

Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow
Held in Town Hall Building, Centaur Street, Carlow
on Thursday, 30th April, 2015 at 4.30 p.m.

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

In attendance: Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Services
Mr. S. O'Connor, Director of Services
Mr. P. Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. M. Nolan, Administrative Officer

Mayor Pender welcomed all to the meeting. He commenced the meeting by informing members that he had been approached with a request that Item 4 on the Agenda, relating to 'Community', be taken in committee.

Proposed by Councillor W.Paton

Seconded by Councillor A. Ahern (nee long)

And

Following a show of hands unanimously resolved

"That Item 4 on the Agenda relating to 'Community' is taken in committee."

Vote of Sympathy

Members extended sympathy to Cllr. Ann Ahern (nee Long) and the Long Family on the death of their father Eamonn Long, former Town Councillor.

It was noted that votes of sympathy were not usually taken at meetings of the Municipal District of Carlow, however, it was agreed that, in future, votes of sympathy would be taken on the death of an immediate member of family of Elected Members.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

Minutes of Meeting held on 27th March, 2015

Proposed by Councillor W. Lacey

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

And

Following a show of hands unanimously resolved:-

"That the Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Carlow, held on 27th March, 2015, are hereby approved".

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

2. Housing

Seamus O'Connor, Director of Services, circulated Housing Report advising members that the vast majority of RAS tenancies are in Carlow town. He stated that housing maintenance has been working well since the integration of both Councils and referred to the extension to maintenance of electrical and plumbing. Mr O'Connor advised that a Capital Housing investment which will be approved by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government will permit Carlow County Council to develop 26 new houses in Sleaty Street, Graiguecullen. Members noted the 5 apartments in Maryborough Street Graiguecullen will go to tender shortly and the Part 8 Process in Mt Leinster Park is underway, allowing for a further 4 houses. Members were also advised that 14 houses will be developed under Part 8 in St Patrick's Park, Tullow. Mr O'Connor stated that discussions were also ongoing in relation to the development of a further 78 houses in Graiguecullen.

Members thanked Mr O'Connor for his detailed report and welcomed the good news relating to capital investment. In response to concerns raised on the use of the existing entrance to the new houses in St Patrick's Park, Tullow, Mr O'Connor informed members that he would bring forward a number of options for consideration by the elected members, which will take into consideration issues raised by the members and also issues outlined in submissions received. He further stated that it is the County Council which will make the final decision.

Mr. O'Connor responded to questions from members on the report, which included: meeting with Laois County Council regarding 78 houses in Graiguecullen; Use of Apartments for RAS; House Building Programme Hacketstown and Rathvilly; Housing for the Homeless; Tenant Purchase Scheme; Department Policy of investing in Leasing and RAS versus Purchasing houses and derelict and vacant houses.

Proposed by Cllr John Cassin

Seconded by Cllr. William Paton

And

Following a show of hands unanimously resolved

"That the Municipal District of Carlow submit a request to Mr. Brendan Howlin, TD, Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform, to receive a cross party delegation, to be attended by the Mayor of the Municipal District of Carlow and that the Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council and the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Muinebheag also be invited, plus representatives from the Housing Department, to discuss the current lack of funding for House Purchase/Building Programme.

3. Transportation

(a) Review of Parking Bye-laws on Barrack Street and Montgomery Street, Carlow

Members requested changes to 15 mins parking on Barrack Street and also that the current requirement for Parking Permits for Residents in Montgomery Street Parking be changed now that the Andy Murphy Road was open. Members requested that the Parking Byelaws for Carlow town be revisited. P Harrington to investigate with the Senior Engineer in Transportation.

B. O'Brien responded to queries relating to Election Posters and advised that the Protocol and Procedures for Signage and Posters adopted by the former Town Council continues to apply, as the Council reserves the right to control and protect its property and act in the interest of public safety. Restrictions are in place and posters are not authorised on Tullow Street, Potato Market and Kennedy Avenue. She also advised that ESB Networks had issued a letter warning of health & safety risks involved when placing posters on ESB poles. Similar risks apply when posters are being removed.

