

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the October Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in
The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on
Monday 14th October 2019 at 2.00 p.m.**

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

In attendance: Ms. K. Holohan, Chief Executive
Mr K. Cullinane, Acting Director of Services,
Transportation, Environment & Water Services
P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Ms J. Kavanagh, Acting Director of Services, Housing
Mr. K Comerford, Acting Director of Service – Corporate,
Planning, Economic Development, Health and Safety
Mr. P.J. Leonard, Finance Officer
Mr B. O'Donovan, Acting Senior Engineer, Environment.
Mr. D. Mulligan, Museum Curator
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate
Services.
Ms J. O'Brien, Acting Environmental Awareness Officer,
Ms S. Doyle, Technician Grade 2, Environment
Ms. M. Ahearne, Staff Officer, Environment
Ms B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate
Services.

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Joe McDonald, former member of Carlow County Council on the death of his wife Claire McDonald, 2 Pinewood Ave. Carlow.
- Eileen Cranny & Family, Boggan, Kilbride, Carlow on the death of her husband Jack.
- The Carton Family, Kilree Cottages, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow on the death of their father Tony.
- The Nolan Family, 'Spring Valley', Laragh, Ballon, Co. Carlow on the death of their mother Teresa.
- The Byrne Family on the death of their mother Jean Byrne, 10 Mountain View, Myshall, Co. Carlow.
- Muriel Flynn & Family, Grangeford, Bennekerry, Tullow, Co. Carlow on the death of her son Martin.
- Thérèse Jackman & Family, Crosslow, Tullow, Co. Carlow on the death of her husband Luke.
- Mary Nolan & Family, Knockroe, Borris, Co. Carlow on the death of her husband Paddy.
- The Ryan Family, The Bridge, Dranagh, St. Mullins, Co. Carlow on the death of their mother Bridget (Bridie) Ryan.
- James Fenlon & Family, "CnocDubh" Marley, Graignamanagh, Co. Kilkenny, on the death of his wife Rita Fenlon.
- James Doyle & Family, Newtown Cross, Borris, Co. Carlow, on the death of his wife Mary Kate Doyle.
- Rita Byrne & Family, 2 Leinster Crescent, Old Dublin Road, Carlow Town, Co. Carlow, on the death of her husband Edward (Ned).
- Ann Callanan & Family, Bunclody, Co. Wexford on the death of her husband Philip.
- Ivy O'Brien & Family, Michael Collins Park, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow, on the death of her husband Terry O'Brien.
- John Hartnett and Family, Brownshill Road, Carlow Town, on the death of his wife Philomena Hartnett.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- All involved with the success of the Ploughing Championships 2019.
- Eire Óg on winning the County Football Championship 2019
- Carlow Fire and Rescue Team on winning first place at this year's World Extrication Challenge in La Rochelle, France in the ten-minute 'rapid scenario' category.
- O'Hanrahan's GAA Club on celebrating 100 years.
- Carlow Gymnastic Team on representing Ireland at the European Championships.
- All recipients of awards at Carlow County Chamber Business Awards 2019.
- Mount Leinster Rangers on reaching the Senior, Intermediate and Minor Hurling Championships
- Eugene Walsh on receipt of Spirit of Carlow Award at the Carlow Business Awards 2019.
- All involved with the success of Tidy Towns 2019.

Clonegal winning the gold medal for the county award.

Leighlinbridge, earning a gold medal in category C.

Carlow Town, was awarded a silver medal.

Ballon village was also commended and awarded €500.

Myshall earning the village an endeavour award as well as €500.

Queen of the Universe NS, Bagenalstown, won the SuperValu School Award for the southeast and €1,000.

Members called for more support services for Tidy Towns to be put in place.

- Bagenalstown Gaels on winning the County Minor Football Championship Final.
- To all involved with the success of 'A Day with the Ducketts' at Ducketts Grove.
- Carlow County Council on being appointed as one of twelve leaders to drive forward Ireland's progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- Carlow County Council outdoor staff for their work on cutting down dangerous trees in the Borris area.

- Kevin Regan on winning silver for Carlow Rising documentary at the IMRO awards 2019
- Kildavin Clonegal GAA on commemoration 100 years since the first GAA Championship title came to the parish.

1(a) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne

Seconded by Councillor F. Phelan

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 9th September 2019 at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

Proposed by Councillor J. Murphy

Seconded by Councillor W. Paton

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 23rd September 2019 at 11.30 a.m having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

Matters arising from Special Meeting of Carlow County Council on 23rd September, 2019

Councillor Paton expressed his anger that members had no option, at the Special Meeting of Carlow County Council to set Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) 2020, but to increase the Local Property Tax 2020 by 5% to meet the Council’s budgetary deficit. Members have now been informed of additional funding of €750,000 from rates for national utilities. This amount, less the deficit, gives additional funding of €450,000 to the Municipal Districts. Councillor Paton stated that if Members had been aware of this additional funding a 5% increase in LPT would not have been necessary. P. Delaney, Head of Finance advised that the Council was not aware of the additional funding until after the LPT meeting. He stated that the Council was just about able to meet the services required for 2020 and that this additional funding has yet to be confirmed.

