

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 8th September 2014 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 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.

Apologies: Councillor D. Foley

In attendance: Mr. T. Barry, Chief Executive
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service – Corporate, Planning,
Economic Development, Health and Safety
Mr. S. O'Connor, Director of Services, Community,
Housing, Recreation & Amenity, Building Control &
Emergency Services.
Mr. D. McInerney, Director of Services
Transportation, Environment & Water Services
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Ms. F. O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Planning
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.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to:-

- Michael Doyle General Operative, on the death of his brother Patrick Doyle, 59, Askea Lawns.
- Ger Monaghan Executive Technician on the death of his father Gerald Monaghan, Leighlinbridge
- The family of the late Sheila Bolger, New Road, Leighlinbridge, Pensioner Carlow County Council.
- James Pender, General Operative on the death of his grandmother and Noel Pender former employee of Carlow County Council on the death of his mother Mary Pender, Killeshin.
- The family of the late Marie McGrath, 62 Dereen Heights, Tullow Road, Carlow
- To the family and the Fianna Fáil organisation on the death of Albert Reynolds former Taoiseach.
- The Family of the late Seamus Hayden, Kilmeaney, Carlow
- The Family of the late Dinny Carton, Carrigduff, Bunclody, Co. Wexford.
- The Family of the late Patrick Murphy, Coolnasheegan, Myshall, Co. Carlow
- The Family of the late John Canavan, Raheenwood, Fenagh
- The Family of the late Kathleen O'Neill, Augha, Bagenalstown.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

The Members expressed votes of congratulations to:-

- Clonegal on winning Ireland's Tidiest Village Award at National Tidy Towns Awards 2014. Gold medals to Carlow Town, Leighlinbridge and Clonegal with Clonegal winning the County Award for Carlow. Ballon on winning the Endeavour Award in

County Carlow. Members paid tribute to all towns and villages in the county as they all increased their marks from last year. The Cathaoirleach congratulated all Tidy Town Committees and their communities who voluntarily give tirelessly of their time. He complimented the staff of Carlow County Council, the Fás CE Scheme and TÚS workers for their work and commitment to Tidy Towns. He said the hard work of all has paid off with excellent results.

Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) achievements 2014 Carlow Town was noted.

- Eamonn Treacy on winning gold at the World Ploughing Championships 2014 in France.
- All involved with Carlow Community Games 2014 with 14 gold medals brought back to the County.
- Miriam Smyth on her excellent performance representing County Carlow at the International Rose of Tralee Festival 2014.
- Colm Ó Bhruadair on winning first place in the Uileann Pipes 12 to 15 age category at the Cómhaltas Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann All Ireland Championships 2014.
- All involved with the Home to Rome Cycle 2014 raising funds for cancer charities of their choice.
- The Community of Ballon on the opening of new extension to Ballon Community Hall.
- Walsh Whiskey Distillery on their expansion project at the Royal Oak, Bagenalstown.
- Erins Own on winning the Carlow Junior Hurling Championship 2014.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton

Seconded by Councillor A. Ahern

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That the Minutes of the July Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on 30th June 2014, at 2.00p.m having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

2. CIRCULARS

(a) Local Government Reform Act 2014 – further clarification of certain matters

Members noted Circular LG 20/2014 Local Government Reform Act 2014 – further clarification of certain matters.

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

(a) Agree date for Special Meeting to consider the setting of a Local Adjustment Factor in accordance with the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012

Members requested that the issue of Local Property Tax adjustment factor be debated publicly.

Members were advised that the in-committee meeting will be a briefing session and no decisions will be made at this meeting. It is customary practice to hold in- committee meeting prior to budget meeting.

Members requested detailed information on where possible savings could be made to the current budget in order to achieve a 15% reduction in Local Property Tax.

Proposed by Councillor M. Doran

Seconded by Councillor W. Lacey

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That the Special Meeting of Carlow County Council be held on Monday 22nd September at 3.00pm with in-committee meeting at 2.00pm.

