

**Minutes of November Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in
the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on
Monday 14th November 2022 at 2.00 p.m.**

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

In attendance: Mr. M. Rainey, Interim Chief Executive
Mr. K. Cullinane, Acting Director of Service – Corporate/HR,
Planning, Health and Safety, Economic Development & LEO
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Services, Transportation,
Environment & Water Services, Building Control and
Emergency Services
Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Services, Community, Housing,
Recreation & Amenity
Ms. F. O'Neill, Acting Director of Services
Mr. R. Wickham, Acting Senior Engineer, Transportation
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of LEO
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services
Mr. Ray Wickham, Acting Senior Engineer
Mr. Tadhg Madden, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Eleanor McDonald, Executive Scientist
Mr. Khaled Elkhofer, Student
Ms. L. O'Callaghan, Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Healy, Staff Officer,

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members.

The Cathaoirleach Brian O'Donoghue asked for a minute's silence to mark the death of Vicky Phelan, cervical cancer campaigner.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Richard & Iwona Butler & Family, 7 The Crescent, Castle Oaks, Dublin Road, Carlow on the death of their son Daniel.
- Margaret Nolan & Family "Mount Close", Leighlin Road, Graiguecullen, Carlow, on the death of Joe (Josser) Nolan
- Jim Phelan, Annacotty, Limerick on the death of his wife Vicky.
- Kelly Family on the death of their mother Catherine Kelly, 58 Burrin Street, Carlow.
- Madge Harvey & Family, 3 College Street, Carlow on the death of her husband Vincent.
- Noel White & Family on the death of his wife, Nessa Delaney.
- O'Connor Family, 26 Cois Abhainn, Burrin Road, Carlow, on the death of Rachel.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- Bennekerry National School on winning the Boys Cumann na mBunscoil Football Division 1 final
- Ballon National School on winning the Girls Cumann na mBunscoil Football Division 1 final
- Grange National School on winning Cumann na mBunscoil Boys Football Division 2A final
- Grange National School on winning the Cumann na mBunscoil Girls Football Division 2A final
- Hacketstown National School on winning the Cumann na mBunscoil Boys Football Division 2B final
- Rathoe National School on winning the Cumann na mBunscoil Girls Football Division 2B final
- Kildavin National School on winning the Cumann na mBunscoil Boys Football Division 3 final

- Scoil Molaise, Old Leighlin, on winning the Cumann na mBunscoil Girls Football Division 3 final
- Newtown - St. Mullins National School on winning the Cumann na mBunscoil Football Division 4 Boys final
- Tidy Towns Groups on their success in the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition
- Lynda Harrington-O'Dwyer, on winning the Netwatch Family Carer of the Year Award for Carlow
- John Shark O'Hanlon on his horse 'Hewick' winning the American Grand National
- William O'Hanlon on 'Born Warrior' winning Irish Greyhound Derby
- Dermot Mulligan and Staff in Carlow Museum on organising The St. Willibrord Biennial Lecture 2022 "From Rath Melsigi to Rome: St. Willibrord's career in its European context" which was held on Monday 7th November in St. Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin.
- Fadi Almasri on opening a pharmacy in Ballon
- St. Mullins Hurling team on winning the Quarter Final in the Leinster Senior Club Championship
- Clonmore on winning the Quarter Final in the Leinster Junior Football Club Championship
- Patrick Kehoe, Ardnehue, Bennekerry Carlow, breeder and owner of World Champion ABC Saving Grace on winning at the FEI WBFSH Jumping World Breeding Championship for Young Horses at Lanaken in Belgium recently.
- Right Reverend Bishop Adrian Wilkinson on his recent appointment as Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill

Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton and

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

'That the Minutes of the October Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 10th October 2022 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 Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1), Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, the disposal of 0.378 Acres (0.153 Hectares) Folio No. CW16465F of land at Raheen, Kildavin.

**Proposed by Councillor C. Murphy
Seconded by Councillor J. Murphy and**

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

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council formally approve the disposal of freehold on land Folio No. CW16465F 0.378 acres at Raheen, Kildavin to Grace Doyle in the sum of €1800 plus all associated costs in accordance with the statutory notice circulated and in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1), Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required for the said disposal.”

2.2 Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1), Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, the disposal of freehold on part premises on land Folio No. CW24442F at Main Street, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.

**Proposed by Councillor A. McDonald
Seconded by Councillor W. Quinn and**

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

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council formally approve the disposal of freehold on part premises on land Folio No. CW24442F at Main Street, Bagenalstown to St. Canice’s Credit Union Limited in the sum of €1.00 plus all associated costs in accordance with the statutory notice circulated and in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1), Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required for the said disposal.”

2.3 Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1), Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, the disposal of freehold on land at Green Road, Carlow.

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill
Seconded by Councillor J. Cassin and

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

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council formally approve the disposal of freehold on land at Green Road, Carlow, to Shaw & Sons Limited in the sum of €2,000 plus all associated costs in accordance with the statutory notice circulated and in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1), Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required for the said disposal.”

