

MINUTES OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 28TH APRIL AT 12 NOON IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY

In the Chair: Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh
Present: Cllrs John Brennan (remotely), Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McCarthy, Michael Delaney and Maurice Shortall
In attendance: Mr Paraic Butler, Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Michael Leahy, Ms Nancy Byrne and Ms Regina Fitzpatrick

1. Reception of Deputation

(a) Deenside Wheelers Cycling Club

Deenside Wheelers were unable to attend the April MD meeting as previously agreed; members agreed the deputation would instead be received at 11.45am at the May MD meeting.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) Ordinary meeting held 24th March 2025

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

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) County Kilkenny Heritage Strategy

Ms Regina Fitzpatrick, Kilkenny Heritage Officer confirmed Kilkenny County Council is embarking on an exciting journey to develop a new County Heritage Strategy. Ms Fitzpatrick spoke of the diverse and rich heritage of the County and the importance of protecting and promoting this heritage within a local, regional and national context. Ms Fitzpatrick provided an overview of the Heritage Office:- its purpose, staffing, funding, the role of the Heritage Officer and details of the Heritage Forum. An update on the development of the 2026 – 2030 County Heritage Strategy and its content was also provided.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members acknowledged the rich built, natural and cultural heritage in the County and welcomed the development of the 2026 -2030 County Heritage Strategy.
- Cllr Cavanagh acknowledged the restoration works completed on Grangefertatgh and Clomantagh Churches and emphasised that any work completed in old graveyards be done in conjunction with the Heritage Office and acknowledge the tremendous work done by the Johnstown Heritage Team
- Cllr Brennan acknowledged funding provided to maintain thatched houses in Clogh Village and also emphasised the rich history of Clogh graveyard which is the burial site of the developer of the first steam engine in Ireland.
- Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick raised the topic of a Heritage Museum for the County, sought clarification on heritage grants provided and details of progress achieved on mapping mass paths on private lands.
- Cllr McCarthy acknowledged the tremendous work done by Ionad Lachtain.
- Cllr Delaney acknowledged the rich heritage of his surrounding area in Kilmanagh and Tullaroan.

- Ms Fitzpatrick was thanked for the detailed presentation provided and work completed.

4. **Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District for transaction at such meeting**

(a) **Standing Orders**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh read aloud proposed changes to the MD's Standing Orders under the following headings:

- Hour of the Meeting
- Declaration of Interests
- Notices of Motion
- Attendance of Public and Media

Members previously agreed the review of Standing Orders for the MD would be deferred until the review of Standing Orders for the Plenary is completed.

The proposed amendments to Standing Orders as read by Cllr Cavanagh were proposed by Cllr Michael Delaney, seconded by Cllr McCarthy and agreed.

5. **Other business set forth in the Notice convening the Meeting**

(a) **Items submitted by members**

i **Cllr Maurice Shortall**

"To ask Kilkenny County Council if we can come up with an ultimate solution to put an end to dumping on the Old Ballyragget Road at Grants Wood. I think CCTV is long overdue as it's causing the Environment Section a constant headache and wasting valuable resources".

Cllr Shortall spoke on his request for the provision of a CCTV camera on the Old Ballyragget Road at Grants Wood, a location which he described as a litter hotspot. Cllr Cavanagh spoke of a similar issue in the Whiteswall area. Members spoke of the shameful waste of Council resources and this ongoing problem was described as Environmental terrorism. The work completed by both Community Groups to keep their areas clean as well as the ongoing work done by the Environment Team was acknowledged.

It was agreed a representative from the Environmental Services Department would be invited to attend the May MD meeting to provide an update to members on Environmental issues.

6. **Notices of Motion**

1(25) **Cllr Maurice Shortall**

"To ask Transport for Ireland (TFI) to have a look at the Athy/Carlow/ Kilkenny route to see if there can be amendments made to the existing timetable to align the bus service with more time to catch the trains to Dublin. Also, in light of no direct bus from Castlecomer to Dublin City and Dublin Airport is there a plan to run a direct service that includes Castlecomer, Newtown, Crettyard and Ballylynan".

Cllrs Shortall, Cavanagh and Fitzpatrick spoke on the Notice of Motion.

It was agreed a letter would issue to TFI on the issues raised in the Notice of Motion.

2(25) Cllr Maurice Shortall

"To ask Irish Water when will we see an end to water restrictions in Clogh /Moneenroe and Castlecomer. Carers and residents have major concerns and implications over this constant issue and it's gone on for far too long "

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh advised Cllr Shortall to raise this issue directly with Irish Water.

3(25) Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick

"To ask TII in consultation with Kilkenny County Council to investigate the possibility of installing driver feedback back signs on the N78 at Webbsborough".

Cllr Fitzpatrick acknowledged the response provided by Mr Harry Shine, Road Design Section and circulated at the meeting and also requested an examination of the road texture at Webbsborough.

"Kilkenny County Council Road Design Department and TII are aware of the recent accident history on the N78 in the Webbsborough area. Kilkenny County Council Road Design Department are currently liaising with TII regarding this section in light of recent accident history, to determine what appropriate interventions may be required".

4(25) Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick

"That Uisce Eireann would provide an update on its plans to resolve the ongoing issues regarding the water supply and quality in the Castlecomer area".

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh advised Cllr Fitzpatrick to raise this issue directly with Irish Water.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Matters arising from minutes

None

9. Any other business

(a) Circulation of documentation for MD meetings

Members asked that the practice of circulating hard copies of documentation at the MD meetings continue.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: Mary Hilda Cavanagh

Date: 19th May 2025

