

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the May Meeting (hybrid) of Carlow County Council, held in the G.B. Shaw Theatre, Visual, Old Dublin Road, Carlow on Monday 9th May 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

In Attendance: Councillor F. Phelan (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin (*remote*)
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor A. Gladney
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor A. McDonald (*remote*)
Councillor J. McDonald
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor C. Murphy
Councillor J. Murphy
Councillor B. O'Donoghue
Councillor T. O'Neill (*remote*)
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. M. Brennan, Director of Services, Housing, Community,
Recreation & Amenity
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Services, Transportation
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance (*remote*)
Mr. P.J. Leonard, Financial Accountant (*remote*)
Mr. L. Carroll, A/Chief Fire Officer (*remote*)
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer (*remote*)
Mr. K. Cullinane, Senior Engineer (*remote*)
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer (*remote*)
Mr. J. Shortall, County Librarian (*remote*)
Ms. Patricia Nolan, Executive Librarian (*remote*)
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office (*remote*)
Mr. D. Mulligan, Museum Curator (*remote*)
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate & HR
Ms. L. O'Callaghan, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. T. Hickson, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services

The Cathaoirleach, Fintan Phelan, welcomed everyone to the meeting, highlighting the fact that this was the first Council meeting as a university county.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

1.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 11th April 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

'The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 11th April 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 J. Pender
Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton
and agreed following a show of hands

It was agreed to make the following presentations before continuing with the meeting.

3.0 Presentation to Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of An Garda Síochána

Councillor Fintan Phelan (Cathaoirleach) invited Councillor Michael Doran (JPC Chair) to join him in welcoming both Chief Superintendent Padraig Dunne, and, Superintendent Aidan Brennan to the meeting. Councillor Doran acknowledged the importance of such an occasion.

The Cathaoirleach continued to welcome all in attendance as follows;

"We are joined today by Chief Superintendent Padraig Dunne and Superintendent Aidan Brennan on behalf of An Garda Síochána. Today, as a council, we will make a presentation to An Garda Síochána recognising the centenary of their establishment.

Following the Civil War and the truce of July 1921, the RIC disbanded and a new police force 'the Civic Guard' (renamed Garda Síochána na hÉireann on 8 August 1923) was formed by Michael Collins and the Irish Government.

Dublin Castle, the centre of British Rule in Ireland for nearly 700 years was formally handed over on August 17, 1922 when Commissioner Michael Staines led his new police force through the castle gates.

Since then, members of An Garda Síochána have protected the Irish people and our communities. This represents 100 years of service to our nation. As the lead civic authority, it is fitting that Carlow County Council would mark the centenary of the establishment of the Gardaí. I am delighted that we are joined by Chief Superintendent Dunne and Superintendent Brennan today to accept this presentation.

As Cathaoirleach of this council I thank you and all members of An Garda Síochána for your service to this County, Country and our people”.

Councillor F. Phelan then invited Chief Superintendent Padraig Dunne to take the Chair to say a few words. Chief Superintendent Dunne thanked the elected members and colleagues of Carlow County Council for their valued support. He acknowledged the sacrifices made by his colleagues in carrying out their duties, and both he and Superintendent Aidan Brennan, were honoured to accept this presentation on their behalf.

2.0 Presentation to Rachel Diyaolu

Councillor Fintan Phelan (Cathaoirleach) welcomed Rachel Diyaolu and her father, Taiwo to the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach continued to welcome all in attendance as follows;

“Elected members and colleagues, I am delighted we are joined today by Rachel Diyaolu and her father Taiwo. You are both very welcome to our Council meeting. Today, as a council, we will make a presentation to Rachel in recognition of her resilience. As we all know, as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Rachel found herself in a very difficult and dangerous situation whilst studying medicine in Sunmi, Ukraine. Fleeing a war is a situation that she never thought she would find herself in, indeed it is a situation no one should find themselves in.

