

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Carlow County Council
held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Athy Road, Carlow,
on Monday 16th June 2025 at 4.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor F. Browne (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor J. Deane
Councillor P. Doogue
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor A. Gladney
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor B. O'Donoghue
Councillor W. Paton
Councillor D. Pender
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor B. Ward

Guests: Family of Cllr. K. Murnane
Family of Cllr. D. Pender

In attendance: Mr. C. O'Reilly, Chief Executive
Mr. K. Cullinane, A/Director of Services
Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Services
Ms. F. O'Neill, Acting Director of Services
Mr. P. J. Leonard, Director of Finance
Ms. F. Byrne, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. M. Griffin, Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Healy, Staff Officer
Ms. A. Sweeney, Senior Planner
Ms. L. Byrne, Assistant Staff Officer
Mr. L. Carroll, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Mr N. Carroll, A/Senior Executive Engineer *Remotely*
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Mr. J. Shortall, County Librarian *Remotely*
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise *Remotely*
Mr. T. Madden, Acting Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Mr. C. Madden, A/Senior Executive Engineer *Remotely*
Ms. J. O'Brien, Climate Action Coordinator *Remotely*

Cathaoirleach F. Browne welcomed all present to the Annual Meeting of Carlow County Council.

Cllr. Browne then made a presentation to Michael O'Rourke, Photographer, for his work and endeavours over the past thirty years to Carlow.

Cllr. Browne thanked all the members for their support over the last year and praised the new members who settled in so well. He thanked the Chief Executive, Directors of Service and all the staff in Carlow County Council. He spoke about how busy his year as Cathaoirleach was in comparison to ten years ago which reflects the additional funding and work being done by the local authority.

He thanked his wife Breeda, daughter Maeve and son Fionn, for their support over the year, he thanked his work colleagues in St. Joseph's National School who supported him in his role as Cathaoirleach. He acknowledged in particular, the Leas Cathaoirleach Tommy Kinsella, who was a great help to him during the year.

A particular highlight for him was the election of Catherine Callaghan as a TD in November 2024. He spoke about the year and in particular Carlow town winning Gold Medal in the Entente Florale, Bennekerry-Tinryland Ladies winning an All - Ireland football title, sod turning on the Tullow Road Community Hub, plenty of good news and progress made on various projects.

He said he looked forward to turning his attention to outstanding projects such as the re-opening of Ballinakelly Woods, development of facilities at Brownshill Dolmen and progressing the new building for Holy Angels at Kelvin Grove.

He thanked the local media for their assistance during the year. He paid particular tribute to Suzanne Pender who is leaving the Nationalist and wished her well in her future endeavours.

C. O'Reilly, Chief Executive, thanked Fergal for his hard work throughout the year. He wished Fergal well in the future.

The Chief Executive presented Fergal with a Photograph to mark his year in office.

The elected members thanked Fergal for his hard work and commitment and wished him well in the future.

1.0 Election of Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach called for proposals for Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Ken Murnane was:
Proposed by Councillor by F. Phelan
Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

A roll call was taken:

<i>Member of Carlow County Council</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
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 13 For, 5 Absent.
Cllr. Ken Murnane was elected Cathaoirleach.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. F. Browne presented Councillor K. Murnane with the Chain of Office.

Cllr. Ken Murnane took the Chair.

The Cathaoirleach said it was an honour for him to be elected Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council. He thanked his proposer and seconder. He said the future of Carlow is bright and he looks forward to progress on the URDF project and provision of a hospital for Carlow. He is looking forward to working with the Council and Carlow's two TD's for a better Carlow.

He thanked his wife and family for their support.

The elected members and executive congratulated and extended best wishes to Cllr. K. Murnane for the year ahead.

2.0 Election of Leas Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach called for proposals for Leas Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Daniel Pender was:

Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan

Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

A roll call was taken:

<i>Member of Carlow County Council</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
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 13 For, 5 Absent.

Cllr. Daniel Pender was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

The outgoing Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. T. Kinsella presented Councillor D. Pender with the Chain of Office.

The elected members and executive congratulated and extended best wishes to Cllr. Pender for the year ahead.

3.0 Dates of Council Meetings

Members had for consideration suggested dates for Meetings for the ensuing months.

Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan

Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

And following a show of hands, it was unanimously resolved: -

That the proposed dates for Council Meetings for the ensuing months to the next Annual Meeting are agreed as follows.

2025	July	-	14th
	September	-	8th
	October	-	13th
	November	-	10th
	December	-	8th
2026	January	-	12th
	February	-	9th
	March	-	9th
	April	-	13th
	May	-	11th
	June & Annual	-	8th

This concluded the business of the meeting.