

**MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022 AT 11.00AM**

**In the chair:** Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh  
**Present:** Cllrs John Brennan, Pat Fitzpatrick, Denis Hynes and Michael McCarthy  
**In attendance:** Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Steve Coverdale, Ms Nancy Byrne and Mr Aidan Morrissey

***Mr Bobby Aylward, RIP***

It was proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed that the meeting would adjourn for a period of 15 minutes as a mark of respect for the late Mr Bobby Aylward former TD and member of Kilkenny County Council.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- The huge loss to his wife Helena, daughter Triona, sons Bob and Mark, brothers and sisters, extended family, neighbours and friends and the people of Carlow / Kilkenny.
- Their years of friendship and the tremendous respect they held for Mr Aylward.
- Mr Aylward's deep commitment to political life and the honesty with which he represented his constituents.
- Mr Aylward's willingness to assist and guide regardless of political affiliation.
- The warmth with which Mr Aylward was held by the people of Carlow / Kilkenny which was clearly visible in recent days by the 100s of people who turned out to pay their last respects.

***Vote of Sympathy***

Members joined with the Cathaoirleach in extending a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Mr Tom Beckett, Freshford.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of:**

**(a) Annual Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

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

**(b) June Ordinary Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

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

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

**(a) Broadband**

Mr Steve Coverdale updated members on the following:

- Local exchanges in Johnstown and Castlecomer.
- Discussions with Cellnex regarding possible mast locations for wireless broadband in Castlecomer.
- Discussions with the Urlingford Business Group; the new Bank of Ireland Business Centre and the S254 licence for telecoms pole granted in September 2021.

Mr Coverdale confirmed that the Castlecomer and Urlingford issues are outside the scope of the NBP, as they are in the 'blue' area. He advised that whilst DECC have been contacted about the issue for some premises, Comreg may need to get involved to make operators more proactive in resolving broadband issues for all premises in the blue area in a quicker timeframe.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Mr Coverdale was thanked for the updated provided and the work completed by Mr Coverdale and Mr Martin Prendiville acknowledged.
- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh highlighted the need for high speed broadband as an absolute minimum requirement in order for the Urlingford Bank of Ireland Business Centre to succeed.
- Cllrs Brennan and Fitzpatrick spoke of the economic impact of poor broadband speeds and the need to escalate this issue.

**(b) Section 38 Report – Kilkenny Street, Castlecomer Traffic Calming Measures 2022**

A Section 38 Report on Kilkenny Street, Castlecomer Traffic Calming measures 2022 was presented to members by Mr Aidan Morrissey. Mr Morrissey provided details of the background and reasons for the scheme. He confirmed that Kilkenny County Council, as the Project Promoter, proposes to undertake traffic management works in the Town of Castlecomer from the Garda Station on the Kilkenny Road to the Community Hall. He advised that this the section of the N78 in Castlecomer has been identified as a High Collision Location (HCL) as part of the TII's Network Safety Analysis. A feasibility report was prepared by Tramore House Regional Design Office (THRDO) and arising from the report the following works are recommended:

- Location 1 – Pedestrian Crossing at Castlecomer Garda Station
- Location 2 – Maryville Road (South) Junction Improvement
- Location 3 – Maryville Road (North) Junction Improvement
- Location 4 – Public Realm at The Church of the Immaculate Conception
- Location 5 – Pedestrian Crossing at Presentation Convent National School
- Location 6 – Uncontrolled Pedestrian Crossing Point at the Community Hall

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Safety is paramount and the report as presented by Mr Morrissey was welcomed.
- Cllrs Brennan and Fitzpatrick requested more engagement with local businesses with regard to proposals for location 4.

The Section 38 report for Kilkenny Street, Castlecomer Traffic Calming Measures 2022 as presented was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr John Brennan and agreed.

**3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District for transaction at such meeting**

Members agreed that items listed under item 3 would be deferred to the September meeting.

**(a) Items submitted by members:**

- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh
  - i Repair of roadside – policy
  - ii Assumption Place and Community Creche, Urlingford
- Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick
  - i Assumption Place and Community Creche, Urlingford
- Cllr Denis Hynes
  - i Steps needed to slow down traffic in our Communities

**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) **Safety at Graigue Cross, Kilmanagh**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested improved safety measures for Graigue Cross, Kilmanagh.

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

(b) **Time of the June Ordinary Meeting**

Cllr Denis Hynes sought clarity on the time of the June Ordinary meeting.

8. Any other business

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: Mary Hilda Cavanagh

Date: 19.09.22.

