

**Minutes of Meeting of the Carlow Municipal District  
held in Town Hall, Carlow, on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020, at 4.00 p.m.**

---

**Present:** Councillor A. Dalton, Mayor  
Councillor F. Browne  
Councillor J. Cassin  
Councillor K. Murnane  
Councillor T. O’Neill  
Councillor F. Phelan  
Councillor A. Wallace

**In Attendance:** Mr. M. Rainey, Director of Service, Corporate Services, HR, Planning, Health & Safety, Security & Economic Development  
Mr. P. O’Gorman, Director of Service, Environment, Water & Transportation  
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services  
Mr. G. O’Brien, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation  
Ms. J. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer, Housing  
Mr. P. Curran, Facilities Manager, Corporate Services  
Ms. M. Hand, Assistant Staff Officer, Human Resources

Mayor A. Dalton opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the June Meeting of Carlow Municipal District. The last official meeting of Carlow Municipal District was held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020. She expressed her gratitude to the Chief Executive for facilitating briefings for Carlow Municipal District during the Covid 19 pandemic.

**1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were; -

**Proposed by Cllr. T. O’Neill**

**Seconded by Cllr. F. Browne**

**And agreed following a show of hands.**

**2.0 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

**2.1 Briefing on revised charging for Automated Public Convenience in Carlow**

Padraig O’Gorman, Director of Service, reported on the increase in charge from twenty-five cent to fifty cent for the use of public toilets in the county. There are three public toilet

facilities in the county located at the Bus Park, Carlow Town, Town Park, Carlow Town and Bagenalstown. The busiest of these facilities is at the Bus Park, Carlow Town. The public toilets are available for use again from 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

P. O’Gorman answered questions from members on various issues including;

- Income from public toilets
- Carlow Town Park – Patrolling/Signage
- Playgrounds
- Lifebuoys along the Barrow Track – Accessibility to these lifebuoys is extremely important and the lifebuoys along the track need to be inspected. P. O’Gorman to speak with Waterways Ireland to establish responsibility/maintenance of the lifebuoys.
- Provision of Litter Bins – along the barrow track and on the Kilkenny Road

Report noted on revised charging for Automated Public Convenience in Carlow.

## **2.2 Housing Report**

J. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer, presented this report. The report outlined current local authority build projects in Carlow Municipal District. Current Approved Housing Bodies – build projects, housing loans and developments at proposal stage and properties allocated from February to May 2020.

J. Kavanagh answered questions from members including;

- Co-Operative Housing Ireland
- Carlow County Council – proposed build - Barrack Street
- Traveller Accommodation Programme – parking of caravans
- Self Help Scheme
- Planned Maintenance Programme
- St. Mary’s Park/St. Mary’s Court – clarity on location of the four units being built under the Local Authority – Build Projects.
- Public Realm Plan
- Staplestown Road

Housing Report noted.

## **2.3 Carlow Town Bus Service Update**

P. O’Gorman, Director of Service presented a report on the proposed Carlow Town Bus Service. He advised that the report was approved in principle by the National Transport

Authority which would allow the project to move to the next phase. Locations for bus stops will be examined and a risk assessment for each bus stop will be carried out. The Council will enter talks with Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the provision of services along the N80. This project is making progress.

The following questions and requests were made by Members: -

- Kilkenny Bus Service –Cllr. F. Browne asked that Carlow Local Authority examine the usage/demand of the Kilkenny Bus Service
- Extension of Routes – examine the extension of route to the Dolmen Hotel, Kilkenny Road,
- Accessibility of Routes – particularly to Carlow Train Station and the Tullow Road area in the town.

Report noted on the proposed Bus Service for Carlow Town.

**The meeting of Carlow Municipal District was adjourned at 16.30pm to facilitate the Carlow Municipal District Annual Meeting scheduled.**

---

**The meeting of Carlow Municipal District resumed at approximately 17.10pm with Mayor Fergal Browne in chair.**

## **2.4 Review of Carlow Pay Parking Bye Laws**

P. O’Gorman advised that he wanted to meet with members to discuss the Parking Bye Laws before they are updated. Some of the items he wished to discuss included streets for patrol and residents permits. It was agreed that an in-committee meeting is scheduled for 3.30pm in the Town Hall on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020, prior to the next meeting of Carlow Municipal District.

