

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 15TH JANUARY 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, Bernadette Moloney, Nicolaas Louw and Denis Malone

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) December Meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

2 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Draft Litter Management Plan.

Bernadette Moloney provided a detailed presentation to the members in respect of the Draft Litter Management Plan 2018-2020. The Plan is currently on public display with a submissions deadline of 2nd of February 2018. Bernadette advised that there are 37 actions included under the draft plan and outlined main areas of interest. Details of litter prevention actions to be undertaken both in house and in the Community were outlined together with proposals for increased enforcement.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Limited budget acknowledged
- Need to work with neighbouring Councils to tackle issue of illegal dumping highlighted.
- Problem of dog fouling raised and request for increased awareness of associated health issues to be highlighted and also request for increased stencilling on footpaths.
- Illegal dumping of mattresses in the area discussed.
- Status of a number of abandoned cars in the area requested.
- Request that additional white glass facility be provided in Johnstown and site identified as a matter of urgency in Urlingford.
- Philippe Beubry and staff thanked for plinth provided at bring banks in Freshford and Philippe to investigate provision of surrounding mesh / wall at this bring bank facility to deter illegal dumping.
- Update requested in respect of rebranding of bring banks nationally.
- Merits of waste management door to door inspections discussed.
- Litter picking prior to grass cutting discussed.
- Request that openings on new litter bins be revised to tackle illegal dumping.

- Excellent work undertaken by Bernadette Moloney, David Gallagher, Michael Nugent and Environment team acknowledged.

Bernadette Moloney withdrew from the meeting.

(b) Chief Executive's Report for the Castlecomer Local Area Plan.

Nicolaas Louw outlined to the members the current stage of the review of the Castlecomer Local Area Plan. He outlined a number of alterations proposed and highlighted 3 key issues:

- Amount of lands zoned 'new residential' remains static
- Plan provides for shovel ready lands to relieve the anticipated housing pressures.
- Plan provides for review once the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies have been adopted

The process, in brief going forward was outlined to the members.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:-

- Clarification sought in respect of number of residential units permissible per hectare.
- Clarification sought in respect of feasibility of increasing residential zoning.
- Members asked that their thanks be noted for excellent work completed by Sean McKeown, Catriona O'Sullivan, Nicolaas Louw and Denis Malone.

Nicolaas Louw and Denis Malone withdrew from the meeting.

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 J Brennan

(a) Update on the Castlecomer Local Area Plan.

Dealt with under item 2 (b) above.

(b) Review of roads network after severe weather.

(c) Restoration of sufficient funding for provision of public lighting programme.

(d) Provision of special fund for the introduction of new preventative maintenance programme.

Items (b) (c) & (d) were dealt with simultaneously

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members highlighted their concerns in respect of the Municipal District being under manned and under resourced.
- Request that the maintenance programme would incorporate roads completed during previous years Road Works Programme
- Need for letter to be sent to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government seeking additional resources.
- Clarification sought whether vacancies existed on roads crews .
- The introduction of a staff pilot scheme to assist existing roads crews discussed.
- Increased pressure on existing resources as a result of severe weather and also the re-introduction of the Local Improvement Scheme.
- Clarification sought in respect of new Assistant Engineer position in Municipal Districts.
- Insurance and Health and Safety implications associated with involving IFA in preventative maintenance.
- Need to recover €10,000 lost from General Municipal Allocation in next year's estimates.
- Expectation from the public for services in light of Local Property Tax and Development Contributions paid.

Michael Delahunty advised members that staffing had been dealt with under the Work Force Plan and all vacancies were filled. He also reminded members of the opportunity which had been available to them to raise additional resources during the preparation of the estimates and consequent to the decision taken, the Municipal District allocation had been reduced by €10,000.

Members noted the response and they asked that the Castlecomer Municipal District staffing level be included on agenda for February meeting.

(e) Invitation to An Garda Siochana to attend next Municipal meeting.

It was agreed that An Garda Siochana would be invited to attend the February meeting.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

(a) Parking at Marble Court, Paulstown

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh referred to email received from Alan Butler, Marble Court, Paulstown highlighting problems encountered by himself and his partner as a result of customers from the nearby pub parking in their estate. A conversation ensued and it was agreed Philippe Beubry would investigate the problem. Members pledged their support for whatever measures were required to resolve this issue.

5. Notice of Motion

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

None

8. Any other business

(a) Lios na Sli, Johnstown

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested that consideration be given to the provision of a ramp in Lios na Sli, Estate, Johnstown. Philippe Beubry confirmed the estate is in the process of being taken in charge and will give this issue further consideration when taken in charge.

(b) Litter bins, Urlingford

Cllr Michael McCarthy acknowledged the provision of two new litter bins in Urlingford.

(c) Galmoy Mines

Cllr John Brennan enquired in respect of works ongoing at the site of the former Galmoy Mines to which Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh provided an update. Mary Mulholland advised that a prospective licence had been applied for some months ago and also a pre planning meeting held. The need to monitor the rural water supply scheme was also discussed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____