

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the January Remote Meeting of Carlow County Council, held on Monday 11th January 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 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

Apologies: Councillor C. Murphy

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
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer, Environment & Water Services
Mr. C. Brennan, Executive Technician
Ms. L. O'Callaghan, 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.

The Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive and members paid tribute to their friend and colleague Jim Townsend R.I.P. and offered their deepest sympathy to his family.

The Cathaoirleach called for a minute's silence, as a mark of respect for Jim Townsend (former Town and County Councillor).

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Death of Aíne Connolly (nee Murphy), Kellistown, Carlow, mother of Pat Connolly, Environment Department.
- Death of Jim Townsend, Ballybar Upper, Tinryland, Carlow (former Town and County Councillor).

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes /Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

1.1 Approval of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Monday 21st December 2020

Proposed by Councillor J. Murphy
Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton
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 21st 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 Hanover Natural Activity & Bike Park

P. O’Gorman, Director of Service, introduced this report and invited C. Brennan, Executive Technician to present the report. The comprehensive report gave details of the proposed development of Hanover Natural Activity & Bike Park located in Carlow Town. The report included a written plan including photographs and a map of the proposed urban park development. The proposed development will promote a Natural Healthy and Active Life through Bike & Physical Activities with a strong emphasis on Wildlife, Biodiversity and Natural Play areas all within an Urban Town Centre location. The plan also highlights inclusiveness, accessibility and integration. The proposed development would have many benefits including, cleanup of the area, increase footfall to the town centre, health benefits, biodiversity and an attractive amenity. The report was previously presented and approved by the Carlow Municipal District to bring to full Council. All members welcomed the plan which includes something for everyone of all ages. Approval was sought from members to allow Carlow County Council make an application to An Bord Pleanála, to seek approval for the proposed development. C. Brennan, P. O’Gorman and M. Rainey responded to questions raised by members.

Approval for Carlow County Council to make an application to An Bord Pleanála, to seek approval of the proposed development, was; -

Proposed by Councillor **A. Wallace**

Seconded by Councillor **A. Dalton**

And

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

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council give approval for Carlow County Council to make an application to An Bord Pleanála, to seek approval of the proposed development of Hanover Natural Activity & Bike Park.’

C. Brennan, Executive Technician suggested that the park include a suitable memorial, as a tribute to our colleague Ger O’Brien, R.I.P. who worked on this project. All members welcomed this suggestion.

Members also paid tribute to Eugene Walsh and ‘Friends of Nature’ for all their hard work cleaning Hanover Park.

M. Rainey to check the status of the old Penney’s site.

2.2 Approval of Extension to Tullow Community CCTV Scheme

E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, presented this report. He advised that at a meeting held on 23rd November 2020, the County Carlow Joint Policing Committee approved a proposal from Develop Tullow Association for the extension of Tullow Town CCTV Scheme.

Approval for the proposed extension to Tullow Community CCTV scheme was; -

Proposed by Councillor **J. Pender**

Seconded by Councillor **B. O’Donoghue**

And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the proposed extension to Tullow Community CCTV scheme.’

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

3.1 Review of Sustainable Development Goals

J. O’Brien A/Environmental Awareness & Education Officer presented this report. In September 2015, UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The centre of the 2030 Agenda is the 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 targets, adopted by the 193 UN member states. In 2019 the Government called for expressions of interests for Sustainable Development Goal Champions. Seventy-six

applications were received. At the Ploughing Championships held in Ballinrane, Fenagh, Co. Carlow in September 2019, it was announced that Carlow County Council was the only successful local authority in the country and are now Champions for Sustainable Development Goals. Carlow County Council now lead the way through raising public awareness and translate the Sustainable Development Goals into practical actions at a local level. The Council connects and communicates with over seventy organisations and groups, nationally, regionally and locally. J. O'Brien responded to questions raised by members and report was noted.