(b) Audit Committee

(i) To establish the Audit Committee

- (ii) The Chief Executive advised of establishment of Audit Committee under Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014. The members had nominations made by the Corporate Policy Group in consultation with the Chief Executive. Members expressed reservations in relation to the nomination process and called for an open and transparent process inviting public submissions. Mr. P. Delaney advised that under the 2014 regulations members must have finance experience and also there must be gender balance. He advised of the difficulty in finding suitably qualified external people to sit on the audit committee and reiterated that those nominated by the Corporate Policy Group in consultation with the Chief Executive were suitably qualified and fulfilled the criteria for the membership as set out in 2014 regulations.

Proposed by Councillor J. Murphy

Seconded by Councillor W. Paton

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“We, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the establishment of Audit Committee Carlow County Council in accordance with Local Government Reform Act 2014 Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014”.

- (iii) **To approve the Term of the Audit Committee**

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton

Seconded by Councillor T. Kinsella

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“We, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the Term of the Audit Committee to be 5 years.”

- (iv) **To appoint members nominated by the Corporate Policy Group to the Audit Committee**

Proposed by Councillor T. Kinsella

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“We, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the following persons to be appointed as Members of the Audit Committee, Carlow County Council for a period of 5 years :-

- *Councillor William Paton - Serving Member of Carlow County Council*
- *Mr. Tom O’Neill - Retired Member of Carlow County Council*
- *Ms Eleanor Rea - Finance Manager, Carlow Institute of Technology*
- *Mr. Peter Scully - Retired Head of Finance, Laois County Council*
- *Mr. Eugene Kearns - Manager, Carlow Credit Union*

in accordance with Local Government Reform Act 2014 Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014”.

(v) To approve the Audit Committee Charter

Members had for their consideration and approval Draft Carlow County Council Audit Committee Charter.

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the Draft Audit Committee Charter of Carlow County Council in accordance with Section 59 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014.

(c) Protected Structure CT14 Pembroke House, Pembroke Road, Carlow

Ms B. O’Brien, in her report dated 1st August, 2014, advised Members of request received from the owners of property known as ‘Pembroke House’ located at Pembroke Road, Carlow, to have their property delisted from the Record of Protected Structures incorporated in the Carlow Town Development Plan 2012 – 2018. Ms. O’Brien also advised that in accordance with Section 54(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000

As Amended “The making of an addition to, or a deletion from, a record of protected structures shall be a reserved function” and Section 55 of the Act, as circulated, outlines the statutory procedure for making a deletion. Members also had assessment report from conservation consultants appointed by Carlow County Council to carry out assessments of protected structures and report from Ms Arlene O’Connor, Executive Planner. Members noted the property is considered a fine example of an early to mid-nineteenth-century terraced house, a focal point on Pembroke Road and thus an integral component of its streetscape. The property is also one of a number of listed properties located on Pembroke Road, Ms O’Brien advised that the recommendation outlined in the Conservation Report was that ‘Pembroke House’ be retained on the Record of Protected Structures and accordingly, the members’ approval was now sought to the retention of ‘Pembroke House’ on the Record of ‘Protected Structures’.

Members expressed empathy with the owners of the property as it is a family home and repair works require a high standard of craftsmanship and professional skills, resulting in high maintenance costs. Members requested that Carlow County Council work with the family on this issue and called on the Government to make adequate funding available for maintenance of ‘Protected Structures’ and to make family homes a priority. Members expressed the view that delisting of the property would have repercussions for the Council as it may set precedence.

Following lengthy debate, the Chief Executive advised that the members were now required to decide on the recommendation put forward that ‘Pembroke House’ be retained on the Record of Protected Structures.

