

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 11.00AM.

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 Anne Maria Walsh, Ms Nancy Byrne and Mr Tom Brennan

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :

(a) September Meeting held on 20th September 2021

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband

Mr Martin Prendiville advised members that a site for the provision of infrastructure in Castlecomer had been identified by Cellnex and reminded members that any progress is subject to Planning approval.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Acknowledged what has been achieved and thanked Mr Martin Prendiville and Mr Steve Coverdale.
- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh outlined difficulties experienced by some residents and businesses in Urlingford accessing high speed broadband.

Mr Prendiville confirmed that an update from NBI will be sought on broadband issues highlighted by Cllr Cavanagh.

(b) Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) – Update

Mr Philippe Beubry provided details of the two tranches of funding received and the 9 applications due for completion under the 2021 Local Improvement Scheme. Mr Beubry outlined details of time pressures associated with delivery of the 5 schemes included under the second tranche of funding.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Both the increase in funding received from the Department for the LIS and the impact of this funding for rural communities was acknowledged.

(c) Multi Annual Restoration Improvement Programme

Mr Philippe Beubry advised that work is ongoing on the preparation of the draft Multi Annual Restoration Improvement Programme. Mr Beubry requested that a Special Meeting be held in committee during the first week of October to present the draft Programme. Following discussion, it was agreed that this meeting would take place on the 4th of October at 11am in the Council Chamber, County Hall. It was also agreed that Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh would be facilitated to join the meeting remotely.

(d) Speed Limit Review

Mr Philippe Beubry reminded members that a speed limit review had commenced in the County and is being led by Mr Michael Murphy, Senior Engineer. Mr Beubry requested that members forward submissions for the review to him prior to 18th October next and advised that Mr Michael Murphy is due to attend the November Municipal District meeting.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- Major road safety campaign required in conjunction with the Speed Limit Review.
- Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick suggested and it was agreed that Inspector Paul O'Donohoe be invited to the October Ordinary Meeting of the Castlecomer MD.

(e) 2021 Road Works Scheme – Progress Report

A progress report on the 2021 Road Works Scheme was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- The volume of work delivered by Mr Philippe Beubry and his team was acknowledged.
- Staff vacancies in the Municipal District.

(f) Winter Maintenance Plan

Mr Philippe Beubry acknowledged that the P1 and P2 Winter Maintenance Plan will be dealt with at the October Plenary Meeting. Mr Beubry advised that a map of the P3 Winter Maintenance route will be circulated to members in the coming days and confirmed that there is no additional capacity on this route. Mr Beubry also advised that; the P3 Winter Maintenance Route was salted 13 times last Winter;; IFA contacts will be updated, and; the Salting Units are mobilised for the entire day when conditions are particularly difficult.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- Attention to a number of areas of difficult terrain required during severe weather.
- Inclusion of the hill at Kilmanagh on P3 Winter Maintenance route. Alternatively, the deposit of bins of salt in Kilmanagh Village.
- Co-ordination with the IFA integral.

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 Mary Hilda Cavanagh

- *Illegal dumping in the Gowran Area.*

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh confirmed that illegal dumping which she referred to in the Gowran Area had been resolved but raised the issue of recent dumping at Whiteswall. Cllr Cavanagh requested that a Notice of Motion be sent to the Plenary Council:- 'People who blight should be named and shamed'.

(b) Cllr Denis Hynes

- *Barrow Bridge, Goresbridge – Safety Measures*

Cllr Denis Hynes complimented the efforts of Mr Philippe Beubry to address the safety issues at Barrow Bridge, Goresbridge. Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that a joint application submitted with Carlow County Council for funding had been unsuccessful and advised that a further assessment of the location will be completed in 2022.

- *Public Lighting – Funding*

Cllr Denis Hynes highlighted the need for public lighting at Paulstown School. Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that it is his intention to include public lighting at this location in the next Public Lighting Programme.

5. Notices of Motion

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

(a) Clomantagh and Grangefertagh – update

Mr Thomas Brennan provided an update to members on Clomantagh and Grangefertagh Churches.

Grangefertagh Church

Mr Brennan advised that a meeting with the National Monument Services had taken place on 15th of August last and confirmed that a review of Grangefertagh Church is underway by the Office of Public Works and the National Monument Services, with a view to progressing discussions regarding the taking of the Church ruins into state care. The NMS expressed concerns regarding the removal of vegetation and Mr Brennan advised that a number of conservation reports will be required in advance of any such works to Grangefertagh Church ruins.

Clomantagh Church

Mr Thomas Brennan advised that it is unlikely there will be meaningful funding available in 2021 to support the conservation and maintenance of Clomantagh Church.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh highlighted the significance of both structures, acknowledged the progress achieved and requested that an update be provided in 3 months.

Mr Brennan advised that funding could be sought from Central Government for Historic Graveyards via the Community Monuments Fund in 2022. Mr Martin Prendiville reminded members that funding for Graveyards and Historic Structures will require consideration by the members at the Plenary Budget Meeting.

(b) Provision of Ramps in Galmoy Village

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh highlighted the impact of 'speeding' through towns and villages and requested the provision of traffic calming measures in the form of 2 speed ramps in Galmoy Village.

Members joined with Cllr Cavanagh in acknowledging the impact of 'speeding' for residents and the need for this issue to be tackled.

8. Any other business

(a) Special Meeting – Multi Annual Restoration Improvement Programme

Dealt with under item 2 (c).

(b) Pedestrian Crossing Freshford

Cllr Michael McCarthy complimented Mr Philippe Beubry and his team on the works ongoing to deliver a pedestrian crossing on Kilkenny Street, Freshford and acknowledged the archaeological compliance.

(c) N78, North of the Cave Bar at Webbsborough

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick supported by Cllr John Brennan raised a number of accidents which had occurred on the N78, North of the Cave Bar at Webbsborough and requested that Kilkenny County Council engage with the relevant agencies and investigate this stretch of roadway. Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that TII complete SCRIM tests annually on the N78 and the latest survey will be reviewed by TII and appropriate action taken.

(d) Health Checks – Johnstown and Urlingford

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh highlighted expectations raised following Health Checks completed in Johnstown and Urlingford. Following discussion, it was agreed that Mr Philippe Beubry would meet representatives from the groups on the ground.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:

Pat JD

Date:

18/10/21