

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the January Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council,
held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow,
on Monday 11th January 2016 at 1.30 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
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service – Corporate, Planning,
Economic Development, Health and Safety
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Mr. G. Guerin, Chief Fire Officer
Mr. E. Lyng, Head of Information Technology
Mr. T. Butler, A/Director of Services – Housing, Community,
Recreation & Amenity, Building Control & Emergency Services
Mr. L. Fitzgerald, Senior Engineer, Transportation
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Acting Senior Engineer
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.

It was proposed by Councillor D. Foley, seconded by Councillor B. O'Donoghue and unanimously agreed to suspend that part of standing orders to facilitate the commencement of the meeting at 1.30pm in order to accommodate a presentation from Carlow Pipe Band.

Hugh Conaghan and David Walsh from Carlow Pipe Band gave a presentation to Members on the re-establishment of Carlow Pipe Band in April 2015.

Members thanked Messrs Conaghan and Walsh for their presentation and welcomed the revival of Carlow Pipe Band and offered their support to the band.

Queries in relation to funding were addressed by Mr. Conaghan.

The Chief Executive, Finance Officer and Whips are to meet to discuss a contribution from Carlow County Council to the band.

The Irish Flag was displayed in the Chamber and Amhrán na bhFiann was played at the start of the meeting to commemorate the start of 1916 events.

Councillor Phelan on behalf of the 1916 Commemorative Committee advised that the County's 1916 programme of events will be officially launched on 29th January.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Family of the late James Keegan, Sliguff, Bagenalstown former employee of Carlow County Council.
- Barbara Bolger, Marshallstown, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford on the death of her husband Tom.
- The Brereton Family, 43 John Sweeney Park on the death of their mother Ann.
- The Carey Family, Carey's, Old Leighlin on the death of their father Matt.
- Mary Murphy & Family, Slievedurda, Borris on the death of her husband Moses.
- Ann Kavanagh & Family, Newtown, Borris on the death of her husband Michael
- Julia Doyle, The Barracks, Newtown, Borris on the death of her husband Michael.
- The Nolan Family, The Bungalow, Eastwood, Bagenalstown on the death of Declan Nolan.

- The Condon Family on the death of their mother Margaret Condon, St. Brigid's Crescent, Bagenalstown
- Claire O'Rourke on the death of her husband Patrick 'Don' O'Rourke, Augha, Nurney
- The Murphy Family, Newtown Village, Bagenalstown on the death of Kathleen Murphy
- The Hayden Family, St. John's, Brownseshill Road on the death of their mother Mai Hayden
- Ann O'Connor & Family Derrycastle House, Ballina, Co. Tipperary on the death of her husband, golf legend, Christy O'Connor Jnr.
- Councillor Murnane-O'Connor on the death of her uncle Bernard O'Shea, 18, The Numbers, Graiguecullen, Carlow
- The Fenelon Family, Shangarry, Myshall on the death of their mother Renée
- The Daly Family, Ballybar, Tinryland on the death of their father Thomas.

CONGRATULATIONS

- Members complimented Brian O'Donovan, Pat Harrington, Ray Wickham and all staff involved in helping communities deal with recent flooding throughout the county. Members also complimented Dan McInerney and Brian O'Donovan on regular updates during this period.
- Magda King and Borris Tidy Towns Committee on Borris New Years Eve 1916 Commemorative Events.
- St Brigid's National School, Clonegal on representing Carlow in the 32 County Children's Choir at the Peace Proms held in the Convention Centre on 1st January marking one of the first State events to mark the 100th anniversary.
- Brian Kirwan and Mary Clare Byrne, St Laurence O'Toole on their individual wins in the Carlow Cross Country Championships taking gold in both the Senior Men and Senior Ladies. St Laurence O'Toole on securing 1st place Team in both the Carlow Men and Women Cross Country Championship.
- Ballon/Rathoe Novice Ladies for their excellent performance at the Carlow Cross Country Championships.

- Gerard Guerin, Chief Fire Officer on being selected by the United Nations Emergency Services to become a UN Disaster Assessment Co-ordinator (UNDAC)
- Michael Gahan, Assistant Chief Fire Officer on being chosen as an Official Assessor by the World Rescue Organisation.
- Carlow Actress Saoirse Ronan on being nominated for a Golden Globe Award and wished her well in the Oscar nominations.
- Luke Ray Lacey, Hanover, Carlow on being chosen for 'The Voice of Ireland'.
- Carlow Sports Partnership on the success of 'Operation Transformation' 5km run at Rathwood.
- Carlow Town on ranking 9th in the IBAL Anti- Litter League 2015.
- Tinryland Park on being a finalist in the Best Public Park section of LAMA IPB 2016 Community and Council Awards.

