

**Minutes of December Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the
Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow
on Monday 8th December 2025 at 2.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor K. Murnane, Cathaoirleach
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin
Councillor A. Dalton *Remotely*
Councillor J. Deane
Councillor P. Doogue
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor A. Gladney
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor C. Murphy
Councillor B. O'Donoghue *Remotely*
Councillor W. Paton *Remotely*
Councillor D. Pender
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor A. Wallace
Councillor B. Ward

Apologies: Councillor W. Quinn

In attendance: Mr. C. O'Reilly, Chief Executive
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Service
Ms. P. O'Brien, Director of Service
Mr. P. J. Leonard, Director of Finance
Ms. F. O'Neill, A/Director of Service
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise *Remotely*
Ms. F. Byrne, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. M. Griffin, Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Healy, Staff Officer
Ms. A. Sweeney, Senior Planner *Remotely*
Mr. L. Carroll, Senior Executive Officer, *Remotely*
Mr. N. Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer *Remotely*
Mr. T. Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Mr. B. Knowles, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting.

P. O'Gorman advised that An Garda Síochána wished to honour Mr. Padraig Cahill with a Good Citizen Award on his retirement as Civil Defence Officer.

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan,

Seconded by Cllr. B. Ward,

And agreed following a show of hands

"To suspend Standing Order to make the presentation to Padraig Cahill."

Superintendent Anthony Farrell paid tribute to Padraig on 37 years of dedication, support, and close cooperation with An Garda Síochána. He highlighted Padraig's invaluable role in some of the most challenging situations, noting that both he and the Civil Defence team consistently upheld the highest standards in their work. He commended their efforts in river searches, caring for vulnerable members of the community, hospital transfers, and the delivery of food and medicines during emergencies. He described Padraig as diligent, hardworking, and always cooperative with the Gardaí in every circumstance.

To mark the occasion, Superintendent Farrell presented Padraig with a Good Citizen Award in demonstrating outstanding service to the people of County Carlow through leadership of the Civil Defence.

In response, Padraig reflected on the privilege of serving as Civil Defence Officer. He emphasised the vital contribution of the volunteers who make the organisation what it is, and he extended his heartfelt best wishes to all for the future.

The meeting resumed.

Votes of Congratulations

Patricia Mulcahy on her upcoming retirement from SETU.

Community Section on the organisation of the Pride of Place Awards

Participants in the Tullow Area School Completion Programme on winning a Child and Youth Participation Award.

Finn Brophy on winning the 2025 Beko Club Champion Award for his outstanding contribution to Palatine GAA Club in Croke Park recently.

Sean Swan on being honoured recently in Croke Park for his support to sport in Carlow over the years.

Spotlight Stage School on their participation on the Late Late Toy Show.

Mrs. Eileen O'Leary, Montgomery Street, Carlow on recently celebrating her 100th birthday.

Patsy & Helen Whelan, Carlow Cabs, on celebrating 40 years in business.
St. Leo's College Students on receipt of the Community Safety Award for the Carlow/Kilkenny division at the Garda National Youth Awards held recently for their "Phoneless Phobia" project.

Pat Breen on receipt of an Individual Award at the Pride of Place Awards Ceremony held recently.

Tom Byrne Auctioneers, Dublin Street, Carlow, on celebrating 60 years in business

Adelaine Dargan, Dargan School of Irish Dance on celebrating 25 years in business.

Fighting Cocks Football Club on reaching their first Leinster Junior Football Final and extended best wishes in the competition.

Votes of Sympathy

Savage Family on the death of Martin, Tullow, Co. Carlow.

Fitzpatrick Family on the death of Paul, Killenane Lane, Bagenalstown.

Pat Murphy and family on the death of his wife Maura, Ratheadon, Bagenalstown.

O'Connor Family on the death of Peter O'Connor, New Oak Estate, Carlow.

Dunphy Family on the death of William (Billy) Dunphy, Rathnaphish, Carlow.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairisci

(i) Approval of Minutes of monthly meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday, 10th November 2025

Proposed by Cllr. B Ward,

Seconded by Cllr. T. Kinsella,

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

"That the Minutes of the monthly meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 10th November 2025 at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed".

