

**Minutes of February Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in the  
Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow,  
on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 2.00 p.m.**

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

**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. K. Cullinane, Senior Engineer *Remotely*  
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer *Remotely*  
Mr. J. Shorthall, County Librarian  
Mr. R. Wickham, A/Senior Engineer  
Ms. N. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*  
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*  
Ms. S. Kearney, Audit Committee Chairperson  
Mr. P. J. Leonard, Financial Accountant.  
K. Farrell, Internal Auditor  
Martha Jane Duggan, Administrative Officer  
Mr. J. Woods, Administrative Officer  
Ms. C. Healy, Staff Officer  
Ms. S. Corrigan, Staff Officer

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. A. Dalton welcome everyone to the meeting.

### **Votes of Sympathy**

Cathaoirleach Cllr. A. Dalton on behalf of herself, elected members and staff extended a vote of sympathy to the families of Michael Kelly, Katie Graham and Daryl Culbert who lost their lives following a tragic road accident.

Jim Mulhall and Family on the death of his wife Lily Mulhall, Castlemore.

Deirdre Amond & Family on the death of her husband, John Amond, Ballygowan.

Breda Doran & Family on the death of her husband, Sean Doran, Mortarstown.

Ger O'Regan & Family on the death of his wife, Betty O'Regan, Bestfield.

Finola Bruton & Family on the death of her husband, John Bruton, Dunboyne.

Ted Brophy & Family on the death of his wife, Bernie Brophy, Rathnapish.

Kirsty O'Sullivan & Family on the death of her Mother, Anne O'Sullivan, JKL Avenue, Carlow.

Sweeney Family, Carrigbán, Bunclody, on the death of their Mother, Maura.

Kehoe Family, Kevin Barry Avenue, Carlow, on the death of their Mother Nancy.

Marie Kehoe & Family on the death of John Kehoe, Leighlinbridge.

Cllr. William Paton advised that he had resigned from the Labour Party and will now be running as Independent in the upcoming local elections.

Cllr. J. McDonald raised issue of road safety measures at Shirley's Bends on N80. He acknowledged the works carried out to date on this project and suggested that TII be invited to visit the site to examine and also look at other dangerous junctions at The Forge, Ballykealy, Kilnock and Kellistown.

Cllr. McDonald raised issue of increased traffic on the N80 and felt the N80 is not fit for purpose. He proposed a submission be made to TII to have a motorway which would link the M9 Motorway at the Rathcroogue Junction with the M11 Motorway at the Scarawalsh Junction.

The elected members raised questions regarding traffic calming measures, speed limits, speed cameras, speed vans, project process and progress update. Questions raised were answered by Coilin O'Reilly and the Management Team.

## **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí**

### **1.1 Approval of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill**

**Seconded by Councillor J. McDonald**

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

“That the Minutes of the January Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 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 - Charter 2024**

P. Delaney presented the Audit Committee Charter 2024 and advised on the purpose of the Audit Committee as having an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters, as part of the governance arrangements that operate within a local authority. The Audit Committee is established by resolution of the Council upon nomination by the Corporate Policy Group who will consult with the Chief Executive. The Audit Committee Charter 2024 outlines the purpose, functions, policies and role of the Audit Committee.

Questions raised by the members were answered by P. Delaney.

The Audit Committee Charter 2023 was:

**Proposed by Councillor K. Murnane**

**Seconded by Councillor W. Paton**

And following a show of hands it was agreed:-

“That we the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Audit Committee Charter 2024”

### **2.2 Audit Committee – Work Program 2024**

P. Delaney, Head of Finance, presented the Audit Committee Work Program 2024. The 2024 Audit Committee Work Program has been prepared in accordance with Carlow County Council’s Audit Committee Charter. The Audit Committee has an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters, as part of the governance arrangements that operate within the local authority.

Cllr W. Paton proposed two additions to the 2024 Work Program as follows - Procurement and Unauthorised Developments. Following a discussion, it was agreed to include a review of the procedure for managing unauthorised development complaints in the 2024 Work Program.

Cllr J Cassin proposed an addition to the 2024 Work Program as follows - Review of Legal Costs. P Delaney advised that a Review of Legal Costs had been included in the 2023 Work Program and a report circulated to members. There was no seconder for Cllr. Cassin's proposal.

