

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY 16TH MAY 2022 AT 11.00AM VIA MS TEAMS

Elected Members:

In the chair: Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick
Council Chamber: Cllrs Michael McCarthy and Michael Delaney
Via MS Teams: Cllrs John Brennan and Mary Hilda Cavanagh
Apologies: Cllr Denis Hynes

Officials:

Council Chamber: Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Martin Prendiville and Ms Nancy Byrne
Via MS Teams: None
Apologies: Mr Michael Leahy

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) April Ordinary Meeting held on 25th April 2022

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband

Mr Martin Prendiville advised that Cellnex have not yet completed signal testing in Castlecomer. Mr Prendiville also advised that Mr Steve Coverdale has been in contact with the Urlingford Business Group to advise them that further investigation is needed by the broadband operators as Open Eir have confirmed there are no technical issues with speeds.

(b) Road Works Scheme – Progress Report

A progress report on the 0222 Road Works Scheme was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Philippe Beubry presented the report which provided an update on; Speed Limit Review; Improvement Works in Castlecomer Discovery Park; Super Bus Stops; Progress on the delivery of the 2022 Road Works Scheme comprising:- Restoration Improvement Schemes; Drainage Works; Special Works; Grass Cutting Operation; Road Safety Schemes; Community Involvement Scheme; Local Improvement Scheme; B.1.2 Programme and Public Lighting. Mr Beubry also highlighted to members the possible impact of rising inflation costs on the 2022 Road Works Scheme and confirmed that if necessary, some works will be postponed following a review of the expenditure.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- Mr Philippe Beubry and his team were thanked for the report provided and the volume of work completed acknowledged.
- Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick encouraged all members to examine proposed changes to speed limits at www.consultkilkenny.ie.
- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh raised a query regarding failure of land owner / land user to comply with their duty to maintain hedges.
- Cllr Michael McCarthy acknowledged complex drainage works completed at Tinnascarty.
- Reconstruction of footpath along the N78 on the Kilkenny Road, Castlecomer under the B.1.2 Programme was welcomed by Cllrs Brennan and Fitzpatrick.
- Cllr John Brennan highlighted footpaths in Clogh Village in need of repair.

(c) Proposals under Discretionary Funding

Details of the proposed public lighting scheme was circulated to members in advance of the meeting and presented by Mr Philippe Beubry. Mr Beubry also advised that an application had been submitted

under the 2022 CLÁR Programme for the provision of 20 lights in Muckalee with an announcement expected from the Department in June / July.

Members welcomed the proposed public lighting scheme as presented and raised the following queries / observations:

- Date for switching on of lights at Chapel Lane, Moneenroe sought.
- Provision of additional lights on the Rathdowney Road, Johnstown as raised previously in Notice of Motion.
- Clarity sought on available resources under Discretionary Funding.

Mr Philippe Beubry and Mr Martin Prendiville responded to members queries as follows:-

- Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed that for the period 2021 – 2022 €115,000 Discretionary Funding was provided.
- Mr Philippe Beubry confirmed that before a decision could be taken on the balance of Discretionary Funding available the impact of rising inflation will be examined.

The proposed public lighting scheme as presented was proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr Michael Delaney and agreed.

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 Mary Hilda Cavanagh

Update on the Community Involvement Scheme and Local Improvement Scheme

Mr Philippe Beubry provided an update on the Community Involvement Scheme and Local Improvement Scheme under item 2 (b).

5. **Notices of Motion**

(a) 5(22) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

It was proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr John Brennan and agreed that the following Notice of Motion would be brought forward to the June meeting of the Plenary Council:-

“That greatly increased resources be allocated from Central Funds for the Community Involvement Scheme and that we write to the Department making this request and point out the length of the waiting list and the long wait for work to be done”

Mr Philippe Beubry estimated the cost to complete the 49 applications included on the Castlecomer Municipal District’s Community Involvement Scheme would be €3m approximately.

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Matters arising from minutes**

None

8. **Any other business**

(a) **Agree date, time and venue for Annual Municipal District meeting.**

It was proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr Michael Delaney and agreed that the Municipal District's Annual meeting would be held on Monday 20th of June 2022 at 11am. It was previously agreed by the Municipal District members at their meeting held on 21st February 2022 that meetings would be conducted on MS Teams and anyone wishing to join the meeting on MS Teams from the Council Chamber can do so.

(b) Fire Brigade – Agreement with neighbouring Local Authorities

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh sought clarification as to what agreement is in place with neighbouring Local Authorities regarding servicing of fires along the County's border region, i.e. does the Fire Station located nearest to the incident service the fire. It was agreed that this issue would be referred to Mr John Collins, Chief Fire Officer with Kilkenny County Council for clarification.

(c) Drainage issues following restoration improvement / maintenance works

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh sought clarification on the Council's policy with regard to completion of works for private properties to resolve drainage issues which may arise following restoration improvement / maintenance works. Mr Philippe Beubry to discuss directly with Cllr Cavanagh.

(d) Ms Annette Purcell – Retirement

It was raised by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed that a letter would be sent to Ms Annette Purcell acknowledging her tremendous work with both Urlingford and Castlecomer Libraries and to wish her good health and happiness for her retirement.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: Mary Hilda Cavanagh

Date: 20.06.22

