

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the February Remote Meeting of Carlow County Council, held on Monday 08th February 2021 at 2.00 p.m.

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

Guests Remote: Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor T.D.
Deputy John McGuinness T.D.

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. P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Ms. K. Farrell, Internal Auditor
Mr. P.J. Leonard, Financial Accountant
Mr. P. Scully, Audit Committee Chairperson
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office
Mr. J. Shortall, County Librarian
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, Community
Mr. K. Cullinane, Senior Engineer, Transportation
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer, Environment & Water Services
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. L. O'Callaghan, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
Mr. P. Kavanagh, Economic Development Officer
Ms. M. Hand, Assistant Staff Officer, Human Resources

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Death of Mary (Maura) Nolan (née O'Neill), Kernanstown, Bennekerry, Carlow, mother of Ann Kenny, Planning Department.
- Death of Margaret O'Hara (née Mulligan), Ballingate, Carnew, Wicklow, mother of Brigid Deenihan, Planning Department.
- Death of Eileen Barry (née O'Brien), Castle Park, Thurles, Tipperary mother of Tom Barry retired Chief Executive.
- Death of Helen Lynch (née Houlihan), Kilkenny Road, Castlecomer, Kilkenny/Kildare, mother of Donnacha Lynch, Water Services.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes /Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

1.1 Approval of Minutes of Remote Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 11th January 2021.

Proposed by Councillor

J. Murphy

Seconded by Councillor

T. Kinsella

And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

'That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held remotely on Monday 11th January 2021 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 Audit Committee Charter 2021

This report was presented by P. Delaney, Head of Finance. The Audit Committee has an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters, as part of the governance arrangements that operate within a local authority. The Audit Committee is established by resolution of the Council upon nomination by the Corporate Policy Group, who will consult with the Chief Executive. The Audit Committee Charter 2021 outlines the functions, policies and role of the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee Charter 2021 was
Proposed by Councillor A. Dalton
Seconded by Councillor K. Murnane
And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Audit Committee Charter 2021.’

2.2 Audit Committee Work Programme 2021

P. Delaney, Head of Finance presented this report. The 2021 audit committee draft work programme has been prepared in accordance with Carlow County Council’s Audit Committee Charter.

The Audit Committee Work Programme 2021 was
Proposed by Councillor J. Murphy
Seconded by Councillor K. Murnane
And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Audit Committee Work Programme 2021.’

2.3 Audit Committee Annual Report 2020

Peter Scully, Audit Committee Member, presented this report. Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 provided a legal basis for the existence of Audit Committees. The Audit Committee met five times during 2020. Twenty-nine risks were identified one high risk twenty-one medium risks and seven low risks. A tracking system exists in Carlow to check on implementations. The committee considered that the “Differential Rents Annual Review” be brought to the attention of the Council. P. Scully & P. Delaney responded to questions raised. P. Delaney to circulate a copy of risks to members.

The Audit Committee Annual Report 2020 was
Proposed by Councillor K. Murnane
Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton
And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Audit Committee Annual Report 2020.’

2.4 Local Government Auditors Report 2019

Members discussed the Local Government Audit Service, Statutory Audit Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2019. The Annual Financial Statement of

Carlow County Council for the year ended 31st December 2019 was audited, which comprises the Statement of Accounting Policies, Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Funds Flow Statement, and notes to and forming part of the accounts. The Council by law is responsible for the maintenance of all accounting records including the preparation of the Annual Financial Statement. The report outlines the following

- Introduction
- Non – adjusting post balance sheet event – Covid 19
- Financial Standing
- Income Collection
- Irish Water
- Capital Account
- Loans Payable
- Public Procurement
- Carlow Eastern Relief Road
- Powerstown Landfill
- Local Authority Companies
- Governance and Propriety
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024
- Acknowledgement

P. Delaney responded to questions raised by members.

The Local Government Auditors Report 2019 was
Proposed by Councillor J. McDonald
Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald
And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Local Government Auditors Report 2019.’

2.5 Audit Committee Report to Council on the 2019 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) and Local Government Auditors Report

The audit committee was provided with a copy of the 2019 audited financial statement and auditor’s report by the Chief Executive on 11th January 2021. At a meeting held on 20th January 2021 the audit committee considered the statement, the auditor’s report and deliberated on the key issues outlined. The auditor’s opinion is that the annual financial statement presents fairly, in accordance with the Accounting Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations, the financial position of the Council at 31st December 2019 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended. The Local Government Auditor who conducted the audit also attended this meeting. The committee considered that the “Differential Rents Annual Review” be brought to the attention of the Council. Report Noted.

