

**Minutes of January Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in the
Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow,
on Monday 16th January 2023 at 2.00 p.m.**

- Present:** Councillor B. O'Donoghue (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin (Remotely)
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor A. Gladney (Remotely)
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor A. McDonald
Councillor J. McDonald
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor C. Murphy
Councillor J. Murphy
Councillor T. O'Neill
Councillor W. Paton
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor W. Quinn
Councillor A. Wallace
- In attendance:** Mr. M. Rainey, Interim Chief Executive
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Mr. K. Cullinane, Acting Director of Service
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Services
Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Services
Ms. F. O'Neill, Acting Director of Services
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer
Mr. R. Wickham, Acting Senior Engineer
Mr. P. J. Leonard, Financial Accountant
Ms. K. Farrell, Internal Auditor
Mr. D. Mulligan, Museum Curator
Ms. Jenny Greiner, Carlow Museum
Mr. Patrick Moran, Carlow Museum
Ms. J. O'Brien, Climate Action Coordinator
Mr. J. Shorthall, County Librarian
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer,
Ms. L. O'Callaghan, Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Healy, Staff Officer
- Remotely:** Mr. B. O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. N. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise

Votes of Sympathy

Sinead Dowling, Arts Office, on the death of her mother Betty Westover (Thaxted, UK).

Mary O'Neill, Fire Services Department, on the death of her brother Colum Doyle, 74 Pairc Mhuire, Tullow.

Dr. John Conway "Amberley", Kilkenny Road, Carlow, on the death of his wife Catherine

Jones Family on the deaths of Sean and Patricia Jones, 37 Monacurragh, Carlow.

Walsh Family on the death of Vincent Walsh, 9, Oaklawns, Dublin Road, Carlow.

Amond Family on the death of Lena Amond, Browneshill Road, Carlow.

Buckley Family on the death of Patricia Buckley, Browneshill Road, Carlow.

Fitzpatrick Family, Ardnehue, on the death of John Fitzpatrick

Reilly family on the death of their mother Margaret (Maggie), Rathrush, Rathoe.

Votes of Congratulations

Cllr. John McDonald on being elected Vice-Chairperson of Carlow GAA
Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society on the production of 'Carloviana' 2023 Edition

Mount Leinster Rangers on winning both the U20 A Football and U20 A Hurling Championship finals

Naomh Eoin on winning the U20 B Football Championship final.

St. Laurence O'Toole Athletic Club on winning both the Odlum and Lambert Cups, Bobby Crowley Senior Men's winner and Leah Lawlor Senior Women's winner at the County Carlow Cross Country Championships

Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill

Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

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

'That the Minutes of the December Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 12th December 2022 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 – Section 60 Report to Council on 2021 Statutory Audit Report

The Report from the Audit Committee was discussed in detail. It was noted that the local government auditor who conducted the audit attended at a meeting of the Audit Committee on 14th December 2022 and provided further clarifications on the report findings and the overall audit opinion. Based on its deliberations, the committee considered that the following area(s) be brought to the attention of the Council.

3.4 – Registration of Fixed Assets

The committee noted that a substantial number of historic housing assets have not yet been registered with the Property Registration Authority. While some progress in registering these housing assets was made during 2022, it is important that the registration process is completed as soon as possible. The committee was informed by the Interim Chief Executive that due to staff resourcing issues the process was delayed but will be addressed as a priority in early 2023.

11.2 – Carlow Arts Centre Ltd

The committee noted that the annual subvention from Carlow County Council to Carlow Arts Centre Ltd had increased from € 498k in 2021 to € 584k in 2022 and to € 650k in 2023. While the committee noted the challenging operating environment post Covid and the exceptional increase in energy costs, the committee requested that the company explore and vigorously pursue alternate funding streams to reduce its dependency on the annual subvention. The committee was informed by the Interim Chief Executive that the company is reviewing its operations which includes evaluating potential income streams and outlined enhanced governance arrangements which are now in place.

Questions raised by the members were answered by Pat Delaney.

The Audit Committee – Section 60 Report to Council on the 2021 Statutory Audit Report was

Proposed by Councillor T. Kinsella

Seconded by Councillor J. McDonald and

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed

2.2 Statutory Audit Report 2021 & Annual Financial Statement 2021

Members discussed the Local Government Audit Service, Statutory Audit Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2021. The Annual Financial Statement of Carlow County Council for the year ended 31st December 2021 was audited which comprises the Statement of Accounting Policies, Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Funds Flow and notes to forming part of the accounts. It was noted that 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 2021 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended. Pat Delaney responded to questions raised by the members.

The Local Government Auditors Report 2021 was Proposed by Councillor M. Doran

Seconded by Councillor K. Murnane and

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed

2.3 Local Government Act 2001 - Section 183 (1) Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, the disposal of plot of ground at Clogrenan

Proposed by Councillor A. McDonald

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran and

Agreed following a show of hands:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve in accordance with Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) the disposal of plot of ground at Clogrenan (0.69 hectares Folio No CW16149F) to Mr. Edward Nolan, Clogrenan, Bilboa, in consideration of the sum of €100 plus own fees and relinquishment of claim to 0.11 ha/0.27 acres of lands at Clogrenan, in accordance with the terms of the statutory notice already circulated. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.

