

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2020 AT 11.00AM.

In the chair: Cllr Michael McCarthy

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

In attendance: Mr Martin Prendiville, Ms Anne Maria Walsh, Mr Philippe Beubry and Ms Nancy Byrne

Apologies: Cllr John Brennan

Vote of Sympathy: The members joined with the Cathaoirleach in offering a Vote of Sympathy to Mr Martin Mullally, Senior Executive Officer on the death of his wife Josephine.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) September Meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband – update

An update from Mr Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer was circulated to members in advance of the meeting and marked as read.

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) Eir – contact details

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed that a letter had been sent to Eir.

(b) Chimney Sweeping / gutter cleaning

Mr Martin Prendiville advised that this role if pursued by the Housing Department would create a significant additional workload. It was agreed that a definitive answer will be provided at the November Municipal District Meeting.

8. Any other business

(a) Agree date for the Municipal District Budget Meeting.

Members agreed that the statutory Budget Meeting for the Municipal District of Castlecomer will take place on Monday 9th of November at 11am.

(b) Monuments & Memorials

A report on Monuments and Memorials was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The report provided details of :

- An application from one memorial committee for the Council to 'take in charge' the monument.
- Details of an audit completed by the Heritage Officer and final report issued in 2015.

Ms Anne Maria Walsh advised that Councillors are being asked for their feedback on the request for the Council to take in charge monuments not provided directly by the Council. This would create a precedent for other monuments. It is suggested that maybe the criteria would be amended for the Amenity Grant Scheme, that would allow community groups to apply for funding to cover the insurance costs of roadside memorials and monuments.

Members raised the following queries/questions/observations in relation to monuments and memorials:

- Ageing volunteers, need for future proofing of monuments and memorials.
- The status quo for monuments and memorials would remain as is.
- The inclusion of insurance costs under the Amenity Grants Scheme be explored.

It was agreed by the members that the status quo remain and that the Council would not be in position to take over all the monuments/memorials in the County.

(c) 2020 Road Works Scheme – update

Mr Philippe Beubry provided an update on the 2020 Road Works Scheme under the following headings; Restoration Improvement, Community Involvement in Road Works, Special Works, Drainage Works and Castlecomer Deep Cleaning.

Members thanked Mr Beubry for his update and raised the following queries/questions/observations:

- Tremendous work completed in what has been an extremely challenging year.
- Thanks and appreciation be conveyed to all staff including Ms Margaret O'Neill and Ms Nancy Byrne.
- Contribution of Mr Shane Rafferty, former Assistant Engineer with the Castlecomer Area Office acknowledged and the urgent need for a replacement highlighted.
- Magnificent work completed during Castlecomer Deep Cleaning.
- Works planned for Main Street, Gowran welcomed.
- Request for provision of cul-de-sac sign at Rathpatrick.

(d) Re-Start & Re-Start Plus Grants – Update

Mr Martin Prendiville gave an update to members as follows:

- €8.5m paid out to date.
- An anticipated €800,000 to be paid out in appeals under Re-Start Grant.
- Businesses who feel have grounds for appeal to get in contact at restart@kilkennycoco.ie.
- A 30% top up on the Re-Start Plus Grant to be provided, awaiting guidance.
- A 9 month waiver on Commercial Rates.

Members acknowledged the efficiency and compassionate manner with which these grants have been processed by Finance staff.

(e) Provision of Electric Charge Points

Ms Anne Maria Walsh referred to item raised by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick at the June and July Municipal District Meetings and confirmed that a response had been received from 3 County Energy Agency who indicated that enquiries are being made with the ESB and they will revert to us when more information is available.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____