

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY ON MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER AT 11.00AM.

In the chair: Cllr Michael McCarthy

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

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

Apologies: Cllr Denis Hynes

Vote of Sympathy: Members extended a vote of sympathy to the Fitzgerald and Crotty family on the death of Mary P Fitzgerald, nee Crotty.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) July 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 – update

Mr Steve Coverdale updated members as follows:

- Progress on high speed broadband delivery for Castlecomer has been slow.
- Cellnex’s planning application for the provision of a mast at Johnswell had been refused.
- Update on fibre to cabinet connections at Barrick Street and Oakhill.
- No progress on the provision of a pole at the Fire Station.
- Report of poor broadband coverage received from Comerford’s Hotel is under investigation.
- Details of meeting with the NBI Chief Executive. Mr Coverdale confirmed that fibre roll out from bordering counties may be a possibility.
- Update on Vodafone Broadband Connection Points (BCP) rollout for Crosspatrick and Tullahought. (Part of the NBP)

Members acknowledged what has been achieved and requested that the item remain as a standing item on the agenda.

(b) ReStart Grants – update

Mr Martin Prendiville updated members on the ReStart Grant advising that a total of 966 applications were received, 826 processed, 140 removed as a result of online duplicates etc and a total of €2.95m paid out. Mr Prendiville advised that a total of €4.33m had been received under the ReStart Plus Grant as part of the Government’s July Stimulus package. Mr Prendiville advised that there were currently 135 applications in the system and he confirmed the end of September as the deadline for receipt of applications. He asked members to

contact businesses in their area who haven't already made an application. Approximately €9m will be paid out on behalf of the Department of Enterprise by Council Staff.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members acknowledged the efficiency, sensitivity and professionalism with which both grants were processed.
- A query was raised regarding support available for self-employed businesses and details of a once off €1,000 grant were provided.

(c) Draft Development Plan – Presentation

Mr Nicolaas Louw provided a presentation on the Draft City & County Development Plan 2021 - 2027. Mr Louw confirmed that the process commenced in 2018 with delays occurring as a result of both making of the RSES and delays associated with COVID 19. He advised that the City & County Development Plan must include the provisions of the: National Planning Framework (Project 2040) and the RSES at local level. The City and County Development Plan will be amalgamated as one plan and that we are currently at Step 6 of the process whereby a draft plan will be available for consideration by the members in October 2020. He confirmed that two workshop dates will be agreed at the September Council Meeting for consideration by the members.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:-

- The Castlecomer Local Area Plan was completed in 2018, will changes be taken into consideration.
- That the Plan would appropriately reflect Wind Energy Strategy.
- HSE progress plans for St Canice's hospital grounds.
- Transport Plan required.
- Clarification on making of submissions, with particular reference to Rural Housing Policy.

Mr Louw was thanked for presentation provided.

(d) Additional Funding

(i) Climate Change Adaptation Measures

Mr Philippe Beubry circulated details of 3 projects included under Climate Change Adaptation Measures with a total funding allocation of €120,000 comprising works at: - LP 1803 Beggar's Cross to Johnstown, LP 1844 Muckalee Road, Julianstown and LS 5859 Kilmar to Conahy.

Members welcomed details of works outlined and the allocation provided.

(ii) Active Travel Measures

Mr Philippe Beubry circulated details of 6 projects included under Active Travel Measures and funding allocation of €91,000 received. The projects comprise works at : - LP 1002 The Square, Freshford, R 448 The Green, Gowran, R 639 Main Street, Urlingford, LP 2626 Church Road, Paulstown, LP 2642 Barrowmount, Goresbridge and R 426 Clogh Village.

Members welcomed the allocation and works outlined.

(iii) Urban and Village COVID Accelerated Measures

An update on works completed week ending 18th September under Urban and Village COVID 19 Accelerated Measures comprising works completed at the main Casual Trading Bay, The Square, Castlecomer were circulated together with details of street furniture ordered.

(e) Re-allocation of €26,000 for Tullaroan Drainage Works

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that as the agreement of the landowner is not imminent in respect of drainage works at Tullaroan, he proposes re-allocating this funding to a similar ready to go project at Garnagea, Woodgift. Members agreed to the re-allocation.

