

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the December Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 14th December 2015 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. Murnane-O'Connor
Councillor J. Murphy,
Councillor B. O'Donoghue,
Councillor W. Paton,
Councillor J. Pender,
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor W. Quinn.

In attendance: Ms. Kathleen Holohan, Chief Executive
Mr. D. McInerney, Director of Service – Transportation, Environment and Water Services
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service – Corporate, Planning, Economic Development, Health and Safety
Mr S. O'Connor, Director of Services – Housing, Community. Recreation & Amenity, Building Control & Emergency Services
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Mr. T. Butler, Senior Executive Officer, Housing
Mr. E. Lyng, Head of Information Technology
Ms. J. Coyne, County Librarian
Mr. D. Mulligan, Museum Curator
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.
Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Delia Campion and Family, 10 Mount Clare Court, Graiguecullen on the death of her husband Michael former employee of Carlow County Council
- Family of the late Mary Byrne, Mountain View, Hacketstown wife of the late Jack Byrne, former General Operative with Carlow County Council
- Family of the late Michael Kearns, 21 Oakley Park, Graiguecullen, Carlow former Mobile Library Driver Assistant.
- John Lyons, 21, Conway Park, Bagenalstown on the death of his father Ned Lyons, Oldtown, Nurney.
- Tom Kane and Family, Easter Bush, Station Road, Bagenalstown on the death of his wife Mary.
- The Rose Family, Spahill House, Borris on the death of their mother Joan.
- Murphy Family, Inch, Borris on the death of their brother Pierce.
- The O'Neill Family, Tullow, Ardattin on the death of their mother Ellen.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- Sean Campion on being elected to Carlow County Board
- Pat Nolan on being elected as Vice Chair of Carlow County Board
- Martin Barry on being re-elected as Irish and Cultural Officer
- Cormac O'Toole on being elected as Treasurer of Carlow County Board.
Members paid tribute to outgoing Chairman Michael Meaney and outgoing Treasurer Michael Byrne for their commitment over the past five years
- Christine Johnson, Bagenalstown on being awarded a 1st Class honours degree in Library Studies.
- Nathalie Johnson Murray on receiving the overall Lord Mayor's Prize for history project.
- Caoimhe Byrne, Barrowlough, Leighlinbridge on winning with 'someone like me' a national essay competition on the theme of disabilities in children for primary schools.

- Carlow County Council on being awarded the 'Local Authority of the Year' Excellence in Local Government Awards 2015.
- Carlow Tourism on Christmas Events 2015
- All involved with the success of Carlow Town Flood Relief Scheme and Carlow Main Drainage Scheme preventing major flooding in County Carlow during the recent heavy rainfall.
- Members complimented Housing staff on Social Housing lettings.
- Hacketstown Care of Aged on hosting Christmas Party for senior citizens.

- **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor B. O'Donohoe

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-
 That the Minutes of the November Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday, 9th November, 2015, at 2.00p.m having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

Proposed by Councillor M. Doran
Seconded by Councillor J. Murphy

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-
 "That the Minutes of the Pre Budget 2016 Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Friday, 20th November, 2015, at 11.30p.m having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

Proposed by Councillor T. Kinsella
Seconded by Councillor J. Murphy

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-
 "That the Minutes of the Budget 2016 Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Friday, 20th November, 2015, at 2.00p.m having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

E. Brophy advised of amendment to minutes of Adjourned Budget 2016 Meeting minutes as circulated to Members and distributed revised Adjourned Budget 2016 Meeting minutes to the Members.

Proposed by Councillor B. O'Donohoe

Seconded by Councillor T. Kinsella

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That the Minutes of the Adjourned Budget 2016 Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Friday, 27th November, 2015, at 2.00p.m having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

2. CIRCULARS

(a) Housing Circular 42/2015 Tenant Purchase Scheme for existing Local Authority houses

Members welcomed New Tenant Purchase Scheme for existing Local Authority houses.

Members raised issue of terms of the Scheme as designated houses Part V in private estates are not available for purchase. Tenants with outstanding water charges and tenants who have rent arrears in the previous three years are also precluded from the Scheme. Members requested that this Council write to the Minister to review the terms of the Scheme in relation to these areas.

All queries raised by the Members were addressed by T. Butler.

(b) Circular PL 10/2015 and Housing Circular 36/2015 – Part V Implementation of Article 22(2)(c) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended – Validation of Planning Applications.

Members had for consideration Circular PL 10/2015 and Housing Circular 36/2015.

The Circular gives guidance to Local Authorities on the implementation of the recently amended Article 22(2) of the Planning Regulations 2001, regarding information re Part V proposals required with to be submitted with relevant planning applications.

Queries raised by the Members were addressed by B. O'Brien.

