

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD VIA MS TEAMS ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022 AT 11.00AM**

**In the chair:** Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick

**Present:** Cllrs John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney, Denis Hynes and Michael McCarthy

**In attendance:** Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Philippe Beubry, Ms Nancy Byrne, Mr Michael Leahy and Mr Alan Hyland

**Vote of Sympathy**

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick opened the meeting by paying tribute to Ms Ashling Murphy whose life was tragically and brutally cut short on Wednesday evening last, the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2022, whilst out exercising at the Grand Canal, Tullamore. Cllr Fitzpatrick paid tribute to Ashling's family for the dignity with which they held themselves during the past days. Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh spoke of the need for a sea of change in culture and attitude in our society to tackle violence against women. Members joined with the previous speakers in expressing their condolences to the family and friends of Ms Ashling Murphy and the need for cultural and social changes in attitudes to ensure women feel safe.

It was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed by all to adjourn the meeting for 5 minutes as a mark of respect to the late Ms Ashling Murphy.

**Congratulations**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh congratulated Mr Martin Prendiville on his son's success lining out with the Kilkenny hurling team at the weekend.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of :**

**(a) December Ordinary Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr John Brennan and agreed.

**2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:**

**(a) Broadband**

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick acknowledged that an update on Broadband is due to be provided at the next meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District which is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022.

**(b) Taking in Charge – update**

Mr Alan Hyland presented an update on taking in charge. Mr Hyland confirmed that the Council currently has a total of 31 taking in charge applications, five of which are in the Castlecomer MD and updated members on the 5 applications as follows:

- **The Paddocks, Gowran**

Mr Hyland confirmed; reports from the various service areas have been received; the Planning Authority are in receipt of the bond money and a recommendation for approval to initiate proceedings for the TIC of this estate is due before the Council at today's Plenary meeting.

- **Whitehall, Paulstown**

Mr Hyland confirmed the target date for the initiation stage is Q3, 2022 and the final TIC date will be developer dependent.

- **Ogenty, Gowran**

Mr Hyland confirmed the target date for the initiation stage is Q4, 2022 and final TIC target date Q1, 2023.

- **Abhainn Rí, Kilmanagh**

Mr Hyland confirmed that works are underway by the Castlecomer Area Office to resolve water gullies incorrectly connected to the Waste Water System in the estate. Mr Hyland also provided details of road works planned for the Estate. Mr Hyland confirmed that the target date for the initiation stage and TIC remains to be confirmed and he will update members when additional information becomes available.

- **9 houses at Moneenroe**

Mr Hyland confirmed that a target date for the initiation stage and TIC remains to be confirmed and he will update members when additional information is available.

Mr Alan Hyland also provided an update on estates TIC in 2021 as follows:

- **The Green, Ballyfoyle**

Mr Hyland provided an update on electrical and de-sludging work in progress at the Estate.

- **Haven Court, Ballyragget**

Mr Philippe Beubry provided details of remedial works completed in December 2021 to resolve a problem with a waste water connection for 1 house in the estate. Mr Beubry confirmed that preparation works for re-surfacing of the estate is complete and re-surfacing is scheduled for completion in March 2022.

Members raised the following queries / observations:

- Mr Alan Hyland was thanked for the presentation provided and members acknowledged the great progress achieved by Ms Úna Kealy and Mr Alan Hyland in bringing forward the TIC of these Estates and also acknowledged the onerous work involved.
- The improved Health and Safety of residents as a result of progress achieved with TIC was acknowledged.
- Cllr Denis Hynes sought an update on Choill Rua, Paulstown TIC

3. **Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District for transaction at such meeting.**

None

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

None

5. **Notices of Motion**

None

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Matters arising from minutes**

None

8. **Any other business**

(a) **Meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)**

**Nomination of two members of the MD to attend meeting**

It was proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy that Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick and one other member would attend. Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh seconded Cllr McCarthy's proposal and nominated Cllr John Brennan as second attendee. Cllr Brennan accepted the nomination and proposed Cllr Michael McCarthy as a substitute attendee, if required.

**(b) Moneenroe – Near flooding incident on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick and Cllr John Brennan acknowledged the work completed by Mr John Shortall and Mr Philippe Beubry and Council crew to prevent the near flooding of a property at Moneenroe on the 15<sup>th</sup> January last and requested that their appreciation be conveyed to the staff involved.

**(c) Bottle Banks – Christmas holiday period**

Cllr Michael McCarthy acknowledged the work completed by the Environment Team to successfully manage the high usage of bottle banks during the Christmas holiday period.

**(d) Goul Drainage Committee**

Cllr Michael McCarthy advised that he had been contacted by a colleague from Tipperary County Council seeking the Municipal Districts support for the re-establishment of the Goul Drainage Committee. It was proposed by Cllr McCarthy and seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick that a letter would be sent to Laois and Tipperary County Council confirming the members support for the re-establishment of the Goul Drainage Committee and a letter would also issue to the Department seeking their approval for the re-establishment of the Goul Drainage Committee. Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh recommended that if formal approval is not received from the Department an ad hoc Committee would be established and meet twice yearly.

**(e) Road Sweeper – Castlecomer South East Area**

Cllr Denis Hynes enquired if funding was available for the provision of a road sweeper for the Castlecomer South East Area. Mr Philippe Beubry outlined details of the sweeper rota which is provided from the Machinery Yard and also outlined details of services provided by the General Services Supervisor and crew in Towns and Villages. It was agreed that this was an issue to be examined during Budget preparation.

**(f) Private Septic Tanks**

It was proposed by Cllr John Brennan, seconded by Cllr Michael McCarthy and agreed that a letter be sent to the Department seeking a substantial increase in grant funding for the upgrade of private septic tanks.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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

*Pat Fitzpatrick*  
21/2/22

