

MINUTES OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2025 AT 12 NOON IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY

In the Chair: Cllr Michael McCarthy
Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick and Maurice Shortall
In attendance: Mr Paraic Butler, Mr Martin Prendiville, Ms Nancy Byrne, Ms Regina Fitzpatrick, Ms Mary Butler, Mr Ian Gardner and Mr Evan Coady

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) Ordinary meeting held 15th September 2025

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Tenancy Management

Mr Evan Coady provided a presentation to members which included details of:

- Staff structure of the Tenancy Management Section
- An overview comprising 3,000 tenancies in total, 523 domestic breaches logged to date in 2025, a 30% increase on same period in 2024.
- Details of the main issues dealt with including anti-social behaviour, mediation, referrals, hoarding, noise complaints, complex cases, arrears, succession, court cases, consent to reside, refuse, parking, relationship breakdowns, aging & health related issues, pets/ animals, property damage and access for maintenance.
- Details of other Sections and Agencies dealt with.
- Details of what investigations may entail including talking to neighbours, meeting with tenant, inspection of property, liaising with An Garda Siochana, Dog Warden / SPCA, speak to resident's associations, social welfare, utility bills and refuse disposal receipts.
- Details of Actions / Enforcement methods including phone call / letter to tenant, meeting with the tenant and verbal warning, signed undertaking, Tenancy Notifications, Tenancy Warning and Legal Action.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh asked that it should not be compulsory for complainants to identify themselves in order to have their complaint investigated.
- Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick called for stronger action from Kilkenny County Council to stamp out anti-social behaviour in both private and Council owned tenancies. Cllr Fitzpatrick sought details of the number of warnings issued and evictions and also requested that members be furnished with contact details for the Section.
- Cllr Michael McCarthy acknowledged the level of communication the Tenancy Management Section has with An Garda Siochana.

Mr Ian Gardner responded to issues raised by members:

- He highlighted they were aware of specific locations where anti-social behaviour has crossed over to criminality. He advised that ideally the Tenancy Management Section would like to touch base with all tenants annually but highlighted a lack of resources as a barrier and also highlighted a lack of evidence as a barrier with investigations and enforcement. Mr Gardner confirmed they touch base with the Garda Superintendent regularly and advised it is proposed going forward a particular garda officer will be available to liaise with the Section.

(b) The Ómós Project – Ms Regina Fitzpatrick and Mr Mary Butler

Ms Regina Fitzpatrick provided details of:

- The origins of The Ómós Project
- The guiding principles
- The Process and
- Next Steps

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- The significance of the Project and the Process was acknowledged.
- The magnificent way in which Kilkenny's Decade of Centenaries was handled was acknowledged.

(c) Winter Maintenance – P3 Route

Mr Paraic Butler circulated details of the Winter Maintenance – P3 route for the MD and confirmed the route will remain the same as recent years. Mr Butler also highlighted that during heavy snow a lot of work in addition to salting of the P3 route is completed.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh asked that exceptions be made for those living in high areas of the County and not included on the P3 route.
- Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick acknowledged the work completed by Mr Paraic Butler and staff during heavy snow in January 2024 and sought clarity on agreement with the IFA
- Cllr John Brennan also spoke regarding the need to have a plan in place to support people living in rural areas during heavy snow.
- Cllr Michael Delaney suggested that it is contractors the Council should be liaising with and not the IFA for support.
- Cllr Maurice Shortall requested the provision of salt bins in estates taken in charge by the Council be considered.

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed he will arrange for a report to be provided at the Plenary Meeting on issue raised regarding arrangements with the IFA / contractors during heavy snow.

