

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL 2022 AT 11.00AM VIA MS TEAMS**

**Elected Members:**

**In the chair:** Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick  
**Council Chamber:** Cllr Michael McCarthy  
**Via MS Teams:** Cllrs John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney and Denis Hynes

**Officials:**

**Council Chamber:** Mr Philippe Beubry and Ms Nancy Byrne  
**Via MS Teams:** Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr John Ormond, Mr Kevin Hanley and Ms Annette Fitzpatrick

**Apologies:**

Mr Steve Coverdale

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of:**

**(a) March Ordinary Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

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

**2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:**

**(a) Broadband Update**

Mr Kevin Hanley presented an update on Broadband in Mr Steve Coverdale's absence and dealt with members queries.

Mr Hanley updated members as follows:

- Discussions with KCC and NBI to agree site works for the provision of a local exchange in Castlecomer are underway.
- Cellnex have identified areas for possible mast location for wireless broadband in Castlecomer. Still waiting for signal testing to be completed.
- Open Eir have confirmed there are no technical issues with broadband speeds in Urlingford and ask that further investigation is needed by operators.
- Cellnex in advance discussions with operators to provide a service with regard to S254 licence granted for telecoms pole.

Members raised the following observations:

- Mr Kevin Hanley was thanked for the update provided and the progress which has been achieved was acknowledged.

**(b) Community Update**

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

- **Town and Village**

Ms Fitzpatrick provided details of projects completed under the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Town and Village Schemes and confirmed that an announcement of the 2022 Scheme is awaited from the Department. Ms Fitzpatrick advised that although the Department advised the 2021 Streetscape Scheme was a once off they have indicated there may be another scheme. Ms Fitzpatrick also advised that the Town Centre Masterplan Initiative in respect of Urlingford will be led by the Planning Department from hereon.

- **CLÁR**

Ms Fitzpatrick provided details of projects funded under the 2018, 2020 and 2021 CLÁR Schemes. Ms Fitzpatrick advised that the closing date for submission of applications to the Department for the 2022 Scheme is 6<sup>th</sup> of May and 11 applications have been received.

- **Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme (CCFCS)**

Ms Fitzpatrick provided details of grants received in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021 under the Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme (CCFCS).

- **LCDC Funding - Community Enhancement Programme (CEP)**

Ms Fitzpatrick advised that the grants provided are generally small grants of up to €1,000, €3,000 and €10,000 and provided details of communities which benefited under 2021 funding.

- **LCDC Funding – Community Activities Fund 2021 / 2022**

Ms Fitzpatrick provided details of 2021/2022 funding received.

- **Community Centres Investment Fund**

Ms Fitzpatrick provided relevant dates and grant amounts in respect of the Community Centres Investment Fund and confirmed that applications are directly to the DRCD.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- The work completed by Ms Lynsey Butler during her time in the Community Department was acknowledged.
- Ms Annette Fitzpatrick and her team were thanked for their work and the volume and spread of grants across the Municipal District acknowledged.
- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh sought clarification on works included under the Johnstown Public Realm Plan and the Urlingford Town Centre Masterplan.
- Cllr Denis Hynes and Cllr John Brennan raised a query regarding the possibility of extending the CLÁR area.
- The need to get funding into Goresbridge was highlighted
- Clarity was sought on the number of applications which may be submitted under the Community Centres Investment Fund.

Ms Annette Fitzpatrick responded to members queries as follows:

- €50,000 provided for Johnstown Public Realm Plan will be used purely for design and Part 8, other funding will have to be sought for delivery of the plan, and this was conveyed to member of the Johnstown Town Team whom she had met recently. Projects will be identified when the Urlingford Town Centre Masterplan is complete. The balance of the €100,000 may be used for delivery of the projects, it will be necessary to get Department approval.
- A possible negative outcome to any review of the CLÁR areas was highlighted.
- Ms Lynsey Butler's position is currently vacant, once filled Community Department will have someone available to work with Goresbridge. The focus of the Community Department at the moment is progressing schemes which have approval.
- Kilkenny County Council have no involvement in Community Centres Investment Fund and applications should be made directly to the DRCD.

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) Items submitted by members**

- Cllr Denis Hynes – Water Supply - Gowran, Goresbridge and Paulstown

Mr John Ormond, Senior Executive Engineer provided the following update: -

Irish Water is working on the proposed Gowran Regional Water Supply Scheme, which includes the following:

- Development of new water abstraction boreholes
- Construction of new raw water rising mains between boreholes and the water treatment plant
- Construction of a new water treatment plant which will include facilities for chlorination and fluoridation
- Construction of a new treated water storage tank within the new WTP site
- Construction of a water main between the new WTP and the existing Butlersgrove Water Tower and works at Butlersgrove reservoir
- Decommissioning of the existing water treatment plant

The benefits of the upgrade include:

- This project will increase the water supply capacity to Gowran, Goresbridge and Paulstown
- Enable growth and development in the local area
- These works will improve the water treatment standards at the plant, improving water quality for over 1,225 residential and non-domestic properties

Various tender documents are currently being finalised and it is expected that procurement for this project will progress Q2/Q3 in 2022 with works to commence in 2023. It is expected works will take approximately 18 months to complete with works expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

Cllr Hynes welcomed the report provided by Mr Ormond.

**5. Notices of Motion**

**(a) 4(22) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh**

It was proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy:-

“That ramps be provided without delay at Togher Way, Urlingford and that in future all housing estates should have ramps provided in the interest of safety before any houses are occupied”.

Mr Philippe Beubry clarified that Togher Way is not fully taken in charge. Mr Beubry advised that if there is an issue with speed in the estate the provision of ramps can be looked at under the 2023 Road Works Programme.

**6. Correspondence**

None

**7. Matters arising from minutes**

None

**8. Any other business**

**(a) St Lachtains Church, Freshford celebrating 1,400 years**

Cllr Michael McCarthy outlined that St Lachtain's Church Freshford is celebrating 1,400 years, however, is in dire need of financial assistance.

It was proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed that €1,500 financial assistance be made available to St Lachtains Church.

**(b) Grangefertagh and Clomantagh Churches**

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed funding in the amount of €85,000 had been awarded to Clomantagh Church and €26,200 to Grangefertagh Church and Graveyard under the National 2022 Community Monuments Fund.

Cllrs Cavanagh and McCarthy expressed their appreciation for the funding received and acknowledged the work completed by the Environment Team on the Notice of Motions submitted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

  
