

Minutes of Special Meeting of Carlow County Council
held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow
on Friday 20th June at 3.30 pm.
in relation to Dan Morrissey (Irl) Ltd. Bennekerry, Co. Carlow.

Present: Councillor F. Browne, Cathaoirleach, Carlow County Council
Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long),
Councillor J. Cassin,
Councillor J. Deane,
Councillor M. Doran,
Councillor D. Foley
Councillor A. Gladney
Councillor T. Kinsella,
Councillor W. Lacey,
Councillor A. McDonald,
Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor,
Councillor C. Murphy,
Councillor B. O'Donoghue,
Councillor W. Paton,
Councillor J. Pender,
Councillor W. Quinn

Present: John McGuinness T.D
Pat Deering T.D

Apologies: Councillor J. Murphy,
Councillor F. Phelan

Apologies: Billy Timmons T.D
Ann Phelan T.D

Apologies: Mr. T. Barry, Chief Executive.

In Attendance: Mr. S. O'Connor, Deputy Chief Executive
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Services – Corporate,
Planning & Economic Development
Mr. D. McInerney, Director of Services, Transportation,
Environmental & Infrastructure
Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate
Services.

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting.

Each Member of Carlow County Council addressed the meeting and expressed huge anger at AIB's decision and the enormous knock-on effects of this decision. They said the reputational damage to the Morrissey Company as a result of AIB's action is of serious concern to the community and indeed the effect on ancillary services and the distress caused to families and especially those with mortgages, many with AIB. Members expressed amazement at the manner in which the company has been treated, in view of the contracts currently in hand, the monetary value of the company's assets/natural resources. The negative impact to the economy at local, regional and national level was highlighted and a call from all Members was that "enough is enough".

Councillor Paton thanked Deputy Ann Phelan for meeting with the employees in the Dolmen Hotel and also the Department of Social Protection for arranging emergency payments to employees at short notice.

Deputy Deering referred to the importance of the company for County Carlow, its contribution to the labour force and the part the family and firm play in sponsoring county and local sports and cultural activities, in many instances the sole and discreet supporter. Deputy Deering said it is imperative that Carlow does not lose any more landmark companies like the Sugar Factory and Braun and hoped common sense would prevail and the very viable company of Dan Morrissey Ltd would recommence trading on Monday.

Deputy McGuinness spoke of the detrimental effect the closure would have on the economy and the people of County Carlow. He spoke of the company's track record and its commitment to high quality products and loyalty to its employees. The cost effective supply of quality materials has ensured a very cost competitive environment for the road construction and building sector in Carlow and the South East. He spoke of the reputational damage to Morrissey's and called for recompense by AIB. Deputy McGuinness also called for direct action and political intervention and said the decision of AIB will be raised by the Oireachtas members with the Department of Finance, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, all Parliamentary Parties and the Dáil.

The Cathaoirleach invited Mr. Aiden Doyle, Quarry Manager, Dan Morrissey(Irl) Ltd. to address the meeting on behalf of the company. Mr. Doyle gave an overview of the Company and stated he was saddened by AIB's actions which were wholly unexpected and unprecedented. He said the company was appreciative of the support received from staff, family, friends and the community. Mr. Doyle thanked Carlow County Council for holding the Special Meeting and stressed the need to be proactive to resolve this issue as it was an attack on the economic stability of the local community.

The Deputy Chief Executive thanked the Cathaoirleach and Members of Carlow County Council, Oireachtas Members, elected Members from other Local Authorities in the Region, employee representatives from the Morrissey Company, members of the local community and national/local media for their attendance and their contributions to the meeting. He pledged Carlow County Council's support to any possible measures which will support the continuance of the company.

The Cathaoirleach expressed his disappointment at the decision of AIB to appoint a Receiver to Dan Morrissey Ireland Ltd and expressed his solidarity with the workers at this very worrying time for generations of families. He acknowledged the significant contribution the Morrissey family has made, through both their business and personal commitment, to the corporate and social development of the County. The Cathaoirleach also referred to letter which had issued from Carlow County Council in support of the company's application to the High/Commercial Court for the appointment of an Examiner.

In concluding, the Cathaoirleach advised that the Members of Carlow County Council, together with Deputies Deering, McGuinness, Phelan and Timmins, will immediately issue a letter to the Chief Executive of AIB Mr David Duffy, advising of the Special Meeting of Carlow County Council and of the huge anger and disappointment expressed by all present at the decision of AIB to appoint a Receiver. The Cathaoirleach stated the actions of AIB have left a negative impression with all members of the community who stand in solidarity.

This concluded the business of the meeting.