

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the February Meeting of Carlow County Council, held Remotely on Monday, 14th February 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

In Attendance: Councillor F. Phelan (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor A. Gladney
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor A. McDonald
Councillor J. McDonald
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor C. Murphy
Councillor J. Murphy
Councillor B. O'Donoghue
Councillor T. O'Neill
Councillor W. Paton
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor W. Quinn
Councillor A. Wallace

Present: Ms. K. Holohan, Chief Executive
Mr. M. Rainey, Director of Service, Corporate, HR, Planning,
Economic Development, Health & Safety
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Service, Transportation,
Environment, Water Services, Building Control & Emergency
Services
Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Service, Housing, Community,
Recreation & Amenity
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Mr. P.J. Leonard, Financial Accountant, Finance
Ms. K. Farrell, Internal Auditor
Mr. E. Lyng, Head of IT
Mr. L. Carroll, A/Chief Fire Officer
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office
Mr. J. Shortall, County Librarian
Ms. S. Dowling, Arts Officer
Mr. K. Cullinane, Senior Engineer
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer
Mr. P. Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. B. Knowles, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. J. Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. R. Wickham, Senior Executive Engineer

Mr. N. Dillon, Executive Engineer
Ms. M. Moore, A/SEO, Community
Ms. F. O'Neill, SEO, Planning
Ms. A. Sweeney, Senior Planner
Mr. B. O'Donovan, SEO, Housing
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate & HR
Ms. Lorna O'Callaghan, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. T. Hickson, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services

Guests: Mr. Peter Scully, Audit Committee
Ms. Patricia Duffe, PPN
Ms. Fiona Broadbery, PPN
Mr. Alan O'Shea, ESB Networks
Mr. Robert O'Brien, ESB Networks
Mr. William Connolly, Contracts Manager (Energieo Ireland Ltd.)

The Cathairleach, Fintan Phelan, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Mr. Michael Dooley, Tommy Murphy Park, Graiguecullen, Carlow
Founding member of Carlow Community First Responders in 2015
- Mr. Patrick (Paddy) O'Neill, Ballinacarrig Road, Quinagh, Carlow
- Mr. Patrick (Paddy) Farrell, Church Street, Leighlinbridge, Carlow
- Ms. Hannah Marie Snoddy, Graiguealug, Nurney, Carlow/
- Mr. Liam WheOlan, 14 Green Road, Carlow
- Mr. Tommy Flynn, Quinagh, Carlow
- Mrs. Sally Kelly, Drumphea, Garryhill, Carlow
- Mr. Ger Somers, Ballyellen, Goresbridge, Kilkenny

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- Molly Scott – the fastest Irish woman ever, indoors.
She recently set a new national 60m record
- Tess Arbez – Irish Winter Olympian
Tess's grandfather Auguste Neerman was part of the Belgian company Lippens which, in 1926, established Ireland's first sugar factory. Tess's father Francis was born in Carlow in 1944.
- Bart Gilmartin who was honoured with a national GAA award for his involvement in ladies football
- Successful funding of almost €2m for sporting organisations across the county
- Carlow Hockey Club and St. Leo's College who received €300,000 sports funding to develop a joint hockey pitch

- For their role and commitment in working to achieve these successful funding applications, Jack Chambers, Minister for Sport, Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, and Sports Partnership, Carlow County Council
- The establishment of the new South East Technological University (SETU)

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

1.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting of the Special Meeting of Carlow County Council to consider the proposed Draft Carlow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 held remotely on Friday, 2nd July 2021.

'The Minutes of the Special Meeting of Carlow County Council to consider the proposed Draft Carlow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 held remotely on Friday, 2nd July 2021, having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy, and accordingly signed, were,

Proposed by Councillor T. Kinsella
Seconded by Councillor J. Murphy
 and agreed following a show of hands.

1.2 Approval of Minutes of Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 10th January 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

'The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 10th January 2022 at 2.00 p.m., having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy, and accordingly signed, were,

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill
Seconded by Councillor J. Murphy
 and agreed following a show of hands.