The Audit committee Work Program 2024 was:-

**Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill,  
Seconded by Councillor K. Murnane**

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

*"That we the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Audit Committee Work Program 2024."*

### **2.3 Audit Committee- Annual Report 2023**

The Cathaoirleach invited Ms. Susan Kearney, Audit Committee Chairperson to present the Audit Committee Annual Report 2023.

Ms. Susan Kearney presented the Audit Committee Annual Report 2023. Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 provided a legal basis for the existence of Audit Committees. The Audit Committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of Carlow County Council, particularly in the context of increased accountability. Ms. Kearney advised on Activities during 2023 and on the Internal Audit (Summary of Risks). The Audit Committee met five times during 2023. Ms. Kearney acknowledged the full co-operation of the Chief Executive and Staff of the Council and thanked the members of the Audit Committee for their co-operation and assistance.

Questions raised by the members were answered by Susan Kearney and P. Delaney.

The Audit Committee Annual Report 2023 was:-

**Proposed by Councillor K. Murnane  
Seconded by Councillor M. Doran**

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

*"That we the Members of Carlow County Council approve the Audit Committee Annual Report 2023"*.

**2.4 Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) – Grant of 35 years lease on lands contained within Folio CW100F, Former CRISP Centre, Hacketstown.**

**Proposed by Councillor J. Pender**

**Seconded by Councillor J. McDonald**

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“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 grant of 35 years lease on lands contained within Folio CW100F, Former CRISP Centre, Hacketstown to Carlow Community Enterprise Centres CLG in consideration of the sum of €100 per annum in accordance with the terms of the statutory notice already circulated. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage is not required.”

**2.5 Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) – Grant of 10 years lease on lands contained within Folio CW8470F, Former CRISP Centre, Hacketstown.**

**Proposed by Councillor B. O’Donovan,**

**Seconded by Councillor W. Paton,**

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“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 grant of a 10 year lease on lands contained within Folio CW8470F at Castlemore, Tullow to Carlow South Racing Pigeon Club (Plot marked A) and Carlow Kilkenny Fc Ltd. Plot marked B) in consideration of the sum of €100 per annum per lease in accordance with the terms of the statutory notice already circulated. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage is not required.”

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

**3.1 Presentation from Comhairle na nÓg**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Franek Dobronski and Roisin Donohoe Kehoe, Comhairle na nÓg, to the meeting who delivered a comprehensive presentation. They reported on activities and workings of the group over the year which included membership, fourteen three hour in-person meetings, group discussions on roles and responsibilities, researching and developing a project

on discrimination, moviemaking, podcast, training and team building days out. Franek was selected on to the National Youth Advisory Committee and also represented Carlow at a Seanad na nÓg event. Franek and Roisin are members of the National Youth Assembly.

Discussions took place regarding voting age, encouraging and promotion of voting, Integration, Climate Action, Active Travel and use of social media. The elected members advised that the views of the youth are valued and suggested if Comhairle na nÓg wished, they could send in a report every three months to the Council on their suggestions for improvements.

### **3.2 Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act 1999, as amended by Section 58 of the Electoral (Amendment) Act 2001 and Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Act 2012 - Annual Donation Statement**

J. Woods briefed the members on the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act 1999, as amended by Section 58 of the Electoral (Amendment) Act 2001 and Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding Act) Act 2012 – Annual Donation Statement.

### **3.3 Annual Ethics Declarations – Part 15 of Local Government Act 2001.**

J. Woods briefed on the Annual Ethics Declarations – Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001.

### **4.0 Chief Executives Report /Tuarascáil an Phríomheidhmeannaigh**

The Chief Executives Report was noted. Queries raised by the members included Courthouse Railings, Barrack Street works, Irish Water works on Hacketstown Road, Register of Electors, outdoor staff vacancies, hedge cutting and option to make online or paper copy applications for discretionary funding allocations.

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

### **5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras**

Members noted resolution passed by Offaly County Council calling on the government to ensure that state lands where renewable energy projects have been developed cannot be sold and further requested that any state lands to be considered for sale must receive the approval of the Government.

