

**Minutes of April Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in the
Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow,
on Monday 15th April 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
Councillor T. O'Neill (*Remotely*)
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
Ms. F. O'Neill, A/Director of Service
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer
Mr. R. Wickham, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise
Mr. T. Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer
Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Heritage Officer
Ms. A. Nolan, Creative Communities Engagement Officer
Ms. M. Moore, A/Senior Executive Officer
Ms. E. O'Rourke, Carlow Tourism
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. J. Woods, Administrative Officer
Ms. S. Corrigan, Staff Officer

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

Votes of Sympathy

Eamonn Brophy & Family on the death of his father, Ted Brophy, Rathnapish.
Elaine & Niamh Shannon and Family, Housing Department on the death of their brother, Fergal Shannon, Barrack Street, Tullow.

Michael Walker & Family, water services on the death of his father Joe Walker, St. Patrick's Avenue Carlow.

Claire Deering & Family on the death of her husband Patrick Deering, Ballybit, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow.

Phil Heenan on the death of her husband Don Heenan, Williamstown, Rathvilly.

Rita Kearney & Family on the death of her husband Denis, Kilconnor, Fenagh.

Anne Brophy & Family on the death of her mother Clare Hendricken, Grangeford, Bennekerry.

John Dowling & Family on the death of his wife Frances Dowling, 8 Ballon Hill.

Gill Murphy & Family on the death of her husband Jim Murphy, Ballyloo.

Votes of Congratulations

Willie Mullins on his recent success in The Aintree Grand National with "I Am Maximus".

Pat Delaney on his upcoming retirement as Director of Finance from Carlow County Council.

Bríd De Róiste and team on the success of the Pan Celtic Festival 2024.

Mary Stratton Ryan on her recent book launch.

Under 14 Girls GAA Team who beat Dublin in the semi-final of the Leinster Platinum.

The Ladies GAA team who won the Lidl National League.

Tullow Rugby Club on getting into the Towns Cup Final on Sunday the 21st April 2024.

Hanover Harps FC – the three teams that competed in the Barcelona Cup representing their Club, County and Country with great distinction. In particular congratulations to the U13 team who won their final.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

1.1 Approval of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 11th March 2024 at 2.00 p.m.

Proposed by Councillor J. Murphy

Seconded by Councillor F. Phelan

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

“That the Minutes of the March Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 11th March 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 Approval 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 - Taking in charge of roads and services at De Lacey Abbey, Rathvilly (Phase 2)

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor B. O'Donovan

And following a show of hands it was agreed:-

“That we the Members of Carlow County Council approve in accordance with Section 11 of Roads Act 1993, Section 180 of Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended, Section 59 of Planning & Development Act 2010 - Taking in charge of roads and services at De Lacey Abbey, Rathvilly (Phase 2)”.

2.2 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 Cois Dara, Tullow Road, Carlow (Phase 1) (Units 1 - 93)

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne

Seconded by Councillor J. Cassin

And following a show of hands it was agreed:-

“That we the Members of Carlow County Council approve in accordance with 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 Cois Dara, Tullow Road, Carlow (Phase 1) (Units 1 - 93)”.

2.3 Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), Local Government Act 2001 Section 183(1) - Disposal of 22.42 Acres Killeshin Reservoir Site, Keelogue in the Barony of Slievemargy, County Laois.

The members discussed this matter.

Proposed by Councillor J. McDonald

Seconded by Councillor J. Cassin

And following a show of hands

“To defer this item to the May Council Meeting.”

2.4 Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, Planning & Development Regulations 2001, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) - Lease of 3.28 acres at Paupish Lane, Carlow.

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne

Seconded by Councillor J. Cassin

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

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve in accordance with The Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, Planning & Development Regulations 2001, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) – the lease for a 35 year period of 3.28 acres contained within folio 9031F at Paupish Lane, Burrin Road, Carlow to New Oak Football Club 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 and Heritage is not necessary in this disposal.

2.5 Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) - Disposal of 0.0436 Hectares (registered under Folio CW11065F) of land at Ballytarsna.

Proposed by Councillor J. McDonald

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran

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

“To approve in accordance with The Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) - Disposal of 0.0436 Hectares (registered under Folio CW11065F) of land at Ballytarsna to Eddie and Tremayne Horkan, Ballytarsna, in consideration of the sum of €1,000 plus costs in accordance with the statutory notice already circulated. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not necessary in this disposal.”

