

**Minutes of Meeting of Carlow Municipal District**  
**held in Town Hall on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 4.30pm.**

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- Present:** Councillor K Murnane, Mayor  
Councillor F. Browne  
Councillor A. Dalton  
Councillor W. Lacey  
Councillor W. Paton  
Councillor J. Pender  
Councillor F. Phelan  
Councillor J. Deane  
Councillor J. Cassin
- In Attendance:** Mr. E Brophy, A/Director of Service  
Mr. M Brennan, A/Director of Service  
Mr. P Lewis, Executive Engineer  
Ms. A Oakes, A/Senior Executive Officer
- Apologies:** Councillor B. O Donoghue  
Mr. P Harrington, Senior Executive Engineer

Mayor Ken Murnane welcomed everyone to the July Meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 were

Proposed by Cllr. W Lacey

Seconded by Cllr. J Deane

and Resolved following a show of hands

“That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 are hereby approved.”

**Approval of Minutes of Annual Meeting**

Approval of Minutes of Annual Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 was

Proposed by Cllr. F Browne

Seconded by Cllr. W Lacey

and Resolved following a show of hands

“That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 are hereby approved.”

Cllr F Phelan requested that a vote of congratulations be extended to the organisers of Summerfest which was held at the weekend and which was a huge success. Mayor Murnane and Cllrs. J Cassin and J Pender also wished to be associated with Cllr Phelan’s comments and particularly mentioned the performance of Derek Ryan following a difficult period with the recent loss of his mother.

## **Transportation**

### **Roads Programme**

P Lewis advised that the surface dressing programme is practically complete.

P Lewis confirmed that the contractor will commence on site next week for the LIS and CIS schemes and advised that one owner approved under the LIS scheme withdrew from the scheme and is seeking reimbursement of money paid. P Lewis noted that this lane was 120m in length and that the next appropriate laneway would be selected from the approved list.

P Lewis stated that works at Saulsford Bridge, Tombeagh, Hacketstown, were now complete.

Cllr F Browne queried commencement date for road marking and P Lewis confirmed that this would commence when all surface dressing works completed.

Cllr J Deane complimented the Council on works on the footpath at Tinryland and referred to a recent litter picking campaign which saw 41 bags of rubbish collected between the motorway junction and Walls Forge. Cllr Deane also understood that a further 54 bags of rubbish was collected on the Kilkenny Road area. Cllr Deane also remarked on the condition of Carlow Town with flowers in bloom and that business owners had their premises looking well.

Cllr F Phelan congratulated the staff in the Roads & Environment Departments for their efforts in relation to litter picking and advised that the message needs to get out there that littering is not acceptable. Cllr J Cassin queried if any fines had issued as a result of the litter picking campaigns and suggested further promotion of litter issues and the costs involved in clean ups which would be better spent elsewhere. Cllr Cassin also suggested a litter prevention campaign to involve takeaways outlets. Cllr Dalton concurred with the previous speakers and advised of issues in Tinryland where dumping is taking place in laneways and that the people responsible should be made to pay. Cllr Lacey commended staff and gave particular mention to Mr. Eugene Walsh who has done a huge amount of work along the River Burrin. Cllr Lacey also referred to 4 shopping trollies currently sitting on the weir of the River Burrin.

Cllr Phelan referred to correspondence received in relation to new arrangements for parking fees while charging electric vehicles and requested that this be examined as it goes against government policy.

Cllr Paton wished to record his thanks to the 14 volunteers in Tullow who collected 1 tonne of rubbish from the River Slaney area and also those who had strimmed the graveyard at The Mullawn. Cllr Paton also referred to the correspondence re the electric vehicles and advised that no fee should be payable if the vehicle is actively charging.

Cllr Cassin queried who was responsible for the banks of the River Burrin which are covered in weeds. Cllr Cassin also stated that other options should be looked at in relation to the electric vehicles.

Cllr Dalton re-iterated that fees should not be payable if vehicles are actively charging but fee is payable once charge is complete. Cllr Dalton also referred to a number of large developments within Carlow which do not have electric vehicle charging units and queried if the council should be asking these developers to provide charging points by imposing planning conditions requiring such provision.

Cllr F Browne referred to email from the Irish Wheelchair Association re proposal to highlight vehicles parking illegally and the problems it causes for wheelchair users. Cllr Browne will forward correspondence to P Lewis. Cllr Browne also highlighted that the costs of litter picking could be better spent perhaps with a litter prevention campaign.

#### **Closing of back lanes at Cois na Coill**

P Lewis detailed the issues regarding the back lanes at Cois na Coill and

It was

Proposed by Cllr W Lacey and

Seconded by Cllr F Phelan

and Resolved following a show of hands

“That the public consultation process in relation to the proposed closing of the back lanes at Cois na Coill be commenced”.

#### **Closing of back lane at Fr. Cullen Terrace, Rathvilly**

P Lewis outlined the reasons for the proposed closure and Cllr W Lacey supported the proposal.

