**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CASTLECOMER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2016 AT 10.00AM**

**Chair: Cllr P Millea**

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

**In attendance: P Beubry, Castlecomer Area Engineer**

**M Delahunty, Meetings Administrator**

**M Mulholland, Director of Services**

**N Byrne, Area Staff Officer**

**AM Walshe, Senior Executive Officer**

**MMullally, Senior Executive Officer**

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

December MeetingofCastlecomer Municipal District held on 21st December 2015.

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

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

**3 Year Restoration Improvement Plan**

PBeubry circulated proposals for 3 year restoration plan. He advised that the plan is based on receiving the same allocation as 2015 and confirmed that the money spent in the 4 sub areas is equal. Members raised concern with regard to where a number of roads were included under the plan, in particular the LS 5856 Newline, Ballycomey and the LP 1826 Crutt and PBeubry dealt with queries which arose. P. Beubry advised the condition of the roads contained in the plan will be reviewed over the duration of the R.I Programme and that some roads might be brought forward in the programme if their condition deteriorated further. PBeubry and staff of the Castlecomer Area Office were thanked for work completed to compile this comprehensive plan.

The 3 year Restoration Improvement Plan was proposed by Cllr M H Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr M McCarthy and passed.

1. **Housing**

**Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme**

MMullally provided a detailed presentation to the members in respect of the new Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme. The presentation provided details of parameters of the scheme, criteria for eligibility, how the discounts apply, reckonable income, calculation of purchase price, types of houses for sale and key differences between this scheme and the old tenant purchase scheme. MMullally advised that there are two phases to eligibility under the scheme, the applicant must be eligible for both the ITPS and also eligible to take out a loan. He advised that application forms will be available this week and the scheme will be advertised in the Kilkenny People and on the Council’s website. Members expressed a number of misgivings in respect of the new scheme, in particular with regard to properties excluded for sale and income disregards. It was agreed MMullally would raise with the Department the inclusion of disability allowance under income disregards.

MMullally was thanked for a detailed and informative presentation and withdrew from the meeting.

1. **Planning**

**Housing developments / unfinished developments**

AM Walsh circulated a list of all housing developments constructed since 2000 in the Castlecomer Municipal District and updated members as to their current status under the taking in charge process. She advised that the Department had recently announced a €10m allocation to assist taking in charge across the country but wasn’t sure yet what allocation Kilkenny County Council would receive. AM Walsh highlighted an issue which has arisen at Haven Court where there has been no engagement from developer and Kilkenny County Council have to issue enforcement proceedings for the provision of public lighting in the interest of Health and Safety. She clarified that Haven Court and Brook Haven Nursing Home will need to have separate ESB connections. The issue in Abbey Grove, Gowran is the developer provided pumping station which will not be taken over by Irish Water. Kilkenny County Council may have to take responsibility for energy bills associated with pumping stations and a budget provision will be needed. She advised that this is an issue which needs to be formalised going forward for the organisation.

AM Walsh was thanked for the information provided and withdrew from the meeting.

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

**Items submitted by members:-**

**Cllr M H Cavanagh:**

* Repairs to the L5625 at Clomantagh
* Road at Grangefertagh Lane
* Subsidence at Castletown Hill
* Potholes at end of Castletown Hill and towards the Laois bounds on R435
* Water flowing off road into the home of Sylvia McNamara and Padraig Tully at Garrylaun
* Flooding at Moneynamuck
* Flooding on Tonereke Lane
* Residents query re protecting area outside their boundary wall where cars are speeding.
* Flooding at shed at Quinlan’s, Tullavolty in times of heavy rain.

Cllr MH Cavanagh advised that she was aware work had been completed in respect of almost all these items raised. In relation to residents query regarding protecting area outside their boundary wall where cars are speeding, PBeubry clarified that as provided for in planning permissions, residents are entitled to place row of delineators outside their boundary wall.

**Cllr M Shortall**

* Flooding at Parksgrove, Ballyragget

PBeubry advised that an application for funding is to be lodged with the OPW.

* Road Deterioration.

Cllr M Shortall confirmed that the issue had already been dealt with.

* Discretionary Funding.

PBeubry advised that he expects to receive details of the breakdown of the Discretionary Grant & KCC own funding available to the Castlecomer Municipal District for 2016 from Simon Walton this week or next.

1. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

No items were raised.

1. **Any Other Business**

**Galmoy / Lundin Mine**

M Mulholland notified members that on Friday evening last confirmation was received from Irish Water that a letter to customer on the Galmoy Rural Water Supply Scheme is imminent from Lundin Mining. The letter will notify customers that the Mine will cease ownership of the scheme from 31st May 2016. Cllr M H Cavanagh expressed disappointment that customers were being notified of the change in this manner instead of a personal call to each customer on the scheme.

A conversation ensued in relation to the lack of a comprehensive customer base. MMulholland advised that the emphasis between Lundin Mine and Irish Water is for the asset to be transferred without interruption to the water supply. However, she confirmed that Kilkenny County Council remain very concerned in respect of the transfer. She advised that the €2.2m held in the mine closure fund will stay in the fund until all issues associated with the transfer of the asset are resolved.

Members agreed that a Special Meeting would be accommodated, if required to deal with this issue. It was also agreed that this item would be included on the agenda of the March meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District.

**Footpath and Traffic Calming at Thomastown Road, Gowran**

Cllr M H Cavanagh requested written response to edirect sent on the issue. PBeubry advised details of €40,000 allocation in respect of Gowran Village.

**Coakley’s Bend**

PBeubry advised that he had discussed this matter with SWalton who advised that the figures being sought for compensation were unreasonable. Members intimated that in light of near accident involving a family member, Mr Coakley’s request for compensation may have changed. PBeubry to discuss again with SWalton.

**Additional Funding sought from the Department in respect of flooding**

PBeubry confirmed that KCC is waiting for notification of funding allocation from the Department. Members expressed their thanks to all staff attached to the Castlecomer Area Office for work completed during heavy flooding.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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