MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY HALL ON FRIDAY 13TH OF JUNE AT 2.00PM

Chair: M Delahunty, Meetings Administrator (initially)

Cllr M.H. Cavanagh

Present: Cllrs J Brennan, P Fitzpatrick, P Millea,

M Shortall and M McCarthy.

In attendance: P Beubry, Castlecomer Area Engineer,

P O’Neill, Director of Services

T Lauhoff, Thomastown Area Engineer

N Byrne, Castlecomer Area Office

B Tyrrell, Meetings Administrator

A M Walsh, Meetings Administrator

K Hanley, Meetings Administrator

**Vote of Sympathy**

A vote of sympathy was passed by the members in respect of the tragic death of 6 year old Jake Brennan, Kilkenny and the sad and untimely death of Mary Moore, Tullaroan. Members stood in silent prayer as a mark of respect

1. **Election of Cathaoirleach**

M Delahunty welcomed all those present and thanked them for their attendance. Members were introduced to Council officials. M Delahunty acknowledged that today was a historic day for Kilkenny County Council with this being the first meeting of a Municipal District . M Delahunty sought nominations for the position of Cathoirleach. Cllr J Brennan proposed Cllr MH Cavanagh as Cathaoirleach & Cllr P Millea seconded this proposition.

Cllr M Shortall proposed himself as Cathaoirleach. The proposition was not seconded. As there was not any further propositions M Delahunty declared Cllr MH Cavanagh elected as Cathoirleach of the Municipal District of Castlecomer for the period 2014/2015.

Cllr M H Cavanagh then took the position of chair of the meeting. She thanked the members for electing her to the position of Cathaoirleach and advised that she would be honoured to sit as Cathoirleach of the Municipal District of Castlecomer for the year 2014/2015. She advised she had over 40 years consecutive experience as a member of the Local Authority and would endeavour to be as fair as possible to each and every member of the Municipal District. She conveyed a message to the members on behalf of her former colleague and outgoing member of the Ballyragget Electoral Area Committee, Catherine Connery advising that Catherine had considered it a privilege to be a Councillor for 15 years and that she wished the new Municipal Council well for the next 5 years. Cllr M H Cavanagh paid tribute to the work that Catherine Connery had did as a Councillor. She mentioned in particular her contribution to the Ballynaslee Road project, Ballyragget Square works, Sewerage Scheme for Freshford, acquisition of land for the car park at the Freshford Graveyard and her work especially in Conahy, Muckalee, Ballyouskill and Ballyragget. She concluded by wishing her will in her retirement.

1. **Election of Leas Cathaoirleach**

Cllr Cavanagh sought nominations for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach.

Cllr P Fitzpatrick proposed Cllr P Millea and Cllr M McCarthy seconded this proposal. There was not any other propositions. Cllr Cavanagh declared Cllr P Millea elected as Leas Cathaoirleach for the Municipal District of Castlecomer for the period 2014/2015. Cllr P Millea thanked the members for their nomination and advised he looked forward to working with them in the coming year.

1. **Fix date for next and subsequent meetings**

M Delahunty advised that it is envisaged that, in time, the Municipal Districts will become the main forum for business of the Council. He stated that it has its own statutory powers and functions unlike the previous Area Committee. It was recommended that the Municipal District meet monthly and should members wish to hold special or other meetings it may do so. The third Monday of the month was suggested in line with meetings of the Plenary Council. There then followed a discussion as to whether or not there is a need for monthly meetings. The discussion focussed on the Municipal Districts statutory powers, its budgetary allocations, and the range of business of the Municipal District. Members were advised the budget for the Municipal District will be over and above the traditional roads budget, however, the exact details were as yet unclear. M Prendiville, Head of Finance is examining this area and will be available for the July meeting of the Plenary Council to make a presentation to the members outlining various budgetary changes. P O’Neill confirmed a budget meeting of the Plenary Council with still take place. Members were advised that the status quo will apply for budgets for 2014 and that Philippe Beubry, Tony Lauhoff & Seamus Foley will attend meetings of the Municipal District of Castlecomer this year because three areas impinge on the new Municipal District. Clarification was sought as to the status of the multi-annual roads programme agreed up to 2016. P Beubry provided members elected since the adoption of the multi-annual roads programme with a copy of the agreed works.

Agreement was reached by the members to meet on the third Monday of July the 21st at 11am and the matter would then be reviewed.

4 **Draft Standing Orders**

A copy of the Draft Standing Orders had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting. M Delahunty advised members that these Draft Standing Orders were similar to those of the Municipal Districts of Kilkenny & Piltown with very little deviation from the main body of Council standing orders. It was agreed that members will consider the draft and discuss & decide on the Standing Orders at the July meeting.

5 **Role of Municipal District members**

M Delahunty gave a presentation to the members on the role and functions of the Municipal District of Castlecomer including its statutory functions, those of the plenary Council and those which may be delegated by Council. He also referred to the enlarged geographical Area of the District and gave a brief update on the local government reforms to date, including the Organisational reforms.

Members sought clarification as to whether somebody from the Finance Department and other Department such as Housing will be delegated to attend meetings of the Municipal District. M Delahunty clarified that the monthly meetings will be fully supported by, Mr P O’Neill, Director of Services who will provide management oversight, himself as , Meetings Administrator for the Area , Mr P Beubry, Castlecomer Area Engineer and until the Engineering Areas are aligned to the Municipal District areas both the Senior Executive Engineers S Foley & T Lauhoff and other appropriate staff where an issue requires it.

6 **Training date to note**

M Delahunty reminded members of the need to inform Anne Delaney Training Officer of their attendance at the training scheduled for members of the new Municipal Districts in Cork on Thursday 26th of June . The issue of our Chief Executive’s informal leaving function clashing with training date was discussed. It was noted that at the close of the Council meeting in June there will be an opportunity for Council to acknowledge the County Managers contribution to Kilkenny . It was agreed that that Cllr P Millea, Cathoirleach of the Plenary Council would discuss with the Chief Executive the possibility of holding an additional informal function after meeting of 23rdof June.

7 **Any Other Business**

Agenda for Next Meeting.

Members were reminded that any proposals, notices of motions and other queries should be forwarded to reps.comer.ie.

It was agreed members would be furnished with appropriate email addresses for all other Area Offices and Departments to which representations relevant to that area/department should be submitted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.