

**Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow  
Held in the Town Hall, Carlow,  
on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2016**

**Present:** Councillor J. Cassin (Mayor)  
Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long)  
Councillor F. Browne  
Councillor J. Deane  
Councillor W. Lacey  
Councillor Brian O'Donoghue  
Councillor F. Phelan

**Apologies:** Councillor W. Paton  
Councillor J. Pender

**In attendance:** Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Services  
Mr. P. Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer/Meetings Administrator

The Mayor welcomed members to the meeting.

Cllr. Ahern congratulated Jennifer Murnane O'Connor on her election to the Seanad and noted her work rate over the years and congratulated her on her determination. She advised she was delighted that there are now two Oireachtas members in Carlow and that Jennifer Murnane O'Connor will be missed in the Council.

Cllr. Phelan congratulated Jennifer Murnane O'Connor on a personal and professional level. He noted her performance at the general election and said this was just reward.

Cllrs. Deane, Browne and Lacey also congratulated Jennifer Murnane O'Connor on her election and wished her the best of luck in the Senate. The Mayor also congratulated her endeavours as a Senator. Cllr. B. O'Donoghue also extended his congratulations and noted her hard work. Bernie O'Brien added her congratulations on behalf of the executive.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

***Minutes of Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2016.***

The Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2016, were agreed.

Cllr. Phelan raised the issue of the level of detail of the minutes of the meeting. E. Brophy and B. O'Brien replied advising of the minutes of the In Committee Meeting which would be circulated.

## **Housing**

The Mayor invited Tim Butler to deliver Housing Report. Tim briefed members on the major housing issues including Sleaty Street, 5 houses at the Laurels, progress on HAP's, provision on the house at Ardristan for traveller accommodation and Fruithill. Tim advised of the need to name new estates in Rathvilly and Tullow and suggested he would consult with planning and local elected representatives. It was suggested by Cllr. O'Donoghue the houses in Rathvilly be named after Fr. Edward Flood.

Tim answered questions from members on various housing initiatives and issues.

Cllr. Ahern raised a query as to whether there is a protocol in place for the naming of estates.

Cllr. Browne requested a survey be presented to the next MD meeting of derelict properties in the College Street, Charlotte Street, Brown Street area. B. O'Brien advised of the position advising they have identified the owners and a number of buildings will be painted in the near future. B. O'Brien advised of the fund approved for painting houses under the MD Annual Service Plan and that this scheme will be administered by the Tidy Towns Group.

Tim Butler also advised it was intended to seek Council approval to commence Part VIII for five houses at 66 – 70 the Laurels and also for bays 4 and 5 at Ardristan.

## **Planning**

No issues.

## **Transportation**

P. Harrington advised the new road in Graiguecullen was opening 29<sup>th</sup> April and the impact on traffic at Graiguecullen Bridge will be monitored. He advised of new traffic control system at Carlow Post Office.

Cllr. Browne advised on concerns in relation to the abolition of the block grant and the MD should write to the new Minister, when appointed and request the restoration of the grant to all County Councils which formerly had Town Councils in receipt of the grant.

P. Harrington answered questions from members on transportation issues.

Members expressed reservations in relation to funding for works in the Carlow town area and it was agreed to write to the Department seeking replacement to the block grant.

A discussion took place on options for traffic management at the Oak Park, O'Brien road junction.

### **Community**

M. Brennan addressed the meeting on Community Grants Scheme and the Environmental/Amenity Grants Scheme. It was

Proposed by Cllr. F. Browne

Seconded by Cllr. J. Deane

And following a show of hands was agreed as per document circulated.

Members thanked Michael for his preparation of the scheme and noted the importance of the grants to the various groups.

Members congratulated the Community Department on hosting the representation from Tempe, Arizona, last week.

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

E. Brophy advised of a proposed land disposal to Tinryland GFC and it was agreed to issue the statutory notice.

The Mayor raised a concern in relation to the reassignment of €12 m from the mental health service. It was agreed to write to the Minister expressing the Municipal District's concern and requesting the Minister to replace the money in the mental health service. All members present agreed on this issue.

E. Brophy answered questions on the co-option procedure to be followed for the filling of a casual vacancy.

This concluded the business of the meeting.