

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2023 AT 11.30 AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY

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

Announcements:

The members congratulated:

- Dicksboro Camogie team on winning the AIB All-Ireland Senior Club Camogie final
- O'Loughlin Gaels on winning the AIB All Ireland Senior Club Hurling Semi-final
- Thomastown on winning the AIB All-Ireland Hurling Inter Club Semi-final

Vote of sympathy:

- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh extended a vote of sympathy to Mrs Nellie Phelan and family, Foulscourt, Johnstown on the death of Mr Sean Phelan
- Cllr Michael McCarthy extended a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Ms Bridie Gorey, Greensbridge, Kilkenny

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) November meeting held on 20th November

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband update

Mr Steve Coverdale provided an update to members on broadband in the Castlecomer Municipal District as follows:

- All exchanges due to be completed by end of 2024
- Details of rollout status per Kilkenny Deployment Area as at December 2023 was provided
- NBI work ongoing – 7,383 premises at 'available to order / pre-order' stage and 3,807 at 'network build in progress'
- Reminder of information available on NBI website
- Cellnex not proceeding with proposed mast location in Castlecomer as agreement had not been reached – progress has now come to a standstill.
- Bank of Ireland, Urlingford are using a wireless solution

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- The work completed by Mr Steve Coverdale and regular updates provided was acknowledged
- Difficulties experienced by Villages in the blue areas with poor broadband that are outside the NBP was raised
- Timeframe for Castlecomer Local Exchange was acknowledged
- Issue of low hanging cables was raised

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**

(a) **Constituency Boundary Change – North West Kilkenny**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke in relation to response dated 30th November received from Minister Malcolm Noonan's office on foot of request from the Castlecomer Municipal District that 'Kilkenny' would be incorporated in the title of the new North Tipperary constituency. Both Cllr Cavanagh and Cllr Michael McCarthy confirmed they accept the recommendations of the Constituency Commission but reiterated they want the name of the new constituency amended. Cllrs Cavanagh and McCarthy highlighted the precedent already in place. The number of constituents who have come forward and advised they will not vote in the next General Election was highlighted. It was agreed by all members that a further letter would be sent to Minister Malcolm Noonan's office requesting that 'Kilkenny' be incorporated in the new constituency title. Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick recommended that Kilkenny County Council run a public media campaign to advise constituents of the impact of this boundary change. Cllr Michael McCarthy requested a detailed map of the new North Tipperary constituency.

7. **Matters arising from Minutes**

None

8. **Any other business**

(a) **Request for reception of deputation at the January 2024 meeting of the Castlecomer MD - Erin's Own GAA**

Mr Martin Prendiville acknowledged it is not the Municipal District's policy to receive a deputation during an election year and confirmed he will take up the issues raised with the Director of Services, Roads and provide a report to the deputation.

(b) **Public Lanes**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke regarding the MD's Community Involvement Scheme with in excess of 50 applications and despite a request to the Department no major funding has been received. Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick also spoke on this issue. It was agreed a letter would be sent to the Minister of Transport seeking additional funding.

Cllr Michael McCarthy spoke regarding damage caused to laneways by large trucks. It was agreed this issue would be dealt with at Director of Services level.

(c) **Conclusion**

Cllr Michael Delaney wished everyone a Happy and safe Christmas.

Mr Martin Prendiville on behalf of the executive thanked everyone for their work throughout the year and wished them a Happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: Michael Delaney

Date: 15/1/24