3.2 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy - Year 1 Review

O. Barrett, Senior Engineer, presented this report. The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 was adopted in September 2019. This includes one hundred and ten actions under nine thematic areas. A Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS) team was formed in March 2020. A CCAS reporting tool was created by CARO in September 2020. The first annual reporting was completed and submitted to CARO on 16th October 2020. The progress tracking is very positive with regards to the number of actions completed and actions started. Carlow County Council has many innovative and progressive projects underway in adapting to Climate Change, Low Carbon Development, Biodiversity and Energy Efficiency which are not captured in the current actions. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2020 required all local authorities to prepare individual Climate Actions Plans, which will include both mitigation and adaptation measures. The CARO Offices are currently preparing guidelines for local authorities on the preparation of Climate Action Plans. Carlow County Council will continue to progress the actions in the adaptation strategy, revisit actions so that they can be measured, achieved, tracked, and develop key performance indicators. O. Barrett responded to questions raised by members. Report was noted.

4.0 Chief Executives Report/Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

Members discussed Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for the period to 1st December to 31st December 2020.

Issues raised by members included;

- **Mt. Leinster** – being used for site seeing in sever weather conditions despite warnings to avoid the area.
- **Road Gritting**
- **Carlow Town Bus Service** – letter issued to the National Transport Authority.
- **Control of Horses Bye-Laws** – add will go in the newspaper next week.
- **Tullow Road Project** – closing date for Tenders was last week.
- **Taking in Charge** – Tommy Murphy Park.
- **Public Nurse** – M. Brennan to follow up with the HSE.
- **Services available for parents of children with special needs** – Members requested that Carlow County Council write to Minister Norma Foley with the following motion;

"Recognising that in the last lockdown 61% of special needs children regressed as a result of their school's closure, while also acknowledging that remote learning is not suitable for many children with special needs, what immediate support will the minister provide for children with special needs? Will parents of children with special needs see a national roll out of a similar programme to the 'Summer Provision' which provided children with an opportunity to continue or re-engage with learning, at school or at home, following school closures."

Proposed by Councillor **A. Wallace**

Seconded by Councillor **J. Cassin**

And

Agreed following a show of hands.

- **Carlow Town Park** – opening and closing times.
- **Winter Services Programme** – members asked report and map to be made available on the Council's website.
- **Gritting of Footpaths in Tullow**
- **Knockroe Road, Rathvilly** – resurfacing.
- **Housing Allocations** - timeframe from when houses are complete, to allocating houses and giving out the keys.
- **Invitation to Joe Biden president elect** – A proposal that 'Carlow County Council write to Joe Biden president elect, extending an invitation for him to visit Carlow in the future' was: -

Proposed by Councillor **F. Browne**

Seconded by Councillor **T. Kinsella**

And

Agreed following a show of hands.

- **Joint remote meeting of Carlow Municipal District and the Laois Municipal District for the Graiguecullen area** - M. Rainey to organise.
- **Refurbishment Fire Station Bagenalstown**
- **Housing Barrack Street**
- **Waterways Ireland** – Confirmation of remote meeting organised for 25th January 2021 at 3.00p.m.
- **Newtown/Nurney Road**
- **Women's Refuge Carlow** – the Chief Executive gave a commitment to write to TUSLA again, requesting an update on the current position and invite them to attend a remote meeting of Carlow County Council.

The Chief Executive and Directors answered questions raised by members.

5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

Members noted correspondence from Office of the Taoiseach - acknowledging receipt of correspondence from Carlow County Council dated 2nd December 2020.

Members noted correspondence from Office of the Minister for Defence and Minister for Foreign Affairs - response to Jadotville correspondence.

Members noted resolution from Waterford City & County Council – supporting the former Debenhams workers and support for workers’ rights, calling on the Government to implement the Duffy-Cahill report and calling for engagement with the workers and their representatives.

Members noted resolution from Galway County Council – regarding the 3rd National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender based Violence.

Members noted correspondence from Office of Minister for Justice. – acknowledging receipt of correspondence from Carlow County Council dated 16th December 2020.

6.0 Notices of Motion/Fógraí Rúin

6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. William Paton

“That Carlow County Council renew and update its website.”

Cllr. W. Paton accepted the written response to his motion by P. Delaney, Head of Finance. P. Delaney answered questions raised.

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

- **Public Lighting** – lighting at the entrance and exist to the motorway.
- **Bottle Banks** – capacity.
- **ESB outages Tullow** – P. O’Gorman, Director of Service, advised members that contact had been made with the ESB and the Council were awaiting a formal reply. If a reply was received before the next Tullow Municipal District meeting, it would be circulated to the members of the Tullow Municipal District.
- **Christmas Tree Recycling** – facilities available to accept Christmas Tree’s.

This concluded the business of the meeting.