

**Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow
held in Town Hall, Carlow
on Thursday, 25th September, 2014 at 4.30 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

Apologies: Cllr. W. Paton

In attendance: Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service
Mr. P. Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. F. O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. T. Butler, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer

The Mayor welcomed members and advised of acquisition of a Chain of Office acquired from Douglas Jewellers.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

Proposed by Councillor A. Ahern nee Long

Seconded by Councillor F. Phelan

And

Following a show of hands unanimously resolved:-

“That the Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow held in the Tullow Civic Offices on Thursday, 3rd July, 2014 at 6.30 p.m., having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed”.

2. Statutory Business:

To consider Extinguishment of Right-of-Way at Killians Crescent, Carlow.

B. O'Brien outlined the position and report of the Senior Engineer.

J. Murnane advised that following 17 submissions she was willing to leave it as is and not extinguish the Right of Way but the concerns of residents needed to be addressed.

Proposed by Councillor A. Ahern

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

Following a show of hands it was agreed not to extinguish the Right of Way.

3. Planning:

Unfinished Estates/Taking in Charge

B. O'Brien introduced F. O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer Planning, who answered questions from members on unfinished estates. Questions included Lime Grove; Meadowbank; lack of bonds; Phelim Wood footpath; Millstream; deficiencies in amount of bonds; Feltham Hall. The Mayor summarised the position and anticipated some progress.

The meeting was adjourned for a group photograph of the Municipal District members.

4. Community, Housing, Recreation & Amenity

Housing Report

The Mayor introduced T. Butler who introduced his report addressing matters raised at the last meeting. He advised that the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) would transfer over to local authorities and eventually eliminate the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS). Tim answered a number of questions from members on various issues including Tenant Purchase Scheme; numbers on housing lists, income limits; private sector rents; loan applications; lack of houses in Carlow town, delays in turnaround of surrendered houses, homeless persons whose houses have been repossessed; housing grants; occupational therapist resources; window and door replacements; insulation programme; long terms leases of private houses; differential rents scheme.

F. Browne advised of a meeting he had with P. Deering T.D., and officials of the Council and the Junior Minister for Housing, Paudie Coffey and of a forthcoming change in policy.

The Mayor enquired if the costs of apartments at Maryboro Street of €800,000. Cllr. Browne suggested that Carlow tenants not be accommodated in Laois due to HSE requirement to obtain services in Portlaoise. Cllr. Murnane supports this position.

The meeting agreed to request a meeting with the Graiguecullen Portarlinton Municipal District on issues of common interest.

5. Transportation and Environment

Infrastructural /Engineering Update for the Municipal District of Carlow

P. Harrington circulated two handouts showing roadworks and spoke on same. He updated the meeting on all projects and answered questions from members of the programme of works including an Eircom pole on the road at Rath's shop, junction at Green Lane, St. Joseph's Road, Idrone Park, Pedestrian crossing maintenance; The Triumphant Arch, decline in standard of Carlow town and grass overgrown at various locations including Green Lane and grass cutting in Carlow town; Browneshill junction safety; public lighting, staff levels; town centre signage; a revised traffic management plan for Carlow town; security in town park; Bestfield footpaths; Quinnagh Green public light.

Cllr Pender enquired about an ESB light pole in the centre of a footpath in Hacketstown. P. Harrington to contact ESB. He also raised an issue in relation to safety at Tobinstown junction. P. Harrington to examine.

Cllr. Ahern enquired about a loading bay marking at Ewings pub. P. Harrington advised it was intended to put two 15 minute bays there.

6. Notices of Motion

Standing in the name of Cllr. William Paton

"That Carlow County Council undertake immediate action to provide traffic calming measures and a safe pedestrian crossing point at Grange National School."

The Mayor advised of a Notice of Motion on the speed limits at the above and asked P. Harrington to comment. P. Harrington advised of high numbers attending the school, presence of speed limits, variable speed signs. He advised he had met with the school authorities and that solutions were difficult.

The Mayor advised of the report submitted by the Senior Engineer. He advised 3160 vehicles exceeded the speed limit at Grange school and that something has to be done. Cllr. Browne concurred and added that signage is inadequate. He proposed a carpark be provided at the rear of the school to allow staff park there and have a set down outside the school.

Cllr. Murnane concurred and requested the Council consider options used in similar circumstances in other counties and a speed camera. Cllr. Phelan concurred and agreed a solution be found. Cllrs. Cassin and Aherne also agreed as did Cllr. O'Donoghue. P. Harrington answered queries and stated the ultimate solution is some form of traffic calming and advised access to the rear of the school would be ideal. He committed to meeting the school authorities again on the issue together with the Senior Engineer. It was suggested the Gardaí be involved in the solution.

Standing in the name of Cllr. William Paton

"That Carlow County Council undertake immediate action to provide traffic calming measures and additional parking at the Educate Together School on the Athy Road, Carlow."

Cllr. Phelan requested that the Senior Engineer and P. Harrington to meet with the principal of Educate Together. P. Harrington said he would meet the Principal but the issue was not the responsibility of Carlow County Council.

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

B. O'Brien updated the meeting on progress on the Courthouse railings.

P. Harrington responded on the closure of a gate at St. Mary's Cemetery and of the need to plaster a wall at Pollerton Manor.

The meeting agreed to arrange a rededication and a replanting at the Croppy Grave.

P. Harrington responded to B. O'Donoghue on the issuing of hedge cutting notices to 300 – 400 farmers. These would be served in October. This would also happen in Tullow and Carlow Town also.

Cllr. A. Ahern raised the issue of graffiti at Carpenter Way. P. Harrington advised that the Gateway crew will assist in same. She also advised of the need to replace wall capping at Riverside.

Cllr. Deane advised of signage outside business premises regarding parking and P. Harrington agreed to examine this issue.

The Mayor advised that the meeting might commence at 4.00 p.m. This to be considered at the next monthly meeting to be held in October in Tullow. The Budget Meeting will be held on 10th October at 4.30 p.m. in Carlow.

This concluded the business of the meeting.