(d) Section 38 for Enhanced Pedestrian Facilities and Traffic Calming Measures in Urlingford

Mr Paraic Butler circulated details of a Section 38 for Enhanced Pedestrian facilities and Traffic Calming Measures in Urlingford consisting of the following:

- Provision of a new pedestrian crossing with raised zebra crossing controlled with belisha beacons at a location adjacent to the Lumper Lane(LT 18121) and Main Street (R639) Junction
- Provision of a new pedestrian crossing with raised zebra crossing controlled with traffic control signals at a location adjacent to the R689 and Main Street (R639) Junction
- Conversion of the pedestrian crossing from traffic control signals to a zebra crossing controlled with belisha beacons at a location east of the New Road (LP 1812) and Main Street (R639) Junction

Mr Butler confirmed the closing date for submissions or observations was Friday 26th September 2025 and no submissions were received and, on this basis, he is proposing to proceed with the works.

(e) Additional funding - Restoration Improvement, Community Involvement Scheme & Local Improvement Scheme

Mr Paraic Butler outlined details of additional funding received and provided details of one Restoration Improvement project, two Community Involvement Schemes and two Local Improvement Schemes completed.

(f) 2025 Roads Program Update

Mr Paraic Butler confirmed 30 of the 31 Restoration Maintenance projects are complete, the final project clashing with Farranrory Grid Connection works and all 31 Restoration Improvement projects are complete. Mr Butler updated members on planned works in Urlingford commencing the week of 3rd November and running until the 28th November, details of the 4 Community Involvement Schemes and 5 Local Improvements Schemes completed were also provided. Mr Butler confirmed the crews are now focusing on drainage, footpaths and public lighting.

The following issues were raised by members:

- Cllr Michael McCarthy sought an update on flashing warning signs requested for Freshford and was advised details of submission to the Department under the Low-Cost Accident Scheme.
- Rising water levels at Larkins Bridge was also raised, Mr Paraic Butler confirmed dredging isn't allowed and confirmed an assessment will be completed to identify what if any remedial works can be completed.
- Block gully at Bergin's Shop, Urlingford.
- Several issues were raised in respect of ongoing works by MPC Civil Engineering Ltd for Farranrory Grid Connection including quality of reinstatements, Health & Safety and Traffic Management on the worksites, lack of communication / transparency with the general public on timeframes and schedule and closures. Mr Butler confirmed the Council granted MPC Civil Engineering Ltd an emergency road closure to resolve issues with the temporary reinstatement, an overlay of the roads in question is proposed and additional works will be restricted until the quality of existing works are made good.

(g) N78 Webbsborough TII Update

Mr Butler confirmed the location of a number of accidents on the N78 at Webbsborough was brought to TIIs attention and following assessment, emergency funding was provided to Road Design two weeks ago. After a quick turn around with contractors Trap Plast works progressed last week targeting worst sections.

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick requested the provision of driver feedback signs.

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 Maurice Shortall

i Seeking an update on CCTV camera for Grants Wood, Ballyragget

Cllr Maurice Shortall acknowledged the response circulated from Mr Michael Arthurs, Environment Section

5. Notices of Motion

9(25) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

"That repairs be carried out on the wall at Ballinamara Graveyard, which is vested in Kilkenny County Council and is a historic graveyard."

Ms Regina Fitzpatrick advised Kilkenny County Council can put forward three projects per year under the Community Monuments Fund and confirmed repairs to walls at Ballinamara Graveyard will be included in submission to the Department.

10(25) Cllr Maurice Shortall

For Kilkenny County Council to engage with the TII to address the constant road safety issue on the N78 at Coolbawn Castlecomer. There's been numerous crashes there over the last number of years and I want us to be proactive rather than reactive as a LEA.

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

Mr Butler confirmed the issue has been raised with TII

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

None

8. Any other business

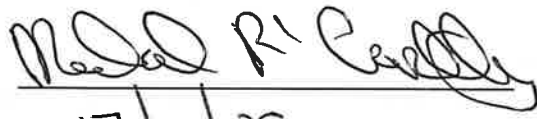
(a) Public Lighting

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick spoke regarding public lights out of order in Coon for the past 10 days and highlighted very poor co-operation received from the ESB services.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:

Date:


17/11/25