

**Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow
held in County Buildings, Carlow
on Monday, 3rd November, 2014 at 4.00 p.m.**

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

Apologies: Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service

In attendance: Mr. E. Brophy, A/Director of Service
Mr. P. Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. A. Oakes, A/Senior Executive Officer

Presentation by Auto Launch Formula 1 Presentation College

Mayor Pender introduced Pauric Dempsey, John Harding and Lee Campbell who will represent Presentation College at the F1 in Schools world finals in Abu Dhabi.

The students gave a presentation on their project which involved the design and building of a replica formula 1 car.

Mayor Pender congratulated the team and wished them well in Abu Dhabi and asked that his best wishes be passed on to David Hatton who was unable to attend the meeting. All of the members individually congratulated the students on their success to date and wished them well for the final. It was stressed that it is a great achievement and great honour to represent their county and their country and that the possibility of funding for their trip would be examined. Ms. Claire McHugh, Teacher, thanked everyone for their support and sponsorship.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

(a) Minutes of Meeting held on 25th September 2014

Proposed by Councillor A. Ahern nee Long

Seconded by Councillor W. Lacey

And

Following a show of hands unanimously resolved:-

“That the Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow held in the Town Hall, Carlow, on Thursday, 25th September, 2014 at 4.30 p.m., having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed”.

(b) Minutes of Meeting Held on 10th October 2014

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

And

Following a show of hands unanimously resolved:-

“That the Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow held in the Town Hall, Carlow, on Friday, 10th October, 2014 at 4.30 p.m., having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed”.

Cllr. Browne queried the members input in relation to the Agenda and stated that most members would have planning and housing queries each meeting. Cllr Browne suggested that planning and housing should be placed on Agenda for alternative meetings and the other Members were in agreement. Cllr. Paton advised that members should have the opportunity to place items on the Agenda. Cllr. Phelan stated that items not on the agenda could be dealt with under AOB where reasonable.

2. Statutory Business:

Nominations for New Oak Steering Committee

Mayor Pender advised the lease in relation to the New Oak Community Centre provides for a Steering Group to be established with 10 members, 3 of which should be nominated from the Council. The nominations were as follows:

Cllr. J. Murnane O’Connor	Proposed by Cllr F. Browne and Seconded by Cllr J. Deane
Cllr. F. Browne	Proposed by Cllr. B. O’Donoghue and Seconded by Cllr. W. Lacey
Cllr. J. Deane	Proposed by Cllr. J. Murnane O’Connor and Seconded by Cllr. W. Paton

And

Following a showing of hands it was agreed

“that we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the appointments of Councillors Murnane-O’Connor, Browne and Deane as members of the New Oak Steering Committee”.

3. Transportation & Environment:

Tullow Traffic Management Plan

P Harrington advised that the previous traffic plan for Tullow had not been enacted and it was proposed to prepare a new traffic management plan. Cllr. J Murnane O’Connor queried the timeframe involved and P Harrington confirmed that first draft would be completed by end of February 2015. Cllr. J Murnane O’Connor queried if there was any proposal for a traffic management plan for Carlow and P Harrington advised that there would possibly be a draft plan in March 2015. Cllr. W. Paton welcomed the proposal and queried the need for byelaws in relation to double yellow lines and parking. Cllr. J. Cassin queried if there were any active byelaws in Tullow. Cllr. A. Ahern suggested that a plan be put in place for Christmas traffic in Carlow Town in consultation with An Garda Síochána and P. Harrington confirmed that he would address same.

NRA Safety Works N81 Tullow Phase 1

P. Harrington circulated maps and gave a comprehensive description of the proposed works advising that this was a NRA pilot scheme. P. Harrington made particular reference to works proposed on Bridge Street as there are issues with parking which hinders the view of people using the pedestrian crossing. Mayor Pender queried if the Council have any input in this project as it is the responsibility of the NRA. Cllr. J. Cassin welcomed the project and enquired in relation to public consultation. Cllr. W. Paton queried if anyone had contacted the shop owners involved as it is proposed to remove parking outside the shops before the pedestrian crossing. Cllr. W.

Paton suggested works in relation to the height of the ramp coming down the street, the possibility of railings at the pedestrian crossing, the provision of speed ramps at the sewerage plant, the possibility of a pedestrian crossing near Abbey Close and some right hand turns for streets in Tullow. Cllr. A. Ahern queried the role and responsibility of the Council in relation to the plan. P. Harrington advised that there were no parking issues further up the town as there were double yellow lines in place. P. Harrington advised that the proposals are a NRA project and public consultation was not required by the NRA but there could be some discussion in relation to the proposals. P. Harrington advised that the proposal would narrow the road at the pedestrian crossing and would provide better sighting of pedestrians, the request for railings would be discussed with the NRA as would the request for a pedestrian crossing at Abbey Close. Cllr. W. Lacey queried the possibility of providing a disabled person parking bay outside the Credit Union where the footpath is quite wide. All of the members raised the issue of lack of public consultation and notification to shop owners.

