**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 18th APRIL 2016 AT 11.30AM**

**Chair: Cllr P Millea**

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

**Officials: P Beubry, M Delahunty, M Mulholland, N Byrne, A M Walshe,**

**M Mullally, D Murphy, & R Ryan.**

**Apologies: Cllr M H Cavanagh.**

**Vote of Sympathy**

**A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:**

Cllr M H Cavanagh on the recent death of her sister, Frances Molloy.

Nancy Byrne on the recent death of her father in law, Jackie Fogarty.

1. **Confirmation of Minutes of :-**

**March Meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District held on 21st March 2016**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr P Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr J Brennan and agreed.

1. **Reception of Deputation:-**

**Castlecomer Development Association**

Cllr M Shortall and Cllr P Fitzpatrick conveyed apologies on behalf of the deputation who were unable to attend at today’s meeting. It was agreed that the deputation would instead be received at the June meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District.

1. **Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Council for transaction at such meeting.**
2. **Roads - Speed Limit Review**

DMuphy circulated to the members report outlining history and status of Speed Limit Review in Kilkenny. Key examples of changes to speed limit signage were discussed including rural speed limit signs and introduction of the new slow zone sign for housing estates. Success and cost of the driver feed back sign were discussed and DMurphy confirmed bye laws are not required for the provision of these signs. Possibility of inclusion of speed cameras on driver feed back signs was discussed. Details of pre draft consultation carried out between Oct – Dec 2015 and submissions received were discussed. Timelines associated with review were discussed. It was agreed that a specific meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District was warranted to deal with this item. Members agreed that this item would be dealt with at the May meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District and that the meeting would have a one item agenda after minutes. It was also agreed that the gardai would be invited to attend the meeting, the meeting would be held in committee and would commence at 11am.

DMurphy was thanked for detailed and informative report provided.

1. **Planning**

AMWalshe circulated to the members quarterly update on taking in charge of estates in the Castlecomer Municipal District . The report was discussed in detail and a number of issues raised. Clarification was sought in respect of works which will be completed after claim on bond at Glenvale and also AMWalshe clarified that if progress is not achieved in respect of Haven Court that a claim will be made on the bond.

AMWalshe was commended for work completed, in particular with regard to Haven Court. AMWalshe then withdrew from the meeting.

1. **Housing**

MMullally circulated to the members progress report on Housing Strategy 2015 – 2017. Details of the various Capital Schemes to be delivered were outlined and discussed in detail. He advised that there are 18 housing units at design stage for Donaguile, Castlecomer and it is hoped to go to Part 8 with these in September / October 2016. Members requested that tenants needs be adequately addressed when these properties are at design stage and scenario of retro fitting at a later stage be avoided. MMullally acknowledged what was being requested but also highlighted the need for housing applicants to bring to the attention of Housing Department changing needs if they occur. Members were also notified of two rural cottages at Barna & Graigueswood.

Details of allocations sought from the Department for the various Capital Schemes were outlined and discussed. MMullally advised that it is common not to have received allocation from the Department until after the first quarter. He advised that a holding letter had been received from the Department in respect of retrofitting allocation which allows the Local Authority to spend 50% of 2015 allocation. He advised that retrofitting works are currently proceeding. Difficulties associated with commencing works on the basis of holding letter received from the Department and then final allocation falling short of what was sought were discussed. Importance of having schemes shovel ready when allocation is received from the Department was raised by the members. MMullally advised that it is their intention to have schemes shovel ready when allocation is received and members were notified of additional staff resources in this area.

Members queried whether there is a priority list for extensions . MMullally advised that applications for extensions are prioritised and may have to be re-assessed based on allocation received. He advised that 6 of the 19 applications for extensions are in the Castlecomer Municipal District area.

Clarification was sought as to the difference between HAP and RAS . MMullally outlined key differences between the two schemes and advised that from 2016 RAS is being phased out and will be replaced by the HAP Scheme as a Housing Support option.

