

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY, 20TH JANUARY AT 12 NOON

In the chair: Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh
Present: Cllrs 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 Rita McGarvey

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) December meeting held on Monday, 16th

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband Update – Castlecomer Municipal District

Ms Rita McGarvey provided an update to members on Broadband in the Castlecomer Municipal District as follows:

- The status of Regional and Local exchanges.
- Rollout status per Kilkenny Deployment Area with 96% of total premises in the NBP passed making it second in terms of ranking in the Country.
- Members were advised to forward any NBI queries to Rita for follow up and contact details provided as follows:- broadbandofficer@kilkennycoco.ie / 056 7794042
- Open Eir are still working on infrastructure in Blue Areas indicated on map circulated.
- Open Eir fibre network build works haven't started yet in Urlingford and are not expected until the end of 2025.

The members thanked Ms Rita McGarvey for the update provided.

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) Items submitted by members:

i Cllr Maurice Shortall

To give recognition to the hard work of the new Area Engineer, Mr Paraic Butler and the amazing team of people who handled the emergency crisis with such precision and professionalism, saving lives in North Kilkenny.

Members echoed Cllr Shortall's submission.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh raised the issue of a formal arrangement which had existed with the IFA to provide assistance with gritting during severe weather.

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick raised the issue of adequate funding for the Machinery Yard of Kilkenny County Council to ensure the necessary equipment is available to GSS Crews working in severe weather.

5. Notices of Motion

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

Cllr Michael McCarthy advised he had been notified of three recent near accidents in Kilrush involving deer and asked that warning signs similar to those provided in Abbeylisk be looked at with a view to improving road safety in the area.

8. Any other business

(a) Meetings of the Municipal District Members

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh proposed that Ordinary meetings of the Municipal District members would proceed every second month and the hour of the meeting would revert to 11.30. Councillors present at the time, Cllr Michael Delaney, Cllr Michael McCarthy and Cllr Maurice Shortall were in agreement with Cllr Cavanagh's proposal. Following further discussion, it was agreed Mr Martin Prendiville would examine the legalities of this proposal.

(b) Seanad Elections

Cllrs wished their colleague, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick every success in the upcoming Seanad elections.

(c) Eir dangerous and leaning poles

Members referred to dangerous and obsolete Eir poles throughout the County and asked that the Executive make contact with Eir with a view to resolving this issue.

(d) Public Lighting

Cllr Cavanagh spoke regarding public lighting out of order in Johnstown for a number of weeks; Cllr Michael McCarthy spoke regarding public lighting out of order in Freshford during the Christmas period. Members asked that pressure be put on ESB Networks to ensure such faults are resolved within a shorter timeframe.

(e) Uisce Éireann

Cllr Maurice Shortall spoke of his recent dealings with Uisce Éireann regarding a Waste Water issue in Ballyragget and voiced his dissatisfaction with the standard of communication received. It was agreed Mr Martin Prendiville would follow up on this issue.

(f) Cllr John Brennan

Members extended their best wishes to their colleague, Cllr John Brennan for a speedy recovery.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:

Mary Hilda Cavanagh

Date:

17th February 2025