

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the December Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in G.B. Shaw Theatre, Visual, Old Dublin Road, Carlow on Monday 21st December 2020 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor T. O'Neill (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor A. McDonald
Councillor J. McDonald
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor C. Murphy
Councillor W. Paton
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor W. Quinn

Remote: Councillor J. Murphy, Councillor A. Wallace, Councillor B. O'Donoghue, Councillor A. Gladney

In Attendance: Ms. K. Holohan, Chief Executive
Mr. M. Rainey, Director of Service, Corporate, HR, Planning, Health & Safety, Security & Economic Development
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Service, Transportation, Environment & Water Services, Building Control & Emergency Services
Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Recreation & Amenity
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer, Environment & Water Services
Mr. P. Curran, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. J. O'Brien, A/Environmental Awareness Officer
Ms. M. Hand, Assistant Staff Officer, Human Resources

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- Members expressed a vote of congratulations to Tinryland GFC, for allowing the use of their grounds for Covid testing.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Death of our friend and colleague Ger O'Brien, The Abbey, Tullow, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation Department and Carlow Municipal District
- Death of Robert Wynne, 42 Staunton Avenue, Graiguecullen, Carlow, brother of Jim Wynne, Housing Department.
- Death of Michael Abbey, 32 Green Road, Carlow Town, Carlow, former Councillor Carlow Town and County Councils.
- Death of Maureen Dunne, Dublin Road, Tullow, Carlow, pensioner.

The Cathaoirleach called for a minute's silence, as a mark of respect for our friend and colleague Ger O'Brien.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes /Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

1.1 Approval of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 9th November 2020 at 2.00 p.m.

Proposed by Councillor **A. Dalton**

Seconded by Councillor **F. Phelan**

And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

'That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Visual, Old Dublin Road, Carlow, on Monday 9th November 2020 at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.'

1.2 Approval of Minutes of Statutory Budget Meeting 2021 of Carlow County Council held on Friday 27th November 2020 at 2.00 p.m.

Proposed by Councillor **F. Browne**

Seconded by Councillor **M. Doran**

And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

'That the Minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Visual, Old Dublin Road, Carlow, on Friday 27th November 2020 at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.'

1.3 Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 30th November at 2.00 p.m.

Proposed by Councillor **T. Kinsella**
Seconded by Councillor **K. Murnane**
And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

‘That the Minutes of Special Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Visual, Old Dublin Road, Carlow, on Monday 30th November 2020 at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.’

1.4 Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 14th December 2020 at 2.00 p.m.

Proposed by Councillor **J. McDonald**
Seconded by Councillor **A. Dalton**
And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

‘That the Minutes of Meeting of Carlow County Council held in County Hall, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 14th December 2020 at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.’

2.0 Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of Council/Gnó forordaithe do réir reachtaíochta, orduithe seasta, nó rúin an Chomhairle

2.1 Draft Litter Management Plan 2021 - 2023

J. O'Brien, A/Environmental Awareness Officer, presented this report. The Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended, required Local Authorities to make and implement a litter management plan, and to review this plan every three years. The Litter Management Plan is a written statement outlining the objectives to prevent and control litter within the functional area of Carlow County Council. The adoption of the Litter Management Plan is a reserved function. This report was brought to the relevant Strategic Policy Committee and approved to go to full Council. The report highlights a series of key performance indicators.

Consideration of Carlow County Council's Draft Litter Management Plan 2021-2023 and approval of the draft plan to go on public consultation for four weeks from 22nd December 2020 was: -

Proposed by Councillor **F. Phelan**
Seconded by Councillor **A. Wallace**
And

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously resolved: -

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council give approval for Carlow County Council's, Draft Litter Management Plan 2021-2023 to go on public consultation for four weeks from 22nd December 2020.'

