

Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Carlow
Held in the Town Hall, Carlow
on Thursday, 26th January, 2017, at 4.30pm

Present: Councillor F. Phelan, Mayor
Councillor A. Ahern
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin
Councillor J. Deane
Councillor W. Lacey
B. O'Donoghue
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor K. Murnane

Apologies: Councillor W. Paton

In Attendance: Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Services
Mr. P. Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. L. Slye, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. F. O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. J. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer

The Mayor welcomed members to the meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 1st December 2016

Proposed by Cllr. A. Ahern

Seconded by Cllr F. Browne

And resolved following a show of hands

“That the Minutes of Meeting held on 1st December, 2016, are hereby approved.”

Environment

The meeting agreed to deal with dog fouling first and the Mayor welcomed Michael O'Brien to the meeting. He advised the issue was becoming more serious and he had received a number of complaints and had seen the problem for himself. Members advised that the issue was a problem throughout the Municipal District. A discussion took place on the issue of dog fouling. The issue of having Environmental Patrol Officers work in the evenings was discussed with time off given in lieu.

The Mayor asked Ml. O'Brien to address the meeting and he briefed the meeting on the current position. He advised a number of patrols had been carried last summer and that €4,500 had been spent in the last number of years on dog fouling initiatives and staff had been on radio in relation to the matter recently and a number of fines had been issued. He advised that enforcement was a difficult one due to a number of issues including the fact that Environmental Patrol Officers do not have the power to ask for identification. He advised the Environmental Patrol Officer would be on local radio tomorrow. He advised of a campaign to commence in conjunction with the Spring Clean Campaign.

M. O'Brien answered questions from members in relation to dog fouling issues.

Members were of the view that more bins specifically for dog fouling are required and that enforcement must become a high priority.

E. Brophy advised that Ml. O'Brien and he would explore the possibility of the Dog Warden and EPO working together to overcome legal difficulties.

It was agreed to put the matter on the agenda for the March Meeting again. The Mayor thanked Ml. O'Brien for his attendance.

Transportation

Taking in Charge of the Granary Estate, Grange, Killerig.

B. O'Brien advised of the position in relation to this estate and F. O'Neill advised there would be a once off charge to do works to the WWTP and the necessary CCTV inspections. F. O'Neill advised that if the estate is taken in charge, Carlow County Council will remain responsible for the WWTP and services. The taking in charge was

Proposed by J. Pender and

Seconded by Cllr. F. Browne

And unanimously resolved following a show of hands

“That the taking in Charge of The Granary Estate, Grange, Killerig, be recommended to full Council.”

F. O'Neill answered questions from members on general taking-in-charge issues.

The Mayor thanked F. O'Neill for her attendance.

Housing

The Mayor welcomed Josephine Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer, to the meeting and the Mayor asked J. Kavanagh to answer questions from the members on housing issues including Fruithill, Limegrove, 26 houses at Graiguecullen, Japanese knotweed, apartments at Graiguecullen, figures on persons in emergency accommodation and the associated costs, housing income applicants limits having regard to FIS, persons who are just over the income limit for social housing and expressions of interest for turnkey developments.

It was noted by Cllr. Pender that as Chair of the Housing SPC he would be providing clarity on the role of the Councillor in relation to the allocation of Council housing.

Brownhill Cross Roads

The Mayor asked P. Harrington to address the meeting on this issue. P. Harrington advised that he had an allocation of €25,000 for low cost safety at this location for sight-line improvements. He noted there had been six accidents there up to 2013. Members made contributions on the issue. P. Harrington advised the V85 was 61 kph and that he would bring proposals to the Municipal District prior to the works being carried out.

Car Parking Review Carlow Town

The Mayor advised that a review had taken place and that money had been provided in the Budget for 2017. Members were of the view that the public and businesses were happy with the Council's initiative and it was Proposed by Cllr. A. Ahern

Seconded by Cllr. W. Lacey

And following a show of hands the decision to extend the initiative through 2017 was unanimously resolved.

Tullow Street Moving the Project Forward

The Mayor advised that it was important to keep this matter on the agenda and requested an update from the executive. Cllr. Ahern suggested that Council appoint one project leader from within the staff to lead the project.

A discussion took place on the Tullow Street Project. P. Harrington answered questions from members on the Tullow Street issue. He advised that the water main rehabilitation would commence in Quarter 4 of 2017 but would not affect Tullow Street during the Christmas period. He advised that preparatory work is proceeding.

B. O'Brien advised that Tullow Street is the top priority and that a design team would be appointed and consideration would be given by the executive to the appointed of a project team.

Any Other Business

P. Harrington circulated a map of draft proposed roadworks for the future and asked members to consider same and submit any observations to him.

He also asked members to consider the discretionary improvement works proposal submitted.

P. Harrington answered questions from members on the draft proposals.

Cllr. Browne raised an issue in relation to varying the rates payable on vacant properties in the Carlow MD area.

Proposed by Cllr. Browne

Seconded by Cllr. K. Murnane

And unanimously resolved following a show of hands

“That the Council writes to persons concerned advising them that the Council would be considering such a levy which would commence in 2018.”

Cllr. Cassin requested that a list of premises which might be liable to such a charge be provided.

Following a show of hands it was agreed to send a letter to those person who may be affected.

Cllr. Cassin raised an issue in relation to traffic turning right at John Sweeney Park. P. Harrington to review.

Next Meeting on 23rd February, 2017, to be held in Carlow College. Cllr. J. Cassin to confirm to E. Brophy.

P. Harrington replied to Cllr. J. Cassin re traffic accessing Barrack Street from The Fairgreen. P. Harrington advised that a yellow box would be provided and traffic would be allowed to turn right.

It was agreed the Tullow Road Project Team would attend the February meeting.

Next Meeting: 23rd February, 2017, in Carlow College