

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the July Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Wednesday 27th June 2012 at 4.45 p.m

- Present: Councillor M. Abbey, Cathaoirleach
Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor W. Fennell,
Councillor D. Foley,
Councillor F. Hunter
Councillor D. Hurley
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor W. Lacey
Councillor A. McDonald,
Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor,
Councillor C. Murphy,
Councillor J. Murphy,
Councillor T. O'Neill
Councillor P. O'Toole
Councillor W. Paton
Councillor J. Pender,
Councillor W. Quinn.
Councillor C. Townsend,
Councillor J. Townsend,
- In attendance: Mr. T. Barry, County Manager
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Service - Environment, Water
Services & Health and Safety.
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service - Community and
Enterprise, Economic Development & Corporate Services.
Mr. D. McInerney, Director of Services
Transportation & Safety & Emergency Services.
Ms. A Oakes, Acting /Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services
Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate
Services.

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited by the Members.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

The Members expressed votes of congratulations to:-

- Willie Mullins, National Hunt Trainer, on his first victory at Royal Ascot.
- Councillor Jim Townsend on his election as the new Chairperson of the Regional Health Forum South.
- All involved with 'Relay for Life' held in Ducketts Grove 21st and 22nd June 2012
- St Patrick's GAA Club, Tullow on participating in RTE Celebrity Bainisteoir.
- Hugo Jellett, Eigse and all Eigse staff on the wonderful success of Eigse 2012.
- All involved with Bagenalstown Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place.
- Councillor Denis Foley on being elected to IPB Insurance as the Leinster representative.
- Eileen O'Rourke on the success of the National Tourism Conference held in Carlow 21st -23rd June. Members also conveyed their good wishes to Ms. O'Rourke on the occasion of her forthcoming marriage to Mr. P.J. Fitzsimons.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to:-

- The Meaney Family, Main Street, Bagenalstown on the death of Marie.
- Mildred Weekes & Family on the death of her husband Very Rev Cecil William Weekes, Bennettsbridge, Kilkenny.
- Mary Farrell and family, Cloughna, Milford, Co. Carlow on the death of her husband, Eamonn.
- Owen O'Neill, Marymount, Graiguecullen, Carlow on the death of his wife, Rita

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (a) Proposed by Councillor D. Foley
Seconded by Councillor W. Paton
AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday, 11th June, at 2.00p.m having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

2. CIRCULARS

There were no circulars

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

- (a) Taking- in- Charge of roads and services at Forge Meadows, Carlow Road, Ballon, Co. Carlow**

Members had report from Mr. D. McInerney on the taking in charge of road and services at Forge Meadows, Carlow Road, Ballon, Co. Carlow. An advertisement was placed in the Nationalist and Leinster Times on the 24th April, 2012 with the period extended to 4th June 2012.

Following the public consultation period no submissions were received.

Members approval was sought to declare the roads in the Forge Meadows housing development to be public roads and to take the roads, footpaths, public lighting and services in charge.

- Proposed by Councillor M. Doran
Seconded by Councillor J. Townsend
AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve the roads in the housing estate Forge Meadows, Carlow Road, Ballon to be public roads and to take the roads, footpaths, public lighting and services in charge in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act

1993, Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, and Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act 2010.

(b) Taking- in- Charge of roads and services at Quinnagh Green, Carlow.

Mr. D. McInerney advised in his report dated 20th June, 2012 that housing development Quinnagh Green, Carlow has now been inspected and of the standard to allow the Council to take-in-charge the roads, footpaths, public lighting, water and waste-water services. Members' approval was sought to commence the taking-in-charge process by placing the necessary advertisement in the Nationalist and Leinster Times on the 3rd July, 2012.

Proposed by Councillor J. Murnane- O'Connor

Seconded by Councillor W. Fennell

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve the commencement of the taking-in-charge process for roads, footpaths, public lighting, water and waste-water services at Quinnagh Green, Carlow by placing the necessary advertisement in the Nationalist and Leinster Times on the 3rd July, 2012, in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, and Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act 2010.

(c) Disposal of 0.11 acres at Pollerton Big

Proposed by Councillor W. Fennell

Seconded by Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve in accordance with Local Government Act 2001 Section 183, Planning & Development Act, 2000 Section 211, the disposal of 0.011 acres at Pollerton Big to Liam & Maureen O'Dea, in consideration of the sum of €500 in accordance with the terms of the statutory notice already circulated.

