

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 12th January 2015 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor F. Browne, Cathaoirleach
Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long),
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 C. Murphy,
Councillor J. Murphy,
Councillor B. O'Donoghue,
Councillor W. Paton,
Councillor J. Pender,
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor W. Quinn.

In attendance: Mr. T. Barry, Chief Executive
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service – Corporate, Planning, Economic Development, Health and Safety
Mr. D. McInerney, Director of Services
Transportation, Environment & Water Services
Mr. S. O'Connor, Director of Services, Community, Housing, Recreation & Amenity, Building Control & Emergency Services.
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance, Information Technology & Culture (Libraries, Arts & County Museum).
Ms. Lily Slye, Senior Executive Engineer
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.

The business of the meeting was adjourned for such time as to allow Members the opportunity to express their heartfelt sympathies to the families of the four girls who died tragically in a horrific road accident on the 6th January- Niamh Doyle, Aisling Middleton, Gemma Nolan and Chermaine Carroll. Members said no words can describe the devastation and sadness experienced by everyone at this tragic time and offered their sympathies and support to the families. Members wished Dayna Kearney a speedy recovery and said their thoughts and prayers are with her and her family. Members also expressed good wishes for a speedy recovery to the driver and passenger of the other vehicle involved in the accident.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Michael Brennan, Senior Executive Officer on the death of his mother Lillie Brennan, Ardough, Bilboa.
- David and Lynda Redmond, Harristown, Graiguenamanagh on the tragic death of their daughter Róisín.
- Marion Nolan and family, Ballon and Bunclody on the death of her son Stanley.
- Eilish Molloy and family, 17 Old Dublin Road, Carlow on the death of her son David
- The Dowling Family, 128 JKL Ave., on the death of their mother Angela
- Michael Keating and family, 9 Avondale Drive, Hanover on the death of his wife Annette.
- Peter and Gerry O'Neill on the death of their sister Breda O'Neill, 36 Mount Leinster Park, Carlow
- Pauline Bermingham, Hillview Housing Estate, Nurney, on the death of her husband Tom.
- The Walshe Family, Garryhill, Bagenalstown on the death of their mother Lily Walshe.

- The Hynes Family, on the death of their mother Nell Hynes, 15 Granby Row, Carlow.
- Mick O'Shea and family, 32, Burrindale, Pollerton on the death of his wife Pauline.
- The Lucey Family, Borris on the death of Dr. Conn Lucey.
- Paddy Regan and family, Ballyloo, Nurney on the death of his wife Kathleen.
- The Nolan Family, 1 New Street, Leighlinbridge on the death of their father Tom Nolan.
- The Bolger Family, Kilcarrig, Bagenalstown on the death of their mother Mary (Mai).
- The Kavanagh Family, Ballinacree, Myshall on the death of their mother Sheila.
- The Brennan Family, Ballyknockan, Leighlinbridge on the death of their mother Nan.
- Antoinette Sutton and family, Rath East, Tullow on the death of her husband Patrick.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

The Members expressed votes of congratulations to:-

- Rev Máirt Hanley on being appointed as rector of Baltinglass group of parishes.
- The Emergency Services and Civil Defence on their handling of recent fire at Cannery Road, Carlow Town ensuring public health and safety.
- To the people of Longford and all involved in the magnificent restoration of St. Mel's Cathedral, Longford following fire in December 2009.
- Brian Kirwan St. Laurence O'Toole on retaining the Carlow Senior Cross Country Title 2014.
- Mary Clare Byrne on her success in the Carlow Senior Cross Country Championship 2014.
- Tinryland Athletic Team on retaining the team title in Carlow Cross Country Athletics 2014.

Councillor McDonald raised issue of inadequate facilities at Bagenalstown Fire Station to cater for the needs of staff and queried future plans for the Station.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Proposed by Councillor A. Ahern nee Long
Seconded by Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor
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 8th December 2014, at 2.00p.m having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

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

(a) To consider Draft Corporate Plan 2015-2019

Members had for consideration and approval Draft Corporate Plan 2015-2019.

