

MINUTES OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT 12 NOON IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY

In the Chair: Cllr Michael McCarthy
Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney and Pat Fitzpatrick
Apologies: Cllr Maurice Shortall
In attendance: Mr Paraic Butler, Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Michael Leahy, Ms Nancy Byrne and Ms Rita McGarvey

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) MD Budget meeting held 20th October 2025

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

(b) Ordinary meeting held 20th October 2025

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh seconded by Cllr John Brennan and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Broadband update

Ms Rita McGarvey circulated a report and provided an update on broadband in the Castlecomer MD Area which included details of:

- Regional and local exchanges across the County.
- National Broadband Plan (NBP) rollout status per Kilkenny Deployment Area with 1,728 premises in Johnstown and 2,671 in Castlecomer now able to order / pre order fibre broadband. 98% of the NBP roll out in the deployment areas in County Kilkenny are completed.
- Open Eir Ireland Fibre Network (IFN) Scheme – statement from Open Eir that there will be fibre available in the blue areas on the map by the end of the NBP in 2026/2027
- National Broadband Ireland (NBI) has a dedicated webpage for elected members – <https://www.nbi.ie/rep>s

Ms McGarvey concluded by inviting members to flag any issues directly to her at broadbandofficer@kilkennycoco.ie.

Members thanked Ms McGarvey for the presentation provided and were unanimous in their criticism of the quality of fibre broadband delivered.

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

(a) Serious flooding in Freshford during week commencing 10th November

Cllr Michael McCarthy raised the issue of serious flooding in Freshford during week commencing 10th November as follows “On Tuesday, 11th November the Nuenna broke its banks and flooding occurred at Buncrusha Street causing major concerns. There was also serious flooding on the R693 at Mill Bridge. A debate followed on the possibility of closing the road. This was averted through the prompt action of our Area Engineer Paraic Butler and his staff. Minor remedial work was carried out on Wednesday which resolved the flooding on

the R693. The following morning the flooding at Buncrusha Street was addressed. I wish to compliment Pdraic Butler for initiating the works and for personally rolling up his sleeves. He was a breadth of fresh air in our hour of need.

A big thanks also to his staff members for their vigilance and attention to detail. I wish to express my sincere gratitude for one and all for their timely intervention. I would also like to acknowledge the Fire Service and their Chief John Collins for their response on Wednesday night and when urgent action was called for Jason and his team rose to the challenge. Thankfully the coordination all round meant the outcome was positive."

Cllr McCarthy also acknowledged the widespread availability on sandbags from the Monday prior to the storm.

Additional contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh acknowledged the marvellous response and the urgent need for resources to address this problem.
- Cllr Michael Delaney called for prompt attention to the river basin to resolve this problem.
- Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick complimented residents in the vicinity of the squash courts for their prompt action to prevent flooding, highlighted scenes he witnessed with children carried through floods and called for urgent action to address the problem.
- Cllr John Brennan acknowledged the work completed by MD's Cathaoirleach and Area Engineer and called for urgent preventative maintenance.

Mr Paraic Butler confirmed he had met with Fisheries, he confirmed Kilkenny County Council can apply for a derogation licence which if approved may take effect during the instream works window in 2026. Mr Butler also confirmed a flood report has been submitted to the OPW which he believes will further strengthen the Council's case for a Flood Relief Scheme.

4. Other business set forth in the Notice convening the Meeting

- **Items submitted by members:**

(a) Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick

i Improved signage and road markings on the Ardaloo Road, Threecastles

ii Safety improvements at Ardaloo Bridge

Cllr Fitzpatrick called for the provision of a continuous white line in a bid to slow traffic. Both Cllrs Cavanagh and McCarthy supported Cllr Fitzpatrick's request. Cllr McCarthy also spoke regarding his meeting with Mr Martin O'Shea, Assistant Engineer with the Castlecomer Area Office earlier in the year and additional road markings provided.

