

MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 16TH APRIL AT 11.00 AM

Chair: Cllr John Brennan

Cllrs: Cllrs Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McCarthy, Pat Millea and Maurice Shortall.

Officials: Philippe Beubry, Michael Delahunty, Mary Mulholland, Nancy Byrne, Nicolaas Louw, Paddy Crotty, Seamus Kavanagh and Lindsey Butler

Members extended vote of sympathy to the following:

- Family of the late Cllr Gerry Lodge
- Family of the late Cllr Eddie O'Meara
- Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick on the death of his uncle
- Michael Phelan on the death of his brother John Phelan

Proposed by Cllr John Brennan, seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed that meeting be adjourned for 5 minutes as a mark of respect.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) March Meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer

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

(b) Special meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District – Shanoon Resources Ltd

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Maurice Shortall and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Material Alterations to the Castlecomer Local Area Plan – Nicolaas Louw

Proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Maurice Shortall and agreed to hold this item in committee.

Nicolaas Louw outlined status of the Local Area Plan. He advised that the purpose of this presentation was as a courtesy to members and to allow members an opportunity to discuss material alterations proposed prior to the full Council meeting.

Following a lengthy discussion on key issues, in particular access from Chatsworth Street, the recommendations of the Chief Executive were endorsed.

Members also agreed to make clear at the Council meeting that full discussion had taken place at the Municipal meeting on this issue.

Nicolaas Louw was thanked for the presentation provided and withdrew from the meeting.

(b) Presentation of plans for additional housing at Station Avenue, Ballyragget

Paddy Crotty provided detailed presentation to the members. He outlined status of the development and key dates going forward, number and make up of development being delivered together with details of proposed access route, turning area, render and infrastructure. Paddy Crotty also provided statistics from the Council's housing list including details of first preferences for Ballyragget.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:-

- Members welcomed delivery of 22 housing units for Ballyragget.
- Success of recent information session acknowledged and Housing officials thanked.
- Number of housing units being delivered across the North of the county including Castlecomer, Ballyragget and Moneenroe acknowledged together with proposed delivery of 170 across the county for 2018.
- Safety concerns raised in respect of proximity of exit to nearby school.
- Incorporation of Council's disability strategy discussed.
- Housing list and need for local gain discussed
- Urgent need to seek more development opportunities for both Castlecomer and Ballyragget with last remaining land bank for both now used.

Mary Mulholland advised that development opportunities going forward will include investigation of derelict sites and infill development.

Paddy Crotty was thanked for presentation provided and withdrew from the meeting.

(c) Town and Village Renewal 2018

Michael Delahunty advised members that the announcement of the 2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme is imminent. He reminded members that it is imperative that any group with potential projects for inclusion need to speak to the Community Department now. Michael Delahunty provided clarification in respect of villages due for a Health Check in the coming weeks in conjunction with the 2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Michael Delahunty updated members in respect of application for pedestrian bridge in Castlecomer. Members acknowledged and thanked Road Design Section for work completed to date.

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

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

(a) Very bad potholes and condition of roads at:

- Cul de sac at Rathpatrick leading to Castlepierce
- Leading to Graces and Campions at Bayswell, Crosspatrick
- Baunballinlough especially at junction at O'Neills and the area known as the "pound of Bawn"
- Waterland from the Church of Eirke to junction with Rathpatrick Road.

Cllr Cavanagh thanked Philippe Beubry and staff for works completed and prioritising pothole filling.

(b) Dumping on slip road from the motorway at Urlingford.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested that camera and signs be provided to prevent further illegal dumping at this location.

Cllr Michael McCarthy

(a) Flooding at Johnstown Road, Freshford

Cllr Michael McCarthy raised concern in respect of worrying trend of increased flooding at Johnstown Road, Freshford. A conversation ensued in respect of lack of progress achieved on Freshford CFRAMS. Cllr McCarthy supported by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh called on the Council to seek the necessary funding and progress works. It was agreed that Philippe Beubry would investigate possible issue with box shore and also meet with landowner located up stream to investigate interim solutions.

