

**Minutes of November Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the
Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow
on Monday 11th November, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

- Present: Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin *Remotely*
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor J. Deane
Councillor P. Doogue,
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor C. Murphy
Councillor B. O'Donoghue *Remotely*
Councillor D. Pender
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor F. Phelan *Remotely*
Councillor W. Quinn
Councillor A. Wallace
Councillor B. Ward
- Apologies Councillor A. Gladney
Councillor W. Paton
- In attendance: Mr. C. O'Reilly, Chief Executive
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Services
Mr. M. Rainey, Director of Services
Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Services
Ms. F. O'Neill, Acting Director of
Mr. P. J. Leonard, Acting Director of Finance
Mr. J. Shorthall, County Librarian
Ms. Anita Sweeney, Senior Planner
Ms. N Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. B. Deenihan, Senior Staff Officer
Mr. J. Woods, A/Senior Executive Officer
Ms. C. Healy, Staff Officer
Ms. S. Corrigan, Staff Officer
Mr. K. Cullinane, Senior Engineer *Remotely*
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Economic Development *Remotely*
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer *Remotely*
Mr. C. Madden, A/Senior Executive Engineer *Remotely*
Mr. T. Madden, Acting Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Mr. N. Carroll, Acting Senior Executive Engineer *Remotely*

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Votes of Sympathy

William Paton and family on the death of his father Alec Paton, Mill Street, Tullow.

Glynn Family on the death of Ellen Glynn New Oak Estate, Carlow.

Elizabeth Connolly and family on the death of Seamus Connolly, Carrorea, Tobinstown.

Votes of Congratulations

Bríde de Róiste on winning the RnaG Person of the Year Award at the recent Oireachtas in Killarney for the promotion of the Irish language in Carlow.

Bennekerry/Tinryland Ladies Football Team on winning the Ladies Intermediate Club Leinster Football Final.

Leah Mullins on receiving the “Player of the Match Award” in the Ladies Intermediate Club Leinster Football Final.

Rathvilly Senior Football Team on representing Carlow in the Leinster Senior Club Football Championship.

Dermot Mulligan and staff involved for organising the St Willibrord Biennial Lecture in St Laserian’s Cathedral, Old Leighlin, marking the Feast Day of St Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg.

Martina Walsh and Community Staff for the organisation of the Carlow Farmer Health and Wellbeing day held recently.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

1.1 Approval of Minutes of monthly meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 14th October 2024

Proposed by Cllr. T. Kinsella

Seconded by Cllr. J. Deane

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That the Minutes of the October Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow on Monday, 14th October 2024 at 2.00 pm 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 Planning & Development Act 2000 – Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) – Grant of a 10 year lease on lands contained within Folio CW8470F (3.471 Acres) Castlemore, Tullow.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Pender

Seconded by Cllr. J. Deane

And following a show of hands agreed:-

“To approve in accordance with Planning & Development Act 2000 – Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) – Grant of a 10 year lease on lands contained within Folio CW8470F (3.471 Acres) Castlemore, Tullow to CK United Limited (formerly Carlow Kilkenny Fc Ltd.) for a period of ten years in the sum of €100.00 per annum in accordance with the statutory notice as circulated. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not necessary in this disposal.”

2.2 Planning & Development Act 2000 – Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) – Grant of a 15 year lease on lands contained within Folio CW29146F (0.147 Acres) Old Health Centre, Tullow.

Proposed by Cllr. B. Ward

Seconded by Cllr. J. Pender

And following a show of hands agreed:-

“To approve in accordance with Planning & Development Act 2000 – Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) – Grant of a 15 year lease on lands contained within Folio CW29146F (0.147 Acres) Old Health Centre, Tullow to Tullow Men’s Shed for a period of fifteen years in sum of €100.00 per annum in accordance with the statutory notice as circulated. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not necessary in this disposal.”

2.3 Planning & Development Act 2000 – Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) – Disposal of freehold interest in site and premises at Ballyvergal, Palatine Folio CW32790F (0.364 Hectares)

Proposed by Cllr. A. Dalton

Seconded by Cllr. K. Murnane

And following a show of hands agreed:-

“To approve in accordance with Planning & Development Act 2000 – Section 211, Local Government Act 2001, Section 183 (1) – Disposal of freehold interest in site and premises at Ballyvergal, Palatine Folio CW32790F (0.364 Hectares) to Cian Clancy, 9 Browneshill Court, Browneshill Road, Carlow, in the sum of €225,000 in accordance with the statutory notice and with the terms specified. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not necessary in this disposal.”

2.4 Planning & Development Act 2000 – Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) – Disposal of freehold on land Folio CW21188F (0.087 acres) at Ardattin, Co. Carlow.

Proposed by Cllr. C. Murphy

Seconded by Cllr. B. Ward

And following a show of hands agreed:-

“To approve in accordance with Planning & Development Act 2000 – Section 211, Local Government Act 2001, Section 183 (1) – Disposal of freehold on lands Folio CW21188F (0.087 Acres) at Ardattin to K & L Diocesan Trust (on behalf of Ardattin National School), in the sum of €1,750 plus all associated costs in accordance with the terms of the statutory notice. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not necessary in this disposal.”

2.5 Filling of Vacancy on the Carlow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

M. Brennan briefed the members on two vacancies that have arisen on the Carlow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), following the resignations of Noel Barry and Molly Alsybury. At the Corporate Policy Group meeting held 4th November, it was agreed to bring the filling of vacancies on the Carlow Local Community Development Committee to November Council meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. K. Murnane

Seconded by Cllr. W. Quinn

Following a show of hands, it was agreed

“That we the members of Carlow County Council hereby approve in accordance with Section 128C (3) (b) of the Local Government Act 2001 as inserted by Section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the appointment of Ms. Aisling Dollard, to fill the statutory seat vacancy on the Local Community Development Committee and Mr. Ian Sewell to fill the PPN vacancy on the Local Community Development Committee.”