(f) Road Works Scheme update

An update on the 2020 Road Works Scheme was circulated on the: - Restoration Improvement & Maintenance Programme, Low Costs Accident Schemes, Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme, Local Improvement Scheme, Special Works and Drainage Works.

Low Cost Accident Scheme – Pedestrian Crossing, Kilkenny Street, Freshford

Mr Philippe Beubry outlined that the Archaeologist Assessment Report received 15th September recommended relocating the pedestrian crossing or change of the design of the crossing to ensure no excavation 300mm below the existing surface. Mr Beubry confirmed that neither of the 2 options are feasible and it is proposed to proceed with archaeological test excavations. Mr Beubry confirmed that the provision of the pedestrian crossing will be delayed until 2021 as a result.

Contributions were received from Cllr Michael McCarthy and Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh as follows:

- Both members identified the delay as very regretful and unfortunate given the large volume of traffic and age profile of pedestrians who require this crossing.

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

(a) Declaration of a Public Road – Coolnaleen, Clogh

Ms Nancy Byrne circulated a map and report which provided details on request received from Deputy John Paul Phelan on behalf of Carmel and Thomas Hennessy that the roadway from the end of the LT 58494 to Hennessy's farmyard at Coolnaleen, Clogh be dedicated as a public road under Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

The proposal to publish Notice of Intention to declare the roadway from the end of the LT58494 to Carmel and Thomas Hennessy's farmyard at Coolnaleen, Clogh, Castlecomer was proposed by Cllr John Brennan, seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick and resolved.

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

(a) Items submitted by members

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

(i) Safety measures needed at Kilbraghan Tree Crossroads.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh acknowledged road markings provided at Kilbraghan Tree Crossroads and requested that Mr Beubry liaise with residents to provide additional safety measures.

(ii) Chimney sweeping / gutter cleaning

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh outlined that she had been approached by a chimney sweep who raised an issue of callouts after a chimney fires occur. Cllr Cavanagh enquired whether the Council would be open to the idea of taking a small additional payment from tenants each week on top of their rent and that this money would be used for a twice-yearly cleaning of gutters and chimneys.

Mr Martin Prendiville acknowledged the merit in the issues raised, he confirmed that services obtained by the Council are through the tender process, the proposal as suggested may be difficult to administer but he would pursue with the Housing Department

5. Notices of Motion

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

(a) Ballyragget Bridge Wall

Cllr Fitzpatrick sought an update on repairs to the bridge wall at Ballyragget and was advised by Mr Beubry that these works were included in Programme of Works for completion in 2020 by Mr John Prendergast who has responsibility for bridge maintenance.

(b) Derelict Sites – Update

An update on Derelict Sites, as requested by Cllr Hynes was circulated.

8. Any other business

(i) Ragwort

Cllr Cavanagh referred to the responsibility of the Council to deal with the control of ragwort and identified a stretch of road at Castletown on the R435 which requires attention. Mr Beubry agreed to pursue this with the Overseer for the area.

(ii) Road Safety - Deer Crossing

Cllr McCarthy highlighted road safety issues associated with increased number of deer in the Woodsgift / Valley Inn / Tullaroan Area. Following discussion, it was agreed that overgrown ditches causing poor visibility contributes to the danger and acknowledged that this may be a greater issue near forestry. Members were requested to notify Mr Beubry of any such locations for follow up with Coillte.

(iii) Eir – contact details

Cllr Fitzpatrick highlighted difficulties raised by many constituents regarding contacting Eir. It was agreed that Mr Prendiville would follow up with Mr Coverdale and Eir.

(iv) Castlecomer Library

Members acknowledged the sterling work completed by Mary Morrissey in the Library Service over a period of 4 decades and her driving force behind many initiatives and wished her good health and happiness for her retirement.

Members also extended their best wishes to Ms Karyn Deegan as she takes up the role of Librarian in the Castlecomer Library.

(v) Outdoor Recreation Fund – Freshford

Works completed under the Outdoor Recreation Fund by Paul Moran and the Environment Team were acknowledged by Cllr McCarthy.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____