2.6 Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) - Grant of a 6 year Lease of 0.147 Acres contained within CW29146F - Old Health Centre, Tullow.

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor W. Paton

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

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve in accordance with The Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) - Grant of a 6 year Lease of 0.147 Acres contained within CW29146F - Old Health Centre, Tullow to Tullow Men’s Shed 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 and Heritage is not necessary in this disposal.”

2.7 Approval to hold a Special Meeting of the Council at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 23rd April 2024 for the formal consideration of the Draft Carlow-Graiguecullen Joint Urban Local Area Plan 2024 - 2030 (JULAP) and the report of the Chief Executive on the submission received during the public consultation period and to make or amend the Draft Plan in accordance with Section 20 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan

Seconded by Councillor K. Murnane

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

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve to hold a Special Meeting of the Council at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 23rd April 2024 for the formal consideration of the Draft Carlow-Graiguecullen Joint Urban Local Area Plan 2024 - 2030 (JULAP) and the report of the Chief Executive on the submission received during the public consultation period and to make or amend the Draft Plan in accordance with Section 20 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)”.

2.8 Approval of Draft Annual Report 2023 in accordance with Section 221 (a) Local Government Act 2001

Proposed by Councillor W. Quinn

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

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

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve in accordance with Section 221 (a) Local Government Act 2001 – the Draft Annual Report 2023”.

2.9 Approval of Annual Financial Statement 2023 - to approve expenditure pursuant to Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001 and the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014.

SERV	SERVICE	BUDGET 2023	OUTTURN 2023	BUDGET V OUTTURN 2023	DETAILS
A01	MAINTENANCE OF LA HOUSING UNITS	3,375,892	4,204,456	828,565	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
A05	ADMINISTRATION OF HOMELESS SERVICE	1,049,559	1,239,817	190,257	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
A06	SUPPORT TO HOUSING CAPITAL PROG.	1,624,560	1,721,873	97,313	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
A07	RAS AND LEASING PROGRAMME	11,332,230	11,628,606	296,376	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
A08	HOUSING LOANS ADMIN	638,202	764,597	126,395	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
A09	HOUSING GRANTS ADMIN	531,362	539,157	7,795	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
B04	LOCAL ROAD - MAINTENANCE AND IMP	8,108,566	9,419,439	1,310,873	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
B06	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	163,906	165,316	1,410	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
B07	ROAD SAFETY ENGINEERING IMP	261,169	275,479	14,310	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
B10	SUPPORT TO ROADS CAPITAL PROG	219,494	219,942	448	OFFSET - SAVINGS IN OTHER SERVS
C07	AGENCY & RECOUPABLE SERVICES	50,000	55,132	5,132	OFFSET - SAVINGS IN OTHER SERVS
D01	FORWARD PLANNING	280,053	288,361	8,308	OFFSET - SAVINGS IN OTHER SERVS
D02	DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	1,659,593	1,682,737	23,144	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
D03	ENFORCEMENT	482,282	484,250	1,968	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
D05	TOURISM DEVELOPMENT	125,150	125,161	11	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
D06	COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE	1,217,450	2,419,024	1,201,574	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
D07	UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES	173,117	173,334	217	OFFSET - SAVINGS IN OTHER SERVS
D09	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	2,714,172	3,689,722	975,551	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
E01	LANDFILL OPERATIONS & AFTERCARE	333,096	333,511	415	OFFSET - SAVINGS IN OTHER SERVS
E06	STREET CLEANING	1,048,317	1,049,104	787	OFFSET - SAVINGS IN OTHER SERVS
E07	WASTE REGULATIONS	428,953	449,424	20,472	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
E11	OPERATION OF FIRE SERVICE	3,411,337	3,867,979	456,642	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
E12	FIRE PREVENTION	98,652	105,836	7,184	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
F01	LEISURE FACILITIES OPERATIONS	108,000	109,616	1,616	OFFSET - SAVINGS IN OTHER SERVS
G01	LAND DRAINAGE COSTS	31,062	31,427	365	OFFSET - SAVINGS IN OTHER SERVS
G04	VETERINARY SERVICE	235,410	265,840	30,430	OFFSET - SAVINGS IN OTHER SERVS
H11	AGENCY & RECOUPABLE SERVICES	333,000	866,773	533,773	ADDITIONAL FUNDING / OFFSET
		40,034,584	46,175,913	6,141,329	

**Proposed by Councillor K. Murnane
Seconded by Councillor W. Paton
AND**

Following a show of hands, it was resolved: -

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Local Government (Reform) Act 2014 expenditure in excess of the 2023 Budget per the schedule and note that the expenditure was funded by additional receipts, grants/recoupments or savings in other services.

