

Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow
Held in the Town Hall, Carlow
on Thursday, 8th September, 2016 at 4.30pm

Present: Councillor F. Phelan, Mayor
Councillor A. Ahern
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin
Councillor J. Deane
Councillor W. Lacey
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor J. Pender

Apologies: Councillor B. O'Donoghue
Councillor W. Paton

In Attendance: Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Services
Mr. S. O'Connor, Director of Service
Mr. P. Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer

Confirmation of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 10th June, 2016; Annual Meeting held on 10th June, 2016 and Special In Committee meeting held on 10th August, 2016, are hereby approved.

Proposed by Cllr. F. Browne

Seconded by Cllr. A. Ahern and unanimously resolved following a show of hands

“That the Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 10th June, 2016; Annual Meeting held on 10th June, 2016 and Special In Committee meeting held on 10th August, 2016, are hereby approved.”

PLANNING

Tullow Local Area Plan

B. O'Brien advised members that the Draft Tullow Local Area Plan 2016 – 2022 display period ran from Wednesday 27th July to Wednesday 7th September, 2016. 21 submissions were received – 9 of which were from statutory bodies and the remainder from private individuals / groups. The Chief Executive's report will be prepared over the coming weeks and circulated to the Elected Members no later than 18th October. Full Council consideration of the report will be held at the November Ordinary Meeting. In advance of same, a workshop with the Municipal District members will be facilitated and members agreed that same should take place at 2.30pm on Thursday, 27th October, 2016, to be followed at 4.30pm by the October Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District.

Carlow Courthouse Railings

Members expressed their disappointment and outlined their concerns regarding the lack of progress being made by the Courts Service and the OPW on the restoration of the Courthouse Railings, particularly the section of railing along the Athy Road. Members stated that they have been making representations since 2010 and the railings are now crumbling and may pose a health and safety hazard. B. O'Brien advised of most recent correspondence in July and August between Council management and the Chief Executive of the Courts Service. Members requested that the Council now write to the Courts Service and the OPW, requesting them to make a presentation at the next meeting of the Municipal District, on their detailed plans and work programme/timeline for restoration of the railings.

TRANSPORTATION

2016 Works Programme Carlow Municipal District

P. Harrington circulated progress report on the 2016 Works Programme and advised same was now 81% complete. Remaining works at Ballymurphy Road, Tullow and Beechwood Park Carlow are at design stage. He advised that Development Levy Projects for 2016 are 95% complete and an update on TII External Funding Projects was also given. Members were informed that a design for a new road surface at the Tullow Road is underway and therefore proposed works on the traffic lights beyond LIDL will not now proceed.

LIS / CIS - P. Harrington advised that eight schemes were selected and all were offered – details of successful applicants were circulated. Members noted seven of the eight have signed up and works will commence at an early date.

P. Harrington responded to queries raised on infrastructural matters throughout the MD. Members outlined their concerns regarding non-compliance by motorists at various locations throughout the town where ‘No Right Turn’ signage applies, resulting in serious safety concerns. Members requested that he liaise with the Gardai in this regard.

IBAL – Anti-Litter Survey

Members congratulated P. Harrington and his team, including Carlow Town & County Amenity Trust, on the performance of Carlow Town in IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter), achieving 5th out of 40 towns/cities surveyed – ‘Cleaner than European Norms’. Members also acknowledged the work of the community and voluntary sector, Carlow Tidy Towns, the ‘Love Carlow Group’ and the businesses in the town for their input and work.

Members expressed their concern relating to the amount of fly tipping taking place in rural areas throughout the county and insisted that a zero tolerance approach must be taken by Carlow County Council and strict enforcement procedures pursued. Members requested that more cases be pursued through the courts and a Name and Shame approach introduced by the Council.

Pedestrian Bridge at Carlow Railway Station

In acknowledging the achievement of Iarnrod Eireann in the IBAL report, members expressed concern regarding the poor quality of the pedestrian bridge at Carlow Railway Station and requested that a letter issue to the management of Iarnrod Eireann regarding same, particularly in the context of universal access compliance.

HOUSING

S. O’Connor updated on forward planning for the Housing Construction Programme and outlined details and circulated maps to the elected members of proposed new housing developments, for which plans have been prepared and for which it is proposed to commence the Part VIII planning process under the Planning & Development Acts 2000 – 2015 and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended. S. O’Connor responded to questions raised and Members noted that approval to pursue the Part VIII process will facilitate early starts if government funds become available. S. O’Connor responded to queries raised by the elected members relating to housing in Carlow Town and particularly the delay in completion of the Fruithill development which is the responsibility of Co-operation Housing Ireland. Members unanimously agreed to recommend to full Council, at meeting to be held 12th September, 2016, the commencement of the Part VIII process for the following schemes:

- 63 dwellings and 4 private sites at Rathvilly
- 4 dwellings at Slate Row, Hacketstown
- 2 dwellings at St. Patrick’s Park, Tullow
- 21 dwellings at Dublin Road, Tullow

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Twinning

B. O'Brien advised members of recent correspondence and invitation received by the Council from the President of Tempe Sister Cities to the 44th Oktoberfest 2016. Members discussed the link between Carlow Town and Tempe and noted the 20th Anniversary of the Twinning will take place in 2018. Members noted that IT Carlow and Carlow College had both agreed to send one representative to the 2016 Oktoberfest.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Pender

Seconded by Cllr. A. Ahern and unanimously resolved following a show of hands

“That the Municipal District of Carlow be represented by The Mayor, one other elected member and the Chief Executive's representative at the Sister Cities 44th Oktoberfest, 2016.”

Members queried the position relating to the twinning process with Dole, Northwich and Davenport and requested that the process be reviewed/progressed, having regard to its importance in the economic, cultural and educational development of the county. Members also referred to the importance of the links with the Birmingham Association and the Carlow Association New York.

Community Facilities in Carlow Town

Members requested an update on the provision of a playground at The Plots and provision of a Skateboard Park in Carlow Town, for which funding had been provided some years back by Carlow Town Council.

Council Lands at Tullow Road Carlow

The Mayor referred to discussion held at MD meeting on 10th August relating to Council owned lands at Tullow Road, Carlow and advised members that due to unforeseen circumstances, the proposed multi-agency presentation to the members would have to be deferred to the October meeting of the Municipal District. Lengthy discussion ensued.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Cassin

Seconded by Cllr. J. Deane

“That the members of the Municipal District of Carlow agree to grant a one year roll-over lease of the Council's lands at Tullow Road, Carlow, to Dolmen Celtic, subject to one months' notice to terminate by either party and that the statutory process for the disposal by lease be commenced.”

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan

Seconded by Cllr. A. Ahern

“That the decision of the Municipal District meeting held 10th August, 2016 still stands, namely that the Multi-agency Facility be pursued and in the future, if this is not progressed, leasing can be re-considered and that a presentation on the Multi-agency Facility take place at the October meeting of the Municipal District of Carlow.”

A vote/show of hands was taken on the amendment as proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan

For: Cllrs. F. Phelan, A. Ahern, W. Lacey, K. Murnane and J. Pender

Against: Cllrs. J. Cassin and J. Deane

Absent: Cllr. F. Browne

The amendment was carried

Members requested that legal advice be sought and relayed at the October meeting of the Municipal District of Carlow on whether or not vacant possession of lands is a legal requirement in the application process for Government Funding, or whether a one year roll over lease incorporating one months' notice to terminate, by either party, would be acceptable in the funding application process.

This concluded the business of the meeting.