

## CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the April Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 2.00 p.m.**

---

**Present:** Councillor C. Murphy (Cathaoirleach)  
Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long)  
Councillor F. Browne  
Councillor J. Cassin  
Councillor J. Deane  
Councillor M. Doran  
Councillor D. Foley  
Councillor A. Gladney  
Councillor T. Kinsella  
Councillor W. Lacey  
Councillor A. McDonald  
Councillor J. Murphy  
Councillor B. O'Donoghue  
Councillor W. Paton  
Councillor J. Pender  
Councillor F. Phelan  
Councillor W. Quinn,

**Apologies:** Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor

**In attendance:** Ms. Kathleen Holohan, Chief Executive  
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service – Corporate, Planning, Economic Development, Health and Safety  
Mr. Dan McInerney, Director of Services, Transportation, Environment and Water Services  
Mr. M. O'Brien, Senior Executive Officer, Environment  
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.  
Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

In commemorating the 1916 Rising, the National Anthem was played.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members.

## **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- To the Nolan Family, Palatine, Carlow on the death of their mother Anne, pensioner with Carlow County Council.
- The Foley Family on the death of Paul Foley, Clowater, Ballinkillen, Co. Carlow
- Pat McEvoy & Family, Carlow Road, Ballylinan, Co. Laois on the death of his wife Margaret (late of Leighlinbridge).
- Frances Kehoe & Family, Mannix Place, Wexford Town on the death of her husband Fergus (member of Wexford County Council).
- The Family of the late Paddy Carroll, Carlow and London.

## **VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

- Councillor McDonald, Chairperson of Muinebheag St Patrick's Day Parade Committee and committee members on organising St. Patrick's Day Parade in Muinebheag.
- Carlow County Board on the re-enactment of the 1916 hurling and football finals between St Patrick's, Tullow and Tinryland (football), Bagenalstown and Carlow/Graiguecullen (hurling).
- Members complimented the committees of The Carlow 1916 commemorative community events for their hard work and dedication in organising events throughout County Carlow. Members complimented Eileen O'Rourke and Jimmy O'Toole on the Carlow Remembers 1916 Dublin Street Commemoration and the 1916 commemorative events at the Town Hall, Plaza.
- Jockey David Mullins, on his success on winning the Aintree Grand National 2016.
- All involved with the success of the Pan Celtic Festival 2016.

Councillor Paton expressed his appreciation to the Gateway staff and supervisors for their work on the Gateway scheme.

Councillor J. Murphy queried update on Cheshire Home, Tullow. E. Brophy advised that a letter has issued to the HSE to facilitate a meeting with a deputation from Members of Carlow Municipal District.

## **1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 was:-

**Proposed by Councillor W. Paton**

**Seconded by Councillor D. Foley**

**AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

*'That the Minutes of the March Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016, at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.'*

## **2. CIRCULARS**

### **Circular OL 3/2016 Childcare facilities operating under the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme.**

Members noted circular OL 3/2016 on the extension of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme to a wider cohort of children with effect from September 2016.

The circular set out Planning system support for Childcare post September 2016.

## **3. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUE, STANDING ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL**

### **(a) Approval of Draft Annual Report 2015**

The Members had for their consideration 2015 Draft Annual Report of Carlow County Council in accordance with Section 221 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act, 2001. E. Brophy advised that observations or comments relating thereto must be submitted to him by 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

### **(b) Taking-in-charge roads and services Phase 1 Ballyknockan Manor, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow – Public consultation process**

Members were presented with a report from Mr. D. McInerney, Director of Services on the commencement of the public consultation process for taking in charge of roads and services of Phase 1, Ballyknockan Manor, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow.

Members welcomed the report and issues raised by the Members were addressed by Mr. McInerney.

**Proposed by Councillor M. Doran  
Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald  
AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

*'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the initiation of the process for taking-in-charge of Phase 1, Ballyknockan Manor, Leighlinbridge in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993; Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended; and Section 59 of the Planning and Development Act, 2010.'*

Councillor Quinn raised issue of rural Carlow not benefitting fairly from services provided through development levies.