Councillor Phelan requested that the section of the Draft Corporate Plan relating to the development of Shared Service Model of management in the Fire and Emergency Service and the Library Service (page 46) be removed from the Draft Plan as agreed at meeting of Strategic Policy Committee.

B. O'Brien advised that an amendment is being put forward by the Cutural, Health and Agricultural SPC and the Draft Plan will be amended accordingly.

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton
Seconded by Councillor T. Kinsella
AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-
That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve Draft Corporate Plan 2015-2019 in accordance with Section 143 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended subject to SPC amendment in relation to Shared Service Model of management.

(b) Establishment of Joint Policing Committee – Nomination of Council Members

Members were advised that Section 36 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 provides for the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in each local authority administrative area, as part of the local government structures.

The following Members were nominated at the Annual meeting in June 2014.

Councillors B. O'Donoghue , W. Paton, F. Browne, J. Murphy, D. Foley, C. Murphy, W. Quinn, A. Ahern, J. Murnane – O'Connor, J. Cassin, F. Phelan, A. Gladney and A. McDonald.

Councillors Browne and McDonald requested that their appointments to the Joint Policing Committee at the 2014 Annual meeting be replaced by Councillors Pender and Doran.

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously agreed that Councillors Doran and Pender be appointed to the Joint Policing Committee to replace Councillors McDonald and Browne.

(c) Establishment of a 1916 Commemoration Committee

A discussion took place in relation to the establishment of a 1916 Commemorative Committee.

Members raised issue of funding and membership and requested that available funding be split equally between the two municipal districts.

The committee is to convene under Pat Delaney, Head of Finance with responsibility for Culture, Health and Agriculture SPC.

Following a showing of hands it was agreed that the following members be appointed to the 1916 Commemoration Committee.

Councillors A. Ahern (Nee Long), J. Cassin, J. Deane, D. Foley, A. Gladney, T. Kinsella, A. McDonald, J. Murnane-O'Connor, C. Murphy, B' O'Donoghue, W. Paton, J. Pender, F. Phelan and W. Quinn.

(d) Taking in Charge of Pembroke Court and servicing road

Members had report from D. McInerney on the taking in charge of Pembroke Court and the serving road.

During the public consultation period one submission was received.

The report set out the submission and response to the submission.

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton

Seconded by Councillor W. Lacey

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the proposed taking in charge of Pembroke Court and servicing road in accordance with S11 of the Roads Act, 1993, and S180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

**3. COMMUNITY, HOUSING, RECREATION AND AMENITY,
BUILDING CONTROL AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

(a) Energy Grants 2015

Members welcomed report from S. O’Connor on Better Energy Community/Area based Grant Scheme.

Mr. O’Connor advised of major projects funded under the Scheme to date at a cost of over €3 million and in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government’s housing section 800 homes have been upgraded to a C1 standard building energy rating. Proposed works for 2015 will virtually complete the energy upgrades of all of the Council’s housing stock.

S.O’Connor urged owners and users of public buildings throughout the county to avail of SEAI Schemes which should include 50% funding in 2015.

Members complimented Mr. O’Connor and his staff on the initiatives.

Councillor McDonald raised issue of box rooms in 3 bedroomed Council houses unsuitable for larger families and if there is an upgrade programme in place. Mr. O’Connor advised that in the current climate it is more cost effective for Council to carry out works on site to upgrade homes and people should contact the Council in this regard.

Councillor Ahern and Phelan raised issue of recent fire at the old Erin Foods factory Cannery Road and expressed concern at the difficulty for personnel

in contacting the EPA for advice. Members requested that the Council write to the EPA on the matter. Mr O'Connor and Mr McInerney advised that the protocol in place by the Department in such instances is not working satisfactorily and needs to be addressed. Advice was received from the HSA and the HSE in relation to toxic fumes and asbestos fibres in the air. They advised against writing a letter of complaint to the EPA as the issue was an operational procedure. A formal meeting with the EPA and other bodies will take place to address any concerns.

Councillor Murnane-O'Connor raised issue of first time house buyers having to have 20% deposit causing considerable hardship for young people to get on the property ladder. Members said it is important that those looking to get on the property ladder are not priced out of the market.

