

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY ON MONDAY 16th OF SEPTEMBER 2019 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: Martin Prendiville, Director of Services, Philippe Beubry, Senior Executive Engineer, Michael Delahunty, Meetings Administrator, Martin Mullaly, Senior Executive Officer, Bernadette Moloney, Environmental Awareness Officer and Nancy Byrne, Municipal District Staff Officer

Cllr Brennan extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- To the family of the late Pat Moore on his sad and untimely death.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) July Meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband

Martin Prendiville confirmed that Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer is endeavouring to get one of the infrastructure providers on site in Castlecomer in the coming weeks. Mr Prendiville advised that their aspiration is that a mast would be erected which providers can draw on. However, Mr Prendiville also warned members for the need of an air of caution. Mr Prendiville confirmed that the executive will continue to keep pressure on the infrastructure providers to escalate progress

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members welcomed the update provided by Mr Prendiville.
- Members thanked the Executive for their work to date.
- The benefits of high-speed broadband including the option to work from home were discussed.
- The status of the National Broadband Plan rollout was discussed.

(b) Update on the Litter Management Plan 2018 – 2020 – Bernadette Moloney

Bernadette Moloney, Environmental Awareness Officer provided an update on the Litter Management Plan 2018 – 2020. Ms Moloney advised that the Litter Management Plan is a requirement under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 – 2009 and is reviewed every three years with the current plan having been adopted in 2018. Ms Moloney's update provided details of:

- Enforcement overview of Litter Related Complaints, Fines and Prosecutions.
- Enforcement technological advancements.
- Increased powers as a result of new waste management by laws.
- Various anti-dumping initiatives.
- Improvements at Bring Bank.
- Progress achieved with Tidy Towns Groups.
- New waste reductions initiatives.
- Education and awareness campaigns
- Street Cleaning Actions including additional resources sought for replacement of street bins as required.

Contributions were received from members as follows:

- Bernadette Moloney was congratulated on the birth of her daughter.
- Ms Moloney was thanked for the excellent presentation provided and for the work completed by both herself and the Environment team.
- The requirement for increased naming and shaming of offenders.
- The various initiatives as outlined in the presentation provided were commended.
- The need for increased resourcing of the Environment Section.
- The need for a similar obligation on mattress retailers as retailers of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) in relation to waste disposal.

- Suitability of sites alongside graveyards as a location for the provision of bring bank facilities was questioned.

A conversation ensued in relation to the process involved in naming and shaming. Bernadette Moloney advised that it is not feasible to name and shame unless the offender has been prosecuted. Ms Moloney advised that once the detail of the prosecution has been checked by the Council's solicitor a press release can be issued. Attendance of the media at prosecutions and subsequent reporting by the media was discussed and clarification was provided that the media cannot be seen to show bias in their reporting and therefore must either report on all prosecutions or none. It was agreed that details of prosecutions for the Castlecomer Municipal District Area once checked by the Council's solicitor would be brought to meetings of the Castlecomer Municipal District.

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 raised by members:

(a) **Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh**

(i) **Safety at Gathabawn**

Philippe Beubry provided details of safety measures completed to date. Cllr Fitzpatrick supported the concerns raised by Cllr Cavanagh and highlighted the need to initiate a review of speed limits on our county roads.

(ii) **Speed ramps at Chapelfield, Urlingford**

Philippe Beubry confirmed that he has identified 2 locations for the provision of speed ramps within the estate. Mr Beubry confirmed that if there is funding available under the discretionary fund in 2019 the works will be completed in the current year otherwise; these works will be included as a priority in the 2020 Road Works Programme.

(b) **Cllr Denis Hynes**

(i) **Moneenroe Water Supply**

Cllr Hynes raised the issue of continuing incidents of water discolouration on the Moneenroe Water Scheme. Members acknowledged the investment to date on this water scheme and the improvements which ice pigging had delivered but also conceded the need for continued investment with a view to complete ice pigging on the entire water scheme.

It was proposed by Cllr Denis Hynes, seconded by Cllr John Brennan and agreed that a letter would be sent to Ervia Irish Water requesting continued investment in the Moneenroe Water Scheme to complete ice pigging on the entire Water Scheme and a time line for completion of these works would be sought.

5. **Notices of Motion**

None

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Matters arising from minutes**

(a) **Church at Grangefertagh**

Cllr Cavanagh asked that preservation works on the Church at Grangefertagh be given appropriate consideration in the Council's estimates.

Martin Prendiville confirmed that the Church at Grangefertagh is registered in the Council's name. Mr Prendiville advised that an engineer from the Facilities Team will complete an assessment of the Church at Grangefertagh and he will report back to the Municipal District Meeting thereafter.

(b) **Mary O'Brien, Old Tullaroan Road**

Cllr Cavanagh sought clarification whether a letter had issued to Mary O'Brien as requested and was advised by Nancy Byrne that a letter had been issued after the July meeting.

8. Any other business

(a) Safety at Old Bridge Street, Freshford

Cllr Cavanagh sought an update in respect of a meeting requested for residents in relation to safety at Old Bridge Street, Freshford. Philippe Beubry advised that this meeting hasn't taken place yet.

(b) Notification of Meetings to the Media

Cllr Cavanagh advised that the Kilkenny People had highlighted to her that they did not receive an invitation to attend the Municipal District Meetings

Nancy Byrne confirmed that an invitation to attend the Municipal District meetings is sent each month to officials in both KCLR and the Kilkenny People – Nancy Byrne to investigate.

(c) Congratulations to Phil Hogan on his recent appointment as EU Chief Trade Negotiator.

It was proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr Michael Delaney and agreed that a letter would be issued to Phil Hogan congratulating him on his recent appointment as EU Chief Trade Negotiator.

(d) CLAR funding.

Cllr Fitzpatrick expressed his disappointment at lack of CLAR funding received from the Department for stage two of works at both Crosspatrick and Muckalee. It was agreed to write to the department, express our disappointment and ask that our unsuccessful applications be considered should additional funding become available.

(e) Retirement of Michael Delahunty

Contributions were received from Cllrs Brennan, Cavanagh, Delaney, Fitzpatrick and Hynes as follows:

- Members acknowledged the respect shown to them by Michael Delahunty at all times.
- Mr Delahunty's wealth of knowledge and huge legacy was acknowledged.
- Mr Delahunty's high standard of work including his work with communities throughout Kilkenny and huge progress achieved was acknowledged.
- Mr Delahunty's great ability to negotiate during his time working in Human Resources was acknowledged.

Members concluded by thanking Mr Delahunty most sincerely for his help and support over the years and wished him good health and happiness for his retirement.

Michael Delahunty thanked the members for their good wishes. He advised that he had always had an interest in government and politics and that it had been a privilege to work in public service for 41 years. He recounted his career which started in the Custom House at that age of 18, the many agencies which he had worked in collaboration with; the various committees he'd served on; his willingness to assist and support community groups, his respect for councillors, the great teams of staff which he had worked with; highs and lows in his career; his hope that he enriched the Local Government Service for those following behind and his many cherished memories.

Martin Prendiville thanked Michael for the huge support which he had provided to him since he joined Kilkenny County Council in 2014 and acknowledged the loss which he will be to the Council. Mr Prendiville concluded by wishing Michael Delahunty good health and happiness for his retirement.

Martin Prendiville confirmed that Martin Mullally will replace Michael Delahunty as Meetings Administrator for the Castletomer Municipal District.

(f) Fix date for next meeting of the Castletomer Municipal District

It was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed that the Castletomer Municipal District meetings would revert from a bi monthly basis to a monthly basis with the next meeting scheduled for 21st of October 2019.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____