2.2 Local Government Act 2001 - Section 85 Agreement between Carlow County Council and Kilkenny County Council - Food Safety Functions

P. O'Gorman, Director of Service, presented this report. Food safety inspections in County Carlow under the Food Safety Authority of Ireland Act 1998, have been carried out on behalf of Carlow County Council by Kilkenny County Council's veterinary service. To continue this arrangement with Kilkenny County Council an extension of the 2017 agreement under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 is required.

Approval that Carlow County Council extends its Agreement under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001, with Kilkenny County Council until the 31st December 2021, to carry out all Statutory Food Safety Functions as contracted by the FSAI on behalf of Carlow County Council from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 was;-

Proposed by Councillor M. Doran
Seconded by Councillor F. Browne
And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve that Carlow County Council extends its Agreement under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001, with Kilkenny County Council until the 31st December 2021, to carry out all Statutory Food Safety Functions as contracted by the FSAI on behalf of Carlow County Council from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021.'

3.0 Corporate, Planning, Economic Development/Seirbhísí Corporáideachta, Pleanáil, Forbairt Eacnamaíocht

3.1 Carlow County Business Support & Economic Recovery Action Plan December 2020-April 2021

M. Rainey, Director of Service, presented this report. This is a short-term local action plan which has a series of actions and activities that will be delivered from December 2020 to April 2021 providing additional supports to our business community and creating a framework for future opportunity for the County. The plan was developed in conjunction with key agencies and complements the various supports already available from the state agencies, networks, public bodies and the community at large at present. Over the coming months Carlow County Council will build on this plan with the development of a longer term economic strategy for the coming years 2021-2027 and are currently working with Grant Thornton on this project. Members noted this report.

Members raised queries on a proposed windfarm application and regular ESB outages. M. Rainey and P. O’Gorman responded to questions raised by members.

A proposal that Carlow County Council write to the Electricity Supply Board regarding the various electricity outages around the County was: -

Proposed by Councillor J. Cassin
Seconded by Councillor F. Browne
And

Agreed following a show of hand.

3.2 Official Launch of Borris Viaduct

M. Rainey, Director of Service, presented this report. The Borris Railway Viaduct is one of County Carlow’s best-loved and most iconic landmarks. The Viaduct was part of the Bagenalstown and Wexford Railway, which first opened in December 1898. The Viaduct is constructed of limestone, it is 800 metres in length and consists of 16 arches of 11 metres span and is over 50 metres above the North Leinster Heritage Drive and River Mountain.

With support of funding from the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund, Carlow County Council in partnership with Borris Tidy Towns have regenerated the site to develop the project which includes parking and a linear park that leads visitor to the top of the viaduct. Members noted this report.

4.0 Transportation, Environment, Water Services, Building Control & Emergency Services/lompar, Impeallacht agus Seirbhísí Uisce, Rialaithe Tógála agus Seirbhísí Éigeandála

4.1 Review of Sustainable Development Goals – report deferred to January 2021 Council meeting.

4.2 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy - Year 1 Review – report deferred to January 2021 Council meeting.

5.0 Chief Executives Report/Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

Members discussed Chief Executive’s Monthly Management Report for the period to 1st November to 30th November 2020.

Issues raised by members included;

- **Carlow Town Bus Service** – Members requested that Carlow County Council write to the National Transport Authority and Minister for Transport, inviting them to attend a Council meeting to discuss this matter was: -

Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan
Seconded by Councillor J. Cassin
And

Agreed following a show of hands.

- **Taking in Charge** – Father Murphy Park
- **Emergency Accommodation** – Review of Housing system
- **Barrow Track** – Maintenance
- **Browneshill Dolmen** – members requested that an event be organised, at this location, for winter solstice 2021.
- **Clashganny Loop Walk** – leaf sweeping on footpaths
- **Winter Solstice 2020** – lighting of candles on 21st December 2020 to remember those we lost during 2020.

The Chief Executive and Directors answered questions raised by members.

6.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

Members noted resolution from Sligo County Council – requesting the Taoiseach to implement the recommendations of the Grant Thornton report on the future of the post office network.