1.3 Approval of Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of Carlow County Council to consider the Draft Plan and the Report of the Chief Executive on the submissions received during the public consultation period on the Draft Carlow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 held on Thursday, 3rd February 2022

'The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of Carlow County Council to consider the Draft Plan and the Report of the Chief Executive on the submissions received during the public consultation period on the Draft Carlow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 held on Thursday, 3rd February 2022, having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy, and accordingly signed, were,

Proposed by Councillor B. O'Donovan
Seconded by Councillor M. Doran
 and agreed following a show of hands.

2.0 Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of Council/Gnó forordaithe do réir reachtaíochta, orduithe seasta, nó ruin an Chomhairle

2.1 Audit Committee Charter 2022

This report was presented by Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance. The Audit Committee has an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters, as part of the governance arrangements that operate within a local authority. The Audit Committee is established by resolution of the Council upon nomination by the Corporate Policy Group, who will consult with the Chief Executive. The Audit Committee Charter 2022 outlines the functions, policies and role of the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee Charter 2022 was,

Proposed by Councillor K. Murnane

Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

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

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Audit Committee Charter 2022.’

2.2 Audit Committee Work Program 2022

Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance presented this report. The 2022 audit committee draft work programme has been prepared in accordance with Carlow County Council’s Audit Committee Charter.

The Audit Committee Work Programme 2022 was,

Proposed by Councillor J. Murphy

Seconded by Councillor B. O’Donoghue

The following amendments were proposed by Councillor W. Paton:

Item 1 –

“In light of the findings of the RTE Investigates programme concerning incorrect expense claims, there is a review of Elected Members and Senior Management Expense and Mileage Claims (grade 8 and higher) from 2014 to date and that the Internal Audit Report is laid before the next full plenary council after consideration by the Audit Committee”.

Item 2 –

“To establish what standard operational procedures, safeguards or additional controls are being employed if a relative of a staff member makes an application for Social Housing or any Housing Grant Scheme”.

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton

Seconded by Councillor A. Wallace

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

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the proposed amendments to the Audit Committee Work Programme 2022.’

2.3 Audit Committee Annual Report 2021

Mr. Peter Scully, Audit Committee Member, presented this report. Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 provided a legal basis for the existence of Audit Committees. The Audit Committee met 5 times during 2021. 21 risks were identified. 0 high risk, 17 medium risks, and 4 low risks. A tracking system exists in Carlow to check on implementations. Mr. P. Scully and Mr. P. Delaney responded to questions raised. Mr. P. Delaney to circulate a copy of risks to members.

The Audit Committee Annual Report 2021 was,

Proposed by Councillor B. O’Donoghue

Seconded by Councillor T. O’Neill

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

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Audit Committee Annual Report 2021.’

2.4 Approval of extension of Muinebheag/Royal Oak Local Area Plan 2017 – 2023

To extend the life, by a further 1 year (i.e. to 5th March 2024), of the Muinebheag/Royal Oak Local Area Plan 2017-2023, in accordance with the provisions of Section 19 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which provides for the extension of the valid life of a Local Area Plan. The extension of the Local Area Plan is sought to provide Carlow County Council and all other relevant stakeholders adequate time and opportunity to realise strategic objectives of the Muinebheag/Royal Oak Local Area Plan, which is in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Proposed by Councillor A. McDonald

Seconded by Councillor T. Kinsella

And agreed following a show of hands

2.5 Approval of extension of Tullow Local Area Plan 2017 – 2023

To extend the life, by a further 1 year (i.e. to 9th April 2024), of the Tullow Local Area Plan 2017-2023, in accordance with the provisions of Section 19 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which provides for the extension of the valid life of a Local Area Plan. The extension of the Local Area Plan is sought to provide Carlow County Council and all other relevant stakeholders adequate time and opportunity to realise strategic objectives of the Tullow Local Area Plan, which is in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Proposed by Councillor J. Murphy
Seconded by Councillor B. O'Donoghue
And agreed following a show of hands

2.6 Approval of visit of Cathaoirleach and a representative of each Municipal District to New York for St. Patrick's Day

The Cathaoirleach advised that the CPG had recommended approval for the attendance of the Cathaoirleach and the Mayor/Cathaoirleach of each Municipal District, on foot of an invitation received by the Cathaoirleach, from the Carlow New York Association.

