

**Minutes of January Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in the
Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow,
on Monday 15th January 2024 at 2.00 p.m.**

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

In attendance: Mr. C. O'Reilly, Chief Executive
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Service
Mr. M. Rainey, Director of Service
Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Service
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Ms. F. O'Neill, Acting Director of Services
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Ms. Anita Sweeney, Senior Planner *Remotely*
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer
Mr. N. Dillon, Executive Engineer, Transportation
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Economic Development &
Enterprise *Remotely*
Mr. J. Shorthall, County Librarian *Remotely*
Ms. J. O'Brien, Climate Action Co-ordinator
Mr. R. Wickham, A/Senior Engineer *Remotely*
Ms. N. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Mr. J. McKenna, IS Technical Support Officer
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. J. Woods, Administrative Officer
Ms. S. Corrigan, Staff Officer

Votes of Sympathy

Cllr. Fintan Phelan on the death of his grandfather, Fintan Phelan Hutton Family on the death of Sylvester (Vesty) Hutton, 16 Riverview Chapelstown Gate, Carlow.
Deverill Family on the death of Martha Deverill, 81 St. Clare's Road, Graiguecullen, Carlow.
Howard Family on the death of Very Rev. Brendan J. Howard Carlow Town/Clonegal.
Clare Sturley on the death of John Sturley, Carlow Association London, Islington, London, England.
Clerkin Family on the death of John Clerkin, Haymarket, Carlow.
Margaret Ronan and family on the death of Simon Ronan, 10 Shillelagh Grove, Tullow, Co. Carlow.
John Comerford on the death of Edward Comerford, Royal Oak Road, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.
Barry Family on the death of Kevin Barry, Tombeagh, Hacketstown, Co. Carlow
Kinsella Family on the death of Cormac Kinsella, Sandbrook, Ballon, Co. Carlow.
Barron Family on the death of Declan Barron, Railway Road, Carlow Town.
Lowry Family on the death of Vera Lowry, 4 Sevens Springs, Tullow Road, Carlow.

Votes of Congratulations

St. Leo's College for winning two accolades in the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition.
Tullow Community School for their high commendation in the B. T. Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition.
Tyndall College for winning second place in the junior group at the B.T Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition.
Corman Nolan, Ballon for winning gold for 60m sprint and gold for shot putt in his classification at the Para Athletic Games.
Eire Óg Under 20 A Team who won the Under 20 Championship.
The Exchange Project which has been shortlisted for a LAMA award.
Mr. Walter Coleman on his retirement from Colemans Cycles.
John Shark Hanlon whose horse Hewick who won the King George VI Chase in Kempton.
John Cahill for serving as an elected member for the past six months.

**1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí
Approval of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council
held on Monday 11th December 2023 at 2.00 p.m.**

Proposed by Councillor J. Murphy

Seconded by Councillor T. Kinsella

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed:-

“That the Minutes of the December Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 11th December 2023 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 rúin an Chomhairle

2.1 Audit Committee – Section 60 Report to Council on 2022 Statutory Audit Report

The report from the Audit Committee was discussed in detail. Questions raised by the members were answered by Pat Delaney.

Proposed by Councillor K. Murnane,

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“To approve the Audit Committee – Section 60 Report to Council on the 2022 Statutory Audit Report”.

2.2 Statutory Audit Report 2022

Proposed by Councillor K. Murnane

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed:-

“That we the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Statutory Audit Report 2022”

2.3 Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993; Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended; and Section 59 of the Planning and Development Act, 2010 – Commencement of the public consultation process for taking-in-charge of roads and services at Friars Green, Co. Carlow.

Proposed by Councillor T. O’Neill

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“To approve in accordance Section 11 of Roads Act 1993, Section 180 of Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended, Section 59 of Planning & Development Act 2010 - Commencement of the public consultation process for the Taking-in-Charge of roads and services at Friars Green, Co. Carlow”

2.4 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment Act 2021 (as amended) – Adoption of Carlow Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029

Jannette O’Brien, Climate Officer, shared a detailed presentation on the Action Plan 2024 – 2029 and answered all queries raised by the members.

Proposed by Councillor A. McDonald

Seconded by Councillor K. Murnane and

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed:-

“That the Carlow Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 be adopted”

2.5 Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, Local Government Act 2001, Section 183 (1) Disposal of land as per folio CW18289F 0.0058 hectares at Linkardstown, Carlow

Proposed by Councillor A. McDonald

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran and

Following a show of hands, it was resolved:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve in accordance with Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) the disposal of a plot of land at Linkardstown, Carlow to Mrs. Elizabeth Murphy, Linkardstown, Carlow, 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.

2.6 Local Government Act 2001 as amended (Section 106) and Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 as amended - Raising of a Loan to Fund Local Authority Home Loan Scheme and Housing Loans in General.

Questions raised by the members were answered by Michael Brennan.

Proposed by Councillor W. Quinn

Seconded by Councillor T. Kinsella and

Following a show of hands, it was resolved:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve a loan from the Housing Finance Agency of €10 million for Housing Loan Purposes. The purpose of this amount is to fund the Council’s Local Authority Home Loan

Scheme, and Housing Loan Schemes. The loan facility will be used for the coming years as required based on the level of applications approved and drawdown incrementally. The loan will be financed by way of mortgage loan repayments made on loan issued”.

