

MINUTES OF THE JULY ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY 17TH JULY 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 Philippe Beubry, Mr Martin Prendiville, Ms Nancy Byrne, Ms Arlene O'Connor, Mr Joseph Scully and Mr Seamus Donohoe, Turley Ireland Consultants

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) Annual Meeting held on 16th of June 2023

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

(b) June Ordinary Meeting held on 16th of June 2023

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr John Brennan and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Roadworks update

Mr Philippe Beubry provided an update on the 2023 roadworks programme which included details of Restoration Improvement, Restoration Maintenance and Drainage works. Mr Beubry also provided an update on works planned for week commencing 24th July including R426, Clogh Village and temporary closure of the N77 for a period of 2 weeks to accommodate resurfacing works by a private contractor. Mr Beubry confirmed that resurfacing of Barrick Hill, Castlecomer will take place in August to coincide with school holidays. Mr Beubry advised that no timeline was received from Uisce Eireann in respect of mains replacement on Barrick Hill but this road will remain a protected road for a period of five years post completion of the restoration improvement works.

Mr Beubry confirmed that the Moneenroe and Castlecomer Area were worst hit during the recent storm. Mr Beubry confirmed it will be necessary to upgrade the drainage system at the N78 and cleaning of gullies is happening on an ongoing basis.

Mr Beubry confirmed details of a second tranche of LIS funding had not been received to date.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Restoration Improvement works planned for Barrick Hill were welcomed.
- The need for additional resources to deal with Climate Change was highlighted.
- Cleaning of bridge arches required.
- Mr Beubry and his team were complimented for progress achieved with grass cutting despite the poor weather.

(b) Restoration Improvement – additional funding

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed an additional €197,500 Restoration Improvement funding had been made available for Restoration Improvement works in the Castlecomer MD and sought members approval to bring forward 2 schemes from the 2024 programme as follows:

- LS5000 Ballylarkin 450m €55,800
- LS6687 Redbog to Stangs 900m €111,600

The recommendation as outlined by Mr Beubry was proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed.

(c) Draft Urlingford Town Centre Masterplan

Ms Arlene O'Connor confirmed that Kilkenny County Council had appointed Turley Ireland Consultants in association with a multi-disciplinary team to prepare a Town Centre Masterplan for Urlingford. The purpose of this Masterplan is to guide the development of Urlingford into the future and to influence and deliver on real change for the Town in order to make it a more attractive destination in which to live, work visit and do business. Ms O'Connor confirmed the purpose of placing this item on today's agenda is to seek members approval to place the draft masterplan on public display for a period of 6 weeks commencing 28th July 2023 to 1st September 2023.

Mr Seamus Donohoe presented the draft plan to members under the following headings:

- The Town
- Analysis – Policy Context, Socio-Economic Analysis, Urban Analysis, .
- Engagement – Challenges and Opportunities.
- Masterplan – Vision for Urlingford, guiding principles, plan framework, interventions toolkit
- Implementation and funding.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Ms Arlene O'Connor and Mr Seamus Donohoe were thanked for the draft masterplan presented.
- The need to have a plan in place in order to draw down funding was acknowledged.
- The excellent Town Team in place in Urlingford was acknowledged.
- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh highlighted the disappointment of the local community with an element of the draft masterplan in that Turley Ireland Consultants raised a range of problems but solutions were not provided.

It was proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed that the draft Urlinford Town Centre Masterplan be placed on public display as recommended by Ms O'Connor.

(d) Speed Limit Review – Update

Mr Joseph Scully presented an update to members on the speed limit review. Mr Scully confirmed that local authorities are mandated to review speed limits every 5 years and the current review includes both National and non-National roads, however, decision on National roads rests with TII. The proposed changes to the Draft A Bye-laws specified in the second, fourth, fifth and seventh schedule and in accordance with Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act 2004 were presented. Mr Scully confirmed once agreed at Municipal District level, the next step of the review process is adoption of speed limit revisions at the October Plenary meeting (including any National road speed limit revisions agreed with TII) and once ratified they immediately become official speed limits.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- The proposed revisions were welcomed.
- The work completed by Mr Joseph Scully and Mr Philippe Beubry was acknowledged.

The proposed speed limit revisions as presented for non-national roads was proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed.

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

(a) Extinguishment of Public Right of Way under Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993 at Grange Lower, Goresbridge

It was proposed by Cllr John Brennan, seconded by Cllr Denis Hynes and agreed that the Municipal District of Castlecomer hereby approves of the proposal to extinguish the public right of way at the following location:-

County Road No. L6688

Townland of: Grange Lower, Goresbridge, Co. Kilkenny

Approximate Road Length: 512m

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) The Ouncel, Johnstown

Mr Martin Prendiville advised that the Town Regeneration Officer is in the process of putting a team together and reminded members that funding is provided for a relatively small team. Mr Prendiville advised that when the Team is up and running he will invite them to attend the MD meeting to set out their plans.

(b) Waste Water issue at Chatsworth

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed that the Environment Team have been out to this location on two occasions but are struggling to find the source of the problem.

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick expressed his appreciation for the massive attempt made to resolve this problem.

8. Any other business

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:

Michael Delaney

Date:

18/9/2023