2.6 Membership of Carlow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

B. O'Donovan, Chief Officer Carlow LCDC presented this report. Five vacancies arose on Carlow Local Community Development Committee due to members reaching the maximum of two, three-year terms in accordance with the regulations. Members and staff expressed great tribute and thanks to the retiring members who were involved with the LCDC from its inception. They dedicated a lot of time and effort into ensuring the success of the Carlow LCDC. Nominations were sought for the filling of these vacancies. Five nominations were brought to the Corporate Policy Group and endorsed as follows;

- Liam O'Brian – Bagenalstown Improvement Group
- Pdraig Dooley – Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society
- Molly Aylesbury – Carlow Environmental Network
- Rowena Dooley – Dooley Motors
- George Hatton – Farmer

The nominations were agreed and put forward to full Council for approval. In accordance with Section 128C (3) (b) of the Local Government Act 2001 as inserted by section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 resolution of Council was sought for the filling of the vacancies.

Proposed by Councillor **A. McDonald**
Seconded by Councillor **A. Dalton**
AND

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the nominations of Liam O'Brian, Pdraig Dooley, Molly Aylesbury, Rowena Dooley and George Hatton, to fill the vacancies on the Local Community Development Committee.'

2.7 Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2021-2025 in accordance with Section 35 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009

M. Brennan, Director of Service presented this report. The Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2021-2025 was considered at the Housing, Community and Wellbeing Strategic Policy Committee held on Tuesday 2nd February 2021. The draft Policy was also considered and discussed at the Inter Agency Meeting on Anti-Social Behaviour. Following approval of the Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2021-2025 at the SPC meeting it is now recommended to Council for approval. M. Brennan responded to questions raised by members. M. Brennan gave a commitment if the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2021-2025 was adopted by members that it would be reviewed in February 2022 at the Housing, Community and Wellbeing Strategic Policy Committee and then a report would be brought to full Council.

The Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2021-2025 was

Proposed by Councillor **A. McDonald**
Seconded by Councillor **M. Doran**

AND

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2021-2025.'

2.8 Draft Incremental Purchase Scheme (IPS) in respect of New Builds Units, provided under the Housing Construction Programme 2021-2025 - Part 3- Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009

M. Brennan, Director of Service presented this report. The Incremental Purchase Scheme as provided under Part 3 – Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 provides wider opportunities for home ownership by lower income households. It will target existing social housing tenants and households qualified for social housing support to become owners of houses newly built by Housing Authorities. The Incremental Purchase Scheme, provides for the sale by Local Authorities of newly built dwellings to eligible applicants at discounts of 40,50 or 60% from the cost of providing the unit, subject to a change and clawback in favour of the Local Authority in respect of the discount offered. M. Brennan responded to questions raised by members. The members were asked for approval for the introduction of the Incremental Purchase Scheme for newly built units, as provided under Part 3 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009.

Proposed by Councillor

K. Murnane

Seconded by Councillor

F. Phelan

AND

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the introduction of the Incremental Purchase Scheme for newly built units, as provided under Part 3 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009.'

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

3.1 Carlow Exchange, Potato Market, Carlow Town

K. Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office presented this report. It is proposed to develop a covered outdoor event space at Potato Market in Carlow Town called "The Carlow Exchange". This project will utilise a Derelict Site in the centre of Carlow Town. This proposed development was discussed and considered by the members of the Carlow Municipal District at their meeting held on Thursday 28th January 2021. "The Carlow Exchange" will become a key focal space in Carlow Town Centre for the exchange of information, culture, ideas and will become an economic and social hub. K. Comerford responded to questions raised by members. Approval was sought from members to commence the Part 8 process.

Proposed by Councillor
Seconded by Councillor
AND

F. Phelan
A. Dalton

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the commencement of the Part 8 Process, for the proposed development of “The Carlow Exchange, Potato Market, Carlow”.’

3.2 Carlow Water Activity Centre

K. Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office presented this report. The vision for Carlow Water Activity Centre aligns to the overall long-term vision for Regeneration. Carlow Water Activity Centre is a direct response to an identified need to address water based recreational infrastructure in Carlow on the River Barrow and a deficit in recreational facilities to meet the needs of its users. The pre-development of this project is funded under the URDF. Carlow County Council have engaged with over thirty community groups on this project. The Water Activity Centre will link into existing facilities of the Town Park and provide a central campus for all recreational and well-being opportunities. Members welcomed this report. K. Comerford responded to questions raised by members. K. Comerford sought approval from members to present this project to An Bord Pleanála in Quarter 2, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor
Seconded by Councillor
AND

A. Wallace
F. Phelan

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve for the proposed project to be presented to An Bord Pleanála in Quarter 2,2021”.’

After this project was discussed, members raised other various planning queries. M. Rainey responded to all questions raised.

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

4.1 Active Travel Submission 2021

P. O’Gorman, Director of Service presented this report. Twenty applications were submitted to the National Transport Authority for consideration for funding. The report outlined the project location, brief description of works, length of scheme (m) and estimated cost. Members requested if a window of opportunity arose going forward that they be allowed put project ideas forward for the Active Travel Submission 2021, at Municipal District meetings. P. O’Gorman responded to questions raised by members and report noted.

