

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the October Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council,
held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow,
on Monday 8th October, 2018 at 2.00 p.m.**

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

Apologies: Councillor D. Foley

In attendance: Ms. K. Holohan, Chief Executive
Mr. D. McInerney, Director of Services, Transportation,
Environment, Water Services, Building Control and
Emergency Services.
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Services, Planning & Corporate
Services.
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Acting Senior Engineer, Environment.
Ms A Sweeney, Senior Planner
Mr. R. Wickham, Senior Engineer, Transportation
Ms. J. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer, Housing.
Mr. P.J. Leonard, Financial Accountant
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.
Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate
Services.

OPENING PRAYER

The Cathaoirleach welcomed The Rev Paul Maxwell of Carlow Methodist Church to the meeting and invited him to give the opening prayer.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Margaret Forde & Family, Coolmanagh, Hacketstown, Co. Carlow on the death of her husband Eddie.
- The Olwill Family, 182 Colclough Ave., Graiguecullen, Carlow on the death of their mother Margaret.
- Debbie O’Gorman, Fenniscourt, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow on the death of her husband David.
- The Maye Family, 23 McGamhna Road, Carlow on the death of their mother Eileen.
- Gretta O’Sullivan & Family, Bennekerry, Carlow on the death of her son Philip.
- Maria Hutchinson & Family, 5 Heatherhill, Graiguecullen, Carlow on the death of her father Dennis Dowling.
- Tom O’Regan & Family, ‘St Martins’, Blackbog Road, Quinagh, Carlow on the death of his wife Maureen.
- Ann Walsh & Family, 85, New Oak Estate, Carlow on the death of her husband Jim.
- Colette Nolan, Housing Department on the death of her aunt Ellen Whitfield, Mill Street, Tullow, Co. Carlow.
- Maureen Gordon & Family on the death of her husband Gerard.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- Fenagh Minor Football Team on winning the u/17 County Championship.
- Kieran Comerford, Head of LEO and staff on their assistance to communities in respect of projects under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme securing an allocation of €786,000 for County Carlow under the Scheme.
- All involved in negotiations with the National Ploughing Association to bring the Ploughing Championships to Carlow next year.
- Éire Óg on winning the County Senior Football Final and the Junior B Final.

- Mount Leinster Rangers on reaching the County Hurling Championship Final.
- Shane Fitzharris, on becoming Executive Vice President of Global Sales, Templeton Rye Whiskey Distillery.
- Larry Brennan, Carlow Kickboxing Club on their success in the world championships.
- Sam Watson on winning a silver medal with Team Ireland at the World Equestrian Games with Team Ireland securing their place at the 2020 Olympics.
- Carlow Chamber of Commerce and Teagasc on the success of the 'Rooster Festival' in Oak Park, Carlow.
- All involved with the successful launch of Mensana Mental Health events 2018.

Councillor J. Murphy welcomed funding through Community Enhancement Programme for disadvantaged communities and urged communities to avail of funding.

1(a) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Proposed by Councillor W. Quinn
Seconded by Councillor F. Browne
AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 10th September, 2018 at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.'

1(b) The minutes of the Special Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 24th September, 2018 at 3.00 p.m

Proposed by Councillor W. Lacey
Seconded by Councillor J. Murphy
AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 24th September, 2018 at 3.00p.m having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.'

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUE, STANDING ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.

(a) The lease of 0.295 Hectares (0.73 Acres) at Gleann na Bearú, Bagenalstown, to Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre CLG

Members approval was sought to the lease of 0.295 Hectares (0.73 Acres) at Gleann na Bearú, Bagenalstown, to Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre CLG.

Proposed by Councillor A. McDonald

Seconded by Councillor A. Gladney

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the lease of 0.295 Hectares (0.73 Acres) at Gleann na Bearú, Bagenalstown, to Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre CLG for 35 years in consideration of the sum of €10 per annum in accordance with of the statutory notice already circulated and in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government is not necessary for the lease of the said land.'

