

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the July Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 24th June 2013 at 2.00 p.m

- Present: Councillor M. Abbey, Cathaoirleach
Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor W. Fennell,
Councillor D. Foley,
Councillor F. Hunter
Councillor D. Hurley
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor W. Lacey
Councillor A. McDonald,
Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor,
Councillor C. Murphy,
Councillor J. Murphy,
Councillor T. O'Neill
Councillor P. O'Toole
Councillor J. Pender,
Councillor W. Quinn.
Councillor C. Townsend,
Councillor J. Townsend,
- Apologies: Councillor W. Paton
- In attendance: Mr. T. Barry, County Manager
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Service - Environment, Water
Services & Health and Safety.
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service - Community and
Enterprise, Economic Development & Corporate Services.
Mr. D. McInerney, Director of Services
Transportation & Safety & Emergency Services.
Ms. A Oakes, Acting /Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services

Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to:-

- Jane Flynn, Planning Dept on the death of her mother Mrs. Lizzy Ann Nolan, Main Street, Ballon
- Kathleen Jordan and Family, Skahanrane, Ballinkillen, Carlow on the death of her husband Pat
- Martin Long, Closutton, Bagenalstown, Carlow on the death of his brother Seamus Long.
- Deirdre Brennan and Family, Strawhall Villas, Athy Road, Carlow on the death of her husband Joe.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

The Members expressed votes of congratulations to:-

- Carlow Community Games and all who qualified for national finals in August. Members congratulated Councillor Fennell's daughter on her success in the Community Games.
- All involved with the success of Relay for Life 2013.
- 3rd Carlow Borris Scout Troop on celebrating their 30th anniversary.
- Gaelcholaiste, Ceatharlach on representing Ireland at Hickstead in Schools Equestrian Event.
- Carlow U/21 hurlers on their success in the quarter final of the Leinster U/21 Hurling Championship and wished them well against Wexford in the next round of the Championship.
- Clonegal on representing Ireland in the village category of the 2013 European Entente Florale Competition.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (a) Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor D. Foley**

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday, 10th June, at 2.15p.m having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

2. CIRCULARS

There were no circulars

3. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUE, STANDING ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

(a) Taking- in- Charge of roads and services at Brookfield Court, Palatine

Members had report from Mr. D. McInerney on the taking in charge of road and services at Brookfield Court, Palatine, Carlow.

Members’ approval was sought to the advertising of the proposal, to commence the taking-in-charge process, in the Nationalist and Leinster Times on the 2nd July, 2013.

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne

Seconded by Councillor J. Murnane-O’Connor

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve the commencement of the taking-in-charge process for roads, footpaths, public lighting, water and waste-water services at Brookfield Court, Palatine, Carlow by placing the necessary advertisement in the Nationalist and Leinster Times on the 2nd July, 2013, in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, and Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act 2010.

Councillor Browne raised issue in relation to number of meetings held by the Economic Development, Planning and Cultural SPC and requested that a meeting be organised.

4. COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CORPORATE SERVICES

(a) Entente Florale 2013 – Clonegal to represent Ireland

Members welcomed the announcement that Clonegal will represent Ireland in the Village category of the 2013 European Entente Florale Competition.

Members complimented the Steering Group and all involved for their hard work and commitment in preparation for judging day.

Judging will take place on the 25th July. The Entente Awards ceremony will be held in Nieuwpoort, Belgium on the weekend of 26th -29th September.

The County Manager also complimented staff and all involved for their support and commitment to the community of Clonegal.

(b) Carlow's Pride of Place 2013

Members had update on Carlow's Pride of Place Competition 2013 from Ms. B. O'Brien.

Over 100 groups from the county have entered, with over 200 entries in the different categories.

Judging has commenced and will continue until the end of August.

The Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday 23rd October in the The Mount Wolseley Hotel.

The Members praised all entrants and said Carlow people have great pride in their gardens and county.

Councillor Fennel raised issue of people on Social Employment Schemes working in conjunction with local communities to enhance the initiative.

(c) Agriculture

Councillor McDonald raised issue of stray horses and queried expenditure figure of €70,000 incurred by the local authority for seizing stray horses. The County Manager is to clarify this figure.

Councillor Pender raised issue of equine centre in County Carlow and its liability for rates. The County Manager advised in respect of same.

(d) Health

Councillor Fennell advised of meeting with Professor John Higgins leader of expert group on new Hospital Configurations. The new hospital groups have been designed so as to provide the optimal configuration for hospitals to deliver high-quality care which is cost effective. St Lukes Hospital, Kilkenny will be linked to Dublin East Group with the Mater Hospital and St. Vincents University Hospital, Dublin.

Waterford Regional Hospital while maintaining specialist care will be linked to the South/South West Group with Cork University Hospital. In response to Councillor Hunter's query in relation to Primary Care Centre, Tullow Councillor Fennell advised of proposed capital investment for Primary Care Centre in Tullow.

The meeting adjourned at 14.35pm to facilitate the holding of the Annual General Meeting.

The Meeting resumed at 15.10p.m with the new Cathaoirleach Councillor Hurley taking the Chair.

