

MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY, 15TH JULY 2024 AT 12 NOON IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY

In the chair: Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh
Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McCarthy and Maurice Shortall
In attendance: Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Martin Prendiville, Ms Nancy Byrne, Ms Arlene O'Connor and Ms Catriona O'Sullivan

Vote of Sympathy

Cllrs extended a vote of sympathy to the families of the following:

- Mr Billy Holmes, Chapel Street, Johnstown, Co Kilkenny
- Mr John Carroll, Cloghala, Dungarvan, Co Kilkenny
- Mr Luke Crosbie, 11 Nuenna Court, Freshford, Co Kilkenny

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) May meeting held on 20th May

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr John Brennan and agreed.

(b) Annual meeting held on 24th June

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) 2024 Road Works Scheme update

Mr Philippe Beubry provided an update on the delivery of the 2024 Road Works Scheme under the following headings:

- Restoration Improvement
- Restoration Maintenance
- Drainage Works
- Special Works
- Grass cutting operations
- Community Involvement Scheme
- Local Improvement Scheme
- TII B.1.2 Programme
- Additional Restoration Improvement funding
- T11 HD 28 Programme

Mr Beubry confirmed a supplementary grant in the amount of €319,317 was allocated to the Castlecomer MD under Circular RW 09 of 2024 from the Department of Transport and provided a breakdown of proposed works and budget for each GSS area. The additional restoration improvement works as outlined were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

(b) Paulstown & Ballyragget Masterplans

Ms Arlene O'Connor provided a brief update on both the Paulstown and Ballyragget Masterplans wherein she provided details on public display periods, public information sessions, submissions received, main issues raised in submissions and the next steps.

(c) Review of the Castlecomer Local Area Plan 2018

Ms Catriona O'Sullivan provided an update to members on the review of the Castlecomer Local Area Plan 2018-2024. Ms O'Sullivan confirmed that owing to changes in the Planning Act, the statutory plan will be passed by members as a variation of the City & County Development Plan. She confirmed the pre-draft stage is about to commence with publication of an Issues Paper and Health Check survey; Ms O'Sullivan also provided details on the next steps and a list of stakeholders.

Contributions were received from the members in respect of the following:

- Progress achieved in Castlecomer in recent years.
- Local water supply.
- Public consultation.
- Traffic Management.

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

(a) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

i Community Involvement and Local Improvement Schemes

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested that the terms conditions of both these schemes be made available for the next meeting. She spoke of applicants who had previously benefited from the Community Involvement Scheme who were unaware of the need to reapply for the scheme. Members spoke of insufficient funding for the Community Involvement Scheme with 48 applications included on the current list of applications and funding available to complete only 3 schemes in the current year.

Cllr Cavanagh also spoke regarding the Local Improvement Scheme and advised the scheme had recently been raised in the Senate and Minister Ossian Smith had referred to the discretion of Local Authorities in making decisions of which she was unaware. Cllr Cavanagh requested and was supported by the members that a letter issue to the Department seeking clarification on this issue.

(b) Cllr Maurice Shortall

i Safety concern at The Square, Castlecomer from the Ballyragget side

It was agreed Cllr Shortall would deal directly with Mr Philippe Beubry on this issue.

ii Update / provision of wheelchair accessibility for Oak Hill / Acorns Estate, Castlecomer

It was agreed Cllr Shortall would deal directly with Mr Philippe Beubry on this issue.

iii Update on the Clogh / Castlecomer / Moneenroe ongoing water problems and the implementation of a plan with Irish Water if one is not already in place to keep the public updated on this issue.

Details received from Mr John Ormond, Water Services was circulated to Cllr Maurice Shortall.

5. Notices of Motion

(a) 6(24) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

"That TII be requested to install a ghost island for traffic turning towards Lisdowney from the Durrow side from the N77 as is the case for traffic going into Tirlán"

Cllrs Mary Hilda Cavanagh and Michael Delaney spoke on the Notice of Motion; Cllr Michael Delaney seconded the Notice of Motion.

It was agreed a letter would issue to TII requesting the installation of a ghost island for traffic turning towards Lisdowney from the Durrow side as is the case for traffic entering Tirlán.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

None

8. Any other business

None

Chairperson: Mary Hilda Cavanagh

Date: 16/9/24