A vote was taken on the recommendation to retain Record CT14 Pembroke House, on the Record of Protected Structures:

<i>Member of Carlow County Council</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Ann Ahern nee Long	√			
Fergal Browne	√			
John Cassin	√			
Jim Deane	√			

Michael Doran		√		
Denis Foley				√
Andy Gladney	√			
Thomas Kinsella	√			
Walter Lacey		√		
Arthur McDonald		√		
Jennifer Murnane O'Connor		√		
Charlie Murphy		√		
John Murphy	√			
Brian O'Donoghue		√		
William Paton	√			
John Pender		√		
Fintan Phelan	√			
William Quinn	√			

10 votes for 7 Against 1 absent

The motion was carried

And Resolved:

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the retention of property known as ‘Pembroke House’ located at Pembroke Road, Carlow (reference RPS No. CT 14), on the Register of Protected Structures, in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 As Amended.

(d) Sub-let of Webster’s Lock House to Carlow Graiguecullen Sub Aqua Club

Proposed by Councillor J. Murnane O’Connor

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 in accordance with Local Government Act 2001 – Section 183, Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, the sub-let of Webster’s Lock House to Carlow Graiguecullen Sub Aqua Club for a period of 20 years and lease rent apply vis. €100 per annum.”

(e) Nomination of Elected Members to the Strategic Policy Committees

Members noted nominations received to date for Membership of the SPC’s 2014-2019 and following discussions and unanimous approval by Members all vacancies were filled as follows;-

Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Planning S.P.C.

Ms Bernie O’Brien - Director of Services -

Councillor Michael Doran- Chairperson

Councillor William Paton

Councillor John Murphy

Councillor Denis Foley

Councillor Charlie Murphy

Councillor Fintan Phelan

Transportation, Environmental and Infrastructure S.P.C.

Mr. Dan McInerney – Director of Services

Councillor Thomas Kinsella – Chairperson

Councillor William Quinn

Councillor Michael Doran

Councillor Andy Gladney

Councillor Jennifer Murnane O’Connor

Councillor John Murphy

Community, Housing and Amenity S.P.C.

Mr. Seamus O’Connor – Director of Services

Councillor Jennifer Murnane-O’Connor – Chairperson

Councillor William Quinn

Councillor Fergal Browne

Councillor Brian O’Donoghue

Councillor John Cassin

Councillor Arthur McDonald

Councillor Fintan Phelan

Cultural, Health and Agricultural S.P.C.

Mr Pat Delaney – Head of Finance

Councillor Walter Lacey – Chairperson

Councillor Thomas Kinsella

Councillor Brian O'Donoghue

Councillor Jim Deane

Councillor Ann Ahern

Councillor Denis Foley (HSE Rep)

Councillor John Pender (HSE Rep)

Councillor Arthur McDonald

Members requested S.P.C. agendas be emailed to all members and meetings to be convened without all external positions being filled.

Ms. O'Brien outlined the process for the filling of external membership where nominations will also come from the Public Participation Network (PPN) process. Members emphasised the importance for all groups to participate in the PPN process by registering under different Groups (Community/Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environment).

(f) Taking in charge of Mountain View, Myshall, Co. Carlow

Members had report from Mr. D. McInerney on taking-in charge of Mountain View, Myshall, Co. Carlow. The taking-in-charge was advertised on the 6th June 2014. No submissions were received during the consultation period. Members approval was sought to the taking-in-charge of Mountain View, Myshall, Co. Carlow.

Proposed by Councillor C. Murphy

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 the taking-in-charge of Mountain View, Myshall, Co. Carlow in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993; Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended; and Section 59 of the Planning and Development Act, 2010.

(g) Taking in charge of Lodge Court, Borris, Co. Carlow

Members had report from Mr. D. McInerney on taking-in charge of Lodge Court, Borris, Co. Carlow. The taking-in-charge was advertised on the 6th June 2014. No submissions were received during the consultation period. Members approval was sought to the taking-in-charge of Lodge Court, Borris, Co. Carlow.

Proposed by Councillor W. Quinn

Seconded by Councillor C. Murphy

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the taking-in-charge of Lodge Court, Borris, Co. Carlow in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993; Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended; and Section 59 of the Planning and Development Act, 2010.