Councillor McDonald raised issue of long waiting times in Accident and Emergency Unit at St Lukes Hospital, Kilkenny but emphasised this was the case with most A & E Units across the country. Ms Anna Marie Lanigan, Area Manager HSE Carlow/Kilkenny to investigate this issue in relation to St. Lukes Hospital. Members praised the services of the Medical Assessment Unit at St. Lukes Hospital. Councillor Browne raised issue of closure of beds in Sacred Heart Hospital and limited daily X-Ray facilities in Carlow. Councillor Townsend advised that under the Fair Deal Scheme Policy the elderly in need of long term care are moving to Nursing Home care. Twenty two beds have been closed in the Sacred Heart Hospital. Councillor Fennell spoke of the importance of supporting the Sacred Heart Hospital it being a high dependency Alzheimers Unit and the District Hospital.

(d) Tenders for opening, if any

Members noted tenders opened since last meeting.

5. TRANSPORTATION & EMERGENCY SERVICES

(a) Additional Funding under the Restoration Improvement Programme

Members welcomed the announcement of additional funding in the current year under the Restoration Improvement Grant. The amount of €601,674 represents a 34.27% increase on the original amount of €1,755,364 announced earlier this year.

The additional funding will be apportioned between the Electoral Areas as follows:-

• Carlow East/West	€ 102,285
• Bagenalstown	€ 156,435
• Tullow	€ 108,300
• Borris	<u>€ 234,654</u>
Total	€ 601,674

Members queried the low allocation apportioned to Carlow East/West. Mr. McInerney advised that the Department based this apportionment on the relative mileage of local and regional roads in the Electoral Areas and not on their usage.

Mr. McInerney advised that the Carlow East/West allocation has been discussed with the Area Engineer and details emailed to Members. A meeting may be arranged for the Carlow East/West Members to discuss this issue if required.

Members raised the issue of safety at junctions with clear road markings, signage and good visibility. Mr. McInerney advised that this issue is being addressed and a contractor will be engaged to cut grass verges. Members also raised issue of Murphy's Corner. Mr. McInerney advised that there are on going discussions in relation to land acquisition. Trials will be carried out for traffic solutions at this area.

Members requested Circular on length of roads in each Electoral Area.

Members complimented Area Engineer P. Harrington on works carried out in the Northern Engineering Area.

(b) Motorways Maintenance and Renewals Contract

Members had report from Mr. McInerney on M9 Motorway Maintenance and Renewals Contract.

Mr. McInerney advised that Egis/Lagan JV are the Contractors for the M9 Motorway, Kilcullen to Waterford, as and from 17th June 2013.

In response to Members queries Mr. McInerney advised that maintenance at interchanges on the M9 is included in the maintenance contract.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted correspondence from EIRGRID requesting attendance at Council meeting to update Members on the Grid Link Project.

It was agreed that EIRGRID attend the November meeting of Council.

Members discussed resolutions from Monaghan Town Council

- (a) *“That this Council write to the Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton to rescind her intention to make people of retirement age (65) sign on the dole office for one year in order to obtain their State pension which will be reduced by €42.30 per week”.*

Following discussion it was agreed that this Council write to Monaghan County Council seeking clarification on classification of persons to whom this notice of motion refers.

- (b) *“That this Council calls on the Minister for Justice to review the criteria involved in assessing applicants wishing to enter the State to live to ensure that they do not have a criminal record in the country of origin or any other country.”*

Members discussed resolution from South Tipperary County Council

“that this Council calls on the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Mr. Pat Rabbitte, T.D., to prioritise the introduction of postcodes to assist the emergency services reach people in need. Fire, ambulance and Garda personnel are being

delayed in reaching the destination of callouts as addresses in some cases are so vague. In certain circumstances, there are several locations with the same townland address thus causing unnecessary confusion which could be avoided by the introduction of postcodes.”

Members supported this motion. However, as postcode areas may be substantial in size Members discussed the benefits of sat nav co-ordination systems being installed in ambulances which would give more accurate information.

A notice of motion is to be prepared in this regard.

Members also raised issue of proper training for ambulance dispatchers to enable correct and accurate information to be relayed at all times.

(7) Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach.

Members raised the following issues:-

➤ Development Levy Scheme and implications for planning applications awaiting lodgement. The County Manager advised that a Draft Scheme is currently being prepared.

➤ Planning Enquiry. The County Manager advised that he had received no direct correspondence in relation to this enquiry.

➤ Clarification on meaning of the word ‘modification’ in An Bord Pleanála Report. The County Manager advised that modification means a decision made by the Planning Authority may be changed or part changed by An Bord Pleanála.

➤ Selling of strawberries at roadsides. The County Manager advised that it is not illegal to sell strawberries at roadside once health and safety measures are adhered to.

➤ Planning permission granted 30 days before building can commence. The County Manager advised that there is an appeal period of four weeks from the date of issue of the decision. During this time an appeal may be made to An Bord Pleanála. If no appeal is lodged the Planning Authority will formally grant permission at the end of the four week period.

Members requested An Bord Pleanála decisions issued in respect of planning applications for Carlow.

➤ MapAlerter – Members requested that they receive alerts for the whole of County Carlow and not just localised alerts.

This concluded the business of the meeting.