

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
CASTLECOMER HELD ON MONDAY, 16TH OF SEPTEMBER AT 12 NOON IN COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY**

In the chair: Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh
Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Michael Delaney, Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McCarthy and Maurice Shortall
In attendance: Mr Philippe Beubry, Mr Paraic Butler, Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Michael Leahy, Mr Seamus Kavanagh, Ms Nancy Byrne, Ms Arlene O'Connor and Ms Rita McGarvey

Vote of Sympathy

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh extended a vote of sympathy to Mr Paddy Phelan, Rathreagh, Co Kilkenny on the death of his son Mr Marcus Phelan.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) July meeting held on 15th July

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Draft Paulstown Masterplan – Arlene O'Connor

Ms Arlene O'Connor provided details of submissions received during the 4-week public consultation period from 5th April 2024 to 3rd May 2024 and outlined the response and recommendations of the A/Director of Services. Ms O'Connor confirmed she was asking the members to consider the report of the A/Director of Services and adopt this non-statutory Masterplan with all, some or none of the amendments proposed.

It was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed the Paulstown Draft Masterplan be adopted to include all the proposed changes as recommended by the A/Director of Services.

(b) Broadband Update – Rita McGarvey

Ms Rita McGarvey provided an update to members on broadband for the Castlecomer Municipal District as follows:

- The status of regional and local exchanges.
- Rollout status per Kilkenny Deployment Area with 17,667 premises passed in Kilkenny and 6,034 active connections.
- NBI work ongoing - premises at 'available to order/pre-order' stage as follows: Kilkenny – 3,629, Johnstown – 1,715, Carlow, Borris – 2,013, Mullinahone – 1,227 & Castlecomer -2,618
- Reminder of information available on the NBI website.
- Contact details provided for queries – NBI - reps@nbi.ie / 0818 624 624 & Kilkenny County Council's Broadband Officer – broadbandofficer@kilkennycoco.ie / 056 7794042

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Progress achieved to date was acknowledged
- The need to urgently progress fibre broadband delivery for Villages which are outside the NBP.

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) Cllr John Brennan

i Update from Uisce Éireann on the Clogh / Castlecomer / Moneenroe Water Scheme

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh advised that Uisce Éireann are due to hold a clinic for members on 7th of October and recommended this item be raised at same.

ii Update on Grants for Private Waste Water Schemes

Cllr John Brennan raised an issue regarding the criteria for eligibility for funding under Private Group Waste Water Schemes; Cllr Brennan confirmed the current requirement is for a cluster of a minimum of 25 houses. Cllr Brennan requested that a letter issue to the Department seeking a reduction of this number to 8/10 houses. Cllr Brennan's proposal was seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed by all.

iii Update on clarification requested from the Department in respect of the Local Improvement Scheme

Mr Seamus Kavanagh confirmed the revised criteria for eligibility, in particular the 1 hectare requirement as outlined in the 2024 Local Improvement Scheme Outline had recently been raised in the Seanad and Minister Heather Humphreys is to liaise with Local Authorities. Mr Seamus Kavanagh acknowledged the high volume of applications received during the past year, the majority of which serve more than one landholder; Mr Kavanagh referred to the ranking system used by Kilkenny County Council and acknowledged the revised criteria would not have a significant impact for a number of years.

Members agreed that when Kilkenny County Council liaise with the Department, the following recommendation would be noted from the Castlecomer Municipal District, ie. the abolition of the 1 hectare requirement.

(b) Cllr Maurice Shortall

i Update on Uisce Éireann's planning permission at Deen Celtic Soccer grounds and potential timeline on work commencing

Mr Martin Prendiville confirmed planning permission was granted subject to two conditions. Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh acknowledged this item would receive further attention during Uisce Éireann's clinic on the 7th of October.

ii Safety concerns by residents of Love Lane, Castlecomer concerning building of bike shed and other issues

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested that Cllr Maurice Shortall discuss this item directly with Mr Paraic Butler after the meeting.

iii Safety concerns of local residents with overtaking of vehicles turning into Tirlán opposite Castlecomer GAA Grounds

Cllr Maurice Shortall and Cllr John Brennan spoke regarding the number of near misses at the location identified and safety concerns raised by local residents and the Castlecomer Development Association. Mr Seamus Kavanagh provided an update and outlined details of preliminary funding received from TII. Both members asked that interim safety measures be put in place.

5. Notices of Motion

(a) 7(24) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

“That resources be provided in the 2025 estimates, to install raised platforms on all roads leading to Johnstown, Urlingford and Castlewarren” in the interest of safety.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke on the Notice of Motion and requested the necessary resources be made available in the 2025 estimates.

(b) 8(24) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

“That driver feedback signs be installed on all roads leading to Johnstown and Urlingford” in the interest of safety.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke on the Notice of Motion and requested the necessary resources be made available in the 2025 estimates.

6. Correspondence

(a) Correspondence received from the Office of the Minister of Transport in response to the members request for additional funding for the Community Involvement Scheme was circulated.

7. Matters arising from minutes

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke on an issue she raised in a Notice of Motion at the July MD meeting ‘that TII be requested to install a ghost island for traffic turning towards Lisdowney from the Durrow side from the N77 as is the case for traffic going into Tirlán’.

8. Any other business

(a) Philippe Beubry – Castlecomer Municipal District

Members paid tribute to Mr Philippe Beubry, former Area Engineer with the Castlecomer Municipal District acknowledging the tremendous work completed in the Area during his 18 years, 8 months with the Area and also the courtesy and efficiency received from Mr Beubry. Members wished Mr Beubry every success in his new position with Flood Relief Projects. Mr Philippe Beubry acknowledged the comments of the members and also paid tribute to the staff he had worked with in the Area Office including; Mr Hugh O’Brien, Ms Nancy Byrne, Ms Margaret O’Neill, Mr DJ Donohoe, Mr Denis Foley, Mr Joe Daly, Mr Martin O’Shea, 12 Overseers and all the outdoor staff attached to the Area Office.

(b) Grangefertagh roundabout

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested that any member on the JPC raise the issue of public safety as a result of cars performing donuts at the Grangefertagh roundabout

(c) Freshford Graveyard – Car Park

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested an update on Freshford Graveyard Car Park for the October MD meeting.

(d) October MD meeting – Parks

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick requested that we revert to the practice of inviting Departments to MD meetings to provide an update to members and asked that a representative from the Parks Department be invited to attend the October MD meeting.

(e) 'No Dumping' Sign – Powel Mór

CLlr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested the provision of a 'no dumping' sign at forestry entrance in an area known locally as Powell Mór and located between Kildrinagh and Ballybeagh.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson Mary Hilda Cavanagh

Date: 21/10/24