2.6 Approval of the Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024 – 2029

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan

Seconded by Cllr. A. Wallace

And following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve the Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024 – 2029.”

2.7 Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) Report

Anita Sweeney briefed the members on the Residential Zoned Land Tax Report and answered questions raised by the members.

2.8 Agreed revised dates for the 2025 Budget Meetings

Proposed by Cllr. J. Pender

Seconded by Cllr. A. Wallace

And following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council agree to change the date for holding the Budget Briefing Workshop In Committee at 11.30 a.m. and the Statutory Budget Meeting at 2.00 p.m. to Monday 2nd December 2024. It was further agreed to change the date of the monthly December Council Meeting to Monday 2nd December following the Budget Meeting.

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

3.1 Regeneration Update

Nicola Lawler gave a detailed Regeneration Update presentation. Questions raised by the members were answered.

3.2 Bus Stop Enhancement Programme Update

Orla Barrett updated the members on the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme and answered questions from the members.

3.3 Public Lighting Repairs and Maintenance Update

Orla Barrett updated the members on the Public Lighting Repairs and Maintenance Update and answered questions from the members.

3.4 Training & Conference Approvals

Training/Conferences noted.

4.0 Chief Executives Report/Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

Questions raised by the members included homelessness, housing grants and vacancies, pyrite update, hedge cutting and update on planning enforcement of 25 Dublin Street. Questions raised were answered by C. O'Reilly and the Management Team.

5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

Members noted correspondence from Donegal County Council regarding selective use of extradition procedure against residents of the county and any other part of the 26 counties.

Members noted correspondence from Donegal County Council regarding hedge cutting policy.

Members noted correspondence from Fingal County Council calling on the Minister for Finance to introduce enabling legislation to allow all Councils' to levy a Transient Visitor Tax on overnight stays.

Members noted correspondence from Westmeath County Council calling on the Minister for Education to remove the mandatory aspect of secondary level Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) classes and that the entire SPHE curriculum would be reviewed.

Members noted correspondence from the Department of Transport regarding Speed Limit Review 2023 – Implementation on Rural Local Roads and Urban Roads.

6.0 Notices of Motion/Fógraí Rúin

Standing in the name of Cllr. Adrienne Wallace

"Noting that there are gaps in the way that public bodies provide some services, and some facilities are not easily accessible to those with disabilities. Access Officers will help to systematically work to address these gaps and ensure that future services and facilities comply with national guidelines, standards and legislation, and are fully accessible to everyone.

Additionally, in accordance with section 26(2) of the Disability Act 2005 every public body is legally obliged to have an access officer and with the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights for people with disabilities due to be ratified; increased resources and support for people with disabilities is an urgent necessity.

As such Carlow County Council will move to immediately employ a full-time Access Officer.

A copy of this motion will be sent to every Local Authority in Ireland."

Proposed by Cllr. A Wallace

Seconded by Cllr. W. Quinn

There was a show of hands. The Cathaoirleach then stated that there was confusion in relation to the vote and that there would be a roll call vote due to interventions by Councillors and the lack of clarity on the situation.

Prior to the roll call vote Cllr. A. Dalton proposed an amended motion which was seconded by Cllr J. Pender.

"Noting that there are gaps in the way that public bodies provide some services, and some facilities are not easily accessible to those with disabilities. Access Officers will help to systematically work to address these gaps and ensure that future services and facilities comply with national guidelines, standards and legislation, and are fully accessible to everyone. Additionally, in accordance with section 26(2) of the Disability Act 2005 every public body is legally obliged to have an access officer and with the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights for people with disabilities due to be ratified; increased resources and support for people with disabilities is an urgent necessity. As such Carlow County Council approves in principle to employing a full-time Access Officer and will work towards securing the necessary funding to do the same."

A roll call was taken on the amended Notice of Motion

Member of Carlow County Council	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Fergal Browne	√			
John Cassin				√
Andrea Dalton	√			
Jim Deane		√		
Paul Doogue		√		
Michael Doran	√			
Andy Gladney				√
Thomas Kinsella	√			
Ken Murnane	√			
Charlie Murphy		√		
Brian O'Donoghue		√		
William Paton				√
Daniel Pender	√			
John Pender	√			
Fintan Phelan				√
William Quinn		√		
Adrienne Wallace		√		
Ben Ward	√			

The result was eight For, six Against, and four Absent.

The amended motion was carried.

Standing on the name of Cllr. Paul Doogue

"That Carlow County Council consider if at all possible to put in their plans for all new Council buildings and existing buildings, an area or room, where a parent/ family can come with their autistic child or other disabilities, if they need to speak to any Council member about any matter, eg planning etc."

Proposed by Cllr. P. Doogue

Seconded by Cllr B. Ward

And agreed following a show of hand.

7.0 Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach/Aon gnó eile le haontú an Chathaoirligh

Members wished Michael Rainey all the best as Chief Executive in Laois County Council.

Cllr. F. Browne asked for a push campaign for 'Vote Carlow' in the upcoming General Elections to try and secure two TDs for Carlow.

Members asked that the Chief Executive write to the Returning Officer for the upcoming General Elections calling for the location of the Count Centre for the Carlow- Kilkenny Constituency to be alternated between Carlow and Kilkenny.