Proposed by Councillor T. Kinsella
Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald
And agreed following a show of hands

2.7 Approval of visit of Cathaoirleach to Greece for URBACs programme

Councillor F. Phelan (Cathaoirleach) gave a brief report and answered queries. Mr. Michael Rainey, Director of Services, also answered queries.

The CPG recommended approval.

Proposed by Councillor M. Doran
Seconded by Councillor J. Murphy
And agreed following a show of hands

2.8 Approval of visit of Cllr. Fergal Browne to attend Carnac in Brittany to visit la Maison de le Megalites Visitor Centre

The Cathaoirleach advised of a request from Carlow Tourism for Councillor F. Browne to visit Carnac, which had been recommended for full Council by the CPG.

Proposed by Councillor M. Doran
Seconded by Councillor T. O'Neill
And agreed following a show of hands

3.0 Considerations of Reports and Recommendations/Breithniú ar Thuarascálacha agus ar Mholtaí

3.1 PPN Presentation

Councillor F. Phelan (Cathaoirleach) welcomed Ms. Patricia Duffe, PPN Co-ordinator, and Ms. Fiona Broadbery, PPN Support Worker to the meeting. Ms. Patricia Duffe, PPN Co-ordinator gave a presentation and review of the work that the PPN are involved in. She answered all queries. Councillor F. Phelan (Cathaoirleach) thanked her for the presentation and the excellent work that the PPN carry out.

3.2 Creative Places Conference 2022

Ms. Sinead Dowling, Arts Officer, gave this presentation and answered queries.

3.3 Arts Grants 2022

Ms. Sinead Dowling, Arts Officer, gave this report and answered queries.

The Arts Grants recommended were,

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill

Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

And agreed following a show of hands

3.4 Presentation/Discussions with Mr. Alan O'Shea, ESB Networks Public Lighting Interface Supervisor to deal with queries relating to ESB Connections for Public Lighting

Councillor F. Phelan (Cathaoirleach) welcomed Mr. Alan O'Shea, and his colleague Mr. Robert O'Brien to the meeting. Mr. O'Shea gave a presentation and answered queries. Mr. O'Brien clarified that they would investigate any matters in relation to public lighting connections, but weren't in a position to answer queries outside of this.

Councillor F. Phelan (Cathaoirleach) requested that Mr. Padraig O'Gorman, Director of Services, and Mr. Noel Dillon, Executive Engineer, collate members' enquiries and these could be forwarded to both Mr. O'Shea and Mr. O'Brien for their attention.

The Cathaoirleach then thanked Mr. O'Shea and Mr. O'Brien for attending the meeting and their very informative presentation.

3.5 Presentation/Discussions with Mr. William Connolly, Contracts Manager with Enerveo (formerly SSE Airtricity Utility Solutions) to deal with queries relating to Public Light Repairs

Councillor F. Phelan (Cathaoirleach) welcomed Mr. William Connolly, Contracts manager with Enerveo to the meeting.

Mr. Connolly gave a presentation and answered queries.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Connolly for attending the meeting and giving such an informative presentation.

3.6 Taking-in-Charge of Millrace Green Development, Burrin Road, Carlow

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 – Taking-in-charge of roads and services at Millrace Green Development, Burrin Road, Carlow.

Mr. Michael Rainey, Director of Services, answered all queries.

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne

Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

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

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council formally resolve the commencement of Taking-in-Charge of roads and services at Millrace Green Development, Burrin Road, Carlow’.

3.7 Taking-in-Charge of Rivercourt (Phase 4 & 5), Carlow Town

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 – Taking-in-charge of roads and services at Rivercourt (Phase 4 & 5), O’Brien Road, Carlow.