(h) Taking in charge of 4 House Scheme, Carrigduff, Co. Carlow

Members had report from Mr. D. McInerney on taking-in charge of 4 House Scheme, Carrickduff, Bunclody, Co. Carlow. The taking-in-charge was advertised on the 6th June 2014. No submissions were received during the consultation period. Members’ approval was sought to the taking-in-charge of 4 House Scheme Carrickduff, Bunclody, Co. Carlow.

Proposed by Councillor A. Gladney

Seconded by Councillor C. Murphy

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the taking-in-charge of 4 house scheme, Carrickduff, Bunclody, Co. Carlow in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993; Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended; and Section 59 of the Planning and Development Act, 2010.

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

(a) Planning and Economic Development Progress Report

Members had for their consideration from Ms. F. O'Neill, Acting Director of Services, Planning and Development and Economic Development Activity Report for the period 1st January 2014 to 31st August 2014.

The report covered the following areas of responsibility.

- Development Management
- Enforcement Activities
- Taking in Charge of Estates/Unfinished Housing Developments
- Forward Planning
- Economic Development

Members raised issues in relation to unfinished housing estates. Ms O'Neill responded to issues raised. Members also raised the following issues:-

- Whether Building Control has remit to report private rented properties inspected under RAS scheme to the Planning Authority where it is suspected that the property has been sub-divided for letting purposes and not complied with Planning Permission.
- Costs incurred under new Building Control Regulations placing extra financial burden on planning applicants.
- Boarded up houses in housing estates where owners are unknown or non contactable. The houses are in disrepair and subject to anti social behaviour. Members queried if it is the remit of the Council to protect neighbouring properties.
- Online trading and the importance of shopping locally to benefit the local community.
- Members requested that this Council write to NAMA to cease selling housing units in blocks as this measure is resulting in a housing shortage.
- In relation to Housing Developments Feltham Hall, Millstream, Members queried if outstanding works by developer includes bringing road up to standard and attractive fencing of green areas to enhance development down to river.
- Members requested that Water Ways Ireland be invited to present proposals to Council in relation to amenity attractions along river Barrow. The Chief Executive advised that proposals from Water Ways Ireland are subject to a Planning

Application and will be considered on their merits. The public will have an opportunity to engage in this process.

- Speed ramps Ashfield Housing Estate, Bagenalstown. Drawings prepared 2011 and never acted on.
- Glendale Estate, Tullow. No houses sold and estate has potential hazards.

Issues raised by Members were addressed by the Chief Executive, Ms O'Brien and Ms. O'Neill.

Deputation from Carlow Private Childhood Care and Education Providers (CPCCEP)

Members welcomed Ms Linda Mellon and Ms Marie Kavanagh from Carlow Private Childhood Care and Education Providers to the Chamber.

Ms Mellon in her presentation to Council advised that private crèches and preschool childcare providers are providing various levels of developmental support for children yet they do not have state recognition as education providers and are levied with commercial rates by the Valuations Office. Ms Mellon said the level of legislation, training and regulations these education and care providers must comply with, in order to ensure children have a safe environment to progress, puts a heavy financial burden on the operator. Many are forced out of business or are running at a loss.

Ms Mellon called on Carlow County Council to follow the lead of Cavan and Monaghan County Councils who support the non- payment of rates on creches and montessori schools as they are education facilities.

Members requested figures for the October meeting on budgetary implications for Carlow County Council if rates were to be withheld on such facilities. Members also questioned the legal aspects of such a decision as the Council does not have the power to abolish rates and sought further clarification on the matter. Monaghan and Cavan County Council are to be contacted to establish the process they used to arrive at their decision. A Notice of Motion is to be prepared and circulated to all Local Authorities

pledging Carlow County Council's support for private childcare providers on this issue.

(b) To note HSE Statement following Information Briefing on Mental Health Issues to Carlow County Council on 25th August 2014

Members noted HSE statement following briefing on Mental Health issues to Carlow County Council. Members expressed dissatisfaction with the statement as services listed in statement are not being delivered as stated. Staffing issues and funding are putting a huge strain on the services. Members called for information to be made more readily available to the public with leaflet drops and information website with a link to mental health. The Members of the HSE South Forum are to raise these issues at the next Forum meeting. Members also expressed dissatisfaction with answers received from questions raised by Members at Information Briefing to the members of Carlow County Council and requested that the HSE be invited back to address all issues.

