

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY ON MONDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2021 AT 11.00AM.

In the chair: Cllr Pat Fitzatrick

Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Michael Delaney, Denis Hynes, Michael McCarthy and Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh via MS Teams

In attendance: Mr Philippe Beubry, Ms Anne Maria Walsh, Ms Nancy Byrne, Mr Michael Leahy, Ms Úna Kealy, Mr Alan Hyland and Inspector Paul Donohoe

Apologies: Mr Martin Prendiville

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) September Meeting held on 20th September 2021

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

(b) Special Meeting held on 4th October 2021

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband

Ms Anne Maria Walsh advised that a planning application had not been received yet from Cellnex. Ms Walsh acknowledged that the Urlingford Community Group have been dealing directly with the Department of Communications and reminded representatives of the Group who joined the meeting on line that Mr Steve Coverdale, Kilkenny County Council's Broadband Officer should be copied on all correspondence with the Department. Ms Walsh confirmed that she was not in a position to clarify how the 3 classifications used in the NBP rollout were determined but will arrange for a presentation provided to SPC2 to be circulated to members. Ms Walsh also reminded members of Kilkenny County Council's role as facilitator of the NBP rollout for County Kilkenny.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh expressed disappointment with the slow progress for a resolution to Broadband issues experienced in Urlingford.
- Impact for businesses as a result of poor broadband speeds.
- Potential delays for NBI as a result of wayleave issues.

Members agreed that Mr Steve Coverdale would be invited to attend the November MD Meeting and if this was not feasible the December MD Meeting to provide a detailed update on broadband. It was agreed that a hard copy of this presentation would be made available to Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh.

(b) Traffic Core Presentation

Inspector Paul Donohoe, Head of the Roads Policing Unit in the Carlow / Kilkenny Division provided a detailed presentation to members under the following headings:

- Garda National Roads Policing Bureau – Roads Policing Operations - 2021
- Fatal collision details – Kilkenny / Carlow Division
- Serious injury traffic accidents – 2021
- Monitoring of progress and statistics year on year
- Four pillars of Garda Traffic Strategy comprising: engagement, education, engineering and enforcement
- Continuing to move forward 2021 and beyond

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- Inspector Donohoe was thanked for his attendance at the Municipal District Meeting and the detailed presentation provided.
- Tremendous work completed by the Roads Policing Unit was acknowledged and members asked that their thanks be conveyed to officers involved.
- Work with the various stakeholders was acknowledged.
- Impact of various operations to improve safety in rural communities was acknowledged.
- Excellent social media campaigns commended.
- Acknowledged that speed and the use of mobile phones are the most significant cause of accidents.
- Need for heightened awareness and education on the impact of speeding.
- Active Mobile App was welcomed.
- Acknowledged excellent work by Garda based at the Castlecomer Station.
- Clarification sought on completion date for improvement works in Freshford Garda Station.

c) Taking in Charge – update

An update on the taking in charge of estates in the Municipal District was circulated to members. The update provided clarification on the status of:

- The Green, Ballyfoyle
- Haven Court, Ballyragget
- Whitehall, Paulstown
- The Paddocks, Gowran
- Ogenty, Gowran
- Abhainn Rí, Kilmanagh
- 9 houses at Moneenroe

Ms Úna Kealy confirmed that to do date in 2021, eight estates have been taken in charge in the County including: The Green, Ballyfoyle and Haven Court, Ballyragget. Ms Kealy also confirmed that: Whitehall, Paulstown, The Paddocks, Gowran and Ogenty, Gowran have a TIC target date of 2022. Mr Alan Hyland outlined details of a number of surveys completed and TIC works planned for Abhainn Rí, Kilmanagh.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- Ms Úna Kealy and Mr Alan Hyland were thanked for the update provided.

- The speed with which The Green, Ballyfoyle and Haven Court, Ballyragget were taken in charge was acknowledged.
- Cllr Denis Hynes sought clarification on final TIC date for The Paddocks, Gowran.

Mr Alan Hyland and Ms Anne Maria Walsh responded to members queries as follows:

- Mr Hyland advised that there are 12 estates in the county with a final TIC target date of 2022 and a more specific schedule will be available when a detailed investigation of the 12 estates is completed. Mr Hyland also confirmed that a bond is in place for The Paddocks, Gowran.
- Mr Walsh reminded members that TIC is an onerous process and that other work needed to be prioritised during the Pandemic.

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) **Cllr Denis Hynes**

- **The Paddocks, Gowran – update on when the road will be started under the bond Dealt with under 2(c)**
- **Funding to complete Ring Road Footpath in Paulstown in 2022**
Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that these works will be considered for inclusion under Active Travel Funding in 2022

5. **Notices of Motion**

None

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Matters arising from minutes**

(a) **Ramps – Galmoy**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested the provision of 2 ramps in Galmoy Village. Cllr Cavanagh highlighted the unusual scenario with one approach road entering the Village at a 90-degree angle.

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that these works will be considered for inclusion in the next Road Works Programme.

8. **Any other business**

(a) **Multi Annual Restoration Improvement Programme – Adoption**

The Multi Annual Restoration Improvement Programme was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed.

Members commended Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Joe Daly, Ms Nancy Byrne, Ms Margaret O’Neill, Mr Denis Foley, 4 General Service Supervisors and their teams for the quality of work completed and asked that their thanks be conveyed to all staff.

(b) **Junction Safety**

(i) Rathdowney Road and Canal Road, Johnstown

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh highlighted safety concerns at the junction of the Rathdowney Road and Canal Road, Johnstown.

Ms Anne Maria Walsh confirmed that the Housing Design Team gave a commitment during Part 8 presentation to liaise with the Area Office and make this junction safe.

(ii) Station Avenue, Ballyragget

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick raised safety concerns at Station Avenue, Ballyragget.

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that the necessary works will be included for funding under the 2022 Low Cost Accident Schemes.

(c) Road Markings – Barraghcore Road

Cllr Denis Hynes raised the need for road markings along a 3km stretch of the Barraghcore Road from Goresbridge to the County Bounds.

Mr Philippe Beubry is to investigate the issue.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: *Pat Fitzpatrick*

Date: *7/12/2021*