Councillor Paton raised issue of Carrigduff Local Area Plan having elapsed and implications for people seeking planning permission in the Carrigduff area until the new Plan is adopted. Ms. B. O'Brien is to check the position for planning applications in the interim period.

Councillor Browne raised issue of provision and repairs to public lighting in housing estates not taken-in-charge by the Council. Councillor Browne suggested that a policy be put in place to deal with public lighting only on the grounds of health and safety and that the matter be brought to Transportation SPC for discussion.

Mr. D. McNerney, Director of Services advised the issue of dealing with developers is complex. He indicated that a survey is currently being carried out on the various housing estates. Following the findings of this survey he will revert to Members at the May Meeting of Council with report on possible solutions

#### **4. DEPARTMENTAL PROGRESS REPORTS**

##### **(a) Transportation, Environment and Water Services**

Members welcomed Transportation, Environment and Water Services Progress Report to April 2016.

The following issues were raised by the Members;-

- Councillor McDonald raised issue of safety at Newtown School, Borris as the school traffic light signal is not working. Councillor McDonald requested a report on costings for radar speed signs alerting motorists of their speed. Mr McNerney advised that radar

speed signs are costly to install and maintain but would look at solutions for black spot areas. Mr. McNerney advised that he will bring the safety issue at Newtown School to the attention of the Area Engineer.

- Councillor McDonald raised issue of new roundabout at the ETB site on the Kilkenny Road being restrictive for large vehicles. D. McNerney to investigate this issue.
- Councillor Quinn raised issue of funding for Class 3 roads and a request was before Council to hold a special meeting of the members in May to discuss funding issues for Budget 2017. The Chief Executive advised that an official meeting must have an administrator present. An official would also need to be present to address members' queries. Following discussion and on the proposition of Councillor Lacey it was agreed to withdraw this request for a special meeting in May. The Chief Executive advised that the Corporate Policy Group has a specific role in the Budgetary process and an information meeting can be arranged for Members in the lead up to the Budget meeting which is prepared in a statutory format and subject to timelines.
- Councillors Foley and McDonald raised issue of sewerage pumping station at St Mary's School, Bagenalstown and payment of ESB charges. Mr. McNerney advised that he will discuss this issue with the school authority as the work is still the responsibility of the contractor. He indicated that Irish Water will oversee the pumping station.
- Councillors Foley and Doran raised issue of roundabout at Royal Oak Road. Mr. McNerney advised that funding is unlikely for this work.
- Councillors Foley and McDonald raised issue of traffic hazard at Queen of the Universe National School, Bagenalstown and derelict property at rear of school. Councillor McDonald suggested that development levies from housing development at Barrett Street be used to fund safety measures for the school. Mr McNerney indicated that the Area Engineer will examine the safety issue at the school.
- Councillor Foley raised issue of excess speeding at the Swimming Pool, Bagenalstown. Mr McNerney advised that the speed limit is 60 kilometers per hour and he will raise the issue with the Gardai.
- Councillor Gladney raised issue of traffic hazard at school at Barrett Street, Bagenalstown and called for parking restrictions to be implemented. He

requested a letter be issued to a local business setting out specific loading/unloading times in this area.

- Councillor Cassin raised the issue of a roundabout when exiting from Dr Cullen Park. Mr. McInerney advised that the provision of a roundabout entails a traffic study and that funding is a factor.

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

### **(a) Microchipping of Dogs**

Members welcomed the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015. From 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 all dogs are required to be microchipped and registered with an authorised database.

A discussion took place in relation to dog fouling. Members called for an awareness campaign and action with 'on the spot fines' and for more receptacles to be put in place. Councillor Ahern suggested that, with their agreement, the Environmental Patrol Officers work flexible hours to patrol areas in the evenings. Mr McInerney indicated that he will look at the various options to address the issue.

### **(b) Agriculture**

Councillor Quinn raised issue of revenue restrictions on subcontractors when tendering for jobs.

### **(c) Health**

- Councillor Phelan raised issue of new site for the National Childrens' Hospital and requested that this Council write to the Acting Minister for Health for his proposals on transport and accessibility for people travelling long distances to the proposed city centre location at St. James Hospital, Dublin. Councillor Phelan referred to Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown as an alternative and more suitable location.
- Councillor Phelan raised issue of seminar conducted by the HSE on 'Medical Cards' being held in Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford with no meeting scheduled for Carlow. He requested that the HSE be asked to make a presentation in Carlow.
- Councillor Cassin queried update on HSE Respite House for Carlow.

