

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the March *Hybrid* Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in the George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Visual, Carlow on Monday, 14th March 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 J. McDonald
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor C. Murphy
Councillor J. Murphy
Councillor T. O'Neill
Councillor W. Paton
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor A. Wallace
- Remote:** Councillor A. McDonald
Councillor B. O'Donoghue
Councillor W. Quinn
- Present:** Ms. K. Holohan, Chief Executive
Mr. M. Rainey, Director of Service, Corporate, HR, Planning,
Economic Development, Health & Safety (*remote*)
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 (*remote*)
Mr. P.J. Leonard, Financial Accountant, Finance (*remote*)
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing (*remote*)
Ms. F. O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Community (*remote*)
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer (*remote*)
Mr. K. Cullinane, Senior Engineer (*remote*)
Mr. R. Wickham, Senior Executive Engineer (*remote*)
Ms. J. O'Brien, Climate Action Officer (*remote*)
Ms. N. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer, Planning (*remote*)
Mr. J. Shortall, County Librarian (*remote*)
Mr. J. O'Gorman, Executive Librarian (*remote*)
Mr. D. Mulligan, Museum Curator (*remote*)
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office
Mr. S. Doran, Assistant Head of Local Enterprise Office

Ms. M. Doyle, Acting Business Advisor
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate & HR
Ms. Lorna O'Callaghan, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. T. Hickson, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services

The Cathoirleach, Fintan Phelan, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He welcomed members of Carlow Little Theatre who presented a short sketch to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Signing of the Treaty.

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Mr. Tom Browne, College Road, Kilkenny. Former engineer with Carlow County Council
- Mrs. Maggie (Margaret) English, Seskinryan, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.
- Mrs. Eithne Condon, Cnoc Mhuire, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow
- Mrs. Margaret Farrell, Oldtown, Nurney, Carlow
- Mr. Eamonn Dowling, Chapelstown, Carlow

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- Racheal Diyaolu, Rivercourt, Carlow
It was also agreed by all members to make a presentation to Racheal at a future date.
- Mr. Joseph McCarthy (*Scottish man who helped Racheal*)
- Mr. Gary Taylor (*Scottish man who helped Racheal*)
- The Carlow Association London and their St. Patrick's Day parade
- Ms. Molly Scott, winner of the Irish Indoor 60 metre sprint reclaiming her title with a national record time of 7.19
- Mr. David Hayde, Administrative Officer, Finance Office, Carlow Co. Council. David is the newly crowned indoor Masters 60 metre champion winning the gold medal at the European Masters Indoor Championships in Portugal. He also won the bronze medal in the 200 metres.
- Mr. Pat Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer with Carlow Co. Council, who recently retired after 44 years service.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

1.1 Approval of Minutes of Monthly meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 14th February 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

'The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 14th February 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 A. Dalton
Seconded by Councillor F. Browne
and agreed following a show of hands.

1.2 Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

'The Minutes of the Special Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 10.00 a.m., having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy, and accordingly signed, were,

Proposed by Councillor M. Doran
Seconded by Councillor T. Kinsella
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 Local Government Act 2001 - Section 183 (1) Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, the disposal of Rented Equity portion of Shared Ownership Loan - Freehold Interest in dwelling situated at Ballyedmond, Hacketstown, Co. Carlow

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender
Seconded by Councillor J. McDonald
and, following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

"That we, the Members of Carlow County Council formally resolve in accordance with Local Government Act 2001 - Section 183 (1) Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, the disposal of Rented Equity portion of Shared Ownership Loan - Freehold Interest in dwelling situated at Ballyedmond, Hacketstown, Co. Carlow in consideration of the sum of €22,717.73. The consent of the Minister of Housing, Local Government & Heritage is not necessary".

2.2 Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1), Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, the disposal of the freehold on property contained in Folio CW 1472L, former Eircom Depot at Strawhall Industrial Estate, Carlow, to, W & N Plant Limited

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne

Seconded by Councillor T. O'Neill

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

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council formally resolve in accordance with Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1), Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, the disposal of the freehold on property contained in Folio CW 1472L, former Eircom Depot at Strawhall Industrial Estate, Carlow, to, W & N Plant Limited in consideration of the sum of €2,000.00 plus all associated costs in accordance with the terms of the statutory notice already circulated. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required”.

2.3 Section 85 Agreement with Kilkenny County Council - Food Safety

Proposed by Councillor J. Murphy

Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

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

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council formally resolve to extend its agreement under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001, with Kilkenny County Council until such time as services transfer to the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, to carry out all Statutory Food Safety Functions as contracted by the FSAI on behalf of Carlow County Council”.

