

MINUTES OF THE CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER AT 12 NOON IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY

In the Chair: Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick
Present: Cllrs John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael McCarthy (remotely), Michael Delaney and Maurice Shortall
In attendance: Mr Paraic Butler, Mr Martin Prendiville, Mr Michael Leahy, Ms Nancy Byrne & Mr Brendan Sheahan

Vote of Sympathy

Members extended a Vote of Sympathy to the family of the late Mr Patrick Gerard Murphy, former Councillor with Cork County Council

Announcements:

- Members congratulated Mr Paraic Butler and his wife Jess on the birth of their son.
- Cllr Michael McCarthy sent best wishes to Ms Clodagh Brennan, Castlecomer Area Office and her partner Kieran for their upcoming wedding.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of:

(a) Ordinary meeting held 21st July 2025

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

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

(a) Active Travel

Mr Brendan Sheehan provided a presentation to members, he spoke regarding:

- Modal shift to Active Travel
- Department of Transport Funding through the National Transport Authority - €3m per year Active Travel funding received from which staff costs are also paid.
- Work undertaken under the Safe Routes to School Programme to encourage as many students as possible in primary and post-primary to walk cycle and wheel.
- City versus County with much of the funding going to larger urban Areas but also specific allocations for rural regions.
- Greater focus on pedestrians and the importance of public transport more to the fore.
- The NTA have made money available for the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme due to be rolled out over 2025 & 2026 with a €500k allocation per year.
- Opportunities to encourage and assist Active Travel going forward were outlined including:
- An example of junction cross tightening works provided for improved pedestrian safety.
- Works completed at Goresbridge bridge were highlighted.
- Pedestrian measures including crossing points at key locations and details of ramped crossings provided at lower costs.
- Permeability measures – short cuts which facilitate leaving the car at home for short urban trips, Community leadership often required and easier to provide at Planning stage.
- Mr Sheehan confirmed a programme of works will be agreed for 2026 in consultation with the MD Engineer.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Cllr Fitzpatrick welcomed the inclusion of Johnstown for Active Travel works in 2026 and asked that the MD would receive an annual update from Active Travel.

- Cllr Cavanagh spoke regarding the need for greater awareness of other road users and suggested this should form part of driving tests. Cllr Cavanagh also spoke regarding congestion at schools, County Hall and St Luke's Hospital and asked what measure could be taken to improve this issue.
- Cllr Brennan spoke regarding the impact of speeding through our Villages, welcomed the provision of ramped crossings at reduced costs and asked that every effort be made to agree a suitable location for the bus shelter in Clogh and source the necessary funding.
- Cllr Shortall spoke regarding the need for wheelchair access in Oakhill Housing Estate and also the need for additional parking at the Creche in this estate. Cllr Shortall acknowledged the bus service operating between Clogh and Carlow but highlighted the urgent need for a bus shelter in Clogh.
- Cllr Delaney spoke regarding difficulties associated with ramped crossings for the visually impaired and also highlighted the need for attention to school congestion in Tullaroan.

(b) Housing – Anti Social Behaviour

It was agreed this item would be deferred to the October MD meeting as Mr Ian Gardner was not available to attend the September meeting. Members clarified that they required an update on compliance with the tenancy handbook and tenancy management.

Contributions were received from the members as follows:

- Cllr Cavanagh spoke regarding the need to get social housing into our Rural Villages.
- Cllr Fitzpatrick acknowledged the reduction in the Council's housing list.
- Cllr Brennan spoke regarding availability of an appropriate landbank and the necessary infrastructure.
- Cllrs Shortall and Delaney spoke regarding the need to tackle tenant's anti-social behaviour.

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

(a) Items submitted by members:

- Cllr Maurice Shortall

(i) Now that the hedge cutting season has reopened, can we put pressure on the landowners who haven't been compliant over the last year leaving road users in dangerous situations.

- Cllr Shortall identified two locations in need of attention – The Old Ballyragget Road and Chapel Lane, Moneenroe.
- Cllr Cavanagh spoke regarding overgrown hedges in Whiteswall.

(ii) Dangerous and overhanging ESB & Eir poles and wires

Cllrs Fitzpatrick and Brennan spoke regarding dangerous and overhanging ESB & Eir poles and wires and requested that the Chief Executive raise the matter with the CCMA.

Mr Martin Prendiville highlighted that a letter had issued from the Municipal District on the matter.

5. Notices of Motion

7(25) Cllrs Maurice Shortall and Pat Fitzpatrick

"That the two bus bays be removed on Kilkenny Street, Castlecomer to allow extra parking for the new amalgamation of the primary schools in Castlecomer. All Castlecomer buses now go via Ballyragget and the bus bays are no longer needed."

CLRs Shortall and Fitzpatrick spoke on the Notice of Motion. CLr Shortall enquired whether the bus stop at Kilkenny Street could be relocated, CLr Fitzpatrick enquired regarding the possibility of on-site parking at Core College.

CLr Brennan asked that an investigation of parking arrangements in Castlecomer be completed with a view to providing off street parking.

Mr Paraic Butler acknowledged parking on Kilkenny Street had gotten worse, he provided details of recently completed works by TII, confirmed repainting will be completed and advised he will pursue Active Travel for additional money to provide a new bus stop but would be reluctant to relocate the existing bus stop in case of new routes.

8(25) CLRs Pat Fitzpatrick, Maurice Shortall and John Brennan

"That Kilkenny County Council ask TII and An Garda Siochana to carry out a review of the existing speed limit on the N78 at Ballyhemmin and including Ballycomey past the GAA Grounds with a view to reducing it."

CLRs Fitzpatrick, Shortall, Brennan and Cavanagh spoke on the Notice of Motion and asked that this issue be fast tracked.

Mr Paraic Butler clarified that the new speed limit will not now be rolled out by TII but by the Local Authority.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Matters arising from minutes

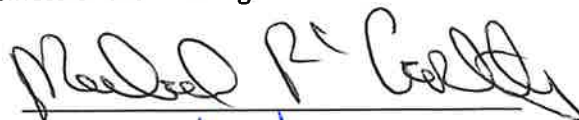
None

8. Any other business

None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Chairperson:



Date:

20/10/25