3. Departmental Progress Reports
Tuarascálacha ar Dhul Chun Cinn na Roinne

(a) Library Progress Report

Members welcomed Library Progress Report to November 2015. Members complimented Ms Josephine Coyne, County Librarian and staff on the excellent service Carlow County Library provides to many facets of life in County Carlow.

Members queried if Saturday opening hours could be extended to Saturday afternoon.

In response to Members query in relation to shared service with Kilkenny County Council Ms. Coyne said discussions are ongoing nationally. All queries raised by Members were addressed by Ms Coyne.

(b) Information Technology Progress Report

Eoin Lyng, Head of IT presented Information Technology Progress Report to December, 2015.

Members complimented E. Lyng and IT staff on the new look website and also on the Cemetery (Plotbox) Project.

Queries raised by Members were addressed by E. Lyng.

(c) Museum Progress Report

Carlow Museum Progress Report to December 2015 was presented to the Members by Carlow Museum Curator, Dermot Mulligan.

Members welcomed annual subvention of €1,000 to Carlow County Museum from the Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society.

Members complimented the work of the volunteers who assist in manning the galleries during opening hours.

Councillor Browne raised issue of funding for Tullow Museum. D. Mulligan advised that funding may be possible through the Leader Programme.

Councillor Murnane-O'Connor called for more directional signage for the Museum with Councillor Browne calling for 'Carlow Medieval' status signs to be erected.

Queries raised by Members were addressed by D. Mulligan.

4. Corporate, Planning, Economic Development & Health & Safety
Seirbhísí Corporáideacha, Pleanáil, Forbairt Eacnamaíoch, Sláinte agus Sábháilteacht

(a) Agriculture

In response to Members query the Chief Executive advised that correspondence has been issued to the National Ploughing regarding the possibility of the Ploughing Championships being held in County Carlow in future years.

(b) Health

In response to correspondence from the HSE South, Carlow/Kilkenny Mental Health Services Members agreed that Senior Management Team, Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary Mental Health Services meet with Council Members on Monday 18th January, 2016 at 10.00am in St. Canice's Hospital, Kilkenny.

Councillor Murnane raised issue of long waiting period for first time medical card applicants in being assessed and requested that a letter issue to the Minister on this issue.

Councillor Browne queried why the extension to St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny is not fully operational.

(c) Tenders for opening, if any

Members noted tenders opened since the last council meeting. Query in relation to disparity in pricing was responded to by E. Brophy.

(d) Conference Attendance Approvals

Members unanimously agreed following a showing of hands to the following conferences.

Protected Structures Seminar,
Bloomfield House Hotel,
Belvedere,
Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
16th November 2015

Fee: €Free

6th Annual Tourism Policy Workshop
Dromoland Castle,
Newmarket on Fergus,
Co. Clare.
20th to 22nd November 2015

Fee: €150

The Finance Act 2016

The Four Seasons Hotel
Carlingford
Co. Louth
8th to 10th January 2016

Fee: €100

Governments Construction 2020 Strategy
Local Government Housing Supply 2016
White's Hotel
Wexford
22nd to 24th January 2016

Fee: €145

Housing Grants & Schemes
The Clonakilty Hotel
Clonakilty
Co. Cork
20th to 22nd November

Fee: €100

Presentation Comhairle Na nÓg

Members welcomed Comhairle Na nÓg members to the meeting - Chloe Condrón, Keith Hickey, Sean Haughney and Grainne Hickey. Also present were Co-ordinators Karen Mullins and Lee Ann Ryan Culliton. The group gave an informative presentation on mental health issues with a particular focus on promoting wellbeing among young people and their key message was 'Its Ok not to be OK'. The Members thanked the group for their presentation and complimented them on their awareness campaign. Queries raised by the Members were addressed by Ms Mullins and Ms Lee Ann Ryan Culliton.

5. COMMUNITY, HOUSING, RECREATION AND AMENITY, BUILDING CONTROL AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Michael Brennan, Senior Executive Officer, Community advised Members of requirement to provide guarantee to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for all preparatory support/administration LEADER funding which will be advanced to it by the Department, for the Rural Development Programme (LEADER) 2014-2020 during the course of the programme period on a quarterly yearly basis.

The guarantee is in respect of €220,000.
Members' approval was sought to the Council Guarantee.

Proposed by Councillor B. O'Donohoe
Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

AND

Following a showing of hands it was resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve guarantee of €220,000 during the course of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 on a quarterly yearly basis in accordance with the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 66 (1) (a) and (2)).'

Issues raised by the Members in relation to the guarantee were addressed by M. Brennan.

Members raised issue of Traffic Management Plan for Christmas Fair at Ducketts Grove on 6th December. S. O'Connor advised in respect of same.

Councillor Murnane-O'Connor raised issue of toilet facilities at Browneshill Dolmen.