2.4 Approval to the attendance of the Cathaoirleach or his Attendee to travel to Luxembourg from 14th December to 16th December 2022, to view the special exhibition "The Luxembourg Story in Focus" which is taking place in Luxembourg City and Echternach.

Proposed by Councillor A. McDonald
Seconded by Councillor M. Doran and

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

“Approval to the attendance of the Cathaoirleach or his Nominee to travel to Luxembourg from 14th December to 16th December 2022, to view the special exhibition "The Luxembourg Story in Focus" which is taking place in Luxembourg City and Echternach.”

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

3.2 First Home Scheme

M. Brennan briefed the meeting on the First Home Scheme. The Scheme was established by the Government in partnership with mortgage lenders to support the purchase of new homes in the private market. M. Brennan advised that this is not a local authority loan, but the Council will publicise it. He advised on eligibility criteria for the scheme and its aim to make home ownership achievable for thousands of individuals and families by bridging the gap for first-time buyers and other eligible homebuyers, between their deposit and mortgage and the price of their new home. It is known as a shared equity scheme whereby homebuyers will enter into a contract with the FHS and receive funds from the Scheme in return for the FHS taking a percentage ownership in the property purchased. The minimum equity share is 2.5% of the

property purchase price, or €10,000, whichever is higher. The property must be a newly built house and be bought as your principal private residence and be within the local authority property price ceiling which is €250,000 in Carlow.

The members raised queries in relation to the lower property price ceiling in Carlow than in other local authorities. M. Brennan stated that this matter had been raised at a meeting held with the Department and they indicated that they would keep this issue under review.

Members raised the following issues which were responded to by the Director

- Does Scheme extend to secondhand homes
- Type of loans currently available
- Incremental Purchase Scheme/AHB
- Fresh Start applicants
- Affordable Housing
- Expansion of Croí Cónaithe Scheme to include rural areas
- Advertisement of Scheme on social media

3.3 Tidy Towns Awards 2022

The elected members congratulated Clonegal on County Winner, Clonegal, Carlow Town and Leighlinbridge on Silver Medal award, Ballon on County Commended Award, Leighlinbridge on Highly Commended Award & Climate Action Award, Bagenalstown on Endeavour Award and all the tidy town committees on their increased marks this year. The members commended all the groups for their hard work and also Team Carlow for their Saturday morning litter clean up in Carlow town. They also thanked the Council for their involvement and assistance with the tidy town committees in their endeavours.

Members expressed concern with the difference between marks for national winners and that of the smaller towns and felt that the smaller towns are falling behind and felt points inflation was an issue.

Members raised issue of increased dumping on the country roads and also a big issue in areas near food outlet premises.

3.4 Carlow Southern Relief Road - Preliminary Business Case "Shortlisting of Options" – Update

P. O’Gorman confirmed that the Department of Transport has now approved the undertaking of a competition to engage specialist technical services to progress the required assessments for the proposed Carlow Southern Relief Road Scheme in order to complete the Preliminary Business Case “Shortlisting of Options”. He advised that there is a lot of work involved. He expects to have the tender documentation completed in Q 1 next year, Evaluation and Recommendation should take 4 – 6 months and it would be hoped to have Consultants appointed next year. He briefed of the four shortlisting options to be considered and advised that the preferred route will then be finalised from the preferred option.

Questions from the members were answered by P. O’Gorman.

3.1 Draft Local Economic & Community Plan 2022- 2027

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Justin Gleeson, People in Place to the meeting. He gave a comprehensive presentation on the Draft Local Economic & Community Plan including timeline of works and the role for Carlow County Council elected members, current Project Works, Socio-Economic Profile, LECP Review and Draft consultation Strategy. He advised that there will be a further meetings/workshops for each of the Municipal Districts.

Questions from the members were answered by Justin Gleeson.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Justin for his presentation

3.5 Access for All at Powerstown Civic Amenity Site - Presentation by Environment Section

T. Madden, Senior Executive Engineer, gave a presentation on Access for All Project at Powerstown Civic Amenity Site.

The members thanked Tadhg for the presentation and commended Tadhg and the Team for the great work and the improved works carried out to allow access for all at Powerstown Civic Amenity Site.

Questions from the members were answered by T. Madden.

3.6 Approval for attendance of Carlow Little Theatre to attend directly in advance of the December Council Meeting to give a Dramatic Presentation as part of the Carlow County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme of the centenary period 1913 – 1923

Proposed by Councillor M. Doran

Seconded by Councillor A. Wallace and

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed

“Approval for attendance of Carlow Little Theatre to attend directly in advance of the December Council Meeting to give a Dramatic Presentation as part of the Carlow County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme of the centenary period 1913 – 1923”

3.7 Approval for the attendance of Professor Veronica Campbell South East Technological University SETU to give a Presentation at the December Council Meeting

Proposed by Councillor M. Doran

Seconded by Councillor A. Wallace and

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed.