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

Museums Standards Programme of Ireland (MSPI).

Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator advised of Museum Standards Programme of Ireland (MSPI). The process is divided into Interim Accreditation and Full Accreditation. Carlow County Council is applying for Interim Accreditation.

As part of the process the Interim Accreditation Application the Museum must devise and have approved plans and policies. The Plans and Policies were approved by the Museum Board at its meeting of Tuesday 8th October.

D. Mulligan sought Members approval to the Draft Plans and Policies.

(2.1) Approval of Draft Carlow County Museum Disposal Policy 2019 2024

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill

Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

AND

Following a show of hands it was resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Draft Carlow County Museum Disposal Policy 2019-2024.

(2.2) Approval of Draft Carlow County Museum Collection Policy 2019-2024

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill

Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

AND

Following a show of hands it was resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Draft Carlow County Museum Collection Policy 2019-2024.

(2.3) Approval of Draft Carlow County Museum Mission Statement

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill

Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

AND

Following a show of hands it was resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Draft Carlow County Museum Mission Statement.

(2.4) Approval of Draft Carlow County Museum Strategic Management Action Plan 2019-2020.

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill

Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

AND

Following a show of hands it was resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Draft Carlow County Museum Strategic Management Action Plan 2019-2020.

(2.5) Approval of Draft Carlow County Museum Strategic Management Plan 2019-2024.

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill

Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

AND

Following a show of hands it was resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Draft Carlow County Museum Strategic Management Plan 2019-2024.

Members congratulated Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator and staff of Carlow County Museum on their excellent work at Carlow Museum, providing an excellent facility for County Carlow.

Councillor Doran referred to collection of paper works on historical national figures at Carlow College and queried if there is collaboration between Carlow County Museum and Carlow College.

Councillor Paton congratulated Dermot Mulligan on works at Tullow Museum.

Issues raised by the Members were addressed by D. Mulligan.

(2.6) To approve Overdraft Accommodation – Year ended 31/12/2020.

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton

Seconded by Councillor J. Murphy

AND

Following a show of hands it was resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €7 million for the year ended 31st December 2020 in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001.

Members queried the increase in overdraft accommodation to €7 million for year ended 31st December, 2020.

P Delaney, Head of Finance advised of accelerated construction programme and that €7 million is a contingency measure but the Council has not gone into overdraft this year.

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

(3.1) Presentation on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Brian O'Donovan, Acting Senior Engineer, Environment gave a presentation to the Members on the Champions Programme for UN Sustainable Development Goals. The aim of the Champions programme is to both raise awareness of the SDGs and to demonstrate, through the example of the Champions' engagement with sustainable development, that everyone in society can make a contribution to achieving the 17 Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a blueprint to achieve a better and a more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, peace and justice. B.O'Donovan advised that Carlow County Council has been appointed as one of twelve leaders to drive forward Ireland's progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Carlow County Council will champion 5 of the goals which include clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production and climate action. To achieve the SDG's B. O'Donovan advised that the Government, businesses, communities and individuals will all have to work together. He advised of practical measures being introduced in County Carlow such as single use plastic policy. B.O'Donovan advised of discussions with GAA Clubs on energy usage. He advised of schemes being developed that will attract funding. In response to Members query he advised of possible use of Powerstown Landfill site as a Biodiversity Centre. He advised of continuation of programme to upgrade public lighting in County Carlow to more efficient LED lighting.

Members thanked Brian O'Donovan and staff involved with working on the Champions Programme to raise awareness of the SDGs and for their work at the National Ploughing Championships.

All issues raised by the Members were addressed by B. O'Donovan.

4.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Members discussed Chief Executive Monthly Management Report for the period to 30th September, 2019.