Mr. Michael Rainey, Director of Services, answered all queries.

Proposed by Councillor T. O’Neill

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

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

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council formally resolve the commencement of Taking-in-Charge of roads and services at River Court (Phase 4 & 5), O’Brien Road, Carlow.’

3.8 Training & Conference approvals

The conferences listed on the Agenda were,

Proposed by Councillor T. O’Neill

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran

And agreed following a show of hands

4.0 Chief Executive's Report / Tuarascáil an Phíomhfheidhmeannaigh

Members discussed the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for the period from 1st January to 31st January 2022.

Issues raised by members included:

- Maintenance and insurance of common green areas in housing estates
- Enterprise House in Bagenalstown
- Tinnahinch & Graiguenamanagh walkways
- Croppy grave
- St. Mullins Heritage Plan
- Riverside – housing
- Carrickbrook
- Out-of-hours support for housing emergencies?
- Extension of Burning of Green Waste notices indefinitely
- Grants for outdoor dining
- Athy Road roundabout – cat's eyes & white lining

Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Services, answered housing queries.

Mr. M. Rainey, Director of Services, answered queries in relation to planning, insurance and enterprise.

Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Services, answered queries in relation to burning notices, greenway, outdoor dining and roads issues.

5.0 Correspondence / Comhfhreagras

Noted.

6.0 Notices of Motion / Fógraí Rúin

6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. William Paton

It is incredibly unfair that so many people with income just a few hundred euro in excess of the current Social Housing Income Limits are refused access to Carlow County Council's Housing List. These people are caught between two stools – too much income to get on the Council's Housing List and not enough income to borrow from a commercial bank to purchase a house in the open market. The unfairness is compounded by the fact that housing rents in the open market are rising year on year, with no corresponding adjustment to the Social Housing Income Limits. With that in mind, I wish to propose the following motion:

"That Carlow County Council calls on the Government to increase the Social Housing Income Limits, year on year, for all counties in line with residential rental inflation in each Local Authority Area."

Proposed by Councillor: W. Paton
Seconded by Councillor: A. Wallace
 Agreed following a show of hands.

6.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. J. McDonald

"Many of our older generation (Old Age Pensioners) are living alone and on Single income which they are struggling to live on with today's cost of living. Many will have no transport of their own relying on family or friends to transport them to doctor or hospital appointments. Some people have no one they can call for help often they cannot afford to take up these appointments. The HSE up to recently arranged for a Taxi to collect and return these patients to their home. I call on this council to write to the HSE and Department of Health to arrange transport for these patients to and from appointments as a matter of urgency. "

Proposed by Councillor: J. McDonald
Seconded by Councillor: A. McDonald
 Agreed following a show of hands.

6.3 Standing in the name of Cllr. A. Wallace

"That Carlow Council will open negotiations/discussions with Greencore to assess if it is possible to take the lime kiln into public ownership with the intent to revitalize the area and protect Carlow's unique heritage."

Proposed by Councillor: A. Wallace
Seconded by Councillor: J. Cassin

A roll call was then requested

Proposed: A. Wallace Seconded: J. Cassin Date: 14/02/2022

Member of Carlow County Council	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Fergal Browne				√
John Cassin	√			
Andrea Dalton		√		
Michael Doran		√		
Andy Gladney				√
Thomas Kinsella		√		
Arthur McDonald		√		
John McDonald		√		

Ken Murnane				√
Charlie Murphy		√		
John Murphy		√		
Brian O'Donoghue		√		
Tom O'Neill		√		
William Paton	√			
John Pender		√		
Fintan Phelan		√		
William Quinn		√		
Adrienne Wallace	√			

Absent: Councillor F. Browne, Councillor A. Gladney, Councillor K. Murnane

Decision/Resolution: Motion Defeated

7.0 Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach/Aon gnó eile le haontú an Chathaoirligh

None.

This concluded the business of the meeting.