

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON FRIDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER 2022 AT 11AM

In the chair: Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh
Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick, Denis Hynes and Michael McCarthy
In attendance: Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Martin Prendiville, Ms Nancy Byrne, Mr Michael Leahy, Ms Noelle Brett and Ms Aoidín Curran, RoadPlan

Vote of Sympathy:

Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- The Laherty Family, Whiteswall on the death of Anastasia Laherty.
- Mr Kevin Hanley on the death of his mother Bridie Hanley.
- Patty Owens, Castlecomer on the death of her son Noel.
- The family and friends of Fr Patrick O'Farrell

Congratulations:

Cllr John Brennan extended congratulations to Mr Brian Cavanagh on completion of the Dublin City Marathon.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) October Meeting held on 17th October 2022

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband

Mr Martin Prendiville advised as follows:

- Cellnex's next step is submission of their planning application.
- Contract documents are awaited from NBI for former Garda Barracks site in Castlecomer.
- Still looking at 6-8 weeks for ESB connection for Urlingford mobile mast.
- Mr Steve Coverdale is in discussion with an alternative broadband provider for former Bank of Ireland building in Urlingford.

Cllr John Brennan provided details of a free broadband workshop scheduled for Tuesday 15th November in the Castlecomer Enterprise Centre.

(b) Old Fire Station, Urlingford – HSE Presentation

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed that the HSE were not in a position to attend today's MD meeting. Members agreed that the HSE would instead be invited to attend the December MD meeting.

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) Castlecomer Mobility Management Plan

It was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr John Brennan and agreed that the Castlecomer Mobility Management Plan would proceed to public consultation.

(b) Freshford Mobility Management Plan

Ms Aoidhín Curran, RoadPlan attended to deal with members queries.

Members welcomed all proposals contained in the plan and raised the following:

- Traffic calming measures at Bohercrussia Street are crucial.
- Need for public lighting and footpath connectivity on the Johnstown Road.
- Safe access to the graveyard required.
- Need for re-alignment and pedestrian crossing at the Johnstown / Ballyragget Road junction.
- An update was provided in respect of the parcel of ground designated for car parking at Freshford cemetery.
- The public consultation must be appropriately advertised to achieve proper effect.

It was proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr Michael McCarty and agreed that the Freshford Mobility Management Plan would proceed to public consultation.

8. Any other business

(a) Deputation for the December MD meeting

Members agreed that the deputation scheduled to be received at the December MD meeting would instead be received at the January MD meeting due to circumstances beyond the members control.

(b) Flooding

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that the Castlecomer West and Castlecomer Central Areas suffered the worst flooding with crews spending the entire week dealing with the aftermath.

Cllr Michael McCarthy spoke of the massive damage suffered to homes and businesses in Freshford Village and thanked Mr Tim Butler, Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Seamus Kavanagh, Mr Joe Daly, The Roads Crew and Emergency Services for their work and acknowledged the significance of their presence on the ground during the recent flooding. It was agreed that Mr Seamus Kavanagh would attend the December MD meeting to provide an update to members after his meeting with the OPW. Members spoke of the commitment made by Government 4 years ago approximately for the inclusion of Freshford under the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme (CFRAM) and commitment of €3.8m funding and their disappointment at the absence of any progress since.

Mr Philippe Beubry provided details of the Drainage Works Specific Grant which has been available the last number of years and allows 12/15 drainage issues to be addressed each year. Mr Philippe Beubry spoke of the volume of works included in the Road Works Programme each year and the limited resources available to deal with preventative maintenance. Mr Beubry also raised the Local Improvement Scheme and his recommendation that public roads should be prioritised during the road works season and private lanes dealt with at the start of the year.

Cllr McCarthy thanked his fella Councillors for their support during the recent flooding in Freshford and highlighted the need for some deregulation to allow projects such as CFRAM for Freshford

progress at a faster pace. Cllr McCarthy also thanked Mr Beubry for the provision of the road sweeper to clean the village after the event.

(c) Additional Road Sweeper

Cllr Denis Hynes enquired whether resources were available to acquire an additional road sweeper. Mr Philippe Beubry provided details of road sweeper provided from the Machinery Yard and sweeper rota in operation.

(d) Ramps – Galmoy Village

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh highlighted disappointment from some residents at the location of ramps in Galmoy and a request for the provision of a ramp on the Beggars Cross side of the Village.

(e) Street lights out of action – Goresbridge

Cllr Denis Hynes sought clarity on how to report street lights out of action. Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed that he would arrange for Mr Tim Butler to circulate the relevant information to members.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: Mary Hilda Cavanagh

Date: 11th December 2022

