

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 2021 AT 11.00AM.

In the chair: Cllr Michael McCarthy

Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney and Pat Fitzpatrick

In attendance: Mr Martin Prendiville, Ms Anne Maria Walsh, Mr Philippe Beubry, Ms Nancy Byrne, Ms Úna Kealy, Mr Alan Hyland and Ms Margaret Whelan

Vote of Sympathy:

A vote of sympathy was extended to the family of Mr Eamon Ryan, brother of Ms Catherine Connery (former Councillor).

Opening address

Cllr Michael McCarthy acknowledged the following:

- Allocation of €1.5m for new Fire Station in Urlingford.
- Allocation of €6m for new Fire Station Headquarters in Kilkenny.
- Allocation of €175,000 for Freshford Urban and Village Renewal Scheme.
- Allocation of €20,000 each for Freshford and Gathabawn Loop Walks under Outdoor Recreational Funding.
- Mr Joe Daly, Assistant Engineer was welcomed to the Castlecomer Municipal District Area.
- Gratitude expressed to Mr Philippe Beubry and his team for salting of P3 route completed during recent severe weather.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- Area of Kilmanagh removed from P3 Winter Maintenance Route since changes to Electoral Area boundaries in 2014 to be re-instated.
- Areas of Coon and Ballyfoyle highlighted for attention during severe weather.
- Work completed by Mr Philippe Beubry and outdoor staff during recent severe weather acknowledged.
- Need for deposits of grit at strategic locations during severe weather.
- Details of IFA contacts for the area requested.

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that salting of the P3 route had taken place on 10 occasions during recent weeks. Ms Anne Maria Walsh confirmed that she will request that Mr Tim Butler circulates details of IFA contacts to members.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:-

(a) December Ordinary Meeting held on 21st December 2020

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed that Mr Steve Coverdale had been in contact with NBI and had advised as follows:

- NBI are due to attend the February meeting of the Plenary Council.
- NBI will examine the timing of surveys as discussed at the December Municipal District Meeting.

Mr Prendiville also confirmed that Mr Steve Coverdale is still trying to get engagement with Cellnex.

(b) Taking in Charge - Update

A report from Ms Úna Kealy was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The report provided details of:

- The taking in charge process
- Applications on hand to have the following 5 estates taken in charge: (a) The Green, Ballyfoyle (b) Haven Court, Ballyragget (c) Whitehall, Paulstown, (d) 9 houses at Moneenroe (e) Abhainn Rí, Kilmanagh.
- Timeline for completion of taking in charge of the 5 estates.

Ms Úna Kealy was thanked for the report provided. Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick requested that a quarterly update on taking in charge be provided.

(c) PPN Work Plan for 2021

Ms Margaret Whelan provided a detailed presentation to members on the Kilkenny PPN Draft Workplan 2021 under the following headings:

- Capacity Building
- Relationship Building
- Training
- Representation
- Communications and PR
- Programmes Supported by the PPN and Collaborative Projects
- Development of Reports for PPN
- Potential Capacity Building & Sponsorship

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- Ms Margaret Whelan was thanked for the presentation provided and the volume of work contained therein was acknowledged.
- Clarification sought on the use of the Telisis machine elsewhere in the country.
- Significance of basic IT and mobile phone training provided.

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) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh asked that the issue of potholes at Eirke which were raised at the December meeting receive attention.

8. *Any other business*

(a) **Remote Meetings**

A discussion took place as to how remote meetings could be improved, in particular with regard to network connectivity. Mr Martin Prendiville requested that all participants join meetings a minimum of 5 minutes before start time. Mr Prendiville also confirmed that he will liaise with IT Section to see how issues which arose at today's meeting can be improved.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____