Members noted resolution passed by Offaly County Council requesting that the Government use all its diplomatic influence to mobilise international support for

an immediate and unilateral ceasefire in Gaza and that appropriate Government representative visits all EU Member States mobilising support for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and requested that Government write to American Ambassador requesting their Government stop supplying military arms and equipment to Israel.

Members noted resolution passed by Offaly County Council expressing their abhorrence at the slaughter of women and children in Gaza and request and requested an immediate ceasefire.

Members noted acknowledgement of receipt of letter from Minister for Justice regarding women's refuge in Carlow, which is currently receiving attention.

Members noted resolution passed by Wexford County Council requesting that Ireland should exercise our right as a state party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to refer the actions of Palestine and Israel to the Prosecutor of the court for the purpose of requesting an investigation into any acts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide that have occurred in Gaza over recent months. Wexford County Council re-echoes the call of Dublin local authorities in formally supporting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS) against apartheid Israel, as a peaceful campaign for change and call for the enactment of the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill 2018 and the illegal Israeli Settlements Divestment Bill 2023 as a matter of urgency.

Members noted resolution passed by Sligo County Council calling on Minister for Transport and Bus Éireann to add additional bus services from Dublin Airport to Sligo after 11.15 p.m. at night.

## **6.0 Notices of Motion/Fógraí Rúin**

### **6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. William Paton**

"That this Council mark the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ireland's first Council election in 1899 by:

- A reading of the original 1899 minutes at the April 2024 meeting of Carlow County Council.
- Devise a travelling exhibition from the early years of Carlow County Council in Carlow, Tullow, Bagenalstown and Borris libraries.
- Mirror the exhibition with a "125<sup>th</sup> anniversary" page in The Carlow Nationalist.
- Invite local schools to visit the Council Chamber or Municipal Chambers as space and time allows.
- Propose that the Council's Arts Officer, Heritage Officer and County

Librarian pool their expertise and arrange commemorate publications and artworks as appropriate to focus on the human story of the Elected Members who have served down the past 125 years.”

Cllr. Paton agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Centenary Committee.

### **6.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. Fergal Browne and Cllr. Tom O’Neill**

"That Carlow County Council secure a loan to complete the section of road (circa 800m) from the Wexford Road Roundabout (N80) to the already almost completed road from Éire Óg/ Blackbog Road which has only recently been assigned to Carlow County Council following years of legal dispute."

Cllr. Browne agreed to defer this motion pending meeting with TII.

### **6.3 Standing in the name of Cllr. Adrienne Wallace**

“Carlow Council agrees apartheid Israel is engaged in a genocide in Gaza. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed, including over 10,000 children. Many more have been seriously injured and traumatised, almost 2 million people are displaced and face a catastrophic humanitarian crisis with famine conditions.

Carlow Council commends the mass movement that has erupted across Ireland against the violence in recent months.”

**Proposed by Councillor A. Wallace**

**No Secunder.**

### **6.4 Standing in the name of Cllr. Adrienne Wallace**

Carlow Council notes that Israel's murderous campaign of collective punishment is highly dependent on the military, financial and political support of Joe Biden and the US government in particular.

This Council also notes the Biden Administration has opposed calls for a humanitarian ceasefire, and that Biden has personally bypassed Congress to transfer arms to Israel during the genocidal war that will cause widespread death and suffering in Gaza.

Therefore, this Council will write to the Irish Taoiseach and all political parties, calling on them not to attend St Patrick’s Day celebrations in the White House, nor to meet with President Joe Biden or any representative of his administration as part of the St Patrick’s Day events. Accordingly, members of this Council expected to travel to the U.S. will instead invite Irish American associations with links to Carlow to travel to Carlow to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

A notice of this motion should be sent to every council in Ireland, North and South.”

**Proposed by Councillor A. Wallace**

**No Secunder**



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

Cllr. F. Browne asked if the €3.5m allocated to Carlow County Council under Active Travel was money that was diverted away from completing necessary roads projects such as Eire Óg Road.

Cllr. Paton raised the issue of the €150,000 allocated for Active Travel works for Tullow for years 2021, 2022 and 2023. He stated no works were undertaken and that no submissions were made by Carlow for Tullow for 2024.

This concluded the business of the meeting.