The three Members who sit on the HSE South Forum are to be automatic members of the Cultural, Health and Agricultural SPC. Members noted that as Councillor Quinn is already a Member of two Strategic Policy Committees he is precluded from becoming a member of the Cultural, Health, and Agricultural SPC.

(c) Agriculture

The following issues were raised by Members;

- Hedge cutting main roads – enforcement notices
- Cattle prices at a significantly low level- McDonalds Foodchain best practice 'green' supply not giving a fair price to the meat industry.
- Trimming of trees in housing estates
- Completion of footpath Beechwood Park following the removal of trees.

(d) Health

- Filling of vacancy for full time Radiographer at St. Dymphnas Hospital, Carlow. Members called on the HSE to lift ban on recruitment as the current situation is putting stress on Carlow patients.
- Transport for cancer patients to appointments as transport is not always readily available for early morning appointments.
- Long waiting list for Hearing Aids

- Hospital parking - long distance from hospitals main entrances.

These issues are to be raised at the HSE South Forum.

(e) Tenders for opening if any

Members noted tenders opened since the last Council meeting.

(f) Conference Attendance Approvals

The Chief Executive advised Members of their entitlement to attend all Training events but not conferences.

Councillor Ahern raised issue of training events being held mid week which is not suitable to all members due to work commitments. The Council is to write to the IPA requesting that some training events be held over weekends. Members also raised issue of quality of training and requested separate training for new councillors as the training did not benefit experienced Councillors. No sufficient training was given on more complex issues such as the budgetary process for more experienced councillors.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted correspondences from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in response to Members correspondence in relation to Irish Water tendering process.

Members noted correspondence from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in response to Members correspondence in relation to The Grid Link Project.

Members noted correspondence from the Valuation Office in response to Members correspondence in relation to the rateability of childcare facilities.

Members noted correspondence from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in response to Members correspondence in relation to the rateability of childcare facilities.

Members noted correspondence from the Department of Finance in response to Members correspondence in relation to commercial rates on educational and childcare facilities.

Members noted correspondence from Carlow County Museum in response to Members correspondence in relation to Carlow connections with Cumann na mBan.

Members noted correspondence from Department of Finance in response to Members correspondence in relation to Dan Morrissey Ireland Ltd.

Members noted correspondence from The Health Service Executive in response to Members correspondence in relation to Radiography services at St Dymphna's Hospital, Carlow

Members noted correspondence from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in response to Members correspondence in relation to the rateability of childcare facilities.

Members noted correspondence from the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) in relation to proposal to amend Paragraph 3 of the AILG Constitution under the heading of 'Membership' by inserting the words 'as far as possible'.

Members noted suspensory resolution from South Dublin County Council

'That this Council, acting on humanitarian grounds, being deeply concerned that an Irish Citizen Mr. Ibahim Halawa, at age 17 and a minor according to Egyptian law, was arrested during his summer holidays in Egypt in 2013 and continues to be detained in Egypt, calls on the Minister for Foreign Affairs to ensure that Ibrahim be allowed basic civil human rights including that he be given access to his lawyer and be given the right to a proper court hearing or that he be released forthwith into the care of his family. That this motion be forwarded to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and that it be copied to all other County Councils.'

Members noted resolution from South Donegal County Council

'That Donegal County Council expresses its solidarity with the besieged Palestinian people and condemns the current atrocities in Gaza. It call on the Government to send a clear message to Israel that these acts of war are against international law and to request an immediate ceasefire. It also calls on the Government to expel the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland until all hostilities are ended, unilateral peace talks are entered into, and the

human rights of the Palestinian people are respected, whilst also criticising the Irish Governments stance in abstaining from the UN vote. That the people of Donegal boycott Israeli goods and that any national investment in Israel is withdrawn by the Government.