(d) Disposal of 0.009 acres at Pollerton Big, Carlow

Proposed by Councillor W. Fennell

Seconded by Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve in accordance with Local Government Act 2001 Section 183, Planning & Development Act, 2000 Section 211, the disposal of 0.009 acres at Pollerton Big to Helen & Vincent Toner, in consideration of the sum of €500 in accordance with the terms of the statutory notice already circulated.

(e) Student Grant Scheme 2012

Members had for their consideration correspondence from the Department of Education and Skills advising in relation to the new arrangements for the administration of student grants for the academic year 2012/2013.

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) will administer the system centrally on behalf of all new applicants. Existing grant awarding authorities will continue to process renewal applications to students to whom they have already awarded grants until such time as those students have completed their current courses.

The student contribution charge is being increased by €250 to €2,250.

Members approval was sought to the 2012/2013 Student Grant Scheme.

Proposed by Councillor A. McDonald

Seconded by Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve the Student Grant Scheme 2012 in accordance with Student Support Act 2011, Student Support Scheme 2012, Student Support Regulation 2012, Student Support Act (appointment of Awarding Authority) Order 2012 and Student Support Act (Commencement of Certain Provisions) Order 2012”.

4. HOUSING RECREATION & AMENITY & SPECIAL PROJECTS

(a) Termination of the 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme

Members had for their consideration copy of Circular Housing 23/2012 regarding the termination of the 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme.

Members were advised that any tenant wishing to avail of the current purchase scheme will need to apply to Carlow County or Town Council before 31st December 2012. All sales of houses must be completed by 30th June, 2013. Members requested that formal notification of the termination of the 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme be issued to tenants.

The Department proposes to introduce a new Incremental Purchase Scheme which will be a discount scheme based on household income that enables the State to share in the profits from resale during the 20 to 30 year period for which the house is subject to incremental purchase charge. It was noted that legislation is planned to be introduced in 2013.

Members expressed reservations in relation to the new incremental scheme. Members also addressed the issue of tenants on social welfare and older people not being afforded the opportunity to purchase their homes.

In response to Members query regarding housing loans the County Manager advised that housing loans are available subject to applicants satisfying certain criteria.

Members raised the issue of a Local Authority Housing Scheme partly built on site of old sandpit. Members raised concerns in relation to structural damage to shed and responsibility for repairs where houses have been purchased.

Members raised the issue of recent article in the media regarding the sale of partially completed housing estate in Tullow.

Members queried the figure quoted of upwards of €1m in development levies. The County Manager is to prepare a response to this issue for the September meeting of Council.

Members also requested update report on housing.

5. COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CORPORATE SERVICES

(a) (i) Carlow County Library Service

Members noted progress report on Carlow County Library Service to June 2012.

(ii) Economic Development – Carlow Local Authorities Business Support Unit

This item was deferred to the September meeting of Council.

(iii) Community and Enterprise

This item was deferred to the September meeting of Council.

Councillor Paton welcomed the roller skating facility at VISUAL and suggested that background music and a soft drinks dispenser would enhance the facility.

(b) Agriculture

There were no matters arising.

(c) Health

Councillor Fennell welcomed the election of Councillor Jim Townsend as new chairperson of the Regional Health Forum South.

Councillor McDonald is also a Member of Regional Forum South.

Councillor Fennell said that with Councillor Townsend as chairperson they will work closely with all parties of the HSE South to ensure that the highest standard of health care is provided for the people of Carlow. At the next Forum meeting the Members will be briefed on recent issue regarding Ambulance Service in County Carlow.

(d) Tenders for opening, if any

Members noted tenders opened since last meeting.

6. TRANSPORTATION & EMERGENCY SERVICES

(a) Regional Road Network Pavement Condition Study Report

Members had report from Mr. D. McInerney on the National Roads Authority's final report on the Pavement Condition Survey for Regional roads in Ireland.

The objective of the survey was to establish, by county and nationally, the lengths and areas of various categories of regional roads requiring remedial works.

The report compared the survey results for Carlow with the average results obtained for the total network.

Members raised issue of Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme(CIR) allocation. Mr. McInerney advised that details of scheme will be brought to area meetings.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted correspondence from Department of Health in relation to Members correspondence regarding Health services for the people of Graiguecullen and the centralization of medical cards.

Members noted resolutions from Galway County Council

"I propose that Galway City Council oppose all efforts by the Minister fro Environment to impose charges on all householders for the supply and fitting of water meters, this scheme should be funded by the Department of Environment It was further agreed to circulate this motion to all other Local Authorities."

"That Galway City Council condemns the decision by the Minister for the Environment to establish the new public water utility company, Irish Water, without proper consultation with the City Council and notwithstanding the Council's opposition to its establishment."

