

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD VIA MS TEAMS ON MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2021 AT 2.00PM.

In the chair: Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick

Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney, Denis Hynes and Michael McCarthy

In attendance: Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Philippe Beubry, Ms Nancy Byrne, Mr Michael Leahy, Ms Annette Fitzpatrick and Ms Anne Marie Shortall

Cllr Fitzpatrick opened the meeting by welcoming all present to the Municipal District's final meeting for 2021. It was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed that today's meeting would conclude no later than 2.45pm.

Vote of Sympathy

The members joined with the Cathaoirleach in extending a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Mr Thomas Brennan, Clarabricken, Clara, Co Kilkenny and former member of Kilkenny County Council.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :

(a) Budget Meeting held on 12th November 2021

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

(b) November Ordinary Meeting held on 15th November 2021

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) **Broadband**

Mr Martin Prendiville advised that Cellnex are examining a number of sites for the provision of infrastructure and hope to have tests completed by the end of January 2022.

Members raised the following items:

- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh on behalf of the Urlingford Town Team highlighted; Urlingford are not being provided with HSB speeds detailed in the NBP; acknowledged the assistance provided by Mr Steve Coverdale to the Town Team.
- Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick requested that a detailed report be provided for the February MD meeting.
- Cllr Michael Delaney raised an issue about the works currently carried out by Actavo under the NBI contract to clear around poles and lines. Cllr Delaney raised concern that branches and hedges trimmed by crews are being left into open drains which could potentially result in drains being blocked and overflowing.

Mr Philippe Beubry to pursue issue raised by Cllr Delaney with Actavo.

(b) **Environment and Climate Action update**

Ms Anne Marie Shortall provided an update to members on highlights of Director of Services Progress Report to SPC4 circulated to members as follows:

• **Climate Action**

Ms Shortall provided details of Building Capacity Training course completed by the Climate Action Team.

Climate Change Strategy – 96 actions with 235 associated sub actions. In 2021, 41% of the sub actions were completed, 38% ongoing and 21% incomplete due to Covid or other restrictions.

Cycle for Work Initiative – As one of the largest employers in the County, the Council will lead by example and encourage other employers and businesses to take similar initiatives.

Energy Saving Projects – Kilkenny County Council has a number of projects currently underway which will receive 30% funding from SEAI. The projects include a lighting upgrade and EV charges installation at Kilkenny Machinery Yard along with roof insulation at County Hall. These projects will support the Council's journey towards 2030 public sector energy and carbon targets. Other energy saving projects also being undertaken include works at Graignamanagh Library, Thomastown Session House and Watergate Theatre.

- **Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspection (RMCEI) Plan 2021**

Ms Shortall confirmed that the RMCEI Plan has progressed significantly in 2021. Ms Shortall confirmed that there is a total of 4,671 planned inspections and provided current available update.

- **Bring Banks**

Ms Shortall confirmed that Kilkenny County Council provides and manages 46 Bring Centres across the City and County and year to date, a total of 2,328 tonnes of recyclables were collected. Details of the busiest Bring Banks in the County were provided and Ms Shortall confirmed that Environment Staff are continuing to work closely with service providers to ensure the service is in keeping with demand.

- **Environment Complaints**

Ms Shortall confirmed that all complaints are logged on the Customer Relations Management (CRM) System. Over 1,200 complaints have been received this year to date which is a slight reduction on the same period last year.

- **Waste Prevention Programme**

Ms Shortall provided details of a number of waste prevention projects underway:

- Castlecomer Discovery Park – Waste Audit to improve their environmental performance.
- Re-use Month
- Conscious Cup Campaign
- Local Authority Waste Prevention Grant secured for 2022
- Anti-litter Initiative – Picker Pals Programme
- Anti-litter Infrastructure Grant

Ms Shortall was thanked for the comprehensive update provided and members raised the following queries / observations:

- The volume of work completed by the Environment Team including staff at Dunmore Recycling facility was acknowledged.
- Need to work closely with service providers to ensure timely collection of Bring Banks during the holiday period.
- Cllr Denis Hynes sought clarification on process involved to have Bring Banks relocated.

