

MINUTES OF DECEMBER MEETING OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER 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, Martin Mullally & Joe Scully

Cllr John Brennan opened the meeting by welcoming all those present

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer

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

(b) November Meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer

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

2 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Community Update

Michael Delahunty circulated update to the members and information provided was discussed in detail.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:-

- Members acknowledged additional resources and work being undertaken in the area of Community.
- Clarification sought in respect of Rapid funding.
- Cllr Shortall, Cllr Brennan and Cllr Fitzpatrick were unanimous in their praise for the excellent work being undertaken by Fiona McCardy, Social Enterprise Development Worker in Castlecomer. Members queried whether her position could be extended to fulltime to allow her capacity to reach out to other areas.
- Clarification sought whether extension of funding drawdown dates for 2017 Town and Renewal Scheme would impact 2018 funding.

(b) 1918 to 1923 Commemoration Consultation Process

Mary Mulholland outlined that she had met with Brian Tyrrell, Tourism Officer and Francis Coady, Heritage Officer in respect of this item. Discussion document circulated with the agenda was discussed in detail. Mary Mulholland outlined key issues going forward and clarified the various stages of the process.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members were in agreement in respect of significance of commemorating our history.
- Clarification sought in respect of Councillors role.
- Request that documentation received from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht be circulated to the members.
- Reference made to lessons learned in respect of 1916 commemorations.
- Communication with local history societies and historians discussed as integral part of process.
- Request that bringing home steam engine previously used by Kilkenny County Council receive due consideration during commemoration.

(c) Road Works Programme - Progress Report.

Philippe Beubry updated members on progress of public lighting schemes. Members were also advised details of second tranche of funding received under the Local Improvement Scheme and works completed on two laneways.

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 Mary Hilda Cavanagh

(a) Dumping at Whiteswall

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh referred to a recent incident when 24 sacks of rubbish were illegally dumped at Whiteswall and highlighted the need for a camera at the location.

(b) Potholes at Garrydague, Gathabawn

Philippe Beubry to investigate.

(c) Warning signs required in advance of 'Stop Signs' - The Square, Johnstown

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh requested that additional signage be provided similar to those at Tubrid Cross. Philippe Beubry to investigate.

5. Notice of Motion

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

(a) Winter Maintenance Programme

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members acknowledged and thanked Philippe Beubry and staff for the work completed during recent severe weather.
- Members highlighted the need for additional funding to facilitate an expanded Winter Maintenance Programme.
- Cllr Maurice Shortall enquired whether Barrick Hill leading to the Community School in Castlecomer could be included on the P1 / P2 winter maintenance route, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick supported his request.
- Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh raised the issue of funding to tackle treacherous road conditions in Galmoy Area, an issue which has led to school closures.
- Cllr Pat Millea acknowledged work done by farmers who assisted in gritting.
- Cllr John Brennan enquired in respect of the Clogh / Castlecomer route and highlighted expectation from the public in light of taxes paid.
- Philippe Beubry reminded members of the inclusion of the R694 Castlecomer to Ballyragget Road on P1 / P2 route last year and advised members that there is no further capacity to include additional routes. He outlined details of salting completed on P3 routes during recent severe weather, hours of work involved and costs.

8. Any other business

(a) Tenant Handbook

Joe Scully advised that a new Tenant Handbook will issue to all tenants the first week in January and will issue with a covering letter addressed to 'the occupant'. He advised that the current handbook was prepared in 2008 and the purpose of the revised Handbook is to provide greater clarity in respect of tenants / Council's responsibility and therefore allow the Council progress an improved Planned Maintenance Programme. Mary Mulholland and Joe Scully outlined difficulties currently experienced in respect of housing maintenance including volume of calls, a high percentage of which are in respect of tenant's responsibility and persistent callers.

Members complimented Housing Staff for work being undertaken and sought clarification whether a dedicated helpline will be provided to assist tenants for first couple of weeks of implementation of new handbook. A conversation ensued in respect of chimney cleaning. Following a lengthy discussion, agreement was reached that this issue would be brought to the Housing SPC.

Joe Scully was thanked for presentation provided and withdrew from the meeting.

(b) Enterprise Award

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh congratulated Bridget Kearney, La Belle Femme, Kilkenny on winning recent international award.

Cllr John Brennan concluded the business of the meeting by thanking staff and members for their help and co-operation throughout 2017 and wishing all

those present a happy and holy Christmas and health and happiness for the New Year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____