- **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Proposed by Councillor J. Murphy

Seconded by Councillor W. Lacey

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That the 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 2.00p.m having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.'

2. CIRCULARS

(a) Circular Letter PL 12/2015 Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2015 (S.I. No 582 of 2015)

Members had for consideration Circular Letter PI 12/2015.

The regulations specified new classes exempted from the requirement to obtain planning permission.

Members expressed concern in relation to change of use of hotel to hostel as not all hotels/premises are suitable to provide residential or overnight accommodation for refugees or asylum seekers.

The Chief Executive advised there has been no communication from the National Multi Agency Steering Committee on provision of accommodation for refugees and asylum seekers in Carlow.

Councillor Paton raised issue of proposal to give new powers to City and County Councils to regulate planning of new licensed premises such as

pubs, off-licences and nightclubs. Members expressed concerns in relation to the proliferation of discount stores and fast food outlets in certain urban areas. Following discussion it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister requesting that City and County Councils be allowed to include objectives in the Development Plans relating to regulating, restricting or controlling the development of discount stores and fast food outlets (especially late night outlets).

(b) Circular Letter Fire 10/15 Agreement of Implementation of National Policy Document 'Keeping Communities Safe'.

G. Guerin Chief Fire Officer advised of Circular Letter Fire 10/15. This agreement provides for a new Fire Services National Oversight and Implementation Group (FSNOIG) structure comprised of employers and employees' representatives. The new structure will facilitate enhanced communication between service management and staffing interests at national and local level.

In response to Members' query G. Guerin advised that discussions on shared services have not advanced nationally.

(c) Circular Letter L1/16 Rural Water Multi-Annual Programme 2016-2018.

Members had for consideration Circular Letter L1/16 in relation to rural water funding requirements for 2016 and beyond. The Department established a working group involving key stakeholders in the rural water sector to develop a multi – annual approach to targeting funding to meet priority needs of the sector.

Queries raised by the Members were addressed by L. Fitzgerald.

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

(a) Filling of Vacancy on Carlow Arts Festival Éigse Committee

Councillor B. O'Donoghue tendered his resignation from the Board of Carlow Arts Festival Éigse.

Members' approval was sought to the filling of the vacancy.

It was

Proposed by Councillor B. O'Donoghue

Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That Councillor D. Foley be appointed to the Board of Carlow Arts Festival Éigse Committee following the resignation of Councillor B.O'Donoghue from the Board.'

4. TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES

(a) Request for Special Meeting re Flooding Issues

E. Brophy advised of request to hold a special meeting of the Council to discuss applying for adequate funding from the Department for communities in flooded areas.

As the Ordinary Meeting of the Local Authority was within ten days of receipt of the requisition, the business is to be discussed at the January meeting of Council and the Special Meeting shall not be convened.

(b) Flooding Update

Members had for their consideration a report on recent flooding events. Members complimented the staff involved in working towards mitigating as much as was possible the impact of the flooding on communities. A discussion took place in relation to gritting of roads and particularly priority 2 Rating roads in the event of icy conditions. L. Fitzgerald advised of current policy in relation to Winter Maintenance based on the Priority Rating of routes. Members requested that the Winter Maintenance Plan be updated to provide for gritting of Priority 2 roads in severe icy conditions.

Queries raised by Members were addressed by L. Fitzgerald.

Deputation from County Carlow Defibrillators Co-Ordination Committee

Councillor Paton Chairman of the Carlow Co-Ordination Committee introduced Des Kelly and John Fitzgerald from the Carlow Defibrillators Co-Ordination Committee to the meeting. Also in attendance was Mick Dooley, a survivor of cardiac arrest.

Councillor Paton gave an overview of a new Community First Responder Network across County Carlow under the auspices of the National Ambulance Service. Messrs Kelly and Fitzgerald advised on the operation of the Community First Responder.

Members were invited to train as Community First Responders, to become ambassadors for the CFR in County Carlow and to get their local communities involved.

A public meeting will be held on 21st January in Éire Óg Club house.

Members thanked the committee for their presentation and queries raised were addressed by Councillor Paton, Messrs Kelly and Fitzgerald.

5 CORPORATE, PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

(a) Health

Councillors Murnane-O'Connor and Phelan called on the Members of the Health Service Executive to lobby the Minister for Health to honour funding of €360,000 for Tír na nÓg Respite Centre. The Centre which catered for 40 children with disabilities between the ages of 2 and 18 years old has recently closed.

