

Minutes of Meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District Meeting held on Monday 21st May 2018 at 9am.

In the Chair: Cllr J Brennan

Present : Cllrs MH Cavanagh, P Fitzpatrick, P Millea, M McCarthy and M Shortall.

In attendance: Mary Mulholland Director of Services, Philippe Beubry Senior Executive Engineer, Michael Delahunty Meetings Administrator, Steve Coverdale IS Project Leader, Emir Coady, Acting Senior Executive Engineer

1. Confirmation of Minutes of April meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer (copy had been circulated with agenda).

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Provision of Broadband

Steve Coverdale gave a presentation on the current position regarding the roll out of the National Broadband Plan. He stated that the final tender prices were submitted in February 2018, that there is only one tenderer remaining in the competition which was Enet/SSE, that the tender is expected to be awarded in September 2019 and that works are expected to commence in 2019 and be completed in 2024.

He stated that Kilkenny has 10% in the current broadband plan to be completed by May 2019-a schedule of 24 EIR exchanges which involves 5915 premises was circulated. He also stated that 53% of Kilkenny's current premises have broadband of varying levels and that the balance of 37% of Kilkenny's premises will be included in the National Plan roll out.

Contributions were made by all members. Members spoke of the commitment and investment being made by business's in the towns and villages, that investment could be and has been lost to places like Kilkenny City due to a lack of adequate broadband, the inconvenience being caused to existing business and householders due to poor signal and links and the long delay in implementing the National Broadband plan by successive governments.

It was agreed to write to the relevant Minister on the matter highlighting the seriousness of the need for broadband to serve existing business and attract business in Kilkenny' rural towns, villages and homes, urging the award of the contract and its immediate roll out and the prioritisation of Kilkenny in the roll out.

It was also agreed to forward a copy of the letter to Junior Minister Johns Paul Phelan and ask him to use his good offices to prioritise the provision of good quality broadband in North Kilkenny

(b) **Flooding in Freshford and Parksgrove**

Freshford

The recent Municipal District Engineer consultations with a local landowner and the agreement reached with regard a culvert was complimented by Members. It was noted that this should reduce some of the flooding in Freshford. It was stated that Freshford is listed on the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) 10 year programme.

Members also expressed the view that the proposals for Freshford appear to be excessive and asked if a works programme in the order of €100,000 would be more appropriate and more attainable.

Members agreed that a letter be sent to Minister John Paul Phelan to ask the Minister to use his offices to seek that Freshford be prioritized on this programme due to the severe flooding which is likely to continue.

Contributions were made by all Members.

Parksgrove

Members were informed that the Council had submitted a proposal for funding under the Non Coastal Minor Floods Scheme and that a decision is awaited.

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

Members were briefed in Committee of the proposals for the provision of 22 houses in Ballyragget , the Part 8 approval for which, was listed on the Agenda for the Council Meeting to be held on Monday afternoon. Members complimented the public consultation process and the manner in which issues raised were dealt with. Member agreed to propose the Part 8 at the following Council meeting.

Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting.

Items submitted by the members

(a) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

- Ramps for Tougher Crescent, Urlingford

P Beubry in reply stated that traffic counters will be set up to establish the need for ramps and inclusion in a future works programme.

- Potholes at entrance to Greens lades on Waterland Road

P Beubry Municipal District Engineer agreed to examine and address these.

- Road at Rathpatrick –

It was noted that this work had been undertaken.

- **Follow up on hedge cutting** (where notices are not complied with).
In reply P Beubry stated that non compliance is not an issue with him -all landowners co operate when issued with formal notices.

- **Update on new Urlingford Fire Station, promised by Director of Services over 10 years ago.**

Mary Mulholland Director of Services in response stated that the Council are the owners of the site, that negotiations are underway with regards to an occupier, that tenders for design team are due in at the end of the month.

Members complimented the efforts of the Chief Fire Officer, Head of Finance and Director of Services.

Contributions Cllr Cavanagh, Millea and McCarthy

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick

- **Update on pedestrian crossing in Ballyragget**

P Beubry agreed to speak with Frank Stafford Road Design on this matter.

- **Street cleaning in Ballyragget**

P Beubry stated that the Council currently provides a bin emptying service (A General Operative empties the bins and sweeps the footpaths every week) PB explained that the labour cost and waste disposal cost of associated with this street cleaning operation are financed through the Roads budget and that there is no scope to extend the service.

PB stated that the service is complemented by a road sweeper which visits Ballyragget every four weeks. He agreed to examine the service further to see if an additional sweeper run could be included within existing budgets.

- **Traffic safety plan for parking and turning at the rear of Kilkenny Road Estate, Castlecomer.**

P Beubry outlined a summary of the works required to resolve this issue but that the finances have not been provided. It was agreed that P Beubry will prepare a cost estimate and that the matter will be brought back to the June meeting.

Cllr John Brennan

- **Update on Castlecomer Barracks**

Mary Mulholland Director of Services informed Members that the OPW had made contact with the Council to ascertain if the Council were interested in acquiring the site of 3 acres approx. The Council in reply expressed an interest. The OPW is to revert with a valuation of the site and the Council will consider the matter further. Members will be kept up to date on this matter.

5. Notices of Motion in the name of Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick received 10th May 2018

“That Castlecomer Municipal District members ask Kilkenny County Council to engage with TII with a view to installing public lighting at Clinstown”.

This matter was Agreed on the proposal of Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick which was Seconded by Cllr Pat Millea

6. Correspondence

- (a) Correspondence from the Department of Justice and Equality – Community based CCTV Grant Aid Scheme.

The correspondence as circulated was noted. An issue with regards to the Local Authority being the Data Controller was raised-it was expressed that it was more desirable from a Local Authority point of view if An Garda Síochána was the Data Controller

7. Matters arising from minutes

It was agreed to write again to Irish Water to request its attendance at the June meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District.

8. Any other business

(a) Fix date for 2018 Annual Meeting

Members agreed, on the proposal of Cllr Fitzpatrick, which was Seconded by Cllr McCarthy to fix the meeting for **Friday 8th June 2018 at 1.45pm in Council Chamber**

(b) Municipal District Budget - €1,500 required to fund the Festival and Events Grant Scheme

Members agreed on the Proposal of Cllr Cavanagh, which was seconded by Cllr McCarthy that the Municipal District allocate €1,500 to fund the Festival and Events Grants scheme and that the Council's Head of Finance be contacted to seek the reimbursement from the forthcoming IPB Insurance refund.

(c) Crosshill Cemetery, Castlecomer – request for name change

M Delahunty outlined the request received which had been circulated to the meeting. Members were informed that the name Crosshill is a local place name-it does not appear to be on the official OS map.

Members were generally in agreement with the proposal. Members expressed a strong desire that the name Crosshill be retained in the name as follows "Calvary Cemetery Crosshill" and that the proposed name change to Calvary Cemetery Crosshill be announced at various services and be published in parish newsletters with the view to eliciting any public concerns and that the matter be brought back to the June meeting for decision.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____