It was

Proposed by Cllr W Paton and

Seconded by Cllr J Pender

and Resolved following a show of hands

“That the public consultation process in relation to the proposed closing of the back lane at Fr. Cullen Terrace, Rathvilly, be commenced”.

#### **Erection of Gates at St. Mary's Park, Carlow.**

E Brophy advised that a gate had been erected at St. Mary's Park but the closure of the right of way did not go through the statutory process. E Brophy confirmed that the residents wish that the lane be closed between 10pm and 8am and as this meets partial extinguishment criteria, it must be done by the public consultation process. Cllr Cassin

supported the residents and again queried the need for public consultation. Cllr Lacey supported the partial extinguishment as it conformed to the wishes of the residents.

It was

Proposed by Cllr J Cassin and

Seconded by Cllr W Lacey

and Resolved following a show of hands

“That the public consultation process in relation to the partial extinguishment of right of way at St. Mary’s Park, Carlow, be commenced”.

Cllr Pender queried who would be responsible for opening and closing the gate and E Brophy advised that a resident of St. Mary’s Park is currently doing so but this could be considered as part of the process. Cllr Cassin queried the timeframe for the process and E Brophy advised that public consultation usually took two months and that the advertisement would be placed in next weeks’ Nationalist.

## **Community**

### **Update Tullow Road Area**

M Brennan referred to the success of the recent Play Day which over 700 people attended. M Brennan advised that departmental sanction had been received for the employment of a Community Development Officer which would be advertised next week. M Brennan confirmed that engagement had taken place with the Department in relation to sourcing funding and that the Council may be able to access funding under the Urban Renewal scheme. M Brennan advised that signage proposals had been received and will be discussed with the Community and will continue to engage with partners in this process. Cllr J Cassin queried the duration of the Community Development Officer sanction and M Brennan advised that it was a twelve month contract post. Cllr Cassin queried the length of time to see meaningful results in the area. Cllr Cassin also referred to costs of €70,000 on Fire Service to extinguish recent fires, some of which were probably arson and queried why grass was not being cut. Cllr Cassin queried the impact on fire service training due to the additional costs of €70,000.00. Cllr Cassin requested the timeframe for works in the Tullow Road Area and also who would be leading the project. Cllr Browne concurred with Cllr Cassin and queried if negotiations with Eire Og had taken place. Cllr Phelan advised that many residents were doing work in the estates supported by TUS workers and should be commended but agreed that the pace of the project was slow and could it be expedited. Cllr Phelan also enquired if there were any plans for playground facilities and for a possible second entrance to the estate. M Brennan refuted Cllr Cassin’s statements and referred to a previous presentation where the short, medium and long term timeframes were given. M Brennan advised that he would be responsible for the project, that he wanted to have something sustainable when complete and ensured Members that the Council was committed to this project. Cllr Murnane queried if the quotation of the Skateboard Park will include the provision of CCTV and M Brennan advised that the infrastructure will be in place as part of the project. Cllr Dalton advised that true community development cannot be rushed but maybe the Council could separate the community building from community development as capacity building can take up to 7 years. Cllr Cassin requested details of application process and timelines for the next meeting. Cllr Paton confirmed that the applications for the urban fund will close on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018. M Brennan advised that a workshop was arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> August

regarding possible proposals. Cllr Dalton and Lacey both commended the work already done and welcomed the sanction for the Community Development Officer.

### **Housing**

M Brennan further updated the Members in relation to the following:

Maryborough Street – he had spoken to the Project Manager and was hoping to have a solution

Lime Grove – discussions ongoing in relation to Slaney Quarter and Tannery Hall and then will move on to Lime Grove

Sleaty Street – on target

Cllr Cassin requested a report in relation to exactly what happened at the Maryborough Street development and the additional costs involved. Cllr Deane queried if there was a legal aspect to the current situation. Cllr Lacey advised that there was a lesson to be learned as apartments were allocated prior to completion and the issue had now caused upset and distress.

Cllr Phelan commended the Housing Department and welcomed the proactive approach in relation to the issues of horses in housing estates.

Cllr Paton queried if it was permissible to park a forty foot vehicle in an estate overnight and it was his opinion that this was not a suitable parking place for a large truck.

Cllr Dalton referred to tenant's entitlement to quiet possession of their property and mentioned a tenancy that houses canaries and 8 roosters in the back garden. E Brophy referred to the prohibition on keeping animals in council houses as per the tenancy agreement and M Brennan confirmed that all new tenancy agreements will include this clause. E Brophy also referred to recourse for a tenant under the noise regulations.