A copy of the motion to be circulated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Israeli Ambassador, the US Ambassador and to all other Local Authorities. It was further agreed to officially welcome the Palestinian Ambassador to Donegal on the 14th August, 2014.

Members noted resolutions from Kerry County Council

'I am calling on the elected members of Kerry County Council to bring an end to all Political Parties holding Church gate collections in Kerry as currently there are massive sums of money paid directly by the state towards the running of all political parties each year and I object to the pressure and intimidation being put on Mass goers. Collections at Churches should be solely for charities, voluntary and sporting organisations who are financially struggling to survive and are far more deserving.'

'That this Council rejects the elements of the Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2014 which would potentially remove up to 70% of those most in need, from our housing list.'

'That this Councils calls on the Minister for Environment to ensure the recent decision on Planning ref 13/493 does not become a precedent that prevents the development of future playgrounds near residential properties.'

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

Standing in the name of Cllrs. William Paton, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor and Walter Lacey,

And unanimously agreed

"That Carlow County Council supports the call from the Restaurants Association of Ireland for the ongoing retention of the 9% VAT rate for the food, tourism and hospitality sector, that has helped create one of four of the jobs in economy. That this Council ask the Minister for Finance to Keep VAT @ 9% into 2015 and beyond."

Standing in the name of Cllr. William Paton

And unanimously agreed

"Carlow County Council calls on the Minister for Justice and Equality to implement the Justice Committee's unanimous recommendations to introduce legislation which make it an offence to pay for sex. This legislation must criminalise the demand for paid sex, decriminalise the seller and provide social supports for those wishing to exit prostitution. This Council recognises the need for this legislation to be enacted and will convey its views to the Minister for Justice and Equality."

Standing in the name of Cllrs. Fergal Browne and Brian O'Donoghue

And unanimously agreed

"That Carlow County Council calls on the Minister for Finance to lower USC in the forthcoming budget to give hard-pressed workers relief and notes that last year USC brought in €4 bn - a multiple of both property tax charges and proposed water charges."

7. **Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach**
- Mr O'Connor advised Members of approval of SEAI Grant of €82,000 for Carlow Sports and Social Club. Mr. O'Connor also advised that applications for funding for next year should be submitted by the end of October. Members complimented Mr. O'Connor on the initiative.
 - An Garda Síochána Policing Plan
 - IDA site visits – Carlow received no visits between 1st Jan and 30th June. Letter to issue to IDA expressing Members concerns.
 - Household application/questionnaire Irish Water being sent to all households. Lack of direction in relation to the filling of the form and confusing for householders who are not customers of Irish Water.

- Croppy graves- cutting down of trees. No communication with Elected Members. The requirement to put a memorial plaque in place or architectural piece preferably from wood cut down if still available. Report for Members on the cutting down of trees at Croppy Graves.
- Kellistown Church as a tourist trail. Rubbish currently being dumped on site. The history of the Church needs to be kept alive with a plaque being placed on site. Dermot Mulligan Museum Curator is to be asked to undertake research on the history of Kellistown Church.
- RAS Scheme – lack of suitable accommodation. Write to Minister to increase rate payable in line with private rented properties. Report for Members on current RAS contracts and when they are due to expire and on the number of houses that may become available for renting under RAS Scheme.
- Directional signs for Browneshill Dolmen from Carlow Town
- Roundabout at Kernanstown and at Ken Blacks needs to be addressed due to increased number of accidents.
- Write to Minister in relation to the introduction of a New Tenant Purchase Scheme.
- Plaque at Barrack Street to be put on Tourist Trail.
- Elderly lady Tide Cottage, St. Mullins – house in need of urgent repairs. Sewerage under floor boards as of result of winter flooding. Not insured for flooding.
- Access to old cemetery Mullaun, Tullow. Works on provision of proper entrance required.
- 90 year old woman Fairgreen Bagenalstown – roof in need of urgent repairs. TUS will insulate roof if repairs done.

The Chief Executive advised that all issues raised to be brought to Municipal Districts meetings where the matters will be addressed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.