

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the October Meeting of Carlow County Council, held on Monday, 11th October 2021 at 2.00 p.m. in the G.B. Shaw Theatre, Visual, Old Dublin Road, Carlow.

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

Remote: Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor A. McDonald
Councillor J. Pender

Present: Ms. K. Holohan, Chief Executive
Mr. M. Rainey, Director of Service, Corporate, HR, Planning,
Economic Development, Health & Safety
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. Kieran Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office
Ms. Orla Barrett, Senior Engineer, Environment
Mr. L. Carroll, A/C.F.O.
Mr. Ray Wickham, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate & HR
Ms. L. O'Callaghan, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. T. Hickson, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services

Before the meeting began, Councillor Fintan Phelan (Cathaoirleach) advised all present, that the 1 hour 45 minute time limit was no longer in place. Councillor Phelan proposed that only business on the agenda would be discussed.

Mr. Michael Rainey, Director of Service, confirmed that we should be back in Chamber by January 2022, at which time hybrid meetings could be facilitated. Councillor Fergal Browne requested clarity in relation to Oireachtas members attending meetings.

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Death of Pamela Reid, Tullow Road, Bennekerry, Carlow
- Death of Eric Fitzgibbon, Beechwood Park, Pollerton, Carlow
- Mike Meaney, Rathvinden, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow
- Joe Monahan, High Street, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- Jasmine Byrne, Ballinabranna, Carlow, on winning gold in the open weight senior WUKF World Championship

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

1.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 13th September 2021 at 2.00 p.m.

Proposed by Councillor: M. Doran

Seconded by Councillor: A. Dalton

And

Following a show of hands, it was resolved:-

‘That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 13th September 2021 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 ruin an Chomhairle

2.1 Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1), the disposal of 0.45 hectares to Anne R Murphy, Rathbaun, Tullow, Co. Carlow

To approve in accordance with Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) the disposal of 0.45 hectares at Rathbaun, Tullow, Co. Carlow to Anne R Murphy, Rathbaun, Tullow, Co. Carlow, in consideration of the sum of €300 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.

Proposed by Councillor: J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor: W. Paton

Agreed following a show of hands it was resolved that:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve in accordance with the Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) the disposal of 0.45 hectares at Rathbaun, Tullow, Co. Carlow to Anne R Murphy, Rathbaun, Tullow, Co. Carlow, in consideration of the sum of €300 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.'

2.2 To fix date for the 2022 Statutory Budget Meeting

Proposed date of 26/11/2021

Proposed by Councillor: T. O'Neill

Seconded by Councillor: F. Browne

Agreed following a show of hands

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the proposed date of 26th November 2021 for the 2022 Statutory Budget Meeting.'

2.3 To approve overdraft accommodation year ended 31/12/2022

P. Delaney, Head of Finance presented this report and answered all queries. In view of forecasted cashflow demands associated with increased capital expenditure and the timing of recoups from central government, approval was sought from members, to retain the current overdraft limit of €7million, to ensure capital commitments and projects are processed in a timely manner.

Proposed by Councillor: K. Murnane

Seconded by Councillor: T. O'Neill

Agreed following a show of hands

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €7 million for the year ended 31st December 2022 in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001.'

2.4 To approve Carlow County Council Fire and Emergency Operations Plan Section 26 Fire Services Act 1981 - 2003

Mr. Liam Carroll, A/Chief Fire Officer gave a comprehensive report accompanied with a powerpoint presentation. The following queries were raised:-

- Vacant properties / accommodation over commercial units
- False alarms
- Unauthorised parking at Carlow Fire Station
- Halloween
- Inspection of buildings in the county
- Recruitment plans for further staffing requirements
- Fire alarms in social housing
- Fire safety awareness in the traveller community
- Pyrite in Carlow
- Electric vehicles and ability to deal with these fires
- Refurbishment of Muinebheag Fire Station

Mr. Liam Carroll, A/Chief Fire Officer answered all queries.

Proposed by Councillor: J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor: M. Doran

Agreed following a show of hands

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

3.1 Local Enterprise Development Plan 2021 - 2024

Mr. Kieran Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office gave a full and comprehensive report. He answered all queries from members.

3.2 Irish Water - Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme

Ms. Orla Barrett, Senior Engineer, Water Services, gave a full and comprehensive report. The following queries were raised:-

- Concern about timescale to carry out upgrade works in villages
- Timescale on upgrade of Ballinabranna plant
- Ballinabranna upgrade issues
- Tinnahinch – when will a plan be ready
- Septic tanks in the county
- Mortarstown capacity
- Irish Water SLA
- Funding for other areas in the county
- County Development Plan – capacity issues at various villages

Ms. Orla Barrett, Senior Engineer, Water Services, answered all queries.

3.3 Conference Attendance Approvals – October 2021

CARO – Climate Acton Regional Office

Conference Event (virtual)
Economic Opportunities from Climate Action –
Local Authorities Supporting Enterprise
Dates: 12th & 13th October 2021
Online event – Fee: 0.00 Euro

Lama Conference
Dates: 3rd & 4th November 2021
Venue: Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo

Proposed by Councillor: J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor: T. O'Neill

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 September to 30th September 2021.

Issues raised by members included:

- Derelict sites
- National Broadband Ireland (NBI) update
- Carlow Day
- Housing standards
- Risk Assessment procedures

Kathleen Holohan, Chief Executive, confirmed that Oireachtas members are allowed to attend meetings, but not allowed to participate.

Mr. Michel Rainey, Director of Service, answered all queries in relation to derelict sites and N.B.I.

Mr. Michael Brennan, Director of Service, answered all queries in relation to housing inspections. Michael Brennan advised that all members of the community are always treated with the utmost of respect.

5.0 Correspondence / Comhfhreagras

Noted

6.0 Notices of Motion / Fógraí Rúin

6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. Adrienne Wallace

"Following on from the RTÉ Investigates programme that reviewed expense records from every local authority in the country, as well as records from numerous other public bodies that pay councillors' expenses revealed that hundreds of councillors contravened a provision in the Local Government Act designed to provide transparency about the expenses claimed by local representatives, this council should write to the relevant departments, and the Taoiseach, to call for reforms. A singular centralized system should be developed to stop any future councillors receiving double payments by wrongly claiming expenses from their own local authority and from an external organisation for the same official absence."

Proposed by Councillor: A. Wallace

Seconded by Councillor: J. Cassin

Amendment proposed as follows:-

"Following on from the RTÉ Investigates programme that reviewed expense records from every local authority in the country, as well as records from numerous other public bodies that pay councillors' expenses, this council should write to the ALG asking them to examine ways in which a more efficient model for expenses can be used".

Proposed by Councillor: J. McDonald

Seconded by Councillor: F. Browne

Agreed following a show of hands

6.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. William Paton

"That Carlow County Council supports the Irish Society for Colitis and Crohn's Disease (ISCC) campaign, highlighting the need for all businesses and public amenities to support people living with IBD by allowing those presenting the ISCC "No Waiting" card access to public toilets while still abiding by public Health guidance."

Proposed by Councillor: W. Paton

Seconded by Councillor: A. Gladney

Agreed following a show of hands

This concluded the business of the meeting.