3.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations/Breithniú ar Thuarascálacha agus ar Mholtaí

3.1 Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act 1999, as amended by Section 58 of the Electoral (Amendment) Act 2001 and Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Act 2012 - Annual Donation Statement

E. Brophy briefed the members on the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act 1999, as amended by Section 58 of the Electoral (Amendment) Act 2001 and Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Act 2012 - Annual Donation Statement.

3.2 St Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg, and the County Carlow Connection

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Dermot Mulligan to the meeting who gave a detailed presentation on St. Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg and the Carlow Connection.

Dermot Mulligan answered questions raised by the Members.

The members thanked the Cathaoirleach and Dermot Mulligan for attending Echternach and noted the importance of this European connection.

3.3 Carlow Climate Action Update - Presentation by Jannette O'Brien, Climate Action Coordinator, Environment Section

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Jannette O'Brien to the meeting who gave a detailed presentation on Carlow Climate Action Update.

The elected members raised questions in relation to Bicycle Scheme for Carlow, Solar Panels, Electric Vehicle Charging Points, Burning of Waste, Retrofitting of Houses/Premises, SEAI grants and issue with completing forms.

Jannette O'Brien & P. O'Gorman answered questions raised by the Members.

3.4 National Waste Enforcement Priorities - Activities for Focus in 2023 – Update by Orla Barrett, Senior Engineer, Environment Section

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Orla Barrett to the meeting who gave a detailed presentation on National Waste Enforcement Priorities – Activities for Focus in 2023.

The elected members raised questions in relation to Septic Tanks, Illegal Dumping, Burning of Waste, construction and Demolition Waste.

Cllr. F. Browne congratulated the Environment Department on the Columbarium Wall constructed in St. Mary's Cemetery Carlow.

Orla Barrett P. O'Gorman and M. Rainey answered questions raised by the Members.

3.5 Roads & Transportation Programme Review 2022 - Presentation by Ray Wickham, Acting Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation section

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ray Wickham to the meeting who gave a detailed presentation on Roads & Transportation Programme Review 2022.

The elected members raised queries in relation to Drainage, Bus Stop Shelters, Road Surfaces, Cats Eyes, Public Lighting, Footpaths, Material Costs and Discretionary Funding.

Ray Wickham & P. O'Gorman answered questions raised by the Members.

3.6 Irish Business Against Litter Survey (IBAL) Year end results for 2022

The Irish Business Against Litter Survey (IBAL) year end results for 2022 was noted and P. O'Gorman answered questions from the members.

3.7 Training and Conference Approvals

Proposed by Councillor W. Quinn

Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald and

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

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve the following training/conferences.

AIR 2023 - Regional Seminar and Training Event for members

Date: 7th-9th February 2023

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel & Leisure Club, Monaghan, Coolshannagh, Monaghan H18 Y220

The Association of Irish Regions (AIR), the representative body for the Regional Assemblies, is hosting its first Regional Seminar and Training event to explore the role of regions in navigating present and future challenges. The event will explore regional perspectives for policy making, economic and spatial development and how the Regions are a key delivery mechanism for strong regional development. **FEE: €160.00**

4.0 Chief Executives Report/Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

Members thanked the Corporate Team for the newly designed Chief Executives Report. The Chief Executive and Directors of Services answered questions from members on various issues in the report.

5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

Members noted correspondence from Limerick City & County Council calling on Minister for Transport to adopt a policy at National level to have bus shelters constructed where there is a bus stop

Members noted resolution adopted by Kerry County Council requesting that when the Ukrainian Refugees return home, their current accommodation be retained for the homeless and those on local authority housing lists.

Members noted resolution from Cork County Council requesting Department of Transport to contribute financially to the LIS (Local Improvement Scheme).

Members noted resolution from Cork County Council requesting Minister for Finance to reintroduce an income tax credit scheme to incentivize and encourage many more Irish people to take out personal health insurance cover while also preserving the existing rebate of up to €200 at the point of purchase.

Members noted correspondence from Cork County Council seeking a change in the term of the County Development Plan in the proposed Planning & Development Bill.

Members noted correspondence from Monaghan County Council seeking Department of Health and the HSE regarding retention of babies organs at post-mortem.

6.0 Notices of Motion/Fógraí Rúin

6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. John Cassin

"Carlow County Council to engage with Kildare County Council to formulate a submission to the department of Transport to provide safe parking on the entrance and exit of the M9 motorway at junction 4. To ensure as part of the submission the lights are switched back on at the same junction on the motorway."

This motion was deferred to the February Council Meeting

6.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. Andrea Dalton

"This motion calls on Carlow County Council to write to the Department of Transport and the RSA to ask them to address the very serious and unacceptable waiting times for a Driving Test in County Carlow. Constituents are waiting around 7 months to be given a test from the time they apply. This has very serious impacts on our learner drivers varying from additional cost of insurance due to being on a Learner's Permit to inability to take up employment due to lack of Full Driver's License. This motion calls on the Department to give approval for the employment of additional Driving Testers and a review of the operating hours so that more tests could be carried out on the weekend or in the evenings to help alleviate the backlog."

This Motion was

Proposed by Cllr. A. Dalton

Seconded by Cllr. W. Quinn and

Agreed following a show of hands

This concluded the business of the meeting.