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

3.1 Environmental Awareness Programme 2022 –

Presentation by Ms. Jannette O'Brien, Environmental Awareness Officer

Ms. Jannette O'Brien gave a detailed presentation to all present, and answered all queries.

Councillor F. Phelan (Cathaoirleach) thanked Ms. O'Brien and all her team for the excellent work carried out in the county. Members also wished to acknowledge such a passionate presentation and the fantastic work being done in the environmental department to support so many community groups throughout the county.

3.2 Carlow Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations 2022

Mr. P. O’Gorman, Director of Services, gave a brief report and answered all queries. Mr. R. Wickham, Senior Executive Engineer, answered queries in relation to price increases.

3.3 County Carlow Museum Annual Report 2020

Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance, presented this report which was noted.

3.4 In Carlow Economic Development and Business Support Strategy 2022-2027

3.5 LEO Impact Report 2014-2021

Mr. K. Comerford combined these two reports and gave a comprehensive presentation.

Councillor F. Phelan (Cathaoirleach) thanked Kieran and all his team in the LEO for their continued hard work.

3.6 Festival and Event Scheme 2022

The scheme, as circulated, was;

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor J. Pender
and agreed following a show of hands

3.7 Carlow Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2021

Noted.

3.8 Training and Conference Approvals

Proposed by Councillor M. Doran
Seconded by Councillor T. Kinsella
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 February to 28th February 2022.

Issues raised by members included:

- Coroner service update
- Newtown cemetery wall
- Housing Assessment forms

- Ballinakelly Woods
- 13 DEIS schools in Carlow and others receiving approval for extensions.
- Town WiFi
- Town Bus link
- Replacement of general operatives
- Co. Development Plan
- Bus Service for South East of County
- Derelict buildings and Murray site on Dublin Street
- Official meeting with Carlow Mayor
- Accessibility report on 1 bed houses
- Possibility of purchasing 1 or 4/5 bed houses
- High levels of 'Notice to Quit' being issued. Re-examine policy not to purchase.
- Support for people trying buy their own homes

Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Services, answered queries in relation to the bus services, broadband, general operatives, and the wall in Newtown cemetery.

Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Services, answered queries in relation to rent reviews, housing queries and Ballinakelly Woods.

Mr. M. Rainey, Director of Services, answered queries in relation to Ballinakelly Woods, the Co. Development Plan, derelict properties and enforcement.

Mr. E. Brophy answered queries in relation to the Coroner.

5.0 Correspondence / Comhfhreagras

Noted.

6.0 Notices of Motion / Fógraí Rúin

6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. John Cassin

"John Cassin calls on Carlow County Council to write straight away after this meeting to the Taoiseach, Tanaiste, Minister's for Public Expenditure, and Transport to take action immediately and take 30c of the price of a litre of fuel to allow the citizens of Carlow and Ireland to be able to afford to drive to work. If concessions can be made for banks and vulture funds it can be done for the citizens of Carlow and Ireland."

Proposed by Councillor J. Cassin

Seconded by Councillor A. Gladney

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor F. Browne

"Carlow County Council write to the Taoiseach, Tánaiste, Minister for Public Expenditure and Finance, to continue and expand recent actions to cut excise duties on fuels, and provide €18 m in emergency supports to alleviate pressure on hauliers, as well as continuing negotiations at EU level, to give member

states flexibility on V.A.T. on fuels, as well as decoupling gas from elements that tend to cause upward pressure in determining the price of fuels. We also ask for carbon tax increases to be delayed by six months”.

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran

and agreed following a show of hands

6.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. A. Wallace

"This Council recognises that it is not uncommon for victims of domestic violence to have to leave their home town or county to escape violence. As such this council should amend its housing policy to allow easier access to victims of Domestic Violence from other counties onto Carlow Councils Housing list. A letter calling for this measure to be introduced across the country should also be sent to the relevant department. A copy of this motion should also be sent to every local authority."

Proposed by Councillor A. Wallace

Seconded by Councillor

It was proposed to bring this matter before the next Housing SPC meeting.

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

and agreed following a show of hands

6.3 Standing in the name of Cllr. F. Phelan

"This Council is concerned by the continued vacancy in the position of IDA South East Regional Director. We call on the IDA to fill this vacancy as a matter of urgency. It is critically important for Carlow and the entire South East region that the IDA has a Regional Director responsible for the area."

Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan

Seconded by Councillor J. Pender

and agreed following a show of hands

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

- Suspension of Rent Review for 1 year
- Tusla
- Kelvin Grove update
- Passport renewal delays

Councillor F. Phelan (Cathaoirleach) took the opportunity to remind members of the special Commemoration service being held at the Town Hall on Sunday 20th March in memory of all who have died since the start of this pandemic.

This concluded the business of the meeting.