

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 15TH MAY
2017 AT 11.30AM**

Chair: Cllr P Fitzpatrick

Cllrs: J Brennan, M H Cavanagh, McCarthy, P Millea and M Shortall.

Officials: M Delahunty, S Walton, N Byrne, P Beuby & B Tyrrell

Cllr P Fitzpatrick opened the meeting by welcoming all those present.

Members stood in silent prayer as a mark of respect for the recent tragedy in Freshford and also for the sad and untimely deaths which occurred in the Graine Area during recent days.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) Special Meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District held on 24th April 2017

The minutes were proposed by Cllr M McCarthy, seconded by Cllr M H Cavanagh and agreed:- "That the minutes of Special Meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District held on 24th April 2017 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved".

(b) Ordinary Meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District held on 24th April 2017.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr J Brennan, seconded by Cllr M Shortall and agreed:- "That the minutes of the April Ordinary meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District held on 24th April 2017 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved".

2. Reception of Deputation - Goresbridge Community Park

Damian Keyes on behalf of Goresbridge Community Park Ltd circulated hand out to the members and provided presentation for the provision of footpath on R702 Goresbridge to facilitate pedestrian access to village including playground, sports field and graveyard for residents of the village and along the R702.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members confirmed their support for the works subject to the availability of funding
- D Keyes was complimented on the presentation provided.
- Endeavours and achievements of the community were acknowledged and complimented.
- Whether there was sufficient road width to facilitate footpath.

- Whether it was feasible to provide a footpath for a section of the roadway and then skip a section.
- Whether permission has been obtained from the landowner in question.
- How frequently the soccer pitch is used.
- Ancillary works for public lighting be installed during installation of footpath if works do get the go ahead

S Walton requested that P Beubry assess in more detail the financial and land implications and make the information available to the members.

D Keyes withdrew from the meeting.

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Tourism – Brian Tyrrell

B Tyrrell outlined details of tourism strategy. He outlined proposals going forward which include:

- Reconvene consultation meeting in Castlecomer subject to the member's agreement.
- Establishment of county hubs.
- Appoint groups who will take over development of the County
- Provide assistance to identify assets and develop experience
- Come back through the Municipal District

He confirmed that a meeting had been arranged for 17th of May in Mullinavat and pending the outcome of this, a date will be arranged for Castlecomer. He also confirmed that once a date has been agreed he will consult with the members for their assistance.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- P Fitzpatrick confirmed agreement to meeting in Castlecomer
- Gems which exist across the North of the County acknowledged
- Many local groups don't currently have the expertise to benefit
- Reference to applications submitted under Town and Village Renewal
- Clarification whether database exists of previous attendees and the need to use this list and pick up the phone and encourage attendance.
- Demand for tourist trails / cycle tracks.

B Tyrrell was thanked for presentation provided and withdrew from the meeting.

(b) Update on the various service areas – Simon Walton **Donaguile Housing Scheme**

S Walton advised that there will be a pre Part 8 presentation to the elected members at either the June or July meeting. He advised that he anticipates 33 units will be provided which will be reflective of housing demand in the

area. Cllr M Shortall enquired whether design had been finalised and reminded of his previous request that ground floor accommodation be provided.

Parks grove, Bullyragged – Flooding

S Walton confirmed that the OPW had not included Parks grove, Bullyragget in the recommendations of CFRAM report. He advised that outline minor works proposals were sent to the OPW last week, the value of the works is €170,000 and a successful application with the OPW would secure 90% funding. Details of funding provided in the capital budget were also outlined. He confirmed that over the course of the next 3 - 4 weeks he expects to have broad based discussions with land / property owners. In response to queries raised by Members he confirmed that there is no capacity for adverse downstream impacts as a result of works proposed.

Pedestrian bridge to enhance connectivity

S Walton advised that the feasibility study is ongoing and confirmed that he anticipates discussion with the members in committee at the July meeting.

Urlingford Fire Station

S Walton confirmed that Urlingford Fire Station had been approved in principal for development works as a second phase of the current state investment programme for Fire & Emergency Services. He advised that preliminary design proposals will be prepared and discussed with the members. Cllr M H Cavanagh welcomed the news.

Traffic Survey - The Square, Castlecomer

S Walton confirmed that the results of traffic survey being undertaken by Road Plan are expected over the course of the next 10 days. He advised that he is confident consultants report will address all issues.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Industrial development at Comeramagh Site be taken into account
- Need to look at projected need 20 years down the line
- Will submissions be allowed from the business community.

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

None

5. Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting Items submitted by members:-

- Cllr M H Cavanagh**
(a) Car Park for Urlingford

Cllr M H Cavanagh raised the issue of businesses in Urlingford being adversely affected as a result of insufficient on street parking. Cllrs raised similar concerns for the towns of Freshford and Castlecomer. A conversation ensued and it was agreed that money would be allocated to tackle this issue. There was consensus amongst the members against the introduction of parking charges whilst the need to regulate parking was acknowledged and supported by Members.

(b) Details of supply of floor covering for new Council houses – how is this done?

N Byrne circulated details prepared by E Cody, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing Capital. It was agreed M Delahunty would check whether the Community Welfare Officer has approved suppliers and liaise directly with Cllr M H Cavanagh.

6. Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr M H Cavanagh received on 5th May 2017

It was

Proposed by Cllr M H Cavanagh

Seconded by Cllr J Brennan

And Resolved

“That Kilkenny County Council would take an active approach in progressing the Repair and Leasing Scheme throughout the County to alleviate homelessness and in doing so revitalise rural areas especially our towns and villages”.

Cllr M H Cavanagh advised that she is seeking approval to include Notice on agenda of full Council meeting which news S Walton welcomed. A lengthy conversation ensued and members expressed their reservations with the current scheme. S Walton outlined how the scheme had been advertised and how take up had been completely disappointing.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Matters arising from minutes

None

9. Any other business

Road Works Progress Report

Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme list and Road Works Progress report were circulated to the members and P Beubry provided

detailed update to the members under various headings including Special Works, Restoration Improvement, Restoration Maintenance, Taking in Charge of Housing Estates and Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme offers for 2017.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Cllr M H Cavanagh sought clarification that our policy in respect of the Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme is made clear to applicants.
- Cllr M Shortall compliments P Beubry and outdoor staff for work completed on Yellow Road and Brookfield.
- Cllr M Shortall highlighted the poor condition of Brophys Lane, Ballyouskill.

Valuations Increase

Members raised issue of representations received as a result of recent notices showing revised valuations which are understood by the recipients as being rates increase. S Walton confirmed that M Prendiville will provide clarity at this afternoon's Council meeting.

Weed Control

Cllr M Shortall and Cllr M McCarthy raised the issue of huge growth in weeds in recent days. P Beubry advised that some spraying had been completed in the past weeks in Freshford and Urlingford and advised of restrictions which exist in relation to spraying. Cllr P Millea requested that spraying of roadside weeds be investigated as an option going forward.

Annual General Meeting and June meeting

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting would take place on the 2nd of June at 10am and followed directly by the June Meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____