Through her determination and resilience and with the help of two brave Scots Men, Rachel made her way across the country and thankfully arrived home to her family and our community here in Carlow safely.

Before studying in Ukraine, Rachel represented our County on Carlow Comhairle Na Nóg and was their delegate to National Comhairle Na Nóg. I know the work that she has done on mental health awareness whilst a member of Comhairle has been invaluable to so many young people”.

He then invited Rachel to take the Chair to say a few words.

Rachel thanked everyone and was honoured to accept the presentation.

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Paddy (Duffer) Kehoe, O’Hanrahan Ave., Carlow. Caretaker, Carlow County Council
- May (Mary) Carroll, Kilcarr, Clonegal, Carlow

- Sean Foley, Upper Kilree Street, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow
- Agnes Donoghue, 11 Eastwood, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow
- Ann Rose, Spahill, Borris, Co. Carlow
- Simon Murphy, Borris, Co. Carlow
- Alan Gillis, Grangecon, Co. Wicklow

At this point of the meeting, Councillor F. Phelan gave the Chair to Ms. Kathleen Holohan, Chief Executive, as she wanted to address all present.

Ms. Holohan, Chief Executive proceeded to announce that she would complete her seven year contract in October of this year, and would not be availing of an extension.

Councillor F. Phelan (Cathoirleach), on behalf of all members, thanked Ms. Holohan, Chief Executive, for her valued service. He continued by saying that she played a pivotal role in establishing the South East Technical University in Carlow and would be a great loss to the county. He wished her every best wish for the future.

The members present congratulated Ms. Holohan for her service and wished her all the best in her retirement.

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

4.1 Approval of Draft Annual Report 2021 – In accordance with Section 221 (a) Local Government Act 2001 – to follow

Proposed by Councillor A. Dalton
Seconded by Councillor J. Pender
 and agreed following a show of hands

4.2 Taking in Charge Millrace Green Development, Burrin Road & River Court Phase 4 & 5

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

4.3 Part 8 Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and Section 138 of Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) – Proposed Development at Constable Hill, Hacketstown.

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender
Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton
 and agreed following a show of hands

4.4 Fix date for Annual General Meeting

Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, called on members to agree a fixed date for the Annual General Meeting 2022.

The Annual General Meeting of Carlow County Council to be held on Monday, 13th June 2022 was

Proposed by Councillor K. Murnane
Seconded by Councillor J. Murphy
and,

Following a show of hands, it was resolved:-

“That we, the members of Carlow County Council approve the Annual General Meeting 2022 to be held on Monday 13th June 2022”.

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

5.1 The Local Authority Museums Network (LAMN) Strategy. 2022 - 2026 (Reimagining the Past for the Future)

Mr. Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, and, Mr. Michel Rainey, Director of Services, answered queries.

5.2 Towards a Literacy Friendly County Carlow – an all society initiative supporting the National Adult Literacy for Life 10 Year Strategy

Mr. John Shortall, County Librarian, gave a presentation and answered queries. He thanked all the researchers and contributors for their support on this project. He wished to acknowledge the tremendous work carried out by Ms. Patricia Nolan, Executive Librarian, and congratulated her on her nomination to the board of NALA.

5.3 Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Update

Mr. P. O’Gorman, Director of Services, gave an update and answered queries.

Councillor F. Phelan highlighted the fact that they are the first fast chargers of this scale in the country, and that Carlow is leading the way. He congratulated Mr. O’Gorman and his team for the work carried out to date.