Issues raised by the Members included:-

- Carlow Bus Service progressing to tender stage.
- Derelict Sites. The Chief Executive advised of procedure to follow before placing a vacant property on a derelict site register.
- Proposals for Perry's site – incubator hub. The Chief Executive advised of part V111 approval to develop area as offices.
- Powerstown Community Fund
- Update on proposals to take in charge Milford Park Housing Estate, Ballinabranna. K. Cullinane advised of complicated issue. Advice is to be sought before process can be completed.
- Hedge cutting needs to be carried out in certain areas.
- Update on Blue Way proposals. The Chief Executive advised of communication with Waterways Ireland requesting a meeting to discuss plans for the River Barrow. She stated that she will keep members informed on any updates.
- Update on proposals for social housing at Ardattin, Carlow. Ms. J. Kavanagh, Acting Director of Services, Housing advised of proposals to commence part V111 process.
- Invalid Planning Applications. The Chief Executive advised of workshops but that the responsibility lies with the applicant to comply with requirements laid down.
- Fire Service, Tullow operating with less than what was laid down in 2016 policy. K. Cullinane advised of being understaffed due to sick leave and that personnel will be recruited
- Timeline for Tullow Road Community Project.
- Carlow Relief Road – slow progress in completing the link between Ballinacarrig Roundabout and the Inner Relief Road south of the Eire Óg roundabout. K. Cullinane advised of issues that is delaying the process.
- Carlow Town Bus Service. NTA to update members at the Carlow Municipal District meeting.
- Delay of proposals for footbridge at Carlow Railway Station.
- Dangerous footpaths at Oak Park Forest Park.

Issues raised by the Members were answered by the Chief Executive and K. Cullinane.

5.0 CORPORATE, PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

(5.1) Conference Attendance Approvals

**Proposed by Councillor M. Doran
Seconded by Councillor C. Murphy
And**

Following a show of hands it was resolved:-

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve the following Conference Attendance.

AILG Training – Module 4, “The Planning Process, The Elected Member and the Office of the Planning Regulator”
Thursday 10th October 2019
Radisson Hotel, Ennis Road, via Limerick, Co Carlow, - SER Councilors **Fee €55.00**
(12th October (Sat) Dundalk, Crowne Plaza Hotel, BMW and Mid East Region)

ICSH Biennial National Social Housing Conference 2019
Innovation, Delivery & Sustainability
Thursday 10th – 11th October 2019
Whites Hotel Wexford

Fee: 295.0.

Celtic Conference - A practical Guide to Budget 2020
Friday 11th – 13th October 2019
Carlingford, Co Louth

Fee €100.00

LAMA Conference
Thursday 17th – 19th October 2019
Biodiversity and Sustainability
Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare

Fee €180.00

NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum (Free of Charge)
Friday 18th October,
Dublin City Hall -the positive role of Councils in
promoting local low carbon solutions

Fee €0.00

Energy Action – Fuel Poverty Conference,
Monday 21st October 2019
Croke Park Conference Centre
Dublin

Fee €90.00

Ireland and Plastic Waste' Conference
Friday 25th to 27th October 2019
O' Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork

O' Donovan's Hotel
Clonakilty
Co Cork **Fee €100.00**

The Housing Agency Annual Conference 2019 (Free of Charge)

Wednesday 6th November 2019
Aviva Stadium (Havelock Suite)
Lansdowne Road
Dublin 4 **Fee: €0.00**

Celtic Conference - Emerging Threats and Persistent Conservation Challenges for Freshwater Biodiversity

Friday 8th to 10th November 2019
O'Donovan's Hotel, Main St., Clonakilty, Co. Cork Conference
No meals provided **Fee €100.00**

Celtic Conference - Entitlement to Health Services

Friday 15th to 17th November 2019
O'Donovan's Hotel, Main Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork Conference
No meals provided **Fee €100.00**

Celtic Conference - Regional Development and EU Cohesion Policy beyond 2020

Friday 22nd to 24th November 2019
The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth Conference
No meals provided. **Fee: 100.00**

AILG Training – Module 5 - Climate Change – Local Authorities in the Front Line

Saturday 23rd November
Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork – SE Region Cllrs **Fee €55.00**

(5.2) Agriculture

Councillor Gladney referred to the beef farmers' protest and to concerns that some protesters are still facing court injunctions.

6.1. CORRESPONDENCE

Member noted resolution from Sligo County Council re the roll out of 5G in County Sligo.

Members noted correspondence from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment on Climate Action Plan to tackle climate breakdown.

Members noted resolution from Leitrim County Council on the Beef Plan Campaign calling on the Minister for Agriculture to take action to alleviate the crisis.

Members noted resolution from Leitrim County Council calling on the Minister for Environment to introduce a moratorium on the granting of planning permission for new wind farms until such time as new guidelines are issued by the Minister.

Members noted resolution from Leitrim County Council calling on the NTA, and the Minister for Transport to extend the area of operations for Local Hackney Licenses from 5-7 kilometres to 16-20 kilometres.

Members noted resolution from Monaghan County Council on ongoing campaign by the National Ambulance Services Representative Association to have Trade Union representation rights advocated on their behalf through the Psychiatric Nurses Association.