5.0 Community, Housing, Recreation & Amenity/Pobal, Tithíocht, Áineas agus Áiseanna

5.1 Redevelopment of No's 5 and 6 Staplestown Road, Carlow

M. Brennan, Director of Service, presented this report. The proposed development complies with the relevant policies, objectives, and related provisions in the Carlow County Development Plan 2015 – 2021. This proposed development has been discussed and considered by Members of the Municipal District of Carlow at their meeting held on Thursday 28th January 2021. M. Brennan responded to questions raised by members. Approval was sought from members to commence the Part 8 process for this development.

Proposed by Councillor **F. Browne**
Seconded by Councillor **F. Phelan**
And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the commencement of the Part 8 process, for the redevelopment of No’s 5 and 6 Staplestown Road, Carlow.’

Members requested that an update on Barrack Street housing, be brought to the next Carlow Municipal District meeting, and a report on Council owned Derelict Houses in the County to be brought to the April meeting of Carlow County Council.

6.0 Finance, Information Technology & Culture (Libraries, Arts & County Museum)/ Airgeadas, Teicneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Cultúir (Leabharlanna, Ealaíonna agus Músaem an Chontae)

6.1 Presentation Buildings Regeneration Tullow Street Carlow (Library, Cultural, Civic and Learning Space)

P. Delaney, Head of Finance, presented this report which was discussed and approved at the Carlow Municipal District meeting held on Thursday 28th January 2021. P. Delaney invited J. Shortall, County Librarian and B. O’Donovan, Senior Executive Officer to give an overview of this project. The proposed works would see regeneration, extension and restoration of the Presentation Buildings, a protected structure, located in the Architectural Conservation Area, at Tullow Street. Approval was sought from members to commence the Part 8 process for this development.

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

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the commencement of the Part 8 process, for the regeneration, extension and restoration of the Presentation Buildings, a protected structure, located in the Architectural Conservation Area, at Tullow Street.’

7.0. Chief Executives Report/Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

Members discussed the Chief Executive’s Monthly Management Report for the period to 1st January to 31st January 2021.

Issues raised by members included

- **Burial Grounds** – Access by Monumental Sculptors
- **Dog Fouling**
- **Public Lighting** – Burrin Manor
- **Vaccination Centre**
- **Allocation of Houses**
- **Graveyard Bye-Laws**
- **Weather Warnings**
- **Road Signage on Motorway** – Signage for Carlow

The Chief Executive and Directors answered questions raised by members.

8.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

Members noted resolution from Wexford County Council – re rebate scheme to third level students who are charged full ate for on-campus accommodation but are afforded limited access due to Covid restrictions.

Members noted correspondence from Office of the Minister for Health-acknowledgement of letter regarding student nurses.

Members noted correspondence from Office of the Minister for Health-acknowledgement of letter regarding students on the frontline.

Members noted correspondence from Office of Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth – acknowledging receipt of correspondence from Carlow County Council regarding Personal Assistance Services.

Members noted correspondence from National Transport Authority – regarding the proposed Carlow Town Bus Service

Members noted correspondence from Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage – regarding Developer Provider Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme (DPI’s)

Members noted resolution from Wicklow County Council – regarding immediate upgrading of the N81 along the Tallaght to Hollywood route.

Members noted correspondence from Office of the Minister for Health- regarding student nurses.

Members requested that Carlow County Council invite Malcolm Noonan T.D. to remotely attend the March meeting of Carlow County Council.

9.0 Notices of Motion/Fógraí Rúin

9.1 Standing in the names of Cllrs. J. McDonald, K. Murnane & A. McDonald

Proposed by Councillor J. McDonald

Seconded by Councillor K. Murnane

And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

"The commission of the Mother & Baby Homes report was released on the 12th January 2021.

Within the report there is a survivor-centred approach, there is a 7-step action plan along with 22 Actions.

We refer to point 8 of the Actions relating to the Public Access to Original State Files. We would now like to ask Carlow County Council to search your archives to see if you have any documentation pertaining to the County Home, the Workhouse, including the Workhouse cemetery or any other information that may relate to the County of Carlow. We Call on Carlow County Council to release any documents to the relevant authorities."

A reply to this motion was circulated to members via Decision Time, prior to the meeting.

9.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. F. Phelan

Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan

Seconded by Councillor J. McDonald

And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

'Carlow County Council expresses its disappointment at the refusal of the NTA to attend a remote meeting of Carlow County Council to discuss the Carlow Town Bus project. We urgently ask that the NTA attend a meeting of the Council to discuss this project. A copy of the motion be sent to the NTA and Minister for Transport.'

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

- School Meals
- CCTV – Fairgreen, Bagenalstown
- Kevin Barry Monument

This concluded the business of the meeting.