Members noted correspondence from Mr Gerald Tremblay, Mayor of Montreal and executive member of Mayors for Peace

regarding International Day of Peace 'Minute of Silence' Friday
September 21st, 2012.

Members noted correspondence from Department of Health in
relation to Members correspondence regarding Ambulance service
County Carlow.

Members noted resolution from Mayo County Council

'that the Members resolve to call on the Government to introduce the
necessary legislation and or constitutional change to prohibit the
receipt of a second state, semi-state or E.U. pension by any one
individual and that no state, semi-state or E.U. pensioner be
employed by the State or semi-state body while in receipt of a state
or semi-state pension. Furthermore, if the motion be adopted, that it
be circulated to all other local authorities for their consideration.'

(8) Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Foley raised issue of €10m IPB Insurance social dividend
to be discharged to Local Authority Members. The County Manager
advised that the dividend will be similar to last year.

Councillor Foley also advised of €5m payable by reference to the IPB
Corporate Social Engagement Fund Model for community and
educational projects.

Members attendance at the following conferences were approved:-

Social Exclusion & Crime,
Carmelite Community Centre,
56 Aungier Street,
Dublin 2.
2nd to 3rd February 2012

Cllr. John Pender

AMAI Spring Seminar,
Hotel Kilmore,
Dublin Road,
Cavan.
10th to 11th February 2012

Cllrs. T. O'Neill

Democracy in the 21st Century,
Quinn Building,
UCD, Belfield, Dublin.
10th to 11th February 2012

Cllrs. J. Pender, &
A. McDonald

Kerry Community & Voluntary,
Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
9th March 2012

Cllr. Michael Abbey

Media/Social Media/Effective
Time Management,
Celtic Ross Hotel,
Rosscarbery, West Cork. .
23rd to 25th March 2012

Cllrs. T. O'Neill, &
A. Ahern

Nuclear Free Local Authorities,
Dundalk Council Chamber,
Dundalk, Co. Louth.
20th April 2012

Cllr. Arthur McDonald

EURES Economic Breakfast,
Carrickdale Hotel,
Dundalk, Co. Louth.
3rd to 4th May 2012

Cllr. John Pender

Non Payment of Local Govt Charges,
Kingsvalley Hotel,
Merlin Park, Dublin Road,
Galway.
4th to 5th May 2012

Cllr. Jennifer Murnane
O'Connor

ACCC Annual Conference,
Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny
10th to 11th May 2012

Cllr. Fred Hunter

National Country Fair,
Moirá,
Co. Down.
25th to 27th May 2012

Cllr. William Quinn,

The Councillor & The Environment,
Hylands Burren Hotel,
Ballyvaughan,
Co. Clare.
8th to 9th June 2012

Cllr. P. O'Toole

The Irish American Link:
People/Places/Culture,
Ard Rí Hotel,
Tuam, Co. Galway.
12th to 16th July 2012

Cllrs. W. Quinn &
J. Townsend

Convergence Ireland – Health Care & I.T.,
The Burlington Hotel,
Dublin.
13th June 2012

Cllr. A. McDonald

The New Ageing Agenda,
The Burlington Hotel,
Dublin.
14th June 2012

Cllr. A. McDonald

EU Funding Seminar,
Royal Hotel,
Bray, Co. Wicklow.
14th to 16th June 2012

Cllr. John Pender

10th National Carlow Tourism Conference
The Dolmen Hotel,
Carlow.
21st to 23rd June 2012.

Cllrs. Ml Abbey,
F. Browne, J. Murphy,
J. Townsend,
W. Fennell, M. Doran,
T. O'Neill, D. Hurley,
P. O'Toole &
C. Townsend.

MacGill Summer School,
Highlands Hotel,
Glenties, Co. Donegal.
22nd to 27th July 2012

Cllr. W. Fennell

Criminal Law for Local Representatives,
Kingsvalley Hotel,
Merlin Park,
Galway.
30th to 31st July 2012

Cllr. Denis Foley

Local Government Auditing,
Kingsvalley Hotel,
Merlin Park,
Galway.
3rd to 4th August 2012

Cllr. Denis Foley

Parnell Summer School 2012
Avondale House,
Rathdrum,
Co. Wicklow.

Cllrs. A. Ahern &
T. O'Neill

21st William Carleton Summer School,
Corick House Hotel,
Clogher,
Co. Tyrone.
6th to 9th August 2012

Cllr. A. Ahern

Freedom of Information
Kingsvalley Hotel,
Merlin Park,
Dublin Road,
Galway.
17th to 18th August 2012

Cllrs. D. Foley &
F. Hunter

This concluded the business of the meeting.