

**Minutes of Meeting of the Carlow Municipal District
held in Town Hall, Carlow, on Thursday 26th November 2020, at 4.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor F. Browne (Mayor)
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor J. Cassin
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor T. O'Neill
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor A. Wallace

In Attendance: Mr. M. Rainey, Director of Service, Corporate Services, HR, Planning, Health & Safety, Security & Economic Development
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Service, Transportation, Environment & Water Services, Building Control & Emergency Services
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office
Ms. J. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer, Housing
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services
Mr. B. O'Donovan, A/Senior Executive Officer, Community, Recreation & Amenity
Mr. C. Brennan, Executive Technician, Transportation
Mr. P. Lewis, Executive Engineer, Transportation
Mr. P. Curran, Facilities Manager, Corporate Services
Ms. M. Hand, Assistant Staff Officer, Human Resources

Mayor F. Browne opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the November Meeting of Carlow Municipal District.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 The Minutes of Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting held on Thursday 22nd October 2020 at 3.30p.m. were; -

Proposed by Cllr. A. Dalton
Seconded by Cllr. T. O'Neill
And agreed following a show of hands.

1.2 The Minutes of Carlow Municipal District Meeting held on Thursday 22nd October 2020 at 4.00p.m. were; -

Proposed by Cllr. A. Dalton
Seconded by Cllr. F. Phelan
And agreed following a show of hands.

2.0 Business Prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members for Transaction at such meeting

Business prescribed by statute, standing orders, or resolutions of the Municipal District Members.

2.1 Draft Supplementary Standing Orders

E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer presented this report. The Carlow Municipal District supplementary Standing Orders allow for remote meetings of the Local Authority and its sub-committees in light of the designation of the Local Authority in the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Section 29) (Local Authorities) (Designation) Order 2020. E. Brophy responded to all questions raised by members.

The Carlow Municipal District supplementary Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the Council in holding remote meetings were: -

Proposed by Cllr. T. O'Neill

Seconded by Cllr. J. Cassin

And agreed following a show of hands.

3.0 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

3.1 Draft Carlow Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-laws 2021

P. O’Gorman, Director of Service presented the Draft Carlow Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-Laws 2021, for consideration. He advised members that a grant in the sum of €200,000 was approved by the National Transport Authority for the upgrade of parking meters which will allow for contactless payment.

The bye-laws were prepared for the control and regulation of the parking of vehicles in parking places on public roads in the Municipal District of Carlow Town. The bye-laws are broken down into seven sections as follows;

- Preliminary
- Use of Parking Places
- Fees for Parking
- Resident’s Parking Discs
- Exemptions from Payment of Parking Fees
- Enforcement and Penalties
- Miscellaneous

Also included is a schedule of drawings.

Approval was sought from members for the Draft Carlow Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-laws 2021 to go on public consultation from 3rd December 2020 to 12th January 2021. Submissions will be accepted until 16.00 hours on Tuesday 26th January 2021. P. O’Gorman responded to questions raised by members.

Approval for the Draft Carlow Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-laws 2021, to go on public consultation were: -

Proposed by Cllr. K. Murnane

Seconded by Cllr. F. Phelan

And agreed following a show of hands.

P. O’Gorman to review the “set down area only” section in the Draft Carlow Parking Control (Pay Parking) Bye-laws 2021.

3.2 Update on Capacity St. Mary's Cemetery Carlow

P. O’Gorman, Director of Service presented this report and advised that the Draft Burial Ground Bye-laws are scheduled to be presented to the next Planning, Environment, Climate & Biodiversity Action, Energy & Agriculture, Strategic Policy Committee. He advised that it is estimated that St. Mary’s Cemetery would not reach full capacity for another three to five years. P. O’Gorman responded to all questions raised by members. P. O’Gorman to investigate the removal of white crosses from the green area in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

3.3 Proposed Development of Site Adjacent to Enterprise House

K. Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise Office presented this report. Carlow County Council propose to develop the “inCarlow Business Development Campus” on the site directly behind Enterprise House on O’Brien Road. A business case has been developed and presented to potential funders who have requested the project be developed further as a funding application for 2021. It is proposed to develop the project in 3 phases. Members view on the proposed development was requested. If approved the full Part 8 will be developed in Qtr1, 2021 for the members consideration. K. Comerford and M. Rainey responded to all questions raised by members.