Cllr John Brennan

(a) Update of public water supply Clogh/Moneenroe/Castlecomer.

Cllr John Brennan supported by the other members voiced concern at lack of progress achieved by Irish Water to tackle the manganese problem on the Clogh / Moneenroe / Castlecomer water supply scheme and commitments given and not delivered.

Mary Mulholland provided update from Irish Water which confirmed that works are planned to commence Quarter 3, 2018.

(b) Update on waste treatment plant Clogh / Moneenroe.

Cllr John Brennan raised concern in respect of impact of lack of investment by Irish Water on development in the Clogh / Moneenroe Area.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Need for investment by Irish Water.
- Lack of appropriate infrastructure adversely affecting future development
- One of the few areas in the North of the County where land bank exists
- Diameter of waste pipe too narrow
- Irish Water's previous refusal to attend meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District.

Mary Mulholland provided update from Irish Water which advised that there is no cap on development in this area directly attributable to the waste treatment plant.

It was agreed that a letter would be issued to Irish Water in respect of both items raised by Cllr John Brennan and that Irish Water would also be invited to attend the May meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District.

5. Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh received 21st March 2018

"That a survey be undertaken of the non National and non Regional roads to estimate the cost of restoring these roads to an acceptable level with a view to getting funds for repair and resurfacing from Central Government".

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested that a survey be completed of roads to identify funding required to restore road edges as a result of both severe weather and also as a consequence of heavier and larger vehicles using our roads nowadays.

Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh received 3rd April 2018

"That pothole filling on County and other roads be prioritised immediately to stop further damage to cars".

Cllr Cavanagh acknowledged and thanked Philippe Beubry and staff for how pothole filling has been prioritised.

Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick received 6th April 2018

'That Castlecomer Municipal District write to the Minister highlighting the devastating impact that the recent bad weather has had on rural roads in North Kilkenny and requesting emergency funding be put in place to carry out the necessary repairs in the interest of public safety.'

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick raised the issue of the lack of investment on rural roads. He asked that a letter be issued to the Department seeking additional funding to avert further deterioration.

Members were in agreement that letter be issued to the Department in respect of issue raised on the above 3 Notices of Motion. Cllr Cavanagh requested that a combination of 3 Notice of Motions listed above go before the May Council meeting.

6. Correspondence

Michael Delahunty confirmed that he had written to both Eir and Department of Justice as requested at the March meeting and a response is awaited.

7. Matters arising from minutes

None

8. Any other business

Fix Dates of next meetings

Annual General Meeting-Michael Delahunty to revert to members at May meeting.

Illegal Dumping

Contributions were received from the members as follows in respect of illegal dumping:

- Need for Council to actively name and shame
- Coffee cups and need for national policy to promote re-use.
- Work completed by voluntary litter pickers and groups acknowledged.
- Need for additional support for David Gallagher, Enforcement Officer was highlighted.
- Need for increased financial penalties
- Benefit of Amenity Grants and Litter and Graffiti Grant acknowledged.

Mary Mulholland Director of Services agreed to clarify with Bernadette Moloney and report to the next meeting on national policy on re-use of coffee cups. Mary Mulholland confirmed the financial penalties that can be imposed by the Courts and that where the media attend Court cases they can report on the names of those who are prosecuted. The naming of people outside of this process is a breach of individual rights. The Director of Services also highlighted budgetary constraints associated with surveillance.

Provision of Passing Bays

Philippe Beubry to investigate cost for May meeting.

Flood Relief Scheme – Parksgrove, Ballyragget

Members enquired status of application and were advised by Philippe Beubry that application was submitted to the OPW in late January of this year.

Road Markings at junction of Ballyragget Road in Freshford

Cllr McCarthy raised concern in respect of faded condition of road markings at this location after flooding. Philippe Beubry confirmed temporary markings will be provided in advance of scheduled works under 3 Year Road Works Programme.

May Agenda

It was agreed:

- Provision of broadband
- Flooding at Freshford and Parksgrove

would be included on agenda of May meeting. It was also suggested meeting would commence at 10.00 am if presentation on broadband is included on agenda.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____