(ii) Approval of Minutes of Statutory Budget Meeting 2026 held on Thursday 20th November 2026

**Proposed by Cllr. F. Browne,
Seconded by Cllr. P. Doogue,**

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That the Minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting 2026 of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber on Thursday 20th November 2025 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 Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and Section 138 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)
Proposed extension of Our Lady of the Assumption Cemetery, Bagenalstown/Muine Bheag, Co. Carlow.**

**Proposed by Cllr. T. Kinsella,
Seconded by Cllr. A. Gladney,**

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council hereby approve in accordance with Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and Section 138 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), the extension of Our Lady of the Assumption Cemetery, Bagenalstown/Muine Bheag, Co. Carlow be proceeded with in accordance with the plans and particulars placed on public display and to any such minor and immaterial alterations to these plans and particulars and subject to the conditions as set out.

2.2 Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 - Section 183 (1) - Disposal of Plot and Substation (No. 2934635) at Mountain View, Hacketstown, Co. Carlow, 0.001 acres being part of land registered under Folio No. CW4224F

**Proposed by Cllr. J. Pender,
Seconded by Cllr. B. O'Donoghue,**

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council hereby approve in accordance with Planning & Development Act 2000, Section 211, Local Government Act 2001, Section 183 (1) the disposal of Plot and Substation (No. 2934635) at Mountain View, Hacketstown, Co. Carlow, 0.001 acres being part of land registered under Folio No. CW4224F to ESB Networks, 27 Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2, D02KT92 in consideration of the sum of €1.00 (Nominal Sum) 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 Plot and Substation (No. 2934513) at Fr. Flood Avenue, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow, 0.001 acres being part of land registered under Folio No. CW27171F

Proposed by Cllr. J. Pender,

Seconded by Cllr. B. O'Donoghue,

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council hereby approve in accordance with Planning & Development Act 2000, Section 211, Local Government Act 2001, Section 183 (1) the disposal of Plot and Substation (No. 2934513) at Fr. Flood Avenue, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow, 0.001 acres being part of land registered under Folio No. CW27171F to ESB Networks, 27 Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2, D02KT92 in consideration of the sum of €1.00 (Nominal Sum) 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.”

2.4 Approval of Festival and Event 2026 Plan

K. Comerford briefed on the Festival and Event 2026 Plan and answered questions raised by the members.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Cassin,

Seconded by Cllr. F. Phelan,

Following a show of hands,

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve the Festival and Event 2026 Plan

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

3.1 N80 Leagh Bends Realignment Scheme Update.

P. O'Gorman gave an Update on the N80 Leagh Bends Realignment Scheme and answered questions raised.

3.3 Training and Conference Approvals

Proposed by A. Gladney,

Seconded by M. Doran,

And agreed following a show of hands.

4.0 Chief Executives Report

The elected members raised questions relating to issues with public lighting, housing applications, housing grants and funding, presidential visit to Carlow and protocol regarding invitations, issue with lights at motorway exit, property marker purchase, CCTV, pyrite update, Bunclody nursing home access and cemeteries.

Questions raised were answered by the Chief Executive and the Management Team.

5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

Members noted request for Carlow Tourism to present at a meeting of Carlow County Council

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan,

Seconded by Cllr. A. Wallace

And agreed following a show of hands

“That Carlow Tourism will present at a meeting of Carlow County Council.”

Members noted request for Acquired Brain Injury to present at a meeting of Carlow County Council

Proposed by Cllr. B. Ward,

Seconded by Cllr. F. Phelan,

And agreed following a show of hands

“That Acquired Brain Injury will present at a meeting of Carlow County Council.”

Members noted resolution passed by Kerry County Council endorsing the End Discrimination of Inheritance (EDIT) campaign.

Members noted resolution passed by Clare County Council calling on the government of Ireland not to support the European Commission's proposal to establish a single common fund under the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034, which would merge key EU policy instruments such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Cohesion Policy and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund into one overarching funding mechanism.

Members noted resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the development of an alternative pathway for students following completion of the Junior Cycle through the ETB and SOLAS and other networks to provide skills-based and career-orientated and training opportunities in construction, business, IT, tourism, cosmetology, healthcare and agriculture – to offer students practical routes to employment and further study as an alternative to the traditional Leaving Certificate programme.

Members noted correspondence passed by Laois County Council regarding the establishment of a Referendum Commission to implement the recommendations of the Constitutional Convention, concerning the nomination process for the Presidential elections.

Members noted motion passed by Wexford County Council expressing solidarity to Mary Dunlevy Green, Mary Donovan, Maurice Patton O Connell and Mirian Moriarty Owens who are on hunger strike outside of Dáil Éireann and the thousands of survivors of Ireland's Industrial and Reformatory Schools.

Members noted resolution adopted by Donegal County Council requesting the executive to run a public information campaign reminding homeowners to have their electrical systems checked, particularly in respect of older homes.