5.4 Training and Conference Approvals

AILG Webinar 3 “Housing for all Pathway 1 and 2 “

Pathway 1: Supporting Homeownership and Increasing Affordability
Pathway 2: Eradicating Homelessness, Increasing Social Housing Delivery and Supporting Social Inclusion

Date: 6th May 2022
Venue: Online
Fee: 0.00

AILG Module 2 (In person) - Topic of GDPR approved at last meeting cancelled, New Topic currently being finalised”

Date: 12th May 2022 (Southern Region)
Venue: Treacy’s West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare
Date: 14th May 2022 (Northern and Western/Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly)
Venue: The Hillgrove Hotel, Co. Monaghan.
Fee: €65.00

AILG Webinar 4 "Active moderation and Connecting with constituents - how to build community and amplify your message”

Date: 27th May 2022
Time: 10.00am – 11.30am Online
Fee: 0.00

AILG Webinar 5 – Housing for All – Pathway 3 and 4

Date: 10th June 2022
Fee: 0.00

AILG Module 3 (In person) Finalising your development plan – Key steps and requirements from the Development Plan Guidelines

Date: 16th & 18th June
16th (Northern and Western/Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly)
Venue: Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone.
18th (Southern Region)
Venue: Avalon House Hotel, Castlecomer
Fee: €65.00

Suck Valley Way Conference with the support of AILG

“Rural regeneration post pandemic: the challenges and opportunities to unlocking our potential”

Date: 27TH - 28th April 2022
Venue: The Abbey Hotel, Roscommon, F42F992
Fee: €130.00

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

6.0 Chief Executive's Report / Tuarascáil an Phíomhfheidhmeannaigh

Members discussed the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for the period from 1st April to 30th April 2022.

Issues raised by members included:

- Taking-in-Charge – Tinnahinch & St. Mullins
- Malicious fires
- Oifigeach Gaeilge
- Water Notices
- Blueway in Carlow
- Kilbrannish walkway
- Clonegal bridge
- River Barrow clean up
- Derelict sites & CPOs
- Emergency accommodation
- Women's Refuge
- Leighlinbridge Garda Station
- Bagenalstown bye-pass
- Littering in rural areas
- Land on Shillelagh Road, Tullow
- Ash Trees
- Bagenalstown Cemetery
- Website upgrade
- Home energy kits

Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Services, answered queries in relation to Clonegal, homelessness, Garda Station, Women's refuge, and land at Shillelagh Road, Tullow.

Mr. M. Rainey, Director of Services, answered queries in relation to St. Mullins, Vacant Homes Officer, website, Oifigeach Gaeilge, Blueway, derelict sites and CPOs.

Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Services, answered queries in relation to malicious fires, water notices, littering and river clean up, home energy kits, and Bagenalstown cemetery.

Councillor F. Phelan suggested an invitation be extended to the relevant personnel from the Fire Service to attend the June Council meeting in order that recent National and European awards can be acknowledged.

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

7.0 Correspondence / Comhfhreagras

Noted.

8.0 Notices of Motion / Fógraí Rúin

8.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. A. Wallace

"Noting that solving dereliction is key to solving the housing crisis, and that Carlow town has a high level of dereliction, this Council agrees to write to the Minister of Housing and to the TDs for Carlow/Kilkenny to call for the employment of a Vacant Homes Officer in Carlow Council to assist in bringing vacant homes back into use."

The Cathaoirleach suggested an amendment as follows:-

"Noting that solving dereliction is key to solving the housing crisis, and that Carlow town and County has a high level of dereliction, this Council welcomes the Government's funding for a full time Vacant Homes Officer and that they be employed a.s.a.p. to assist in bringing vacant homes back into use".

This amendment was,

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton
And agreed following a show of hands

8.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. W. Paton

"That Carlow County Council supports the Irish Heart Foundation Resus Department's campaign and calls on the government to remove VAT from Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) as the 23% VAT is effectively a tax on saving lives."

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton
Seconded by Councillor W. Quinn
Agreed following a show of hands

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

- Members' expenses
- ALLG survey
- Chamber update
- Bahanna & Ardattin houses

Mr. Eamonn Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, answered queries in relation to members' expenses.

Mr. M. Rainey, Director of Services, answered queries in relation to the Chamber.

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

This concluded the business of the meeting.