2.10 Approval of Arts Grants 2024

Proposed by Councillor M. Doran

Seconded by Councillor J. Pender

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

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve the Arts Grants 2024”

2.11 To approve the Draft Carlow Heritage Plan 2024-2029.

Cllr. J. Murphy thanked Mr. E O’Sullivan on his work achieved since starting in Carlow Co. Council

Proposed by Councillor J. Murphy

Seconded by Councillor J. McDonald

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

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve the Draft Carlow Heritage Plan 2024 - 2029”.

2.12 To Approve Carlow County Council Draft Flag Policy

Proposed by Councillor B. O’Donoghue

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

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

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve Carlow County Council Draft Flag Policy”.

2.13 Invitation to Echternach Luxembourg for the St Willibrord Procession May 21st 2024.

The members requested that all costings be circulated before the trip.

Proposed by Councillor M. Doran

Seconded by Councillor J. Pender

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

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve travel for Councillor A. Dalton and Councillor J. Murphy to Echternach Luxembourg for the St Willibrord Procession on 21st May 2024”.

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

3.1 Carlow Tourism Presentation

Ms. E. O'Rourke presented to the members on Carlow Tourism and answered any questioned raised.

The members thanked Ms. O'Rourke for her presentation and paid tribute to Ms. O'Rourke and her team on the dedication to Carlow Tourism over the years.

3.2 Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2023

Ms. M. Moore presented the Annual Report to the members and answered questions raised.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Moore and the members noted the Community Development Committee Annual Report 2023.

3.3 Taking in Charge Programme 2024

Mr. T. Madden presented to the members of the Taking in Charge Programme 2024. Questions raised by the members included lack of fencing at Roseberry Hill Estate, Gort Na Greine, wastewater in Bagenalstown, treatment plant in Leighlinbridge. Mr. T Madden answered queries raised.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Madden for his comprehensive report.

3.4 LEO – 10 Year Impact Report

Mr. K. Commerford presented the LEO – 10 Year Impact report and answered any queries raised.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Comerford for his presentation.

3.5 Report on New York Visit for St. Patrick's Day 2024

The Cathaoirleach presented her report on the St. Patrick's Day trip to new York and advised the members that the New York Carlow Association were invited to the opening of the new playground in St. Laserian's Special School due to their donation of funding for the equipment.

3.6 Local elections 2024 – Issuing of Polling Cards

Mr. E. Brophy advised the members as follows:

A person may nominate himself/herself as a candidate or may, with his/her consent, be nominated by a proposer who is registered as a local government elector in the local electoral area of the local authority for which he/she proposes to nominate the candidate.

A nomination paper from a candidate of a registered political party must have a certificate of political affiliation attached which must be produced with his/her completed nomination paper.

If no certificate is attached, the candidate must, before the latest time for receiving nominations, either-

- secure 15 assents to the nomination by way of statutory declarations by local government electors registered in the relevant local electoral area (forms available from me or the registration authority), or
 - make a deposit of €100 (deposit may also be made on the candidate's behalf).
- The latest time for receiving nominations is **12 p.m. on Saturday, 18th May 2024.**
 - Completed nomination papers may be delivered to Mr. E. Brophy in person by the candidate or his/her proposer at any time when he is at his office, from **10am Saturday, 11th May 2024, until 12.00 p.m. on the last day for receiving nominations.**
 - Mr. Brophy is required by law to attend to receive nominations between **10 a.m. and 12 p.m. and between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Friday, 17th May 2024 and between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Saturday, 18th May 2024.**

Members were advised to encourage the public to check the register to make sure that they are on the Register of Electors.

