

MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY ON MONDAY 25TH MARCH 2019 AT 11.00 AM

In the chair: Cllr Michael McCarthy

Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Pat Fitzpatrick, Patrick Millea and Maurice Shortall

In attendance: Philippe Beubry, Senior Executive Engineer, Michael Delahunty, Meetings Administrator, Nancy Byrne, Municipal District Staff Officer, Mary Mulholland, Director of Services and Margaret Whelan, PPN Development Officer

Congratulations

- Members congratulated Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick who has successfully reversed type 2 diabetes.
- Cllr Mary Hilda extended her best wishes to all the children from Galmoy who successfully participated in the Irish Junior Open Racquetball competition at the weekend.

Vote of Sympathy

- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh extended a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Clare Laherty, Whiteswall, Galmoy.
- Cllr Maurice Shortall extended a vote of sympathy to the family of the late: Lucy Mealy, Beechfield House, Clogh Road, Castlecomer and David Boland, Cloneen, Crettyard.

12 noon conclusion

Cllr Mick McCarthy proposed and it was agreed that today's meeting would conclude at 12 noon to facilitate members attending the sod turning scheduled in the Western Environs. Cllr Maurice Shortall confirmed he had important information which he wished to share with the members regarding Murphy's Cross. It was subsequently agreed that his item in respect of Murphy's Cross, Goresbridge would be dealt with at today's meeting. It was agreed agenda items not dealt with at today's meeting would be deferred to the April meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) February meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Provision of Broadband.

Michael Delahunty circulated a reply received from Adam Ledwith, Eir to an invitation issued on behalf of the Castlecomer Municipal District members for a representative of Eir to attend a meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District and went through its content in detail.

Mary Mulholland advised that Sean McKeown, Director of Services, Martin Prendiville, Director of Services and Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer have been in contact with the Synergy Network Group Castlecomer. She highlighted that there are 2 issues: 1) Castlecomer requirements and 2) National Broadband rollout. Mary Mulholland advised that Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer has spent a lot of time and done considerable work in the past months on this complex issue and it will take a few more weeks before his report is finalised.

Michael Delahunty outlined details of response received from Minister John Paul Phelan to the invitation issued to attend a meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District which confirmed that he had passed the issues raised to the relevant Minister.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:-

- Members expressed their dissatisfaction with Eir's failure to attend a meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District.
- The implications of poor broadband for the various sectors including businesses, farming and students in the Castlecomer and North Kilkenny Area were discussed.

Following extensive discussions members agreed that the best option to move this issue forward would be that once Steve Coverdale has completed his report he will prepare a specific set of questions to be put to Minister John Paul Phelan. Minister John Paul Phelan is to be invited to attend a meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer which members agreed they will accommodate at any time and at any venue. Steve Coverdale to attend.

It was agreed that this item would remain on the agenda.

(b) 2019 Draft Road Works Scheme

Philippe Beubry circulated the 2019 Draft Road Works Scheme. He advised that the Municipal District of Castlecomer had received an allocation just in excess of €4.5m euro. Philippe Beubry outlined details of increased funding received over the 2018 allocation including a 10% increase for Restoration Improvement works and a 12% increase for Restoration Maintenance works which he advised has enabled him to bring forward schemes. Philippe Beubry outlined details of the removal of the Council's discretion to transfer 22% of the Restoration Improvement grant towards discretionary works.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:-

