

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY 21ST
MARCH 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 Martin Prendiville, Mr Philippe Beubry and Ms Nancy Byrne
Via MS Teams Mr Michael Leahy and Mr Thomas Brennan

In his opening address, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick welcomed everyone to the Municipal District's March meeting and also acknowledged the huge success of the St Patrick's Festival, Kilkenny.

Vote of Sympathy

The members joined with the Cathaoirleach in extending a vote of sympathy to Ms Colette Byrne, Chief Executive on the sad and untimely death of her brother Mr Larry Whelan.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) February Ordinary Meeting held on 21st February 2022

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband

Mr Martin Prendiville advised that Mr Steve Coverdale is continuing to liaise with Cellnex and hopefully there will be an update for the April MD meeting.

(b) Grangefertagh and Clomantagh Churches

Mr Thomas Brennan advised members that applications have been made to the Community Monuments Fund 2022 as follows:

Stream 1 Funding Capital Works at Clomantagh Church

- Estimated Value €100k
- Works to secure walls including bell tower

Stream 2 Funding Conservation Reports at Grangefertagh Church

- Estimated Value €28k
- Building Survey, Conservation report including Conservation Management Plan
- With a view to a future application for Stream 1 Capital Works funding in 2023

Members were also advised that both Local Authorities and Community Groups may apply for funding under the Community Monuments Fund and that the Environment Section would be happy to assist Community Groups in making any future applications in 2023.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members thanked the Environment team for the progress which has been achieved.
- Mr Brennan was requested to provide an update to members when funding is received.

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**

3 (22) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

"That the public lighting system be extended on all roads to the town of Johnstown in the interest of safety for pedestrians, cyclists and all road users".

Cllrs Mary Hilda Cavanagh and Pat Fitzpatrick spoke on the Motion

Mr Philippe Beubry advised that his initial investigation had confirmed:

- Public lighting on the Old N8 had been upgraded with LED lights.
- Public lighting on the R435, Freshford Road had been extended as far as the 60km/h speed limit.
- A possible deficiency at the RC Church, Rathdowney Road and the R582 Templetuohy Road.
- PB explained that it is proposed to extend the 50km/h zone on the R435, Rathdowney road beyond the entrance to the GAA Grounds under the current speed limit review. As a result of this change, there would be scope to extend the public lighting to the new location of the 50km/h signs.

Mr Beubry advised that a survey of public lighting requirements in Johnstown will be completed in the coming weeks. Members thanked Mr Beubry for his comprehensive and prompt report.

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Matters arising from minutes**

(a) **Road Safety Concerns in Ballyragget on the N77 and at the entrance to Station Avenue, Ballyragget**

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick outlined details of a recent accident at the entrance to Station Avenue, Ballyragget and enquired whether a response had been received from TII on issues raised at the February MD meeting.

Mr Philippe Beubry advised that KCC would proceed to design stage for works on the N77 and seek funding from TII and that in the case that TII couldn't be got the works would have to be financed through local funds.

8. **Any other business**

(a) 2022 Road Works Programme

The 2022 Road Works Programme as presented at a Workshop of the MD held on the 9th of March 2022 was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed.

(b) Deerpark – Speeding

Cllr John Brennan raised an issue of speeding at Deerpark, Castlecomer. Cllr Brennan acknowledged flashing lights put in place to tackle this problem but advised additional measures were required. Mr Philippe Beubry stated that traffic calming measures were already introduced at this location under a previous Low Cost Safety Scheme and it was difficult to see what additional action could be taken to reduce the issue of speeding. Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick confirmed that this issue will also be referred to the Traffic Core for enforcement measures.

(c) Barraghcore

Cllr Denis Hynes requested the provision of road markings on the road between Barraghcore and The Royal Oak, Carlow.

(d) Retirement – Margaret O'Neill

All members acknowledged the tremendous contribution made by Ms Margaret O'Neill to Kilkenny County Council during her career with the Council. Members acknowledged her distinguished career and the kind, courteous and very helpful way with which she dealt with all issues.

(e) Spring clean – Galmoy

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh acknowledged the work completed in Galmoy at the weekend during a Spring Clean organised by Mr Jerry Fogarty.

(f) K Kajoux Jewels – Clomantagh

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh congratulated K Kajoux Jewels, a handmade Irish owned jewellery company based in Clomantagh on their tremendous success.

(g) Ms Emma Keating

Cllr Denis Hynes acknowledged the success of Ms Emma Keating in her boxing career.

(h) IS Department

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick acknowledged the support provided by Mr Kevin Hanley and the IS Department, particularly during the pandemic. Cllr Fitzpatrick also acknowledged the need to look at increased resources for the Department at Budget time.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: 

Date: 25/4/2022