Councillor Kinsella raised issue of house in St. Mullins where air vents were installed when the energy upgrade was being carried out resulting in draught issues in the house. Mr O'Connor to have this issue investigated.

Councillor Doran also raised similar issue in relation to condensation resulting from cold air from extraction fans. Mr. O'Connor advised of commencement of renovations on 13 apartments in Bagenalstown. All issues raised by Members were addressed by Mr. O'Connor and Ms. Slye.

4. FINANCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & CULTURE (LIBRARIES AND COUNTY MUSEUM)

(a) Audit Report 2013

Audit Committee Report to Council on the 2013 Annual Financial Statement and Local Government Auditors Report (Section 121 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014).

Members had for their consideration Audit Report – year ending 31st December 2013 and Audit Committee Report to Council on the 2013 Annual Financial Statement and Local Government Auditors Report.

Councillor Cassin raised issue of Carlow Arts Centre and Eastern Relief Road. P. Delaney advised that Carlow Arts Centre was debated in detail at the Budget meeting. It is expected that the tax issue in relation to The Eastern Relief Road will be finalised at end of 1st quarter 2015.

Councillor Quinn queried any outstanding court cases.

Councillor Ahern raised issue of Land Aggregation Scheme. The Cathaoirleach advised of proposed meeting with the Minister in relation to Land Aggregation Scheme which is currently under review.

(b) Library Shared Services Update

The Chief Executive advised that this report be deferred as the Library Shared Services proposals are currently with the Unions.

Council Murnane complimented the Library service in Carlow and urged everyone to visit the Library.

PRESENTATION ON WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN BY SOUTH EASTERN REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Carol Sweetman from the South Eastern Region Waste Management Office to the chamber. Ms Sweetman gave an informative presentation to Members on the objectives for the management of waste in the southern region for the next five years. She said what we do with our waste will become increasingly more important. She stressed the importance of reusing, recycling and repairing more. The Draft Waste Management Plan aims to move our management of waste from a linear disposal model to a circular economy model so that waste becomes a future resource or raw material. The objectives are to prevent or reduce household waste, send less waste to landfill, recycle more and offer information and support about recycling and prevention of food waste.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Future of Powerstown Landfill and remediation costs
- One third of householders in Carlow are not using an authorised service provider.
- 3 bin collection not enforced
- Removal of recycling facility in Tullow

- Education a key factor

Members thanked Ms. Sweetman for her presentation. Ms Sweetman addressed issues raised by members.

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

(a) Draft Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2012. To fix date for Workshop to discuss Chief Executive's Report on submissions received.

Members unanimously agreed to hold workshop on Monday 2nd February from 2 – 5p.m. Whips to meet to decide attendance at the workshop. The Draft Plan will come before the March meeting of Council for approval.

(b) Agriculture

Councillor Deane raised issue of hedgecutting - compliance and prosecutions. The issue is to be brought to Municipal District meeting for discussion and report prepared for Council.

Councillor McDonald raised issue of problem of noxious weeds throughout the county.

(c) Health

Councillor Murnane and Phelan raised issue of Fair Deal Scheme – three to four months waiting lists, waiting lists for hospital beds and X-Ray unit St Dymphna's hospital. Councillor Browne also raised concerns in relation to X-Ray unit at St. Dymphnas hospital and expressed the view that hospitals should have a centralised data base for patient care.

Councillor Paton raised issue of patients in nursing homes not covered by the services of a GP if the GP practice in that area has reached its patient quota.

Councillor Pender raise issue of GP practices in Tullow unable to treat a medical card patient as they had reached their limits of medical card holders. Councillor Gladney raised issue of mental health facilities in County Carlow not adequate to meet patients' needs.

Councillor McDonald and Cassin raised issue in relation to cuts in carer's allowance resulting in hardship for many families in need of home care services.

(d) Tenders for opening if any

Members noted tenders opened since the last Council meeting.

(d) Conference Attendance Approvals

There were no conferences for approval.

6. Chief Executives Monthly Management Report

Members noted the monthly management report prepared by the Chief Executive as required under Local Government Reform Act 2014. The report set out the main activities of Carlow County Council across the various service areas for the period June 2014 to December 2014.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted correspondence from the Health Service Executive in relation to medical for people aged 70 and over.

