

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 21st OF JANUARY 2019 AT 10.30 AM

In the chair: Cllr Michael McCarthy

Present: John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Pat Fitzpatrick, Patrick Millea and Maurice Shortall

In attendance: Philippe Beubry, Senior Executive Engineer, Michael Delahunty, Meetings Administrator, Nancy Byrne, Municipal District Staff Officer and Mary Mulholland, Director of Services

1. Confirmation of Minutes of :-

(a) December meeting of the Municipal District of Castlecomer

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

2. Reception of Deputation

Reception of deputation from Urlingford Tidy Towns Committee

The deputation was composed of Mairead O'Dwyer, Richard Hayes, Colin Ahern and Olive Kavanagh. An outline of the deputation's submission was circulated in advance of the presentation. Mairead O'Dwyer spoke on behalf of the deputation and provided a detailed and informative presentation under the following categories:

- Community Amenities – vacant and derelict premises
- Roads – main street and approach roads
- Environment
- Signage and footpaths
- Litter
- Public seating and car parks
- Flower beds and weed killing

The deputation concluded by requesting that Kilkenny County Council prepare a Health Check for the town and also that Urlingford would be included in the Council's Town and Village Renewal Programme. The group also set out 5 short term objectives for 2019

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Members commended the deputation for the detailed and informative presentation provided and acknowledged their initiative in the preparation of a strategic plan
- Members assured the deputation of their support to realise the objectives outlined.
- Cllr Cavanagh clarified that the members have no involvement in housing allocations. She also advised of an increased garda presence in Urlingford and detailed her membership on the policing subcommittee for the area.
- Members agreed that undertaking a Health Check was a good option for Urlingford. Funding to support issues identified during the Health Check process was also raised.
- Cllr Shortall sought clarification on the various community groups in the town.

In response to the issues raised, Mary Mulholland advised as follows:-

She outlined details of the Vacant Housing Unit established within the Council and advised that she will list Urlingford for assessment by the Unit in 2019. She confirmed that there is no allocation available to deal with replacement of bins in 2019; however she will liaise with Environment Section to establish whether bins in the town could be emptied on a more appropriate day. She advised that the process for the allocation of housing is defined by statutory regulations. She agreed that a 'Health Check' would be appropriate for Urlingford. She advised that the Town and Village Renewal

Scheme is a competitive process with match funding required from the Community and confirmed that the Community Section is resourced to assist and support Communities with this and other grant applications.

Michael Delahunty advised that a Health Check is an assessment of the town's strengths and challenges. He advised that it involves consultation and input from various sources including the community and traders and welcomed the deputation's proposal for a larger Community Council. He outlined details of a Grants Booklet published by the Council in 2018 and advised that the 2019 edition is due to be published next month. He confirmed that the Community Section is resourced to assist and support Communities with grant applications; he welcomed news of the town's strategic plan.

Philippe Beubry reminded the deputation that there are limited resources available to deal with roads issues which he must spread geographically; however, the footpath outside the Bank of Ireland is a priority and has been included for attention. He also confirmed that he will liaise with Road Design Section in respect of the provision of an age friendly bus shelter.

The deputation withdrew from the meeting.

3. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(a) Broadband

Mary Mulholland confirmed that she had consulted with Steve Coverdale, Broadband Officer who confirmed that there was no further update available from what had been provided at the December meeting. Mary Mulholland also confirmed that she will liaise with the Castlecomer Synergy Network Group in advance of the February meeting.

It was agreed that 'Broadband' would remain on the Municipal District meeting agenda.

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

None

5. Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting.

Items submitted by the members

(a) Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh

(i) Car park for Urlingford.

Cllr Cavanagh highlighted the need for the provision of additional parking spaces in Urlingford to support businesses in the town. She highlighted Urlingford's recovering economy with several new business start ups and the urgent need for adequate parking to support these businesses.

Members were unanimous in their support for Cllr Cavanagh's request. It was agreed that Mary Mulholland and Philippe Beubry would investigate potential sites. Mary Mulholland advised members that most funding streams which could be utilized would require match funding from the Community. Michael Delahunty advised that lack of adequate car parking in towns is an issue which has arisen during a number of the Health Checks which he has undertaken.

(ii) Driver feedback signs for Johnstown and Urlingford.

Cllr Cavanagh requested that the Council undertake a programme to provide a couple of driver feedback signs in the Municipal District each year.

(iii) Pothole filling

Cllr Cavanagh expressed her thanks for the works completed in recent weeks. A number of the other members also voiced their appreciation for works completed.

Cllr Cavanagh took the chair for a short period at Cllr McCarthy's request when he left the room.

(b) Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick

(i) Update on applications for road safety schemes.

Cllr Fitzpatrick requested that works at Murphy's Cross, Goresbridge included under the Low Cost Safety Scheme would proceed as soon as approval is received from the Department. Cllr Fitzpatrick also requested that in future, the Road Works Scheme would be published in the local paper as soon as it is adopted by the members.

Philippe Beubry advised that he expects word back from the Department on the proposed Low Cost Safety Schemes in the next 2/3 weeks. He also confirmed, subject to approval from the Department, that it is his intention to complete this Low Cost Safety Scheme in conjunction with the Restoration Improvement Works adopted by the members for Barrack Street, Goresbridge.

Cllr McCarthy returned to the chair.

(ii) Update on CCTV cameras and data controller.

Mary Mulholland confirmed that this matter has been discussed under the Joint Policing Committee Forum and the Local Authority and the Gardai are in discussions to find a proper solution to the outstanding issues.

(c) Cllr Maurice Shortall

(i) Murphy's Cross, Goresbridge.

Cllr Shortall outlined details of signed petition which he had presented to Tim Butler, Director of Services. He proposed that the Restoration Improvement Works for Barrack Street which are included in the 2019 Restoration Improvement Programme adopted by the members be moved forward and undertaken in conjunction with the Low Cost Safety Scheme at Murphy's Cross, Goresbridge as soon as authorisation is received from the Department. Philippe Beubry confirmed that as soon as authorisation from the Department is received, works on the design will commence and stated that a topographic survey of the junction was currently being carried out by the Roads Design Section. Philippe Beubry also advised that in view of the volume of work involved in the design process he could not give a guarantee on the time the Restoration Improvement and Low Cost Safety Scheme would commence.

(ii) Pedestrian Crossings Castlecomer (2) and Ballyragget.

Philippe Beubry confirmed that TII are dealing with these works and no update has been received.

(iii) Broadband

Dealt with under 3(a).

6. Notices of Motion

None

7. Correspondence

Mary Mulholland outlined details of Part 8 proposed development advertised in the Kilkenny People dated January 18th for the construction of 2 detached bungalows at Shanganny, Jenkinstown and outlined the timeframe for the receipt of submissions.

8. Matters arising from minutes

None

9. Any other business

CLAR Programme 2019

Michael Delahunty reminded the members that the CLAR Scheme will be included on the agenda of the February meeting and asked members to bring forward their proposals. Philippe Beubry confirmed that it is his intention to include the upgrade of flashing lights at schools for funding under the 2019 CLAR Programme. Cllr Shortall requested that Philippe Beubry would provide an indication of the schools which will benefit together with details of costs.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____