(b) Tenders for opening if any

Members noted tenders opened since the last Council meeting.

(c) Conference Attendance Approvals

Members unanimously agreed to the following Conference attendance

Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014,
Purchase of Local Authority Houses by Tenants,
The Connacht Hotel,
Dublin Road,
Galway.
5th to 6th February 2016

Integrated Roads and Planning Policy,
The Connacht Hotel,
Dublin Road,
Galway.
12th to 13th February 2016

Auditing and Governance in Local Government,
The Four Seasons Hotel,
Carlingford,
Co. Louth.
26th to 28th February 2016

Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015,
Mount Errigal Hotel,
Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal.
12th to 14th February 2016

Local Authorities Building Stronger Communities,
The Role of Philanthropy & Alternative Funding Initiatives,

Dublin Castle.
25th February 2016

Microsoft Excel Workshop,
Clonakilty Hotel,
Clonakilty,
Co. Cork.
17th to 18th February 2016

27th Colmcille Winter School,
Colmcille Heritage Centre,
Church Hill, Gartan,
Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal.
26th to 27th February 2016

(d) Conference Attendance Reports

There were no reports.

6. Chief Executive's Report Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

Members had Chief Executive Monthly Report for December.
Issues raised by Members included the following:-

- Derelict Sites,
- Public lighting,
- Cannery site,
- Housing insulation unsatisfactory in New Oak Housing Estate.

A report on Public Lighting is to be prepared for the February meeting of Council.

7. Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

Members noted correspondence from the Minister for Health in response to Members letter concerning the proposed Tir na nÓg Respite Centre, Carlow.

Members noted correspondence by email from Councillor B. O'Donoghue requesting a civic reception be held to honour the achievements of the Carlow Camogie Junior Team in 2015.

Members noted correspondence from the Mayors for Peace 'Letter of Protest' with the goal of eradicating nuclear weapons by 2020.

8. Fógraí Rúin/Notices of Motion.

Standing in the name of Cllr. John Cassin

“That Carlow County Council calls on the Minister for health to fund the drug Orkambi for Cystic Fibrosis sufferers.”

Proposed by Councillor J. Cassin

Seconded by Councillor W. Paton

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That Carlow County Council calls on the Minister for health to fund the drug Orkambi for Cystic Fibrosis sufferers.”

Standing in the names of Cllrs. Anne Ahern, Walter Lacey and Fergal Browne

“That Carlow County Council in light of the controversy around the proposed sale of items from the Alfred Beit Foundation (ABF) calls on the ABF not to proceed with the proposed sale of items from the collection. Carlow County Council supports the Irish Museum Association (IMA) statement of 1st July 2015 which expresses its willingness to work in collaboration with the Foundation to seek alternatives to this sale. In addition the Council welcomes the good will of organisations like An Taisce, The Irish Georgian Society & the School of Art History in UCD who have expressed a desire to assist in finding a long term solution. The Council suggests that the Foundation should consider joining the Heritage Council’s ‘Museums Standards Programme of Ireland (MSPI)’ and abide by the International Council’s of Museum’s (ICOM) Code of Ethics.

Carlow County Council calls on the Heather Humphries, TD, Minister for the Arts, Culture & the Gaeltacht to put in place provision for state support to safeguard public access to nationally important collections such as these.”

Proposed by Councillor A. Ahern

Seconded by Councillor J. Pender

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That Carlow County Council in light of the controversy around the proposed sale of items from the Alfred Beit Foundation (ABF) calls on the ABF not to proceed with the proposed sale of items from the collection. Carlow County Council supports the Irish

Museum Association (IMA) statement of 1st July 2015 which expresses its willingness to work in collaboration with the Foundation to seek alternatives to this sale. In addition the Council welcomes the good will of organisations like An Taisce, The Irish Georgian Society & the School of Art History in UCD who have expressed a desire to assist in finding a long term solution. The Council suggests that the Foundation should consider joining the Heritage Council's 'Museums Standards Programme of Ireland (MSPI)' and abide by the International Council's of Museum's (ICOM) Code of Ethics.

Carlow County Council calls on the Heather Humphries, TD, Minister for the Arts, Culture & the Gaeltacht to put in place provision for state support to safeguard public access to nationally important collections such as these."

9. Aon gnó eile le haontú an Chathaoirligh.
Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach.

Civic Reception Carlow Camogie Junior Team

Proposed by Councillor T. Kinsella
Seconded by Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor
AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That Carlow County Council hold a Civic Reception to honour the achievements of the Carlow Camogie Junior team in recognition of their outstanding achievements in 2015.

This concluded the business of the meeting.