“Approval of the attendance of Professor Veronica Campbell South East Technological University SETU to give a Presentation at the December Council Meeting”

3.8 Protocol for dealing with complaints made against elected members

E. Brophy briefed the meeting on the Protocol for dealing with complaints made against elected members. Questions raised by members were answered by E. Brophy.

Proposed by Councillor T. O’Neill

Seconded by Councillor W. Paton and

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed

3.9 Report from Delegation to Tempe

The Cathaoirleach will circulate the Report to the Members.

3.10 Training and Conference Approvals

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill

Seconded by Councillor W. Paton and

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

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

IPB – Insurance Members Engagement Forum

Venue: Athlone, Co. Westmeath. – Attended by Cllr Arthur McDonald

Date: 7th October 2022

Fee: 0.00

Local Area Management Association, Autumn Training Seminar.

Date: 9th & 10th November 2022

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan

Content: Cost of living crisis and Sustainable and Renewal Energy

Fee: €160.00

Irish Council for Social Housing - Capital Assistance Scheme Workshop

Date: 17th November 2022

Venue: Sheraton Hotel Athlone,

Time: 10.30am – 1.30pm

Fee: 0.00

AILG OPR Planning Training (Webinar)

Date: Friday 25th November 2022

Content: The Role of Planning in Protecting Ireland's Water Quality

Time: 10.00am – 11.30am

AILG module 6 (In Person)

AILG Elected Members November 2022 (In-Person) Module 6 – Data Protection – What Councillors need to know. Training scheduled to take place Saturday 19th November at 10 am has been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Time: 9.30am – 12.45

Content: “Data Protection what Councillors need to know”

Date: 26th November 2022

Fee: €70.00

Regional Venues:

Region : Northern & Western and the Eastern Region
Venue: Midlands Newgrange Hotel.
Region: Southern Region
Venue: The Tower Hotel, Waterford.

AILG Webinar 7 (Online)
Time: 10.00am – 11.30am
Date: 26th November 2022 Content:
“The Role of Planning in protecting Ireland’s Water Quality.”
Fee: €0.00

4.0 Chief Executives Report/Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

The Chief Executives Report was discussed. Issues raised by the members included the following:-

Local Bus Service for South Carlow
Bus Stop Leighlinbridge
Halloween Incidents and Fire Call outs
Rolling Register of Electors
Residential Zoned Land Tax

K. Cullinane, Acting Director of Service agreed to hold in In Committee briefing for the members on the Residential Zoned Land Tax.

5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

Members noted correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council in relation to Justice for Noah campaign

Members noted correspondence Donegal County Council to policy of our turn cutting population

Members noted correspondence from Offaly County Council in relation to difficulties faced by emergency medical technicians and issue of the ambulances covering countryside, leaving none available for Offaly and surrounding areas.

Members noted correspondence from Cork County Council calling on EPA to put in place a full suite of end of waste criteria to support the circular economy and climate action.

6.0 Notices of Motion/Fógraí Rúin

6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue and Cllr. Fintan Phelan

"That this Council commence the statutory and public, consultation process, of changing the name of the R448 Kilkenny Road to 'University Road'. This process is to include all of, or, a section of road from the R448 junction with Hanover Road to the Kilkenny Road intersection with the M9 at Powerstown"

E. Brophy and M. Rainey briefed the meeting on the motion and the process involved and answered queries from the members.

Cllr. F. Browne proposed an amendment to the motion to remove last ten words and insert "to the South Campus".

**Proposed by Cllr. F Browne,
Seconded by Cllr. M. Doran and
Agreed following a show of hands**

A vote was then taken on the amended Notice of Motion.

"That this Council commence the statutory and public consultation process of changing the name of the R448 Kilkenny Road to 'University Road'. This process is to include all of, or, a section of road from the R448 junction with Hanover Road to the South Campus"

Following a show of hands the amended Motion was carried.

6.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. Adrienne Wallace

"That this Council writes to the relevant Minister to request a review into reducing the legal age of voting to 16."

**Proposed by Councillor A. Wallace
Seconded by Councillor J. Cassin and
Agreed following a show of hands**

6.3 Standing in the name of Cllr. Adrienne Wallace

"That Carlow Council updates its website to include a section with up to date relevant weather warnings and the contact details of the appropriate departments and/or emergency services to contact to aid with a response."

A roll call vote was taken

Carlow County Council Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Fergal Browne		√		
John Cassin	√			
Andrea Dalton		√		
Michael Doran		√		
Andy Gladney	√			
Thomas Kinsella		√		
Arthur McDonald		√		
John McDonald		√		
Ken Murnane		√		
Charlie Murphy	√			
John Murphy				√
Brian O'Donoghue	√			
Tom O'Neill		√		
William Paton				√
John Pender		√		
Fintan Phelan		√		
William Quinn	√			
Adrienne Wallace	√			

The Motion was defeated.

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

This concluded the business of the meeting