

**Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow  
held in the Town Hall, Carlow,  
on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 at 4.30 p.m.**

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

Apologies: Councillor J. Cassin

In attendance: Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Services  
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr. P. Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. Tim Butler, Senior Executive Officer

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

*Minutes of Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2015*

**Proposed by Councillor W. Paton**

**Seconded by Councillor F. Browne**

**And following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-**

*"That the Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow held on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 were agreed".*

The Mayor advised that he wanted to go into committee.

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

And following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

*"That the meeting go into committee".*

**2. Transportation**

P. Harrington advised of the special speed limits in housing estates and advised of difficulties with the requirement for new bye-laws and the requirement for large numbers of housing estates (approx 160).

P. Harrington advised that this work would not be possible until the latter end of the year. A number of members made contributions on the subject. It was noted there are approximately 136 estates in Carlow. It was proposed the process commence and the bye-laws changed possibly on an area basis and the bye-laws amended incrementally over time to reflect the changes. It was agreed to trial the issue in a number of estates (circa 10) following an advertisement seeking expressions of interest from various estates for the self erection of speed limit signs for review after twelve months.

This ended the In Committee section of the meeting.

P. Harrington circulated two tree surveys relating to trees in Governey Park which advised there was no urgent works required.

The second survey related to New Oak and there are 16 trees required to be removed, many of which are adjacent to the community centre. He advised he had sought tenders for the removal of the trees which would not be immediately replaced.

He circulated a progress report of the road works scheme and the preparation works carried out in preparation for the surface dressing.

He circulated a further document advising of further works approved by the NRA on 27/05/2015 for various works including:-

- N81 defect allocation pavement reconstruction scheme

- N81 edge strengthening scheme

- N81 Tullow bridge footpath replacement scheme

- N81 Tullow Town manhole retrofit scheme

Members noted these works would cost approximately €100,000 and welcomed the allocation.

P. Harrington answered a number of roads related queries from members on issues including Tullow Street resurfacing of Tullow Street, condition of Tullow Inner Relief Road, public lighting from the Bus Park to Riverside, Avondale, Chapel Street road condition, potholes in Fr. Cullen Terrace, drainage at Beechwood Park following rain, road condition at Castelwood Gardens, lack of a footpath programme, sewage issues at John Sweeney Park.

P. Harrington agreed that in relation to public lighting upgrades in the Orchards and Avondale that K. Cullinane would provide funding to augment more allocated by Councillors from their discretionary allowances.

### **3. Housing**

T. Butler was invited to address the meeting and he circulated a series of documents including a letter from S. O'Connor, Director of Services, Housing to the Minister of State, Department of Environment and enclosing further attachments and requesting a meeting on the issue of purchasing versus leasing.

He advised he had received approval for 62 houses to proceed to construction before 2017 at a cost of €8.6 million. He noted two projects are with the Department seeking approval to go to tender.

He also addressed the subject of 78 houses at Fruithill which would be progressed by NAMA with a voluntary housing group.

He also advised of energy grants and improvements to Council housing stock.

He advised on the Maryborough apartment scheme.

He had advised he had advertised for potential leasing properties but only received four replies.

The HAP is to commence in Carlow during the summer and he would hold an SPC meeting to which all members would be invited to discuss how the system will operate.

A call for special needs accommodation has been sent to the Department for approval.

Tim Butler answered a number of questions from members in relation to his report.

Proposed by Cllr. F. Browne

Seconded by Cllr. B. O'Donovan

And following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That the Municipal District write to the Public Accounts Committee and the Comptroller and Auditor General in relation to requesting a review of the RAS Scheme from a value for money perspective (as opposed to lease purchase).

T. Butler replied to questions from members in relation to a variety of housing matters including homelessness, buy v. lease, rent subsidy schemes, housing construction, Fruithill Manor and the manner in which the houses will be held, the HAP's Scheme and the procedure to be followed under the new scheme, tenant purchase scheme, mortgage allowance scheme and the length of time a person must wait before returning to the housing list after surrendering a local authority house.

Cllr. Murnane proposed the Municipal District write to Laois County Council for an update on the extension of the relief road.

## **5. Any Other Business**

Proposed Date for Annual General Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015 following the Council Annual General Meeting and monthly meeting. If not possible, E. Brophy to arrange a date with the Cathaoirleach.

Disposal of property at 16 Rathphelim Tullow.

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton

Seconded by Councillor J. Murnane O'Connor

And following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved that the disposal go to full Council for approval.

Cllr. W. Paton raised a number of issues regarding people taken off the register and persons who are not Irish citizens not being permitted to vote in the referendums. F. Phelan advised that he had no objection to the transfer of the voting station from Askea School to St. Laurence O'Tooles but requested in the case of any future moves of voting stations, that appropriate signage be put in place to assist voters.

E. Brophy replied to these issues.

Cllr. A. Ahern raised the issue of the Courthouse railings and advised the OPW provide a maintenance service to the Courts Service and that OPW had received no communication from the Courts Service. B. O'Brien advised she had a letter from yesterday advising the matter had been referred.

Cllr. W. Paton advised of a recycling survey carried out in Tullow by Tullow Tidy Towns.

Cllr. W. Lacey advised there are still no infant swings in the Carlow Town Park.

Cllr. J. Murnane O'Connor advised rangers are required in the park. P. Harrington advised some gateway workers assist in the park.

Cllr. Jim Deane advised that the signage of County Hall requires replacement.

This concluded the business of the meeting.