

Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow
Held in Rathvilly Community Centre,
on Thursday, 30th March, 2017, at 4.30pm

Present: Councillor F. Phelan, Mayor
Councillor A. Ahern
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin
Councillor J. Deane
Councillor B. O'Donoghue
Councillor W. Paton
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor W. Lacey

In Attendance: Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Services
Mr. P. Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Enterprise
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. J. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Ml. O'Brien, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. L. Smith, Administrative Officer
Ms. J. O'Brien, Acting Senior Staff Officer
Fr. McEvoy
Donal Kelly
Eithne Condon
K. Thorpe

The meeting was preceded by a site visit to Fr. Flood Avenue, a new social housing development.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Parish and the GAA Club for hosting the meeting in their premises.

The Mayor invited Fr. McEvoy to say the opening prayer. The Mayor thanked Kevin Thorpe, Builder, for the visit. He then asked Donal Kelly to speak. Donal welcomed all persons to the meeting and thanked Fr. McEvoy, Eithne Condon, the Council and all who assisted with the building of the facility. He advised of the walking path and the need for lights in the future.

The Mayor then asked Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue to address the meeting (as being the sole member from Rathvilly). Cllr. O'Donoghue spoke of the community spirit and everyone working together to achieve community goals.

Confirmation of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 23rd February, 2017

Proposed by Cllr. F. Browne

Seconded by Cllr A. Ahern

And resolved following a show of hands

“That the Minutes of Meeting held on 23rd February, 2017, are hereby approved.”

The Mayor advised that the Town Park in Carlow is a fantastic facility but there is concern about an assault on a disabled person and the perpetrators should be brought to justice. He requested the Garda CCTV application be progressed. Members made contributions on this issue including noting that the assault did not occur in the Town Park. It was agreed to write to the Chief Superintendent. It was agreed to send best wishes to the victim.

Cllr. John Cassin proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Martin McGuinness and the families of the rescue helicopter victims.

Housing

J. Kavanagh gave the housing report and advised that the houses will be finished in May (Fr. Flood Avenue). She circulated a list of the successful applicants. Members welcomed the allocations. J. Kavanagh answered questions from members on various housing issues.

Environment

M. O'Brien and J. O'Brien addressed the meeting in relation to progress on the dog fouling issue. J. O'Brien advised that this is a national problem and there are a number of options. Carlow is working on a high visibility campaign to advise of the health risks to vulnerable persons. There will be an advertising campaign during national spring week. After that, fines will be issued to offenders. J. O'Brien answered questions from members on the issue.

The Mayor welcomed Deputy Deering to the meeting.

St. Mary's Cemetery, Columbarium

M. O'Brien advised that at present, the remains of cremated persons are interred. There are a number of options including ash-towers, columbarium walls, or developing a columbarium wall as part of a bigger development. He advised that prices will have to be reviewed. The burial ground by-laws also will require to be reviewed. M. O'Brien answered questions from members on this issue.

Cllr. Lacey joined the meeting at 17.20 p.m.

Annual Service Plan 2017

The Plan was agreed as circulated. P. Harrington, M. Brennan and K. Comerford answered questions from members on various aspects of the annual service plan.

Proposed by Cllr. A. Ahern
Seconded by Cllr. W. Paton
And resolved following a show of hands
“That the annual Service Plan 2017 be adopted”

Community Facilities Scheme

M. Brennan advised on the various schemes including the Communities Facilities Scheme 2017 which will now be advertised. He hopes to seek members’ approval in June when applications are received.

He also outlined the Environmental/Amenity grant and the Community development Grant. M. Brennan answered questions from members of the schemes.

The Mayor advised that the final meeting of the 1916 committee has not yet been held.

The Community Facilities Scheme was

Proposed by Cllr. J. Pender
Seconded by Cllr. B. O’Donoghue
And resolved following a show of hands subject to any unused amount being allocated to Grange National School.

Transportation

Browneshill Cross

P. Harrington circulated plans for works at Brownhill Cross and advised on same. He advised the ideal solution would be a roundabout but budget will not permit same. It is proposed to improve lighting, construct two “table” approaches the junction, with associated extra footpaths. He advised he did not consider traffic lights as a solution in that traffic lights control volume, not speed, but speed is the issue at this locus not volume. The proposed solution is to reduce speed. Members commented on the plans submitted. The Mayor asked if it could be done on a trial basis. P. Harrington answered questions from members on the proposal and advised that a trial period would not work as the tables are constructed from asphalt.

It was agreed the Municipal District would write to Eir to see if the telecom box at the link road be moved in order to improve the sight lines at this junction.

The proposed works were
Proposed by Cllr. J. Cassin
Seconded by Cllr. K. Murnane
And resolved following a show of hands

Grange National School

Cllr. Paton enquired in relation to the traffic situation at Grange National School. Councillors asked questions on various issues on this matter. P. Harrington answered questions on arranging the traffic lights to coincide with the school hours and that he will review the lights with a view to changing the message. He also advised of the ideal set down would be at the rear of the school if this were possible.

Tullow Town Park Bye Laws

The adoption of Draft Tullow Town Bye Laws, subject to the amendment as outlined in E Brophy's report was

Proposed by Cllr. Paton

Seconded by Cllr. J. Cassin

And resolved following a show of hands

Public lighting – Cllr. Paton advised the public lighting is not in good order and there are some drainage issues.

P. Harrington advised he would investigate same.

Old Chapel Lane

Cllr. W. Paton raised a number of issues to do with a disused taxi rank and a stop sign at Old Chapel Lane.

P. Harrington to review these issues.

Corporate

Tullow Men's Shed

E. Brophy advised that he had agreed a draft lease with Tullow Men's Shed and he would formulate same and submit to the statutory procedures.

Update on pitch at Carlow Road, Tullow.

E. Brophy updated the meeting on the position and it was agreed that E. Brophy would continue the negotiations and bring any agreed lease to members.

Any Other Business

Cllr. J. Cassin enquired in relation to trees being felled at Oak Park. P. Harrington to check. Cllr. W. Paton raised an issue with speed at Barrack Street, Tullow. P. Harrington to review same.

Cllr. J. Pender enquired about the possibility of a set down at Barrack Street, Tullow.

Cllr. W. Paton raised an issue regarding front of Boys School. He also raised issue of phone kiosk on The Square.

Cllr. K. Murnane requested that the phone box at Potato Market be removed.

Cllr. A. Ahern raised an issue of a local business closing long standing family business and thanked the family for their contribution to Carlow business.

Cllr. B. O'Donovan expressed concern on the lack of progress on improvement at Tobinstown Cross. P. Harrington to renew negotiations.

Cllr. Browne enquired of signage review for Carlow Town and B. O'Brien replied.

Cllr. Browne suggested the Town Council building be reopened.

Cllr. Browne expressed concern about the Courthouse railings.

Cllr. Browne enquired as to how many derelict houses the Council own.

Cllr. Browne advised of concerns in relation to Carlow Train Station. E. Brophy briefed members on this issue.

Next Meeting 27th April, 2017.