## **3.0 Notices of Motion**

### **3.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. A Wallace**

**Proposed by Cllr. A. Wallace**

**Seconded by Cllr. J. Cassin**

**AND**

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

“That this Council provide free sanitary products in publicly owned and used buildings in Carlow, including the council office and local libraries. Plan International have found that 50% of Irish girls ages 12 to 19 have experiences around affordability for sanitary products. This is even more pronounced for women in homeless accommodation or in direct provision centres.”

### **3.2 Standing in the names of Cllr. K. Murnane, Cllr. J. Cassin, Cllr. A. Wallace & Cllr. T. O’Neill**

Cllr. K. Murnane confirmed that the following motion was with withdrawn.

“That Dolmen Celtic FC based on the Tullow Road be given a Licence Agreement on a full-size soccer pitch on the land returned to Carlow County Council from Eire Og GAA Club. The Licence Agreement will be on a yearly basis until such time Carlow County Council secure the funding to develop the Proposed Community Centre and associated Sporting Facilities.”

### **Emergency Motion**

Cllr. A. Wallace explained the emergency motion which she had proposed and called on members to support the motion. Newly elected Mayor F. Browne quoted the Standing Orders for the proposal of Emergency Motions. He encouraged emergency motions to be used sparingly. Four members must support the motion to allow it stand. It was resolved following a show of hands that the motion be considered.

### **Standing in the name of Cllr. A Wallace**

**Proposed by Cllr. A. Wallace**

**Seconded by Cllr. J. Cassin**

**AND**

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

“This Council condemns the action of the PSNI in disrupting the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protest in Guildhall Square in Derry on June 6th by issuing fines and threatening court action against organisers and participants. This contrasted

with the inaction of the PSNI in face of large gatherings on beaches and in major retail outlets over prior weeks.

The organisers of the protest, the North West Migrants' Forum, enforced strict rules to maintain social distancing. Very clear social distancing marks were drawn on the ground, in the same way many stores manage crowds queuing.

Council notes that Amnesty International and the Northern Committee on the Administration of Justice have expressed concern about the way application of the regulations arising from the Covid-19 pandemic were altered on the evening prior to the Black Lives Matter protest, clearly suggesting that the point of the changes was to facilitate the PSNI in taking action against protesters.

Council backs the call for a full review of how policing was conducted at the BLM events. Council supports the demand for a public apology to the BAME (Black Asian and Minority Ethnic) Community. Council calls for the withdrawal of all fines and threats of court action against BLM protesters.

Council will send a copy of this motion to every council, North and South, in this country.”

#### **4.0 Any Other Business**

Staff answered queries from members including the following issues; -

- Pedestrian footpath between Sandhills/Browneshill – M. Rainey advised it is the intention of Carlow County Council to reopen the pedestrian footpath that links Sandhills Estate to Browneshill Road, within two weeks. It is a legal obligation for compliance under the current planning regulations. Members expressed concern of a rise of anti social behaviour in this area and asked the local authority to engage with residents. M. Rainey advised he discussed the issues with the Gardai.
- Tullow Road Project – Cllr. F. Browne asked that this item be placed back on the Agenda for the July meeting of Carlow Municipal District.
- HSE wall on the Barrow track – G. O'Brien to inspect.
- Princess Amira – members wished to express a warm welcome home to Amira O'Toole, who finally got to return home today after a road accident in November 2018.

- Street Furniture – application forms for traders to use footpaths as a temporary measure during the Covid 19 pandemic, to allow extra seating. Application forms are available from the Community Warden office. This is a temporary license to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and traders must indemnify Carlow County Council on their insurance. Cllr. A. Dalton asked that businesses be mindful of the visually impaired that use the footpaths.
- IPB Funding – G. O’Brien, Senior Executive Engineer advised that €73,000 has been allocated to Carlow local authority. This welcomed funding will be used for the upgrade of footpaths in the centre of Carlow town.
- Carlow County Council Intoxicating Bye Laws – bye laws are in place and enforced by the Gardai.

This concluded the business of the meeting.