- Councillor Paton queried status of Primary Health Care Facility, Tullow and requested that the members on the Health Service Executive Forum South raise the issue at the next forum meeting.

**(d) Tenders for opening, if any**

Members noted tenders opened since the last Council meeting.

**(e) Conference Attendance Approvals**

It was proposed by Councillor McDonald and seconded by Councillor Doran and unanimously agreed following a showing of hands to the following conferences:

The Seanad & The Councillor, The Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford. 15 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	<b>Fee: €70</b>
2 Day Microsoft Excel Workshop, Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. 27 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>st</sup> April 2016	<b>Fee: €199</b>
Changing Trends/Approaches to Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Radisson Blu Hotel, Little Island, Co. Cork. 6 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	<b>Fee: €145</b>
Registration & Inspection of Septic Tanks, Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. 13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	<b>Fee: €100</b>
Domestic Water Saving/Conservation, Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. 20 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2016	<b>Fee: €100</b>

**(f) Conference Attendance Reports**

There were no Conference Attendance Reports.

## **6.. Chief Executive's Report**

Members noted Chief Executive's Report for period 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016.

- Councillor Cassin raised issue of funding available for the Carlow Bermingham/London Association.
- Councillor Ahern raised issue of configuration of paths in cemetery, for access purposes, resulting in a section of graves being walked on with disregard for those buried there.

## **7. Comhfhreagras/Correspondence**

**Members noted correspondence from the Health Service Executive** in response to Members correspondence regarding waiting time for medical card assessments.

**Members noted correspondence from the Chief Executive of ETB** concerning Muinebheag Vocational School, Bagenalstown.

## **8. Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach.**

- Councillor Phelan proposed that the current group of Comhairle Na nÓg be invited to address the November meeting of Council. This was agreed by the Members.
- Councillor Doran raised the issue of preparation of Local Area Plans for Tullow and Muinebheag. Plans must be prepared in accordance with the Core Strategy with provision for new housing development restricted in accordance with Core Strategy requirement for Tullow and Muinebheag and to the rezoning of land for residential development. Councillor Doran requested that the Council write to the acting Minister for Environment to reverse or amend the Core Strategy as it is unsustainable.
- Councillor Lacey raised issue of provision of memorial wall in St. Mary's Cemetery for remains that have been cremated.
- Councillor Kinsella raised issue of payment of community grants through post offices for easier access for community groups.



- Councillor Gladney raised issue of new regulations for waste collection 'pay by weight' system being introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> July and the need for campaign to inform householders of the changes.
- Councillor Deane raised issue of planning regulations where planning permission for once off rural housing is refused if the exit is on to a national route. These restrictions largely affects farming families. Councillor Deane requested that this Council write to the Acting Minister for the Environment to amend these regulations to enable people live in their local communities.
- Councillor Paton queried if participants on the Gateway Scheme will be employed by Carlow County Council at the end of the scheme.
- Councillor Paton queried when the grant aid will be paid to St Patrick's Day Committee, Tullow and condemned the anti-social behaviour at Carlow Road, Tullow necessitating in the fire brigade being called out fifteen times.
- In response to Councillor McDonald's query the Chief Executive advised of response from Cynthia Deane, CEO Carlow/Kilkenny ETB in relation to closure of vocational school, Bagenalstown and of the setting up of a task force to deal with the issue.
- Councillor Quinn queried costs to the Council for disposing of the Council's own refuse following the closure of Powerstown Landfill post 2016.
- Councillor Phelan referred to the new process for dealing with pre-planning consultations and stated that the new requirements would be onerous and costly on the applicants. Following discussion Ms O'Brien advised that the requirements will improve the service provided to the applicants in terms of the pre-planning advice provided. Ms O'Brien is to clarify if ownership of a site is a prerequisite before attending pre planning meeting.

Members unanimously agreed that the AGM and June monthly meeting of Carlow Council Council take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> June. The July monthly meeting of Carlow County Council will be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> July.

This concluded the business of the meeting.