4.0 Chief Executives Report /Tuarascáil an Phríomheidhmeannaigh

The Chief Executives Report was noted. Queries raised by the members included Community Recognition fund and Ballon Community Centre, playground in Ballon, pyrite, courthouse railings, bends and signs on N80, wall into Bagenalstown, cemetery in Bagenalstown and policy on graves and Leagh bends.

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

5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

Members noted resolution passed by Clare County Council requesting implementing a policy change to allow participants in Community Employment Schemes, Rural Social Schemes and Tús Programmes to continue their contributions to the age of 70.

Members noted resolution passed by Westmeath County Council regarding support for IFA “*enough is enough*” campaign.

6.0 Notices of Motion/Fógraí Rúin

6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. J. Cassin.

“Carlow County Council as a matter of urgency write to the Regional Manager and Chief Executive of the IDA and invite them to attend the May County Council meeting to address the following matters:

1. Firstly to give the elected members an update on the IDA building on the Dublin Road Carlow
2. To provide an update on the data for Carlow to include statistics on visits from potential companies that can create jobs in Carlow
3. To provide details of the number of IDA supported jobs created in Carlow over the last 5 years
4. To advise of plans for Carlow over the next 5 years and beyond and to advise if a strategic plan for Carlow has been developed”.

**Proposed by Cllr. J. Cassin,
Seconded by Cllr. A. Wallace**

And agreed following a show of hands.

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

"Noting the lack of school spaces for children with special needs this council will write to the Department of Education to ask the Minister to review the School Admission Bill 2018. This council will also ask the Minister to detail how many additional special classes and SNAs will be employed in Carlow ahead of the next school year and whether these resources will address the long waiting lists locally."

**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. W. Paton.

Noting that there is neither a petrol station or shop in villages such as Kildavin, Clonegal, Tinryland, Tynock and many other villages in rural County Carlow, "That this Council calls on Transport for Ireland to examine the possibility of providing daily bus services from the county's smaller villages to larger towns such as Carlow, Bagenalstown and Tullow. We further call on Transport for Ireland to extend the Carlow Town bus service to the Tinryland Circle K Service Station and into Tinryland Village."

There is much concern in the villages about isolation and the lack of availability of retail services. Older people who do not drive or who have given up driving are totally dependent on the kindness of family and neighbours and often feel guilty that they have to ask family to leave work to assist them to travel to medical appointments etc.

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton,

Seconded by Councillor J. Cassin

And agreed following a show of hands.

6.3 Standing in the name of Cllr. W. Paton.

"Noting that a proposal has been received by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for permission to use a property on Bridge Street, Tullow as accommodation for International Protection Arrivals; Noting that the granting of this proposal would lead to a total of four IPA accommodation centres with at least 100 refugees in Tullow town centre within a stretch of 150 metres of each other; Noting that there are no facilities and support services such as English lessons, counselling and vocational training required to allow the refugees to fully integrate into Irish society; Noting that the Department of Rural and Community Development spent €100,000 in 2023 developing a Town Centre Plan for Tullow and the fact if several buildings in the town centre are to become refugee centres rendering them unusable as commercial and retail properties - how is the town centre to be regenerated! That this Council writes to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth opposing this application for change of use from retail to accommodation for International Protection Arrivals."

The following amendment was

Proposed by Cllr. F Phelan,

Seconded by Cllr. B. O'Donoghue

and agreed following a show of hands

“Noting that a proposal has been received by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for permission to use a property on Bridge Street, Tullow as accommodation for International Protection Arrivals;

Noting that the granting of this proposal would lead to a total of four IPA accommodation centres with at least 100 refugees in Tullow town centre within a stretch of 150 metres of each other;

Noting that there *needs to be more* facilities and support services such as English lessons, counselling and vocational training required to allow the refugees to fully integrate into Irish society.

Noting that the Department of Rural and Community Development spent €100,000 in 2023 developing a Town Centre Plan for Tullow and the fact if several buildings in the town centre are to become refugee centres rendering them unusable as commercial and retail properties.

That this Council writes to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth asking them to conduct a mapping exercise so that there is not an over concentration of refugee centres in any particular area and provide additional services and calls on the Department to urgently meet with the members of the Tullow MD before any decision is made on an application.”

The amended Notice of Motion was

Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan,

Seconded by Councillor B. O’Donoghue

And agreed following a show of hands.

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

The members acknowledged the contribution that refugees are making in the community.

This concluded the business of the meeting.