 remaining to be processed. Mr Prendiville advised that despite PR programme undertaken to promote the grant the uptake was much less than had been anticipated. Mr

Prendiville acknowledged that the pausing of Phase 4 of Ireland's Roadmap for re-opening may have impacted uptake of the grant. Mr Prendiville's key message to members was that they contact all businesses in their area who may be eligible for the grant.

Mr Prendiville confirmed that a stimulus package is to be announced by Government this week which members welcomed. In response to query raised on Commercial Rates moratorium Mr Prendiville advised clarity from Government was needed. A query was also raised on payment of Property Tax to which Mr Prendiville advised that he wasn't aware of any amendments to this tax which is collected by Revenue.

Members acknowledged the positive efforts of the Finance Department to promote this ReStart Grant and their efficiency in administering the grant.

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.**

None

5. **Notices of Motion**

None

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Matters arising from minutes**

(a) *Provision of charge points*

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick sought an update from the June meeting. Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed that the issue had been referred to the DOS, Roads and that an update would be provided at the September Municipal District meeting.

8. **Any other business**

(a) *Derelict Sites*

Cllr Denis Hynes sought an update on Derelict Sites.

(b) *Next meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer*

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer would take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: 

Date: 21/9/20