Macadam Programme for the next month – Kilkenny Road/Mt. Leinster Park/Idrone Park & The Green Hacketstown

P. Harrington advised that the tender process for the above works had been completed and works will commence in the following weeks. The members welcomed the works. Cllr. W Paton requested that some macadam be placed at the front of the Courthouse in Tullow if possible. Cllrs. A. Ahern and J. Cassin requested that road markings be replaced and P. Harrington confirmed that schools and pedestrian crossings would be prioritised for markings. Cllr. J. Murnane O'Connor queried if there were any NRA projects or further funding for Carlow proposed as there had recently been issues with flash flooding. Cllr. F Phelan raised issue regarding flooding at Burrin Street. Cllr. W Paton congratulated the Area Engineer in relation to road cuttings which prevented bigger issues with recent rainfall.

Browneshill Cross Roads

P. Harrington circulated traffic count statistics for Browneshill Cross and advised that different arrangements would be put in place over the next couple of weeks to determine the best solution to the issue.

Tree Surveys Carlow Town Park & Southern Gardens

P Harrington circulated survey reports for the information of members. The members welcomed the reports and requested that trees which were removed in St. Mary's Cemetery be replaced with suitable trees. Cllr. F. Browne queried if the Council had any responsibility in relation to dangerous trees on private property and P. Harrington confirmed that the Council had no input unless the tree was a danger to a public road. Cllr. J. Murnane O'Connor highlighted the need to survey other estates and Cllr. W. Paton requested that the tree survey reports be put on the website and suggested that replacements be planted for all felled trees.

4. Any Other Business with the consent of the Mayor:

Cllr. W. Paton requested an update on traffic calming/safety measures for Grange School and on the Educate Together School.

Cllr. A. Ahern requested that Carlow acknowledge the 650th anniversary of Carlow becoming the medieval capital of Ireland and suggested that the Council should look at formally celebrating and commemorating same with an event and noted that commemorative signage had been agreed before. Cllr. A. Ahern stated that a Carlow man, Mr. Noel White, was now the Irish Ambassador of Australia & New Zealand and both these items need to be acknowledged.

Cllr. F. Phelan concurred that signage to commemorate should be in place before the end of 2014 and requested updates in relation to lights in Quinnagh Green and the Educate Together School.

Cllr. J. Murnane O'Connor requested clarification in relation to the Out of Hours service for the Council, requested an update on security issues in the Town Park, requested an update in relation to the removal of graffiti as commitment was given to have it removed, queried why new lights in Graiguecullen and Carlow have

never been connected, requested the protocol for reporting issues with public lighting and requested that the issue of a new cemetery for Carlow Town be addressed.

Cllr. F. Browne queried who should be contacted in relation to issues in Lime Grove as people were trying to buy houses in the estate, requested that lights in place in Roseberry Hill be turned on, that the eircom pole at Rath's be relocated, that shorter term car parking be provided in Barrack Street and that the need for paid parking in Montgomery Street be examined. Cllr. Browne also requested that a joint meeting with Graiguecullen Portarlington Municipal District be arranged.

Cllr W. Lacey queried the council website in relation to planning and the lack of public policy information.

Cllr. B. O'Donoghue advised that on behalf of himself and the people of Rathvilly, he wished to apologise to the Area Engineer and staff regarding the damage caused to the new footpaths and stated that it was not reflective of the people of Rathvilly. Cllr. O'Donoghue raised the issue of drainage in Slaney Meadows and Woodgrove.

Mayor Pender advised that there would be a difficulty in meeting with the Graiguecullen Portarlington Municipal District Members and the meeting should be arranged in the new year as there is only one meeting remaining in the current year on 18th December at 4.30 p.m. as previously agreed.

Cllr. J. Deane wished to congratulate the staff of Carlow Museum in relation to their recent award for best museum.

Cllr. J. Cassin requested that consideration be given to a roundabout at Burrin Street, a right turn exiting the Fairgreen onto Barrack Street and a right turn at Strawhall. Cllr. Cassin also requested an update in relation to the playground at St. Mary's Park (the Plots) and that signage be provided for the "Dolmen".

P. Harrington & E. Brophy addressed points raised above.

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 18th December 2014 at 4.30 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.