Mr Paraic Butler acknowledged that this road is one of the busiest local primary routes in the County. He confirmed a Low Cost Safety Scheme was rolled out this year which saw increased signage erected on a set of bends on the road which was accident prone. He confirmed he will take the Councillors comments on board and investigate the provision of additional signage at either side of the bends near the Ardaloo Bridge under a Low Cost Safety Scheme.

iii Update from Uisce Éireann on trial tests been carried out in Castlecomer to source a new supply

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick called for Castlecomer and its surrounding areas to be serviced by the Muckalee / Radestown Reservoir, which he advised has provided water to Kilkenny City for over 100 years. Both Cllrs Fitzpatrick and Brennan spoke regarding unacceptable nightly restrictions, the timeframe for delivery of a new supply, development hindered and the poor use of resources the trial testing represents and called for greater pressure on Uisce Éireann from Kilkenny County Council.

Mr Martin Prendiville reminded members that Uisce Éireann had recently attended a Plenary meeting and highlighted the Council no longer have a role with Uisce Éireann but confirmed he will raise the issues raised by members with both the Management Team and Uisce Éireann.

(b) Cllr Michael McCarthy

i That MPC Civil Engineering Ltd be penalised for their lack of communication and inferior work on the ESB Grid Connection works currently underway in Lisdowney Village by the withholding of any further licences

Cllr Michael McCarthy spoke regarding serious concerns with the quality of the work and with people prevented from gaining access to their own private homes. "The inconvenience and lack of communication have been alarming as has some of the reinstatement work. At times when excavation works took place people had no access for vehicles into their own business which is not acceptable and the people of the locality deserve far better. Contractors for the project are Jones Engineering and the company undertaking the work are MPC Civil Engineering Ltd. May I suggest that no more licences are issued until such time as the Area Engineer is fully satisfied that standards are going to improve and that any inferior works are going to be fully completed in a proper manner. Up until now the Area Engineer and his Assistant have been in contact with the contractors on a very regular basis, but I fail to see why they have to oversee the work that this company is carrying out."

The following contributions were also received:

- Cllr Michael Delaney spoke regarding misleading Traffic Management Plans, poor communication and reinstatement works and called for a stop to any more licences until these issues are resolved.
- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh advised she was swamped with calls from residents and road users, she spoke regarding the contractors' apparent lack of respect for road users and cars destroyed and asked that no additional licences be provided until current issues are resolved.
- Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick spoke regarding lack of communication from contractors involved and people stranded in their home and called for permission for the Area Engineer to refuse additional licences until current issues are resolved.

Mr Paraic Butler confirmed the Castlecomer Area Office are inundated with queries, he spoke regarding several meetings with contractors involved. Mr Butler confirmed contractors are aware licences will now be provided on a rolling basis with no more than 6 licences open at any one time. Mr Butler confirmed the Area Office are in negotiation regarding permanent reinstatement which is expected to take place December 2025 and January / February 2026.

ii Uisce Éireann's failure to complete projects for long periods of time

Cllr Michael McCarthy spoke regarding roads and footpaths left in a dangerous condition with bollards often in place for weeks on end as a result of Uisce Eireann's failure to complete works in a timely manner.

Mr Paraic Butler advised of a gap in the process where licences are required for planned works but not for unplanned works. He confirmed the process is being worked on with a draft agreement drafted but he expects final agreement is a number of months away.

5. Notices of Motion

(a) 11(25) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

"That action be taken to make the Tullavolty road from the motorway bridge to the Rathdowney side of the group of houses safer – continuous white line, no overtaking signs, slow down signs etc".

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke on the Notice of Motion and was supported by Cllr Michael McCarthy.

Mr Paraic Butler confirmed he will arrange a safety survey and revert with recommendations.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

None

8. Any other business

(a) Hour of the meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed that the MD would trial a revised hour of the meeting from the current 12 noon to 11.45am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:



Date:

