

**Minutes of March Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in the  
Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow,  
on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 2.00 p.m.**

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

**Apologies:** Councillor J. McDonald

**In attendance:** Mr. M. Rainey, Interim Chief Executive  
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance  
Mr. K. Cullinane, Acting Director of Service  
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Services  
Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Services  
Ms. F. O'Neill, Acting Director of Services  
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer  
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr. S. Casey, Environmental Awareness Officer  
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office  
Ms. S. Dowling, Arts Officer  
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. L. O'Callaghan, Administrative Officer  
Ms. C. Healy, Staff Officer

**Remotely:** Mr. J. Shorthall, County Librarian  
Mr. D. Mulligan, Museum Curator  
Ms. A. Sweeney, Senior Planner  
Ms. N. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer

### **Votes of Sympathy**

Michael O'Neill and family on the death of his brother Patrick O'Neill, 9 Station Avenue, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny.

Michael Cullen and family on the death of his father Michael Cullen, Palatine, Carlow.

Whelan family on the death of Cecil Whelan, 55 Monacurragh, Carlow.

McCauley Family on the death of Michael McCauley, Athy Road, Carlow.

Cllr. Fergal Browne and family on the death of his mother, Nancy Browne, Ballinacarrig, Carlow.

The Nolan and McDonald families on the death of Aisling Nolan McDonald, Graiguecullen.

*A minute silence then took place as a mark of respect to the deceased.*

### **Votes of Congratulations**

Willie Hosey, Sam Olwill and Ciara Moloney Doheny on their recent success at the National Masters Squash Championship in Fitzwilliam.

## **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí**

**Proposed by Councillor T. Kinsella**

**Seconded by Councillor W. Quinn**

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously resolved:-

‘That the Minutes of the February Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed”

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

### **2.1 Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024**

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024 was

**Proposed by Cllr. J. Pender**

**Seconded by Cllr. A. Wallace** and

Agreed following a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed.

**2.2 Planning & Development Act 2000 – Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 – Section 183 (1) – lease of New Oak Community Centre, New Oak, Carlow.**

**Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan,  
Seconded by Councillor K. Murnane**

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

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve in accordance with Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183, the lease of New Oak Community Centre, New Oak, Carlow, to the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary of New Oak Residents Association, for a further period of 4 years and 11 months at an initial rent of €10 per annum, 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 Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 – Section 183 (1) – lease on land at St. Mullins, Co. Carlow.**

**Proposed by Councillor T. Kinsella  
Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald**

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

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve in accordance with Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 182 (1), the lease on land (0.361 acres) at St. Mullins, Co. Carlow, to Martin, Emer & Mark O’Brien, The Mullichain Café, The Quay, St. Mullins, Graiguenamanagh, Co. Carlow, for a period of three years in consideration of the sum of €10 per annum, 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.

**2.4 LCDC Membership**

Following three resignations on the Carlow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and agreement by the Corporate Policy Group at their Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 the approval to the nomination of Mr. Damien Howard, Ms. Áine Gahan and Ms. Agnita Kenny to the LCDC Committee was

**Proposed by Cllr. J. Murphy  
Seconded by Cllr A. McDonald**

And following a show of hands, was agreed.

## **2.5 Arts Grants 2023**

The Arts Acts Grants 2023 as circulated were

**Proposed by Cllr. T. O'Neill**

**Seconded by Cllr. K. Murnane**

And following a show of hands, was agreed.

## **2.6 Festival and Event Fund**

Questions raised by the members on the Festival and Event Fund were answered by K. Comerford. It was

**Proposed by Cllr. M. Doran**

**Seconded by Cllr. W. Quinn**

And following a show of hands, was agreed.

## **2.7 Local Authority Climate Action Plan**

P. O'Gorman briefed on the Local Authority Climate Action Plan. It was

**Proposed by Cllr. K. Murnane**

**Seconded by Cllr. F. Browne**

And following a show of hands, was agreed.

## **2.8 Carlow Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2025**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Shane Casey, Environment Awareness Officer to the meeting who gave a presentation on Carlow Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 which included steps involved in the preparation of the plan, objections and actions and adoption and implementation of same. Questions raised by the members were answered by Shane Casey.

Cllr. F. Browne Chair of the Planning, Environment, Climate & Biodiversity Action, Energy and Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee advised that the SPC recommended the adoption of the Carlow Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 – 2025 by the Council.

**Proposed by Cllr. F. Browne,**

**Seconded by Cllr. M. Doran**

And following a show of hands, was agreed.

## **2.9 Annual Service Delivery Plan 2023**

The Annual Service Plan 2023 as circulated was

**Proposed by Cllr. W. Paton,**

**Seconded by Cllr. T. O'Neill**

And following a show of hands, was agreed.

### **3.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations/Breithniú ar Thuarascálacha agus ar Mholtaí**

#### **3.1 Carlow County Museum Annual Report 2021**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. D. Mulligan, Museum Curator, who gave a presentation on the Carlow County Museum Annual Report 2021.

The Carlow County Museum Annual Report 2021 was

**Proposed by Cllr. T. O'Neill,**

**Seconded by Cllr K. Murnane**

And following a show of hands, was agreed.

#### **3.2 Carlow County Council Roads Grants 2023**

The Carlow County Council Roads Grants Allocations 2023 as circulated were

**Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan**

**Seconded by Cllr. K. Murnane**

And following a show of hands, was agreed.

#### **3.3 Carlow Southern Relief Road – Project Manager**

The members welcomed the news of the approval to the appointment of a Project Manager to progress the Carlow Southern Relief Road project.

#### **3.4 Active Travel Study Trip – Presentation by Cllr. W. Paton**

Cllr. W. Paton, Chair of the Transportation & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee, gave a presentation following a study trip to Utrecht – Hotten – Ede-Wageningen, Netherlands from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February. He thanked the NTA for the opportunity given to four elected members and three members of staff to travel and experience cities where bicycles are the main source of travel in towns and cities. Questions raised were answered by Cllr. Paton and P. O’Gorman.

#### **3.5 Request to make Presentation to Council**

Following a request from Dr. Norman McMillan to make a presentation to Carlow County Council on the John Tyndall Project, it was agreed to receive the deputation at the May Council meeting.

**Proposed by Councillor M. Doran,**

**Seconded by Councillor K. Murnane**

And following a show of hands, was agreed.

### **3.6 Training & Conference Approvals**

**Proposed by Councillor W. Quinn**

**Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald**

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve the following training/conferences.

*Local Authorities Members Association (LAMA) Spring Seminar*

*Apprenticeship & Future Building Initiatives Recruitment and Training*

*Date: 2-4 March 2023 FEE: 180.00*

### **4.0 Chief Executives Report/Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh**

The Chief Executives Report was discussed in detail. Questions raised by the members included progressing of housing in Ardattin due to positive engagement with Irish Water, broadband issue with use of copper cable, delays with Irish Water in progressing Ballinabranna housing and reinstatement of roads following works on footpaths/roads.

The Interim Chief Executive and Directors of Services answered questions raised by the members.

### **5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras**

Members noted response from RSA in relation to waiting times for driving tests in County Carlow.

Members noted correspondence from Kerry County Council calling for the award of medals as recommended by Commandant Pat Quinlan to the veterans of Jadotville.

Members noted correspondence from Sligo County Council querying why Sligo and North-West has not been included as a surgical hub and asking that Sligo University Hospital be added to the list as 6<sup>th</sup> surgical hub catering for people of Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal, North Mayo and North Roscommon.

Members noted correspondence from Sligo County Council calling on the Minister and the Department to address the anomaly that exists under the older and disability grants scheme where retired old age pensioners transfer their homes to the next of kin and amend the terms and conditions of the schemes to exclude the income of the registered owner and their spouse if they do not reside in the property.

Members noted correspondence from Sligo County Council calling for the introduction of legislation at an EU level so that social media accounts are traceable to people operating them which would stop anonymous abuse, online bullying and trolling.

Members noted correspondence from Sligo County Council calling on Minister of Transport to introduce a scheme to make funding available to our regional roads to address realignment and other safety issues.

Members noted correspondence from Cavan County Council calling on Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to intervene and prevent semi-state body Coillte from entering into joint venture arrangements with Gresham House. To review the relationship between Coillte and Gresham House and the proper control of commercial afforestation. Calling on Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Minister of State to outline that the forestry deal between Coillte and Gresham House and selling Irish lands to an outside fund, is not in the best interest of the people of Ireland.

Members noted correspondence from Westmeath County Council requesting the Finance Minister to design and implement a comprehensive regional public banking system that makes full use of the remaining financial services infrastructure in local towns and other areas in Westmeath to deliver an essential local banking service to local communities and businesses that would augment the work of post offices and credit unions and give local people and business real finance and borrowing options and keep local towns thriving.

Members noted correspondence from Cork County Council asking that the new Planning & Development Bill would take the opportunity to address identified concerns with regard to Ireland's need to meet the requirements of the Aarhus Convention to which it is a signatory

## **6.0 Notices of Motion/Fógraí Rúin**

### **6.1 Standing in the name of Cllrs. B. O'Donoghue, F. Phelan, J. McDonald and W. Paton**

"That it is the policy of Carlow County Council to encourage active travel in our towns and on our roads, with particular focus on the prioritisation of pedestrians and cyclists via segregated routes and shared spaces, where appropriate, in the interest of a safer and healthier Carlow for all public realm and road users"

**Proposed by Cllr. W. Paton**

**Seconded by Cllr F. Phelan**

And agreed following a show of hands

### **6.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. Adrienne Wallace**

"Noting that last year was the worst year on record for violence against women. Noting the statements by local Government TDs and Ministers that Carlow was due to have a refuge by 2024 this council condemns the recent revelation by Minister Harris in response to a Parliamentary Question that Carlow is not on the list for any refuge spaces in 2024. As such this council will write to the Minister for Justice, The Taoiseach and all local Government TDs calling for urgent action and a commitment that Carlow will have a refuge in place by the end of this year at the latest."

\*\*For Reference, the Parliamentary Question was asked on 16/2/23 by Paul Murphy TD. Minister Harris stated "The Government has agreed to prioritise the delivery of 98 refuge spaces in Sligo, Cavan/Monaghan, Cork City, North Cork, West Cork, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Westmeath, Portlaoise, Balbriggan, Longford, Carlow and Offaly. In the initial phase of this work, we expect to have delivered 24 places in Wexford, Dundalk and Navan in 2024."

**Proposed by Councillor A. Wallace**

**Seconded by Councillor W. Paton**

And following a show of hands the motion was defeated.

### **6.3 Standing in the name of Cllr. Adrienne Wallace**

"That this Council seek legal advice on ensuring the continuation of a Carlow County wide eviction ban in the event the Government fails to extend the national eviction ban".



The Interim Chief Executive advised that the Council does not require legal advice to establish that the Council cannot implement an eviction ban. A discussion took place.

**Proposed by Cllr. Adrienne Wallace**

**Seconded by Cllr J. Cassin**

And following a show of hands, the motion was defeated.

#### **6.4 Standing in the name of Cllr. John McDonald**

"Irish Water is not fit for purpose. We know they are causing obstruction to the construction of housing due to lack of water and wastewater infrastructure. In Carlow two projects are delayed because of Irish Water (Ardattin and Ballinabranna). Carlow County Council will write to the Minister of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, requesting Irish Water is returned to the local Authorities control and that Irish Water is not to be privatised."

It was agreed to defer this meeting to the April Council Meeting, in the absence of the Proposer.

#### **6.5 Standing in the name of Cllr. Andy Gladney**

I Cllr Andy Gladney ask Carlow County Council to make representations to the Minister of Health with regards to the diminishing number of dentists taking medical cards. A significant number of contracted dentists across the country have withdrawn from the dental treatment service scheme (DTSS). At present most community health care dentists are at full capacity and unable to take on patients. Medical card patients are being dropped by dentists no longer accepting medical card holders and finding it near impossible to find another practice who take medical cards or have the capacity to take them on as a patient. The number of people been treated by the dental treatment service scheme is dropping year on year. There is a lack of primary early dental check ups causing delays in referrals for orthodontic care and early intervention treatments. There is around 13,000 children awaiting orthodontic treatment. Underpayment has led to an exodus of dentists from medical card schemes and leading to massive delays.

I ask we call on this government to take action now. They need to improve access to dental care in an equitable and sustainable manner for all, across all income groups. We need a complete review of the system. We need to support investments in addressing staff shortages right across the dental sector.

**Proposed by Cllr. A. Gladney**  
**Seconded by Cllr. A. McDonald**  
And agreed following a show of hands

**Any Other Business**

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Charlie Murphy proposed the following Notice of Motion.

**Standing in the name of Cllr. Charlie Murphy, Cllr. Tommy Kinsella and Cllr. John Murphy**

We the members of Carlow County Council are asking the Minister of Agriculture to immediately increase the payment on the Sheep Welfare Scheme from €12 per ewe to €30 per ewe. This is in light of the poor price for sheep meat which has persisted for the last couple of years. This will help alleviate some of the financial hardships on sheep farmers.

**Proposed by Cllr. Charlie Murphy**  
**Seconded by Cllr. Tommy Kinsella**  
And agreed following a show of hands

Members raised questions regarding Kelvin Grove site, request for SEAI to address a meeting of Council, reinstatement of public toilet in Bagenalstown and car charging facilities at GAA pitches.

Questions raised were answered by K. Cullinane and P. O’Gorman.

This concluded the business of the meeting.