6. Chief Executive's Report **Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh**

Members had Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for period 1st to 30th November, 2015.

Issues raised by Members included the following:-

- Public Lighting in unfinished housing estates and requested an update for next meeting of Council.
- Draft Flood Maps under the National CFRAM Programme. Observations and comments must be submitted by Wednesday 23rd December.
- Parcels of land from Powerstown to Kildare border transferred to the NRA for the construction of the M9 motorway and no longer required should be sold to farmers. This Council to write to Kildare and Kilkenny County Councils to examine the issue.
- Second Engineer for Carlow Town
- Public Lighting issues in various locations around the county.
- Public Lighting Community Hall, Kiltegan. Hall situated in County Carlow and the need to enter discussions with Wicklow County Council for the provision of a public light outside the hall.
- Flooding, Blackbog Road. D. McInerney advised of problem with drain on the River Burrin and the matter is to be investigated.
- Footbridge, Rathvilly. D. McInerney advised in respect of same.

- Members complimented Clonegal on hosting the South East region National Tidy Town Awards.
- Powerstown Community Fund and current status on funding.

7. Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

Members had correspondence from Department of Health in response to Members correspondence concerning the proposed Tir na nÓg Respite Centre in Carlow.

Members noted Notice of Motion sent by email from Dublin County Council

‘Following a recent human rights delegation to Brussels, led by Lynn Boylan MEP, I ask this Council to write to The Department of Foreign Affairs asking them to publicly demand the release of Firhouse teenager Ibrahim Halawa. This strong approach has resulted in the release of American Mohammed Soltan, Canadian Mohammed Fahmy and Australian Peter Greste.’

Members noted correspondence from the Health Service Executive

acknowledging Members correspondence in relation to new Accident & Emergency Department, St. Luke’s Hospital, Kilkenny.

Members noted Notice of Motion from Sligo County Council

‘Sligo County Council welcomes the fact that the Irish League of Credit Unions has launched a Plan to lend enough money to build 35,000 Social Houses over the next six years.’

‘This Council calls on Minister Kelly and the Department of the Environment to engage with the I.L.C.U as they are prepared to invest significant amount of money in Social Housing.’

Members noted correspondence from the Health Service Executive in response to Members correspondence in relation to the Members meeting with Senior Management Team, Mental Health Services.

Members noted Notice of Motion from Donegal County Council

‘That this Council contact the Management of the other 30 Local Authorities to inform them of the intention to appeal global re-valuation of 6 utilities, and further ask that they join with Donegal County Council in this process, and that this motion be circulated to all Local Authorities.’

Members noted correspondence from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht regarding navigational difficulties on the River Barrow.

Members noted email from Councillor William Paton requesting that a delegation attend the January meeting of Council to make a presentation on the set up a new Community First Responder network across County Carlow under the auspices of the National Ambulance Service.

8. Fógraí Rúin/Notices of Motion.

Standing in the name of Cllr. Fintan Phelan

"That this Council calls on the government to fundamentally reform the commercial rates system and as a temporary measure to alleviate the unexpected pressure of the Global Valuation of Utility Companies establish a Commercial Rates assistance fund similar to the government's decision last year to fund Irish Water's commercial rates bill."

Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

"That this Council calls on the government to fundamentally reform the commercial rates system and as a temporary measure to alleviate the unexpected pressure of the Global Valuation of Utility Companies establish a Commercial Rates assistance fund similar to the government's decision last year to fund Irish Water's commercial rates bill."

Standing in the name of Cllr. Jennifer Murnane O'Connor

"In an effort to improve the lives and well-being of our deaf and hard of hearing citizens, that this Council calls on the Government to give official recognition status to ISL, Irish Sign Language."

Proposed by Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor

Seconded by Councillor J. Deane

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

"In an effort to improve the lives and well-being of our deaf and hard of hearing citizens, that this Council calls on the Government to give official recognition status to ISL, Irish Sign Language."

In response to Members query in relation to the Council's call answering service and length of message in Irish E. Brophy advised that he will examine this issue with a view to having the Irish version shortened.

9. Aon gnó eile le haontú an Chathaoirligh.

Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach.

E. Brophy advised of deputations received.

It was proposed by Councillor McDonald and seconded by Councillor Doran that the following deputations be received by Council as follows:-

Carlow Pipe Band - January meeting

New Community First Responder Network – January Meeting

Old Persons Forum – February Meeting

ICTU – March Meeting.

A discussion took place in relation to deputations. Councillor Murnane-O'Connor said deputations should be received in the order of application made to Council.

The Chief Executive advised that deputations need to be examined as to their relevance to the strategic policy of the Council and whether all deputations should be treated equally. The issue is to be discussed further with the Whips or Corporate Policy Group.

This concluded the business of the meeting.