(b) Report of Senior Executive Engineer

Pat Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer, circulated a detailed report on the work of the Gateway Scheme, stating that, to date, the scheme has proven to be successful, in allowing people who might not otherwise have an opportunity to work to be gainfully employed. The Mayor and Members complimented the Gateway Staff and welcomed the report as circulated. Members complimented Mr Harrington and his team on the work in St Mary's Cemetery, and the Roundabouts, in particular the improvement works currently underway on the Tullow Road roundabout. Mr Harrington stated that the partnership with the Amenity Trust staff was also working very well and he responded to questions on the following - Green Lane; Use of Gateway workers in estates; Extension of footpath Athy Road to Bestfield and lights in Rathvilly.

Mr Harrington advised members of the need for a remediation works programme for Tullow Street, demonstrating on a map priority sections. He stated that he would be bringing a report to Council when works are costed.

Mr Harrington distributed a map of Tullow, detailing changes to allow for traffic flow at the Bridge Street/Abbey Street/Carlow Road junction. The change would require the elimination of one parking space at Bridge Street, allowing a box for right turn onto and the introduction of a roundabout at the bridge. Currently due to works there is no signage at the bridge therefore an informal roundabout is in place. Members discussed a six month trial period, however, given potential concerns regarding elimination of the singular parking space, it was decided the decision would be deferred, for further consideration by the members, at the next meeting of the Municipal District.

Mr Harrington distributed a schedule of the 2015 Roadworks Programme for the MD of Carlow,, outlining progress to date on each project. Members complimented Mr Harrington on the presentation of his report.

4. Community

This item was taken in committee.

5. Any Other Business

There were no items for consideration.

The meeting then went into committee.

The Mayor stated that there were two items for discussion.

Protected Structure:

Bernie O'Brien, Director of Services, informed the meeting that Carlow County Council had received a formal request in April, 2015, from Architect on behalf of the owners of "Pembroke House", Pembroke Road, Carlow, for removal of the protected structure (CT 14) from the Schedule of Protected Structures in the Carlow Town Joint Spatial Plan 2012 – 2018. Members noted that this matter had previously been considered by the Members of Carlow County Council in 2014 and a decision was made at that time, based on planning advice presented, to retain the property on the Record of Protected Structures. Members discussed the detailed submission now received, noting the details therein and outlined their concern at the funding required for the upkeep of listed buildings and the burden being placed on property owners. Members queried the possibility of the Council grant aiding works where funding was not available through the Structures at Risk Fund. B. O'Brien advised that apart from the Structures at Risk Funding, there was no other funding available through the Council. Following lengthy discussion, the Members requested that having regard to the detailed submission now received from the Architect, on behalf of the owners of "Pembroke House", that same

be referred to the Conservation Architect engaged by Carlow County Council for consideration, report and recommendation. B. O'Brien agreed to seek the report and recommendation and advised members that it would be necessary, on receipt of same, for Carlow County Council to proceed with the statutory process under Section 54(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended i.e. "The making of an addition to, or a deletion from, a record of protected structures shall be a reserved function".

Community:

Draft Environmental/Amenity Grants.

Proposed by: Cllr F. Browne

Seconded by: Cllr J. Cassin

And

Following a show of hands unanimously resolved

"That the Schedule of Draft Environmental/Amenity Grants for 2015, as circulated, is approved as recommended, subject to withdrawal of Milford Park which is not in the Municipal District of Carlow and reallocation of the sum of €200 as additional funding to Tullow Tidy Towns".

Members discussed the amount of money being awarded to Residents Associations versus Tidy Towns Groups.

Draft Community Grants

That the Schedule of Draft Community Grants for 2015, as circulated, be approved as recommended.

Proposed by: Cllr J. Cassin

Seconded by: Cllr F. Phelan

And

Following a show of hands unanimously resolved

"That the Schedule of Draft Community Grants, as circulated, is approved as recommended."

Time of Meetings of the Municipal District

The Mayor noted meetings are running late and it was unanimously agreed to commence the meetings at 3:30 pm, on a trial basis, for the months of May and June.

This concluded the business of the meeting.