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

3.1 Approval of Carlow County Council Public & Exterior Lighting Specifications

Executive Engineer, Noel Dillon, gave a verbal presentation on Carlow County Council’s Public & Exterior Lighting Specifications and answered all questions raised by the members.

Proposed by Councillor K Murnane

Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That we the members approve the Carlow County Council’s Public & Exterior Lighting Specifications”.

3.2 Training & Conferences

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor J. McDonald

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve the following training/conferences.”

LAMA – Autumn Seminar

“Climate Action, Sustainable Businesses and Balanced Regional Development”

Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th October 2023

Ard Rí House Hotel, Tuam, Co. Galway

I.P.I Autumn Planning Conference

“Reform, Climate Action and Biodiversity”

Friday 6th October 2023

Tara Suite, Grand Hotel, Malahide, Co. Dublin

Cost: €305.00

Threshold

“Ending Homelessness – Empowering People”

Wednesday 15th November 2023

Buswells Hotel, Molesworth Street, Dublin.

Cost: N/A

Association of Irish Regions – Regions in Focus 2024

“Irish Regions Building Capacity to address the challenges of a changing Ireland”

Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th February 2024

Fitzgerald’s Woodlands House Hotel & Spa, Co. Limerick V94F1P9

Cost – €160

Celtic Conferences

“The Irish Housing Crisis – A Sustainable Option”

Friday 2nd, Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th February 2024

O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

Cost: €130

LAMA – Spring Seminar

“Building for Success”

Friday 19th and Saturday 20th January 2024

Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town.

Cost: €160

4.0 Chief Executives Report /Tuarascáil an Phríomheidhmeannaigh

The Chief Executives Report was noted. Queries raised by the members included Women’s Aid Centre, Town Regeneration, Southern Relief Road, Shirleys corner on the N80, litter on roads, hedge cutting, Improvement Works in Lieu Scheme (IWIL), Courthouse Railings, ebike scheme, Irish Water, Bagenalstown Fire Station, Royal Oak junction, car disturbance in Nurney village, women in politics fund, Bagenalstown by-pass, bridge for Bagenalstown, Tullow outer relief road.

Questions raised by the members were answered by the Management Team.

5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

Members noted resolution passed by Clare County Council calling on the Housing Minister to review the Part V obligations placed on private housing developers and especially the social element and focus the obligation on the development of affordable housing and housing for people with disabilities. The current policy is a barrier to the development of private housing and especially for people in lower income categories that are struggling to secure their own home. Local authorities are best placed to deliver social housing and need to be properly resourced”.

6.0 Notices of Motion/Fógraí Rúin

6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. A. Wallace

"Noting that the latest figures show that the CDNT waiting list for the Carlow area is the third longest list in the country this council agrees to write to the Minister of Health, John McGuinness TD, Jennifer Murnane-O Connor TD, John Paul Phelan TD and Minister Malcolm Noonan to urge the government to tackle the huge waiting list so children with complex medical needs get the care and support they need."

Proposed by Cllr. A. Wallace

Seconded by Cllr. J. Cassin

And agreed following a show of hands.

6.2 - Standing in the name of Cllr. A. Wallace

"Noting that in December 2023, the Garda National Protective Services Bureau said it had received more than 54,000 complaints of domestic violence in 2023, an increase of 8% compared to the previous year, and noting the commitment from Government to prioritise a women's refuge in Carlow, this council will write to the newly established agency, Cuan, that is in charge of delivering refuges, and the Minister of Justice, to call for an immediate and extensive brief on the exact timescale for a refuge in Carlow."

Proposed by Cllr. A. Wallace

Seconded by Cllr. J. Cassin

And agreed following a show of hands.

6.3 - Standing in the name of Cllr. F. Browne

"That Carlow County Council affirms the great work done by sports clubs throughout the country and acknowledges the lack of funding opportunities for sports clubs in non-clár areas in terms of bringing their carparks up to a good standard in terms of drainage, surfacing and Health & Safety compliance. We call on central government to provide such funding opportunities by either expansion of current schemes such as LIS or a new funding scheme."

Proposed by Cllr. F. Browne

Seconded by Cllr. T. O'Neill

And agreed following a show of hands.

Emergency Motion

Motion for purpose of dealing with urgent business (Standing Order No 20)

The Chair advised that under the terms of Standing Order No. 20, the consent of at least nine Members was required to allow the motion to be discussed. Following a show of hands, more than nine Members were in favour of the motion being discussed.

Proposed by Councillor A. Wallace

Seconded by Councillor J. Cassin

“This Council welcomes refugees seeking shelter in Carlow”.

The following amendment was

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan,

“This Council welcomes refugees seeking shelter in Carlow and calls on Government to ensure that real engagement takes place prior to the placement of refugees and that additional services and supports are provided”

The Amended Notice of Motion was

Proposed by Cllr. F Phelan

Seconded by Cllr. M. Doran

And unanimously agreed following a show of hands.

7.0 Any Other Business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach/Aon gnó eile le haontú an Chathaoirligh

Cllr. F. Phelan, as Chair of the Twinning Committee, proposed that the Cathaoirligh of Carlow County Council and Municipal Districts or nominated persons attend the St. Patrick’s Day celebrations in New York with a relevant Council official.

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan

Seconded by Cllr. J. Pender

And agreed following a show of hands.

This concluded the business of the meeting.