Members noted correspondence from the Minister with responsibility for Defence in response to Members notice of motion at the September meeting in relation to medals for gallantry and distinguished service specifically for the Irish soldiers of "A" Company who served at Jadotville in 1961 be awarded.

7.1. FógraíRúin/Notices of Motion.

Standing in the name of Councillor J. Cassin

Proposed by Councillor J. Cassin

Seconded by Councillor W. Paton

And

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'Carlow County Council calls on the Minister for Health to immediately reinstate the Rehabilitative Training Bonus for people with disabilities.'

The Notice of Motion to be circulated to all Local Authorities for their support.

(7.2) Standing in the name of Councillor William Paton

'Noting the fact that the Tullow Outer Relief Road is shown on development maps of Tullow since the mid 1960's;

Noting the ever-increasing volume of traffic passing through Tullow daily;

Noting the ever increasing traffic congestion at the Bridge area during

peak times;

Recognising the reality that Transport Infrastructure Ireland is unlikely to provide the finance to construct a second bridge over the River Slaney at Tullow until the population of the town exceeds 20,000;

“That Carlow County Council draft plans to construct that part of the Relief Road from the R418-Castledermot Road to the N81- Bunclody Road (via the R725-Carlow Road and Rathoe Roads) with a target completion date of end 2023, thereby bringing major relief from traffic congestion to the Bridge area in Tullow.

Furthermore, that all development levies (other than amenity levies) collected from developments adjacent to the proposed routes of the Tullow Outer Relief Road are ring-fenced and preserved for the sole purpose of constructing the Tullow Outer Relief Road.’

K.Cullinane advised that development levies would not meet the required funding to construct the Tullow Outer Relief Road that it would have to be met from central funds. He advised of lobbying Transport Infrastructure Ireland but that the proposals may not be suitable for TII future requirements. He advised of proposals for provision of pedestrian crossing and footpaths in Tullow Town Centre.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a report be prepared for Tullow Municipal District meeting on best options to alleviate traffic congestion in Tullow Town Centre.

Councillor Paton withdrew the Notice of Motion.

Councillor McDonald queried update on design of bridge for Bagenalstown.

Councillor Browne queried availability of funding from European Investment Funds for bridge construction.

(7.3) Standing in the name of Cllr. William Paton

**Proposed by Councillor W. Paton
Seconded by Councillor A. Wallace
And**

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

Noting the fact that on average 62,000 babies are born in Ireland every year and that approximately 1,250 will have a rare disease;

Noting that new born babies are screened for 8 medical conditions soon after birth using the heel prick test first introduced in 1966;

Noting that other European countries use the test to screen for up to 40 genetic disorders;

“That Carlow County Council supports the campaign spear headed by Cathal Martin to expand the programme of screening of new born babies in Ireland for genetic disorders. Such an expanded programme could save the lives of 50 new born children in Ireland every year. “

Cathal Martin suffers from metachromatic leukodystrophy which if diagnosed early in his life could have treated and Cathal would have gone through life without any serious disadvantage, but unfortunately Cathal was not diagnosed until two and half years which was far too late.

8.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS WITH THE CONSENT OF THE CATHAOIRLEACH

Councillor Wallace brought forward Notice of Motion to Council under urgent business. Members expressed dissatisfaction with the way the Notice of Motion was brought to their attention.

E. Brophy clarified procedures under Standing Orders for urgent business. The issue may be discussed where ten or more members agree. Following a show of hands it was agreed to discuss the Notice of Motion. The Notice of Motion was as follows:-

‘Following the recent response from Minister Zappone to a parliamentary question it was revealed that additional funding of €1.5 million has been secured for domestic, sexual and gender based violence services this year. A proportion of this funding is to be used to employ 12 new outreach workers to improve access to support services to women and children affected by domestic violence in different counties, including Carlow.

This council calls on Tulsa to send a representative to the November council meeting to explain why the additional funding is not being considered to help secure a refuge for Carlow.’

Councillor Phelan proposed that the Notice of Motion be amended as the Motion implied either/or an outreach worker or a refuge centre.

Following a show of hands it was agreed to amend the Notice of Motion to read as follows:-

‘That Carlow County Council invites Tusla to send a representative to the November meeting of Carlow County Council to discuss a Women’s Refuge for Carlow.’

Councillor J. McDonald raised concerns at An Bord Pleanála’s decision to grant planning permission for the construction of a lithium ion battery storage unit in Rathoe, despite concerns by the community.

Councillor K. Murnane expressed concern that a wall, to be built in Sandhills, cannot be built until Browneshill Court Housing Estate has been taken in charge. He queried if the wall will be built before the end of the year.

Councillor Murnane queried if a Notice of Motion, to construct the wall, is to be revoked and requested that the issue be placed on agenda for the next Municipal District meeting.

There was no further business to be transacted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.