(b) Overdraft accommodation for year ending 31stDecember, 2019

Members had report from P.J. Leonard, Financial Accountant seeking Members' approval to retain the current overdraft limit in the sum of €2m for year ending 31st December 2019.

Proposed by Councillor A. Gladney

Seconded by Councillor J. Murphy

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €2 million for the year ended 31st December 2019 in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001.

3. DEPARTMENTAL PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Transportation Progress Report

Members welcomed Transportation Progress Report from D. McInerney, Director of Services.

Issues raised by the Members included the following:-

- Time frame for resurfacing works in Bagenalstown following works by Irish Water and the concreting of footpaths.
- Members welcomed LED lighting programme and urged that funding be sought to continue the programme. The issue of brightness of LED Lighting in residential areas was raised.
- Members welcomed new bus service for Carlow Town and queried the commencement of the service and proposed routes.
- Works on upper Tullow Street and the need for interim surface remediation to be completed in advance of the Christmas period.
- Footpaths Tinnahinch in bad repair and poor lighting in the area.
- Update sought on pedestrian bridge, Tinnahinch.
- South Carlow in need of Rural Transport Service in Phase 2 of provision of bus services.
- Update sought on progressing the road required to link the Éire Óg Roundabout to the Ballinacarrig roundabout.
- Ralumac surface dressing in housing estate not settling and the issue of road markings.
- Time line for works on Tullow Footbridge and associated works.
- Public lighting out in St. Brigid's Crescent, Bagenalstown and trees overgrowing.
- Winter Ready Maintenance Plan.
- Unauthorised caravans on Relief Road, Pollerton Big causing concern for residents.
- Mortarstown prone to flooding and the issue of flooding for a family living in the area
- Public Lighting out in Nurney.
- Road collapse Fenagh outside Kearney's pub.
- Policy on removing abandoned vehicles.

Members complimented D. McInerney on the Road Works Programme 2018. Members complimented R. Wickham, J. Crowley and P. Harrington on Community Involvement Schemes 2018 and Local Improvement Schemes 2018.

All issues raised by the Members were addressed by D. McInerney.

(b) Environment Progress Report

Members welcomed Environment Progress Report to October 2018
Issues raised by the members included the following:-

- Members complimented B. O'Donovan, P. Kehoe, Litter warden and staff for their swift action removing waste, including the carcass of a dead animal from the river at Rathoe.
- Status of Powerstown Community Fund.
- The clearing of silt from the river Barrow.
- Upgrading of Bagenalstown Treatment Plant urgently required to enable new housing development in the area.
- Dog fouling – patrol after 5 p.m
- Reed beds for the management and treatment of sludge at waste water treatment plants.
- Flood Risk Management Plan for Tullow.
- Inadequate waste water treatment system Clonegal. A builder, having previously paid development contributions, is refused permission to complete housing development due to inadequate services.

Issues raised by the Members were addressed by D. McInerney and B. O'Donovan.

(c) Water Services Progress Report

Members had Water Services Progress Report to October 2018 for consideration.

The following issues were raised by the Members:-

- Waste Water Treatment Plant Tullow in need of urgent upgrade to facilitate housing development.
- The upgrade of Bagenalstown Waste Water Treatment Plant was also raised and the issue of Leighlinbridge taking capacity from the Bagenalstown Plant.

D. McInerney advised that Carlow County Council is continuously advocating for the progression of these critical infrastructural projects.

4. TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES, BUILDING CONTROL & EMERGENCY SERVICES

(a) 'My Carlow' A Vision for a Living Town Centre

Members had for consideration and approval the Chief Executive's report on 'My Carlow' A Vision for a living Town Centre- Non Statutory Public Consultation. The report was discussed in detail at the September meeting of Carlow Municipal District where it was agreed that the report be presented to the Plenary council for consideration and approval. The Chief Executive sought Members approval to five recommendations as outlined in report dated 1st October, 2018.

Proposed by Councillor K. Murnane

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

AND

Following a show of hands it was resolved:-

'that we, the members of Carlow County Council approve the Chief Executive's Report for 'My Carlow' A Vision for a Living Town Centre as set out in report dated 1st October, 2018.