- Members welcomed the €4.5m euro funding received.
- Members welcomed the works included in the Draft Road Works Scheme and acknowledged the tremendous progress which has been achieved in the area.
- Philippe Beubry was commended for the balanced and fair programme presented.
- Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick requested that his thanks be conveyed to the Council's roads staff. Cllr Fitzpatrick also reiterated the agreement reached that Murphy's Cross would be the first works completed under the Special Works Programme.
- Members welcomed works being undertaken in their area.
- Funding provided under Low Cost Accident Schemes was welcomed by Cllr Michael McCarthy and the benefit of this scheme to road users acknowledged.
- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested that the Draft Road Works Scheme once passed would be published on the Council's Kilkenny People page. This was agreed.
- Cllr Cavanagh also requested that the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Kilkenny Street, Freshford, additional public lighting on Mill Road, Urlingford and drainage works for Whiteswall and Rathlogan be considered for inclusion in the next Road Works Scheme.
- Cllr Maurice Shortall requested that in light of the elderly population in Maryville Estate all footpath repairs in the estate be completed under the 2019 Road Works Scheme. Philippe Beubry clarified that this was not financially feasible. Cllr Shortall also sought clarification in respect of the total allocation provided for works at Murphy's Cross and Philippe Beubry dealt with the query.
- Cllr John Brennan raised the issue of funding for the completion of the public lighting retro fit programme and requested that appropriate funding be made available in the 2020 estimates.

Adoption of the Draft Road Works Scheme for the Municipal District of Castlecomer

It was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Maurice Shortall and resolved:- "That the proposed Road Works Scheme as circulated at the Municipal District Meeting held on the 25th March 2019, be and is hereby adopted.

(c) Public Participation Network – Margaret Whelan.

Margaret Whelan, PPN Development Officer thanked the members for the opportunity afforded to her to attend today's Municipal District meeting. She outlined details of work completed since commencing her new role including the need for a greater focus on the Environment pillar of the PPN. Details of increased membership were outlined with 27 new groups having registered since January 2019. Margaret Whelan also highlighted that the PPN will be undertaking an election of local representatives following the Local Government Elections on the 24th of May.

Mary Mulholland confirmed that there has been a huge increase in PPN membership.

(d) Update on Murphy's Cross, Goresbridge

Cllr Maurice Shortall outlined details of a near road traffic accident which occurred on St Patrick's weekend. Philippe Beubry informed members that total funding of €50,000 is being provided in respect of Murphy's Cross comprising €30,000 under Low Cost Accident Schemes and €20,000 under Special Works.

3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Council for transaction at such meeting.

None

4. Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting.

Items submitted by the members

(a) Cllr John Brennan

Items listed below were deferred to the April meeting.

- (i) Update on pedestrian bridge in Castlecomer.
- (ii) Safety measures outside Moneenroe National School.
- (iii) Progress report on Broadband delivery for Castlecomer.
- (iv) Village Renewal funding.
- (v) Village Plans / Local Area Plans.

(b) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

Outstanding items below were deferred to the April meeting.

- (i) Danger at junction of Rathdowney Road and Canal Road, Johnstown.
- (ii) Cul de sac at Rathpatrick, Crosspatrick.
- (iii) Cutting back or topping of trees at Woodview, Freshford.
- (iv) Pedestrian crossing on Kilkenny Street, Freshford in the interest of safety.
- (v) Consideration of a double yellow line on the non residential side of Kilkenny Street, Freshford to prevent accidents.
- (vi) Branch library for Freshford.
- (vii) Update on Urlingford Fire Station.
Cllr Cavanagh confirmed that she has received an update in advance of the meeting.
- (viii) Footpath for Freshford Road and Canal Road out of Johnstown.
- (ix) Work to prevent parking in gateway on slip road to M8, thus preventing 5 farmers from accessing their lands.
Cllr Cavanagh confirmed that the issue has been discussed with Philippe Beubry in advance of the meeting.
- (x) Traffic control measures to prevent speeding on Rathdowney Road out of Johnstown.
- (xi) Water flowing on the Spa Road : gullies need to be opened.
- (xii) Broken footpaths in Johnstown Graveyard.

(c) Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick

Items listed below were deferred to the April meeting.

- (i) Castlecomer Footpaths Improvement Plan.
- (ii) Update on Clashwilliam Bridge.

(d) Cllr Maurice Shortall

Outstanding items listed below were deferred to the April meeting.

- (i) Dowling's Cross, Coon.
- (ii) Kilcollan to Lisnafunchin Road.
- (iii) Bridge Rehabilitation.
- (iv) Moneenroe National School.

5. Notices of Motion

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

None

8. Any other business

(a) Date for the April Municipal District Meeting.

It was agreed that the April meeting would take place on the 23rd of April at 9.30am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____