**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2014 AT 11AM**

Chair: Cllr M.H. Cavanagh

Present: Cllrs P Fitzpatrick, M McCarthy, P Millea and M Shortall.

In attendance: P Beubry, Castlecomer Area Engineer

 B Mernagh, Senior Engineer

 M Delahunty, Meetings Administrator

P O’Neill, Director of Services

 N Byrne, Area Staff Officer

Apologies: S Foley, Callan Area Engineer

 T Lauhoff, Thomastown Area Engineer

1 **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of:-**

 **Minutes of Meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District held on 22nd of September 2014.**

 The minutes were proposed by Cllr P Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr M

 McCarthy and agreed.

 **Minutes of Budget Meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District held on 10th of October 2014.**

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

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

1. **Finance**

 **Abolition of Goul Drainage Committee and status of money remaining in Committee budget.**

M Delahunty advised members that there is over €86,000 remaining in the

 Goul Drainage Committee budget and advised that this money would have

 been paid by the 3 Authorities involved, Kilkenny County Council, Laois

 County Council and Tipperary South Riding on a pro rata basis. He advised that the functions of the Committee will be dissolved with effect from January 2015 and money remaining in the budget will be returned to the 3 authorities on the same pro rata basis. He advised that there is a figure of €55,800 minus auditor’s fees due to be paid back to Kilkenny County Council. General agreement was reached that this money would be ring fenced for future Goul Drainage Works. Members requested that the stretch of river near Brian Nicholson’s, Tullavolty receive attention in 2015. It was acknowledged that future spending from this budget will be a matter to be determined by the members of Castlecomer Municipal District.

Members expressed their thanks to all those involved in the Goul Drainage Committee for their work over the years.

**b**) **Water Services**

**Galmoy Mines – Replacement Water Supply – Update**

BMernagh confirmed that a request had been received in late September from Lundig Mining to take Galmoy Group Water Scheme in charge. He advised that the mine had provided details of in excess of 100 consumers utilising this Scheme. He advised that a meeting has been arranged with Irish Water on the matter and confirmed that talks with Irish Water were at a very early stage. BMernagh acknowledged that the Mine are going through their closure process and take over of the Group Water Scheme forms part of this process. Both BMernagh & PO’Neill confirmed that they will be outlining the full history of the Group Water Scheme to Irish Water and will bring forward all concerns raised by the members to Irish Water. Members expressed concern that KCC would remain involved in this process and that all those whose water supply had been adversely affected by the mining process would be fairly treated.

**c) Roads**

**Review of flooding locations**

A report was circulated to the members in respect of the Thomastown and Callan Engineering Area that is to be incorporated into the Castlecomer Municipal District and apologies from Tony Lauhoff & Seamus Foley, Area Engineers noted. PBeubry circulated a report to the members updating them on status of 12 major flooding locations within the Castlecomer Engineering Area. Flooding problems were also discussed at other locations including Crosspatrick Road opposite Kitty Gannon’s, near Paddy Delaney’s, Whiteswall, on the Kilkenny to Freshford Road at Dillon’s, on the N77 at Grove Terrace, on the LP1831 at Cloneen and at the end of Chapel Lane, Massford. The Castlecomer Area Officer were complimented and thanked for works completed to resolve flooding at Moate Road and Kilkieran.

1. **Correspondence**

 **Items submitted by members:-**

 **Cllr M H Cavanagh**

**Request for introduction of one way system at Old Bridge Street, Freshford**

The possibility of introducing a one way system at Old Bridge Street, Freshford was discussed and a number of concerns were raised including:

* Implications for bus service which currently travels this route
* Traffic congestion on the days of GAA matches in Freshford
* Need to facilitate the volume of traffic coming from the Kilmanagh / Tullaroan direction

PBeubry advised that he has a meeting arranged with FStaffford, Road Design Section on Wednesday next, the 19th to examine this issue.

**Safety on Canal Road/Foulkscourt, Johnstown on bends between Whitfords and Currans**

Cllr M H Cavanagh identified the location to PBeubry and requested that the muck be scraped off the side of the road to provide pedestrians with a safe place to walk.

1. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

Cllr M H Cavanagh raised an issue from previous meeting in relation to comment made about unanswered phones. She apologised if any offence had been taken from her comment and confirmed this was not her intention and that she had nothing but the utmost respect for all staff of Kilkenny County Council.

Clarification was sought as to whether €20,000 committed to Castlecomer Discovery Park had been paid to the Park and members were advised this money had been paid.

Members sought clarification as to who decides how the €50,000 General Municipal Allocation is spent and MDelahunty confirmed that this is a matter for the members of the Municipal District to decide. He highlighted the importance of this budgetary role for Municipal Districts and advised members that this role forms a key part of the foundation of Municipal Districts. A preference for a multi annual allocation was discussed by the members. PO’Neill recommended that members wait until after the Council budget is determined and see what’s coming through from the Roads Budget before making a decision in relation to the General Municipal Allocation. It was agreed that the possibility of multi annual allocation would be raised at Budget Meeting scheduled for later in the afternoon and that this item would be placed on the agenda of the December meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District.

1. **Any Other Business**

Members agreed that future meetings of Castlecomer Municipal District would be held at 11.30am instead of the current time of 11am.

Cllr M Shortall requested that a deputation from Ballyragget Playground / Heritage Group be invited to a meeting of the Castlecomer Municipal District in the New Year. It was agreed that the deputation would be invited to the January meeting of Castlecomer Municipal District for 11.35am.

Current location of bottle banks in Freshford was discussed and PBeubry confirmed that these bottle banks will be returned to their original location as soon as development works are completed.

Members expressed a vote of sympathy to Sean & Joan Fitzpatrick on the recent death of Sean’s brother.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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