Members noted correspondence from the Health Service Executive in relation to correspondence from Members expressing their dissatisfaction to answers received at meeting with Carlow County Members.

Members noted Notice of Motion from Kerry County Council

“that we, the Members of Killarney Municipal District support the Carers Association in their call to the Minister for Social Protection to amend the Social Welfare Bill to make provision for the restoration of the Respite Care Grant.”

Members noted Notice of Motion from Tipperary County Council

“That Tipperary County Council support the upcoming Referendum on marriage equality to be held in the Spring of 2015”.

8. Aon Ghnó Eile/Any Other Business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Phelan proposed that the Council write to Irish Water inviting them to address the Members at the February meeting of Council. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Pender.

Councillor Cassin raised issue of major water leaks as a result of works by Irish Water with the piping system in older sections of Carlow town.

Issues were also raised in relation to safety and fire prevention at Derelict sites with particular mention of house in College Street.

Councillor Ahern raised issue in relation to quality and quantity of public lighting in The Orchards Housing Estate and queried the current position on public lighting contract with Airtricity.

Councillor Deane raised issue of increased energy bills with effect from the 1st January with new taxation energy efficiency fund being added and reduced oil prices not being passed on to consumers. The Council is to write to Alex White, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources expressing their concerns. In response to Councillor Deane Councillor Lacey said reduction in oil prices are being passed on to consumers.

Councillor McDonald raised issue of facilities at Bagenalstown Fire Station and queried if there are plans for the relocation of the station.

Councillor Murnane raised issue of public lighting at Burrin Manor and requested a report for the February meeting of Council on public lighting issue.

Councillor Murnane also raised serious concerns in relation to proposals to relocate Rehab on the Killeshin Road to Graiguecullen Industrial Park at the site of the old Educate Together School. Councillor Murnane said the site is unsuitable with no adequate parking facilities.

Councillor Pender requested immediate resolution to public lighting issue at Phelim Wood.

Councillor Deane advised Members of memorial events to remember and celebrate the career of legendary Carlow footballer Andy Murphy who died at the age of 39 fifty years ago. All proceeds from the events will go to the County Carlow Hospice. Councillor Murnane requested that members participate in or organise an event and suggested that the new relief road connecting Greenbank Road and Barrow Track be named in his honour. The Cathaoirleach said he will discuss with the Chief Executive a contribution by Carlow County Council to the events taking place.

Councillor McDonald requested a memorial to honour one of the greatest Carlow hurlers ever Red Willie Walsh, in the southern end of the county.

Councillor McDonald raised issue in relation to funding of Christmas lighting as discussed at Budget meeting and requested that the issue be brought to the Municipal District meetings and that Carlow Chamber of Commerce be invited to attend.

The Cathaoirleach Councillor Browne raised issue of new lights not being connected by Electric Ireland and queried Carlow County Council's strategy to reduce energy consumption by 40%.

The Cathaoirleach of Muinebheag Municipal District Councillor Quinn raised issue of Chain of Office for the Muinebheag Municipal District. The Chief Executive advised that a Chain of Office will be provided if requested.

This was the last Council meeting for Chief Executive Tom Barry as he retires from the service with effect from the 13th January 2015 having served almost 41 years in Local Government.

Members paid warm tributes to Mr. Barry and described him as a man of great integrity, very personable, fair in his dealings with people and always worked for the betterment of Carlow. Members spoke of his achievements as County Manager and as Chief Executive over the previous seven years despite the economic downturn. Members made particular reference to the handing over of Altamount Gardens to the state as Mr. Barry was instrumental in these negotiations. Other projects which came to fruition during his tenure were Carlow Main Drainage and the success of VISUAL. They spoke of his achievements in implementing change in the

organisation under Local Government Reform and as Chief Executive he was instrumental in bringing about the smooth transition.

Mr. Barry thanked Members for their kind words and said he greatly enjoyed the last seven years in Carlow. He praised the Members and previous members for their help and for their commitment to Carlow which made his job easier. He also thanked the Management Team and staff for their help, dedication and support to him during the last seven years.

This concluded the business of the meeting.