Approval to bring the proposed development of Site Adjacent to Enterprise House to Part 8 stage were: -

Proposed by Cllr. A. Dalton

Seconded by Cllr. F. Phelan

And agreed following a show of hands.

3.4 Housing Report

J. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer presented this report. The housing report is broken down into the following areas: -

- Current Local Authority Build Projects in Carlow Municipal District – 80 units
- Current Approved Housing Bodies – Build Projects – 221 units
- Developments at Proposal Stage – 5 units
- Properties allocated June to October 2020 – 26 units

Questions raised by members included: -

- Long Term Lease
- Housing Inspections and Re-Inspections - to be included in the monthly housing report as agreed at the November Council Meeting.
- Housing on Staplestown Road
- Vacant Properties

- Affordable Housing/Average cost per build – report on financial analysis to be included on agenda for the next Carlow Municipal District meeting.
- Repair & Lease Scheme
- HAP - levels

J. Kavanagh responded to all questions raised by members.

4.0 Notices of Motion

4.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. A. Wallace

Proposed by Cllr. A. Wallace

Seconded by Cllr. T. O'Neill

AND

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

“That this council writes to the Taoiseach to urge him to resolve the dispute between ex-Debenhams workers, the parent company and the liquidator KPMG. This council notes that the workers have been on strike for over 200 days and as more workers face job-losses due to Covid it is imperative the government do all it can to strengthen labour laws and worker's rights. This council sends its solidarity to these workers.”

4.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. A. Wallace

“This council writes to the Taoiseach to request he revises the government's strategy for tackling Covid-19. The cycle of lockdowns and easing restrictions is damaging to society and people's wellbeing. This council will call on the Taoiseach to instead enact a Zero Covid Strategy that has been successfully implemented in New Zealand and Vietnam, this would require more investment in contact tracing, covid testing, in the health system and in economic protections for workers. It also requires that Covid-19 become a notifiable disease. A notifiable disease is any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities. This would ensure workers safety as workplaces begin to re-open.”

Proposed by Cllr. A. Wallace

Seconded by Cllr. J. Cassin

AND

Following a show of hands, this resulted in two members voting in favour for and five members voting against and motion was defeated.

5.0 Correspondence

Members noted correspondence from the Health Service Executive - regarding the Council's resolution from the October meeting in relation to free transport for St. Luke's General Hospital.

Members noted correspondence from the Department of Health – acknowledging receipt of letter from Carlow County Council, regarding blood tests payments for medical card holders.

6.0 Any Other Business

Carlow Municipal District – Hanover Natural Activity & Bike Park

P. O’Gorman sought approval from members to present a report on the Hanover Natural Activity & Bike Park. This report was not available when the Agenda was issued.

With the approval from members P. O’Gorman, Director of Service, presented a report on the Hanover Natural Activity & Bike Park in the Carlow Municipal District. The report included a comprehensive written plan including photographs and a map of the proposed urban park development. The proposed development will promote a Natural Healthy and Active Life through Bike & Physical Activities with a strong emphasis on Wildlife, Biodiversity and Natural Play areas all within a Urban Town Centre location. The plan also highlights inclusiveness, accessibility and integration. All members welcomed the plan which includes something for everyone of all ages. C. Brennan, Executive Technician and P. O’Gorman, Director of Service responded to all questions raised by members.

Approval for this project to be presented to the Council Meeting in December were: -

Proposed by Cllr. A. Dalton

Seconded by Cllr. T. O’Neill

AND

And agreed following a show of hands.

Issues raised by members under any other business included;

- Skatepark – lighting and graffiti
- Braganza – request for pedestrian crossing
- Duggan Bridge – painting
- Wall at Ashgrove/Woodgrove
- Delay in driving theory tests
- Footpaths at Gaelcholáiste
- Road – Ballinacarrig/Eire Óg
- Limegrove
- Water Services Staff – members acknowledged and thanked the water services staff who worked all weekend to restore water in Carlow Town.
- Extension to Carlow County Library – approval to bring the commencement of the Part VIII process on the proposed extension of Carlow County Library to the January 2021 Council Meeting (if finalised) were: -

Proposed by Cllr. K. Murnane

Seconded by Cllr. F. Phelan

AND

Agreed following a show of hands.

M. Rainey, P. O’Gorman and P. Lewis responded to queries raised by members.

This concluded the business of the meeting.