### **Corporate/Planning**

#### **Update re Derelict Sites in Carlow Town and list of CPO's**

E Brophy circulated a list of properties on the Derelict Site Register and highlighted that not all properties were residential. E Brophy advised that the Planning Department had aggressively pursued this issue with levies and by liaising with the Housing Department with a view to acquiring some of the properties and stated that it was hoped to acquire eight of the properties under compulsory purchase order as they had been deemed suitable for social housing. E Brophy further advised that where levies are due on these properties, the monies will be paid at the close of sale. Cllr Murnane pointed out that there were at least 16 houses on the list that could be considered for CPO. Cllr Cassin queried how long the CPO process would take and how much the council had received to date in levies. E Brophy advised he would check in relation to the other residential properties listed and revert. Cllr Deane queried if any of the properties were now owned by the banks and Cllr Lacey welcomed the CPOs but didn't understand why a property on Tullow Street was not included. Cllr Dalton queried when does a site become a derelict site and E Brophy quoted from the act and detailed the process involved. Cllr Paton hoped that property at Pairc Mhuire was included in the eight proposed for CPO. Cllr Pender stated that the Council should also look at some of its own property and referred to condition of council owned lands at Shillelagh Road which is overgrown and attracting

anti-social behaviour and vermin. Cllr Browne welcomed the list of derelict sites and referred to planning advert for Dublin Street. E Brophy reminded Cllr Browne of recent departmental circular and that as this is a live application, it should not be discussed. Cllr Browne queried the position if ownership of a property cannot be determined and E Brophy advised that there is provision in the CPO process that the Council can proceed even if ownership cannot be determined. Cllr Cassin referred to properties on Barrack Street in the ownership of the Council and E Brophy advised that decision would be made in relation to these properties when the Town Plan is completed. Cllr Cassin queried the position in relation to the property at the junction of the Staplestown and Pollerton road and E Brophy advised that this was a sensitive matter.

### **Purchase of land for Car Parking at Bennekerry Church and School**

This item was deferred.

### **Carlow Town Plan Update**

E Brophy advised that he had spoken to K Comerford who was on leave and that a full update would be provided to the Members at a workshop on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018. E Brophy stated that there was no successful candidate in the recently held interviews for the post of Town Co-Ordinator and that a revised post had now been re-advertised and interviews would be held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Cllr Phelan stated that the Members had spent the last 4 years requesting planned investment in Carlow Town and a number of changes need to be made to the proposed plan such as Tullow Street one-way traffic system and pedestrianisation of Potato Market. Cllr Phelan proposed that the draft plan be presented to the Carlow Municipal Meeting prior to going to the Council Meeting and stated that the funding deadline of the end of September 2018 is not feasible.

It was

Proposed by Cllr K Murnane and

Seconded by Cllr F Phelan

and Resolved following a show of hands

“That the proposed Draft Town Plan be presented to the Carlow Municipal Meeting prior to going to the Council Meeting”.

Cllr Cassin advised that the process was taking too long and queried the additional costs involved in the extension of the Town Centre Co-Ordinator position from two years to three years. E Brophy advised that the duration and title of the position were changed to attract a wider field of candidates. Cllr Browne queried if it was possible to break up the town plan and do works in Barrack Street and maybe prioritise other areas. Cllr Browne complimented the works on Tullow Street as they seem to be on target and hoped that the sub layer resurfacing works for October were still on target. Cllr Lacey commended the Council on bringing a non-statutory process to the public for their views and hopefully all changes will be made before the statutory process and formal Part 8 goes out.

### **Any Other Business**

E Brophy advised that An Bord Pleanala had decided that there will be no oral hearing in relation to the Blueway project and of the revised decision date of 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018.

Cllr Cassin queried who was responsible for the condition of the river banks etc now that the Burrin Drainage Scheme had been abolished. E Brophy suggested that the landowners may be responsible but that he would follow up with R Wickham.

Cllr Pender raised the issue of train capacity advising that an 88 year old man had to stand the entire journey from Carlow to Dublin recently and suggested that the Council write to Iarnród Éireann expressing its concerns in relation to additional carriages and carparking at the station and inviting Iarnród Éireann to send a representative to a municipal district meeting. Cllrs Phelan, Deane, Lacey and Browne supported Cllr Pender's suggestion and

It was

Proposed by Cllr J Pender and

Seconded by Cllr A Dalton

and Resolved following a show of hands

"That Mr. Barry Kelly, Iarnród Éireann, be invited to attend the next Municipal District Meeting to address the issue of seating capacity on the trains from Carlow and also the issue of carparking at Carlow Station".

Cllr Browne wished to commend Clifford T Reid on all the works he has undertaken on the River Barrow.

Cllr Lacey wished the Carlow Rose every success in the Rose of Tralee Competition and all Members concurred.

Cllr Dalton referred to the success of recently provided dog foul bin but requested that they be emptied more often. Cllr Phelan advised that some household rubbish was being placed in the dog foul bins and that additional bins were needed around the town. Cllr Phelan referred to bins in Dun Laoghaire which prevent household rubbish being placed in them and could this be examined.

Cllr Pender referred to the presidential election campaign stating that the next County Council Meeting was 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and that this was too late to listen to proposals of candidates and nominate if they so wish. E Brophy advised that this will be discussed with the Cathaoirleach as nominations cannot be made until the Government had made the Presidential Election Order and that a special meeting for candidates to present themselves might be required.

**The meeting concluded at 18.40**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018**