

MINUTES OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 24TH MARCH 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, Mr Paul Byrne, Ms Catriona O'Sullivan and Mr Denis Malone

Vote of Sympathy:

A vote of sympathy was extended to Cllr Michael McCarthy on the death of his sister in law.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) Ordinary meeting held 17th February 2025

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Special Speed Limit Bye Laws Review

Mr Paul Byrne provided a presentation to members on the Special Speed Limit Bye Laws review. Mr Byrne advised the National Speed Limit Review in 2023 resulted in changes in legislation and changes to default speed limit on certain categories of road to be implemented in 3 stages as follows:

- Rural Speed Limits – 60km/hr default – completed on 7th February 2025
- Urban Speed Limits – 30 km/hr default – current stage
- National Secondary Roads – 80km/hr – later in 2025 by TII

Mr Byrne advised a review of current Kilkenny Special Speed Limit Bye Laws adopted in 2023 is needed following the Urban Speed Limit changes. He outlined the process for the review and confirmed the deadline for submissions is 7th of April 2025 which can be made either directly to himself or via the Area Office.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- The need for both proper enforcement and also emphasis on driver responsibility.
- Recommendation for driver feedback signs at Websborough.
- Request that the speed limit on a dangerous section of the R639 Cullohill to Urlingford road be investigated.

Mr Byrne was thanked for the presentation provided.

(b) Briefing on the Castlecomer Settlement Plan 2025

Ms Catriona O'Sullivan provided a presentation to members on the Castlecomer Settlement Plan 2025.

Mr O'Sullivan provided details on the:

- Report structure
- Pre-draft consultation process

- Information session
- Submissions received from both prescribed bodies and other submissions
- Comprehensive list of assessments required
- Key changes
- Next steps including public display of proposed variations, alterations to variations (if required) and adoption of variation.

Contributions were received from Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick who emphasised the need for proper engagement and consultation and questioned what can be delivered during the life of the plan.

Ms O'Sullivan was thanked for the presentation 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:

- **Cllr Michael McCarthy**

i ESB Networks

Cllr Michael McCarthy spoke of the frustration and anger of both the elected members and members of the public with recent public lighting outages at Dublin Road, Johnstown from December 5th until February 28th and also outages in both Freshford and Goresbridge during the Christmas period. Cllr McCarthy also highlighted inadequate communication from ESB Networks with Council officials regarding these outages.

Members agreed a letter would issue from the Director of Services, Roads voicing members anger and

5. Notices of Motion

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

None

8. Any other business

(a) 2025 Road Works Programme

The 2025 Road Works Programme as presented at a MD Workshop held on 10th March was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed.

(b) Request for reception of deputation at a meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District – Deenside Wheelers Cycling Club

Members agreed to receive a deputation from Deenide Wheelers Cycling Club at their April MD on 28th of April at 11.45am.

(c) Cllr John Brennan

Cllr John Brennan thanked his colleagues and officials present for their good wishes during his recent illness.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: Mary Hester Cavanagh
Date: 28th April 2025.