Members noted resolution from the Municipal District of Killarney – regarding the erection of notices at uncontrolled crossings, informing the public that they do not have the right to just walk across, as this is at the discretion of the driver and cyclist to stop.

Members noted correspondence from Waterways Ireland – acceptance of invitation to attend a Council meeting.

M. Rainey, Director of Service advised that a remote meeting with Waterways Ireland has been provisionally organised for Monday 25th January 2021 at 3.00p.m.

Members noted correspondence from Office of the Minister for Defence – acknowledging receipt of correspondence.

Members noted correspondence from Office of the Department of Health - acknowledging receipt of correspondence.

Members noted correspondence from Office of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth – acknowledging receipt of correspondence.

Members noted correspondence from Office of the Taoiseach - acknowledging receipt of correspondence.

Members noted resolution from Galway County Council – regarding Mother and Baby Homes.

Members noted correspondence from Office of the Secretary General to the President - acknowledging receipt of correspondence.

Members noted correspondence from Office of Minister Roderic O’Gorman T.D. – regarding Mother and Baby Homes.

7.0 Notices of Motion/Fógraí Rúin

7.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. Fintan Phelan

Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan

Seconded by Councillor J. Pender

And

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously resolved: -

“That Carlow County Council supports the right to Personal Assistance Service (PAS) for disabled people to have freedom, choice and control over all aspects of their lives to enable them to fully participate in an inclusive society as equals. That this local authority would call on the Government and the Minister with responsibility for Disabilities to enact legislation to standardise and fund additional PA hours.”

7.2 Standing in the names of Cllrs Andy Gladney, William Paton and William Quinn

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton

Seconded by Councillor W. Quinn

And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

“Noting the vital social and economic role played by Post Offices in communities throughout County Carlow, that we the members of Carlow County Council call upon the Minister for Climate Change, Communications Networks and Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, TD; the Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donoghue, TD and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Michael McGrath, TD to urgently enact the private members’ motion previously passed in November 2016 by the previous Government regarding the future of the Post Office Network. This is a matter of urgency to ensure the sustainability of our existing community Post Office Network.”

7.3 Standing in the name of Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue

Proposed by Councillor B. O’Donoghue

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

“That the members of Carlow County Council support all students who put their lives on the line during the ongoing Covid pandemic. In this regard the members of Carlow County Council request the Government to bring forward legislation that ensures that

any student, be they trainee health worker, Gardaí, defence force personnel, or any essential public service, called to the frontline during any national crises, be paid a fair wage, on a level equal to colleagues doing the same role. Furthermore, that student nurses, in particular, who were/are on placement in 2020 be paid, back dated where necessary, for their time spent working on the frontline”

7.4 Standing in the name of Cllr. Thomas Kinsella

Proposed by Councillor **T. Kinsella**
Seconded by Councillor **W. Quinn**
And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

“Calling on Carlow County Council to make arrangements with Dog Wardens to visit Mount Leinster (nine stones area) at weekends especially Sunday afternoons to ensure that Bye Laws regarding control of Dogs are fully enforced.”

P. O’Gorman, Director of Service to bring report to a Council meeting in early 2021.

7.5 Standing in the name of Cllr. John Cassin

Proposed by Councillor **J. Cassin**
Seconded by Councillor **A. Wallace**
And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

“That Carlow County Council write to the Minister for Health and inform him of its disappointment at the Government decision not to pay student nurses. Like all frontline workers at the face of the global pandemic, student nurses sacrificed their movement between hospital or any other residential homes for fears of cross contamination and this excluded them from getting work as support staff. Compared to apprentices who are paid from the day they start it is not until the fourth year of training that year nurses start to get paid. We as a Council respectfully ask the Minister and the government to reverse the decision.”

8.0 Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach/Aon gnó eile le haontú an Chathaoirligh

This concluded the business of the meeting.