

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 15th
DECEMBER 2014 AT 11.30AM**

Chair: Cllr M.H. Cavanagh

Present: Cllrs J Brennan, P Fitzpatrick, M McCarthy, P Millea and M Shortall.

In attendance: P Beubry, Castlecomer Area Engineer
B Mernagh, Senior Engineer
M Delahunty, Meetings Administrator
P O'Neill, Director of Services
N Byrne, Area Staff Officer

1 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of:-

Minutes of Meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District held on 17th of November 2014.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr P Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr M McCarthy and agreed.

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

a) Finance

General Municipal Allocation - Multi Annual Allocation

M Delahunty advised the members that the General Municipal Allocation for 2015 will be €50,000, however, beyond 2015 it is not known how much this allocation will be. PO'Neill recommended that the members wait to see what's coming through from the Roads Budget before making a decision in relation to the GMA. Members expressed the view that if they knew what was the likely allocation over the next five years they could plan a meaningful programme of works. It was agreed that this item would be included for discussion at the Management Team Meeting and also placed on the agenda of the January meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District.

The provision of additional public lighting was discussed. It was agreed that the issue of provision of additional public lighting would be included on the agenda of the January meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District.

b) Roads

Extinguishment of Public Right of Way under Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993.

“That Castlecomer Municipal District hereby approves of the proposal to publish Notice of Extinguishment of the Public Right of Way at the following location:-
Laneway at Corbetstown, Ballyfoyle – Road No LT 58652.

The resolution was proposed by Cllr M Shortall, seconded by Cllr P Fitzpatrick and agreed.

c) Planning & Water Services

Galmoy Mines

- Mine Closure Plan
- Replacement Water Supply Scheme

BMernagh confirmed that Kilkenny County Council had been approached by Galmoy Mines to take over Galmoy Group Water Scheme. Galmoy Mines propose gifting the Group Water Scheme. BMernagh advised that officials from Kilkenny County Council & Laois County Council had met with officials from Irish Water. He advised that Irish Water have agreed to carry out due diligence of the scheme which will comprise two parts, technical and legal. Irish Water will engage consultants to deal with the technical due diligence and this will deal with aspects of the scheme including water treatment and unaccounted for water. Irish Water will deal with the legal due diligence themselves and this will cover aspects of the scheme including way leaves and customer base. Members requested that people adversely affected by the mining process need to be physically contacted under the legal due diligence. They requested that Irish Water consult with local councillors and Council officials as part of their due diligence. PO'Neill advised that Irish Water will be doing a comprehensive overview of the scheme and will be looking at the scheme in all its parts.

The issue of possible future subsidence was raised. Members were advised details of an extensive 30 year monitoring programme in place after closure of the mine. BMernagh advised that this monitoring programme had been fully paid for by Galmoy Mines and had been agreed between the EPA and Galmoy Mines.

Members were advised that closure of the mine is being overseen by a number of agencies including the EPA which are the main agency involved, Department of Communication and Natural Resources, Inland Fisheries & Kilkenny County Council. BMernagh advised that the EPA had described the mine closure as very co-ordinated and a model closure. Clarification was sought in relation to the number of buildings which remain in place at the mine. P O'Neill advised that

Galmoy Mines are in negotiation with a number of agencies in relation to future development at the site of the mine. If permission for these future developments is granted the existing buildings will remain in place and otherwise the buildings will be removed in line with planning permission granted to the mine.

It was agreed that this item would be placed on the agenda for a meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District next Autumn and the members requested that they be given a tour of the mine around that time.

3. Correspondence

Items submitted by members:-

Clr J Brennan

Update on drainage works at Massford

Members requested that in view of usage of this road which includes both local residents and meals on wheels service that re-surfacing of this road be brought forward from 2016 to 2015 on the road works schedule. PBeubry advised that it may be possible to do Phase 1 of these works in 2015 depending on the allocation available under Restoration Improvement.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

Dangerous bends at Barna

The issue of dangerous bends at Barna was raised and PBeubry advised he will arrange to meet the Road Design Engineer at the location in the new year with a view to finding a solution to this problem.

Flooding at Kitty Gannon's

The issue of flooding at Kitty Gannon's was raised and PBeubry advised works at this location will be considered for 2015.

Flooding at Paddy Delaney's, Whiteswall

PBeubry advised that he will investigate the issue with the Overseer for the Area.

Flooding at Chapel Lane, Moneenroe

Members requested that works to resolve flooding at Chapel Lane, Moneenroe be included for attention in 2015

Fix dates for 2015 Annual Meeting (in May or early June 2015)

Members agreed the first Friday in June as the date for holding the Annual Meeting for the Castlecomer Municipal District.

5. Any Other Business

The issue of dealing with sections of roadway with re-curring potholes was raised and members requested that the possibility of re-surfacing small sections of roadway to tackle this problem be examined.

Works at the New Line were discussed and members requested that works on this roadway be brought forward to 2016 in the road works schedule if possible.

A query was raised in relation to roadway at Mary O'Brien's, Rathmoyle as to whether it was a public or private roadway. This issue is to be referred to Seamus Foley, Callan Area Engineer for investigation.

The poor condition of many Eircom poles throughout the area was raised and it was agreed that a letter be sent to Eircom in relation to the problem and it was also suggested that a representative from Eircom would be invited to a future meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District.

The issue of difficulties experienced with Coillte in relation to cutting hedges on their land was discussed.

Members were unanimous in their praise and appreciation for work completed by the staff of the Castlecomer Area Office throughout the year. The meeting concluded by Cllr M H Cavanagh thanking all those present for their hard work and help throughout the year and she wished everybody a healthy, happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____