

Minutes of the December Meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny on Monday 16th December at 11.00 am

In the chair: Cllr John Brennann

Present: Cllrs Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick, Denis Hynes and Michael McCarthy

In attendance: Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Martin Mullally, Ms Dearbhala Ledwidge and Ms Nancy Byrne

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) Municipal District Budget Meeting

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

(b) Municipal District November Ordinary Meeting

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed that Mr Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer had recently attended a meeting of the National Broadband Group. Mr Prendiville advised that Signal are the best option for high speed broadband delivery in Castlecomer and we are continuing to try and get a meeting with them.

(b) Update on All Ireland Pollinator Plan

Ms Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer provided an update to members on Kilkenny County Council's Pollinator Programme. Ms Ledwidge outlined details of what Kilkenny County Council is doing to help pollinators including Kilkenny County Council leading the way in pollinator protection by becoming Ireland's first Local Authority to officially partner with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. Ms Ledwidge provided an update on 7 Action Areas under the Pollinator Plan comprising a) Protect, b) Mowing, c) Planting, d) Nesting, e) Pesticides, f) Awareness and g) Track/ Record.

Members thanked Ms Ledwidge for the presentation provided and raised the following queries / observations:

- Vigilance to ensure hedge cutting is completed within season.
- Consultation with the Department of Agriculture through SPC5 to ensure the Pollinator Programme is incorporated in the revised GLAS Scheme.
- Availability of signage to support wild flower areas.
- Role of Tidy Towns Groups acknowledge and commitment given to assist in raising awareness amongst these Groups.

(c) Capital Housing Schemes

Mr Martin Mullally provided an update to the members on the Capital Housing Schemes.

Members complimented Mr Mullally and the Housing team for the progress achieved and raised the following queries/observations:

- The National trend which demonstrates Kilkenny County Council to be very pro-active.
- Clarification sought on the status of turn key development in Goresbridge.

(d) Changes to Municipal District Areas – January 2020

Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that Kilkenny County Council's Engineering Areas will be revised to match the amended Municipal District Areas commencing January 2020. Mr Beubry advised that the Castlecomer Municipal District Area will have responsibility for an additional 28km of roads network as a result of this revision and details of the revised GSS Areas will be circulated at the January Municipal Meeting.

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.**

None

5. **Notices of Motion**

None

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Matters arising from minutes**

None

8. **Any other business**

(a) **Winter Services Plan**

Members requested that Kilkenny County Council in conjunction with An Garda Siochana make arrangements to issue appropriate notices on KCLR reminding road users of their general duty to consider prevailing weather and road conditions when planning and / or undertaking journeys across the public road network.

(b) **Request for receipt of deputation at the January Municipal District Meeting – Johnstown Festival 250**

It was proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed that a deputation be received from 'Johnstown Festival 250' at the January Municipal District meeting.

(c) **Updates requested at January Municipal District meeting**

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick requested that an update on the following items be provided at the January Municipal District meeting:

- Remediation project at the old dump site at Donaghmore near Ballyragget.
- Road markings in Coon.

Members thanked Philippe Beubry and his staff, indoor and outdoor for the tremendous programme of works delivered throughout 2019 and wished all present a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Mr Martin Prendiville on behalf of the Executive wished all present and their families a happy and peaceful Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____