Disability Grants and the possibility of inclusion of claw back clause on grants provided were discussed. MMullally to investigate and revert to the members. Kilkenny’s Disability Strategy was discussed and MMullally advised of difficulties being experienced by the local authority as a result of competing for accommodation following the de-congregation of a number of units in St Patrick’s Centre.

MMullally updated members on status of homelessness in the county and advised that a key challenge going forward is scarcity of accommodation. Cllr PMillea advised that he would envisage a huge concentration on homelessness when a new Government comes to power . Members urged that the Local Authority would be pro active and have a 5 year plan prepared and schemes shovel ready in advance of any notification from the Department.

An update was also provided for the members in respect of HNA 2016, housing demand and the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

MMullally advised that resources are divided based on need and not on Municipal District

MMullally was thanked for informative report provided and withdrew from the meeting.

1. **Environment - Temporary Signage Licences**

NByrne circulated details of Kilkenny County Council’s policy with regard to the erection of temporary signage. PBeubry reminded members of procedure to be adhered to with regard to the erection of temporary signage and asked members to relay this information to relevant groups. PBeubry highlighted issue of the number of temporary signs being erected without licence from the local authority and also size of licences being erected. He advised that the size of sign permissible under licence from the local authority is 1.2m2. MMulholland advised that she takes on board problem raised and will arrange some publicity. Increased enforcement was also discussed.

1. **Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting**

**Items submitted by members:-**

**Cllr J Brennan**

1. **Damage to wall in Coon Village.**

PBeubry advised that he had sought a Gateway participant with masonry skills with this job in mind but had no success. He advised that he has now arranged to meet a contractor in respect of the job as Health and Safety issues render the job unsuitable for completion by Kilkenny County Council. It was confirmed that the wall will be completed using the old stone. Possibility of completing the wall to compliment previous works was raised and PBeuby advised that he will consider for inclusion in next year’s road works programme.

1. **Traffic Calming measures at Deerpark, Castlecomer**.

PBeubry advised that he had included traffic calming measures at Deerpark in Low Cost proposals for 2016 but didn’t receive funding. He advised that he will consider for inclusion in 2017 Road Works Programme. Possibility of driver feedback sign and ramps were also discussed. PBeubry advised that it is not Council policy to provide ramps on regional roads.

1. **Traffic Calming measures at Johnswell Village.**

PBeubry advised that €40,000 had been provided in 2016 Road Works Programme with a view to removing high bank on approach road and improve visibility. He advised that he had spoken to local residents and no issue was raised regarding traffic calming at the school.

1. **Repairs to footpath in Clogh Village.**

PBeubry acknowledged the footpath had deteriorated and estimated that it was in place approximately 15 years. He advised that these works will be considered for inclusion in the next road works programme.

1. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

MMulholland raised an issue in respect of suspected raw sewerage visible on site at Togher Way. She advised that investigation completed by Environment and Water Services had confirmed that what was visible was pools of stagnant water and not sewerage.

1. **Any Other Business**
2. **Community & Estate Management Newsletter**

RRyan provided a presentation on recently published Estate Management and Community Information Interactive E Newsletter . He advised that the news letter is an 80 page document which incorporates links and videos to relevant community information and will provide a one stop shop for all relevant community information including grants, application forms, community structures, advice, good news stories etc. RRyan advised that it is planned to use this platform to present interactive information going forward and post 2 comprehensive E newsletters to the Kilkenny County Council website per annum, one in the Spring and the second in the Autumn. The E newsletter was deemed by members to be another step forward for Community Groups.

Members thanked RRyan for presentation provided and acknowledged work that had been achieved. RRyan was commended in particular for work which had been achieved at Church Avenue, Castlecomer.

RRyan then withdrew from the meeting.

1. **Sign on the approach to Coolbawn not working**

PBeubry advised that Elmores have been notified.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_