Ms Shortall responded to members queries and confirmed:

- Environment Staff will work closely with service providers to ensure the collection service is in keeping with demand during the holiday period.
- Cllr Hynes requested to forward relevant information on re-location of facility for Ms Shortall's attention.

(c) Community Projects update

Ms Annette Fitzpatrick provided an update to members on Rural Funding received as follows:

- **Town and Village Scheme**

Ms Fitzpatrick provided details of:

- Funding received and projects which benefited under the 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 Town and Village Scheme.
- Projects submitted for funding under the 2021 Scheme and confirmed that a decision is awaited from the Department.
- Details of funding received and projects which benefited under the 2020 – Accelerated Measures funding stream were provided.
- Details of funding received for the 2021 Streetscape Enhancement Scheme and the towns of Urlingford, Castlecomer and Goresbridge nominated to benefit from the Scheme.
- Urlingford awarded €100,000 to develop Town Centre Masterplan and it is hoped to go to tender for these works in early January .

- **CLÁR**

Ms Fitzpatrick provided details of:

- Projects funded under the 2018, 2020 and 2021 CLÁR Schemes.

- **LCDC Funding**

Community Enhancement Programme (CEP)

Details of the range of grants available and communities which benefited under the 2021 Scheme were provided.

Community Activities Fund

Details of allocation for Kilkenny and particulars of the scheme were provided.

Ms Annette Fitzpatrick was thanked for the presentation provided and members raised the following queries:

- The number of communities which have benefited from these grants was acknowledged.
- The success of Ms Annette Fitzpatrick and her team and the volume of grants which they have obtained was acknowledged.
- Mr Philippe Beubry and Mr James Farrell, General Services Supervisor were thanked for their work in the delivery of a carpark at Muckalee under CLÁR funding.
- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and Cllr Michael McCarthy welcomed the €100,000 funding received for Urlingford Town Centre Masterplan. Cllr Cavanagh advised that she had been contacted by the Urlingford Town Team who had requested that undergrounding of cables in the town receive investigation.
- Cllr Denis Hynes sought an update on Town and Village Grant funding for the provision of Recreation and Amenity Hub for Gowran.

Ms Annette Fitzpatrick responded to members queries and confirmed:

- Item raised by Cllr Cavanagh regarding undergrounding of cables in Urlingford has been noted.
- A decision is awaited from the Department in respect of funding for Recreation and Amenity Hub for Gowran.

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.

- Items submitted by members:**
- (a) **Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh**
- **Undergrounding of cables at Main Street Urlingford**
Dealt with under Item 2.
5. **Notices of Motion**
None
6. **Correspondence**
None
7. **Matters arising from minutes**
None
8. **Any other business**
- (a) Cllr Mary Hilda raised the following:
- Safety measures required at the Dynan Bridge.
 - Replacement of green bollards at Byrden's Lane, Glashare.
 - Overgrown ditches on the Ballinakill Road.
 - Congratulations to Cllr Pat O'Neill on his recent marriage.

Mr Philippe Buebry responded to issues raised by Cllr Cavanagh and confirmed:

- Problem with overgrown ditches on the Ballinakill Road have been resolved.

(b) Cllr John Brennan raised an issue of flooding on the Skehana Road

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that this issue had been dealt with.

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick thanked all staff attached to the Area Office for their work completed throughout the year and acknowledged additional work load as a result of extra funding received. Cllr Fitzpatrick also thanked Mr Martin Prendiville and his team for their work to achieve a balanced budget. Cllr Fitzpatrick concluded by wishing all present including the media a Happy Christmas.

Mr Martin Prendiville thanked Mr Philippe Beubry and his team for their work throughout the year and thanked the members for their support and understanding throughout the year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:

Pat Fitzpatrick

Date:

17/1/2022