Members noted resolution passed by Limerick City & County Council calling for the Irish Government to hold a formal national commemoration on 17th April 2026 to mark 150th anniversary of the Catalpa expedition organised by John Devoy and John Boyle O'Reilly.

Members noted Feliciter correspondence.

3.1 Presentation from Comhairle na nÓg

The Cathaoirleach invited Aoife and Oran from Comhairle na nÓg to make a presentation.

Aoife and Oran gave a presentation on Comhairle na nÓg works, activities, networking and events attended since 2024. Aoife and Oran answered questions raised by the members. The members thanked Aoife and Oran and asked for the presentation to be circulated and offered their assistance, if required.

6.0 Notices of Motion

6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. Ben Ward

"That Carlow County Council write to the Minister for Transport, TFI, and Bus Éireann seeking an update on the expansion of rural public transport services across county Carlow. In particular, the introduction of services to Ardattin and Clonegal."

Proposed by Cllr. B. Ward,

Seconded by Cllr. A. Wallace,

And agreed following a show of hands

"That Carlow County Council write to the Minister for Transport, TFI, and Bus Éireann seeking an update on the expansion of rural public transport services across county Carlow. In particular, the introduction of services to Ardattin and Clonegal."

6.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. Ben Ward

"That Carlow County Council urgently take action on implementing the funding received in February for a bus stop enhancement programme across the county"

Proposed by Cllr. B. Ward,

Seconded by Cllr. M. Doran,

And agreed following a show of hands

"That Carlow County Council urgently take action on implementing the funding received in February for a bus stop enhancement programme across the county"

6.3 Standing in the name of Cllr. Fergal Browne

That Carlow County Council call for reform for those wishing to contest future presidential elections to include two separate dates for nominations by the oireachtas and local authorities and a move away from councils needing to back candidates and instead individual county councillors being allowed to nominate candidates once minimum number reached.

Proposed by Cllr. F. Browne,

Seconded by Cllr. B. Ward,

And agreed following a show of hands.

“That Carlow County Council call for reform for those wishing to contest future presidential elections to include two separate dates for nominations by the oireachtas and local authorities and a move away from councils needing to back candidates and instead individual county councillors being allowed to nominate candidates once minimum number reached.”

It was agreed that this motion be circulated to all other county councils and relevant government department.

6.4 Standing in the name of Cllr. Fintan Phelan

“That Carlow County Council write to Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) requesting that they urgently explore options to increase car parking capacity at Carlow Train Station.

Given that the existing car park is consistently at full capacity by the time of the 7:56 a.m. train, many commuters and rail users are unable to avail of parking thereafter. This is causing significant inconvenience and stress for individuals travelling to Dublin and other destinations for work, education, medical appointments, and leisure.

The Council should engage with Irish Rail and all relevant stakeholders to identify and examine potential short, medium, and long-term solutions, including additional or alternative parking options to support increased demand at the station.”

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan,

Seconded by Cllr. J. Cassin,

And agreed following a show of hands.

“That Carlow County Council write to Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) requesting that they urgently explore options to increase car parking capacity at Carlow Train Station.

Given that the existing car park is consistently at full capacity by the time of the 7:56 a.m. train, many commuters and rail users are unable to avail of parking thereafter. This is causing significant inconvenience and stress for individuals travelling to Dublin and other destinations for work, education, medical appointments, and leisure.

The Council should engage with Irish Rail and all relevant stakeholders to identify and examine potential short, medium, and long-term solutions, including additional or alternative parking options to support increased demand at the station."

6.5 Standing in the name of Cllr. Adrienne Wallace

"Noting the essential work that healthcare staff play in society, and particularly here in Carlow, this Council will write to Caredoc to request they implement the agreed 8% pay uplift arising from a WRC agreement in 2023 to their workers. In addition, this council stands in solidarity with the workers from Caredoc who were forced to protest on Wednesday the 26th and who voted to begin a strike in December if their request for a pay uplift is not met."

Proposed by Cllr. A. Wallace,

Seconded by Cllr. J. Cassin,

And agreed following a show of hands.

"Noting the essential work that healthcare staff play in society, and particularly here in Carlow, this Council will write to Caredoc to request they implement the agreed 8% pay uplift arising from a WRC agreement in 2023 to their workers. In addition, this council stands in solidarity with the workers from Caredoc who were forced to protest on Wednesday the 26th and who voted to begin a strike in December if their request for a pay uplift is not met."

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

The members requested that an invitation issue to NTA to come to a Carlow Municipal District Meeting in the new year.