Councillor Phelan welcomed the report but expressed reservations to introduce a one-way system on Upper Tullow Street. Councillor Phelan also expressed reservations at the loss of on street car parking spaces on Tullow Street and extended areas such as Burrin Street, Castle Street and the Courthouse. Councillor Phelan requested updated drawings in relation to street parking on Tullow Street.

5. CORPORATE, PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

(a) Agriculture

Councillor Browne queried the current status of lands at the sugar factory site on the Athy Road and if contact had been made with the owners of the site. B.O' Brien advised of meeting with owners, of remediation work at the site and that the site has recreation and amenity value. She advised that no decision has been made by the owners for development of the site. A letter is to issue to the owners, on the Members' behalf, requesting plans for future development of the lands.

Councillors McDonald, C. Murphy, J. Murphy and Kinsella raised issue of Irish Beef Industry being under threat, that direct payments must be protected and increased premiums for suckler cows.

Councillor Deane raised issue of 3,000 small farmers in danger of losing their farms to Vulture Funds as the Vulture Funds refuse to engage with the farmers to implement a credible solution. A letter is to issue to the Minister for Agriculture, on behalf of the Members, requesting his intervention on behalf of the farmers.

(b) Conference Attendance Approvals

**Proposed by Councillor A. Dalton
Seconded by Councillor J. Pender**

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the following conferences.

Your Development Plan and Climate Change,
Casey's Hotel,
Baltimore,
West Cork.
19th to 21st October 2018

Fee: €145

Social Media & Effective Time Management,
Four Seasons Hotel,
Carlingford
Co. Louth.
9th to 11th November 2018

Fee: €100

Entitlement to Health Services,
Clonakilty Hotel,
Clonakilty,
Co. Cork.
23rd to 25th November 2018

Fee: €100

Local Authority Budgets,
Silver Tassie Hotel,
Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal.
16th to 18th November 2018

Fee: €145

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Members noted Chief Executive Monthly Management Report for the period 1st to 30th September, 2018.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted correspondence from the Office of the Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People in response to Members' correspondence concerning mental health services in Carlow/Kilkenny.

Members noted correspondence from Niall McHugh to all Local Authorities seeking support to call on the Minister for Health to approve funding for Spinraza a life-saving treatment for Irish spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) patients.

Members noted Notice of Motion from Cork County Council's Roads and Transportation SPC expressing its disappointment that Cork County Council was refused 2nd round funding for 2018 Local Improvement Schemes due to stringent deadlines (end of July) for completion of Round 1 Schemes.

Members noted correspondence from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in connection with social housing income thresholds for Carlow.

8. Notices of Motion

FógraíRúin/Notices of Motion.

Standing in the name of Cllr. Fintan Phelan

'We the Members of Carlow County Council support retaining the policy of reducing rates on ratepayers where a part of the premises is vacant. It has been a longstanding policy of the council to impose such a reduction for businesses where a room or part of a premises was not in use. Many ratepayers have agreements in place with the council regarding this spanning a number of years and it is the view of this council that they should be maintained'.

Members agreed to defer this Notice of Motion in order to allow time to consider legal advice received on the issue.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WITH THE CONSENT OF THE CATHAOIRLEACH

Councillor Gladney queried update on the issue of Bagenalstown Office being used as a facility to accept motor taxation documentation for transfer to county buildings for processing.

Councillor Murnane requested that a letter issue to TUSLA in relation to

the Galway Rape Crisis Case as their second response to Members' correspondence was unacceptable and did not address the issue raised by the Members.

Councillor Browne raised issue of derelict building at Shamrock Plaza. B. O'Brien advised that the derelict site levy is imposed on the building and that the Council is actively pursuing the issue. Councillor Browne also urged that the Council owned properties on Staplestown Road be brought forward for development. B. O'Brien advised that the Housing Officer is dealing with council owned properties in this area.

Councillor McDonald raised issue of pregnant lady seeking housing transfer. The Housing Officer is to discuss this issue with Councillor McDonald.

This concluded the business of the meeting.