

# **Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow**

**held in the Town Hall, Carlow,**

**on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 4.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long)  
Councillor F. Browne  
Councillor J. Cassin  
Councillor J. Deane  
Councillor W. Lacey  
Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor  
Councillor B. O'Donoghue  
Councillor J. Pender  
Councillor F. Phelan

In attendance: Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service  
Mr. P. Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. A. Oakes, A/Senior Executive Officer/Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer/Meetings Administrator  
Councillor W. Paton

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

**Proposed by Councillor J. Deane**

**Seconded by Councillor A. Ahern nee Long**

**And**

Following a show of hands unanimously resolved:-

*“That the Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Carlow on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 3.30 p.m., having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed”.*

## **2. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual Meeting:**

**Proposed by Councillor J. Deane**

**Seconded by Councillor A. Ahern nee Long**

**And**

Following a show of hands unanimously resolved:-

*“That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Carlow on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 3.45 p.m., having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed”.*

### **3. Review of Start Time of Meetings:**

B O’Brien, Director of Service, referred to the Standing Orders in respect of the Carlow Municipal District Meetings and queried if the Members wished to revise the current start time of 4pm. The Members discussed the start times and referred to the new process of meeting with Mr. P. Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer, for updates on every second Friday and the possible reduction of items for the agenda as a result. It was agreed to hold Municipal Meetings at 4.30pm monthly and that housing be placed on the agenda every second month. J Pender enquired if it was possible for Members to obtain parking passes for attendance at the meetings.

### **4. Housing:**

B O’Brien, Director of Service, circulated the Housing Progress Report. The Members welcomed the progress in relation to construction activity. Cllr. Browne requested that the 26 houses at Sleaty Street be placed on the October Agenda and suggested that the Director of Housing, Laois County Council, be invited to attend.

The Members discussed the crisis of homelessness, the lack of emergency accommodation and the lack of shelters for women and families. Cllr. J Murnane O’Connor advised that families were currently accommodated in Bed & Breakfast in Carlow Town and suggested that the Council examine the possibility of a shelter at the former St. Brigid’s Hospital. Cllr. J Cassin pointed out that there was a campaign organised at St. Brigid’s Hospital on 12<sup>th</sup> September and requested the Members supported the campaign. The Members also raised concerns in relation to landlord acceptance of the Housing Assistance Payment scheme and also the fact that it appeared that the Department of the Environment was using 2013 figures to form the basis of the current housing strategy. Cllr. J Murnane O’Connor paid tribute to the staff in the Housing Section and advised that her issues lay with the policies of current and previous governments.

### **5. Transportation:**

#### **(i) Road Programme Report**

P Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer, advised that the Road Programme was now 84% complete and that crews would shortly move back to maintenance operation. The

Members congratulated P Harrington and staff on the work at the pedestrian crossing at Askea School advising that both the school and parents were very happy with the works. P Harrington advised that there was an issue with public lighting and that an application had been made in this regard. Cllr. A Ahern congratulated P Harrington on the works carried out on the Green Lane and replacement bollards outside the Topaz garage. Cllr. F Browne enquired in relation to the Brownhill Cross junction and P Harrington advised that a third survey would be carried out before Christmas. Cllr. B O'Donoghue complimented P Harrington on the footpath works at Mount Wolseley. Cllr. J Deane congratulated P Harrington in relation to the road programme and in particular in relation to the Castletown Cross. Cllr. W Lacey expressed his thanks to P Harrington for all the works and queried the 5% complete on Green Road. P Harrington advised that this reflected that the design stage was completed. Cllr. J Pender requested clarification in relation to the status of the disabled parking bay at Abbey Street, Tullow, and P Harrington confirmed that it was not an official disabled parking bay. P Harrington confirmed that flood relief works on the Burrin Road would be complete in 3-4 weeks in response to Cllr. J Cassin's query.

**(ii) CIS Scheme**

Details of applications received were circulated and the Members approved works at The Link – Browneshill, Carlow and Iona Drive, Carlow.

**(iii) LIS Scheme**

Details of applications received were circulated and the Members approved works at Rathcrogue and Crosslow.

**(iv) Speed Limits in Housing Estates**

Following distribution of Circular RW 12/2015, dated 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015, the members discussed the subject at length. It was agreed that due to the number of estates in the municipal district (210), the available resources would be used to provide signage at the first 42 estates in alphabetical order.

**(v) Overview of proposed watermain rehabilitation scheme in Carlow and Tullow**

P Harrington detailed the proposed works and site investigation works and advised that these works would impact on the Councils work programme for the next 24 to 36 months. P Harrington advised that due to greater difficulties in the Tullow Water network, this part of the project would be dealt with separately and that he would endeavour to ascertain indicative timescales.

## **The Meeting adjourned to facilitate a presentation by Carlow Scouts Group**

Members of Carlow Scouts Group gave powerpoint presentation detailing their foundation in Carlow and the services/activities they provide. This included details of their current accommodation and their future needs. The Members thanked the Carlow Scouts Group for their very thorough presentation and complimented them on their good work to date.

## **6. Correspondence:**

### ***Railings Carlow Courthouse***

B O'Brien advised that works would be completed on a phased basis and that some works had taken place. It was noted that there was no timeframe for completion of the works.

### ***Boundary Review***

Correspondence was noted

### ***Tullow Museum***

It was agreed that the invitation by Tullow Museum would be accepted and facilitated at the next meeting in Tullow. B O'Brien reminded the Members of the statutory requirements of the Budget Meeting which must take place between 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October and it was agreed that the meeting would be scheduled for Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 and that the housing progress report would be deferred to the following meeting.

## **7. Any Other Business:**

Cllr. B O'Donoghue requested that one of the difibrillators at the Town Hall be moved to outside the building.

Cllr. W Lacey requested that consideration be given to extending the cycle lanes from Walls Forge to the Tullow Road roundabout. Cllr. W Lacey advised of the "Jacket off your Back" initiative and that any assistance to this initiative would be welcomed.

Cllr. A Ahern referred to the Dr. Cullen/Oak park junction and requested that another traffic count be considered.

Cllr. J Murnane O'Connor supported Cllr. B O'Donoghue proposal regarding the location of the defibrillator and requested that signage for Tullow Street be considered.

Cllr. J. Cassin advised of the Balloon Release to be held in the Town Park on that evening in aid of Suicide Awareness Week and requested support.

LECP – it was agreed to circulate a draft plan to the Members before the next meeting and that it would be included on the agenda for the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015.

The Members remembered the late Margaret Wadders, whose huge loss would be felt by her family, the staff of St. Catherine's Community Services Centre and also the staff of the County Council.

This concluded the business of the meeting.