

**Minutes of January Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the
Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow
on Monday 12th January 2026 at 2.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor K. Murnane, Cathaoirleach
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin
Councillor A. Dalton
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
Councillor D. Pender
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor W. Quinn
Councillor A. Wallace
Councillor B. Ward

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
Ms. F. Byrne, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. M. Griffin, Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Healy, Staff Officer
Ms. J. Brophy, Administrative Officer
Ms. A. Sweeney, Senior Planner *Remotely*
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise *Remotely*
Mr. L. Carroll, Senior Executive Officer, *Remotely*
Mr. N. Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer *Remotely*
Mr. T. Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Ms. S. O'Neill, A/Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Ms. N. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Mr. C. Madden, A/Senior Executive Engineer *Remotely*

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Votes of Congratulations

Carlow's Footballers following their victories over Wexford and Laois in the O'Byrne Cup Shield.

Palatine footballers on winning the U21 A Football Championship Final.

Tinryland footballers on winning the U21 B Football Championship Final.

Independent Ireland for coordinating the recent successful protest in Athlone against the Mercosur trade deal.

Votes of Sympathy

Rath Family on the death of Willie Rath, Tinryland, Carlow.

Holohan Family on the death of Norah Holohan, Carlow.

Ger Lucas on the death of Sandra Harkin, Quinnagh, Carlow.

Shortall Family on the death of Rory Shorthall, Ballindaggin, Co. Wexford.

Morrissey Family on the death of Joe Morrissey, Carlow.

Kelly Family on the death of Dylan Kelly, Graiguecullen, Carlow.

Condrón Family on the death of Eugene Condrón, Rutland, Carlow.

Coakley Family on the death of Patrick Coakley, Carlow.

Kennedy Family on the death of Joan Kennedy, Hanover, Carlow.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

(i) Approval of Minutes of monthly meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday, 8th December 2025

Proposed by Cllr. D. Pender,

Seconded by Cllr. M. Doran,

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 8th December 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 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 Charge of roads and services at:

- (a) Chaff Lane, Chaff Street, Graiguecullen, Carlow.**
- (b) Monastery Court (Units 1 – 6) Tullow, Co. Carlow.**

**Proposed by Cllr. J. Cassin,
Seconded by Cllr. P. Doogue,**

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council hereby 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 – Taking in charge of roads and services at Chaff Lane, Chaff Street, Graiguecullen, Carlow.

**Proposed by Cllr. W. Paton,
Seconded by Cllr. B. Ward,**

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council hereby 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 – Taking in charge of roads and services at Monastery Court (Units 1 – 6) Tullow, Co. Carlow.

2.2 Planning and Development Act 2000, Section 211, Local Government Act 2001, Section 183 (1) - Grant of a 10-year lease on lands at McGrath Park, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.

**Proposed by Cllr. W. Quinn,
Seconded by Cllr. T. Kinsella,**

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 grant of a 10 year lease on lands at McGrath Park, Bagenalstown, as per Folio No. CW6467F (671.2m² 0.067 Hectares) to Bagenalstown Area Community Development Group in consideration of the sum of €100 per annum in accordance with the statutory notice as circulated. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not necessary in this lease.”

2.3 Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 - Section 183 (1) - Disposal of Freehold on lands at Tullow Industrial Estate, Tullow, Co. Carlow.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Pender,

Seconded by Cllr. W. Paton,

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 freehold on lands at Tullow Industrial Estate Tullow as per Folio CW1842L and CW8483F (1110m² 0.111 Hectares) in consideration of the sum of €2,000 plus all associated costs to Mervyn Campbell and Bernadette Campbell 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 Statutory Audit Report 2024

P. J. Leonard briefed the members on the Statutory Audit Report 2024 and answered questions raised by the members.

2.5 Audit Committee – Section 60 Report to Council on 2024 Statutory Audit Report

P. J. Leonard briefed on the Section 60 Report on the 2024 Statutory Audit Report and answered questions raised.

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan

Seconded by Cllr. F. Browne

And agreed following a show of hands

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve the Statutory Audit Report 2024 and the Audit Committee Section 60 Report on the 2024 Statutory Audit Report”.

It was agreed to issue a report on the outstanding development levies at end of 2024.

2.6 Approval of Delegation to attend New York for St. Patrick’s Day.

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan

Seconded by Cllr. A. Dalton

And agreed following a show of hands:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve the travel of Cllrs. D. Pender, J. Pender, P. Doogue to New York for St. Patrick’s Day.”

It was agreed that the Council would contact all twinning associations linked with Carlow, including London, Birmingham and Manchester to extend an invitation to attend the International Pan Celtic Festival in April 2026.

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

3.1 Carlow County Council Event Management Guidance

Julie Brophy gave a presentation on Carlow County Council Event Management Guidance Documents and questions raised by the members were answered by Julie Brophy and Coilín O'Reilly.

3.2 Training and Conference Approvals

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan

Seconded by Cllr. A. Gladney

And agreed following a show of hands.

- 1 LAMA Spring Seminar The Connacht Hotel Galway Spring Seminar 28th & 29th January 2026 €245
- 2 Association of Irish Regions Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal The Future of Regions in Ireland – Regional Development Towards 2035 25th & 26th February 2026 €TBC
- 3 Celtic Conferences Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford Finance Act 16th to 18th January 2026 €130
- 4 Celtic Conferences O'Donovans Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork Misinformation, Disinformation and Fake News – Finding the Truth 6th, 7th & 8th February 2026 €130

3.3 Presentation from Carlow Tourism at 4.30 p.m.

This item was deferred.

4.0 Chief Executives Report/Tuarascáil Bainistríochta an Phríomhfheidhme

The elected members raised questions relating to Town Bus service, Bus Stop Shelters, Speed Limits N80, Retrofitting of houses, Social Worker, Carlow Southern Relief Road, Public Lighting, ESB connections, Pyrite, IBAL, Fire Safety Drills, Housing Grant funding, Tullow Park, Tullow Cemetery, Post Mortems delays, Housing Energy Upgrades, Tenant in SITU, Litter fines, Lighting at Fair Green Bagenalstown and Improvement works in Bagenalstown. Questions raised were answered by the Chief Executive and the Management Team.

5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

Members noted the responses to council's correspondence issued in relating to notice of motion passed at the November council meeting relating the Mercosur Trade Deal.

Members noted resolution passed by Clare County Council calling on the Taoiseach to initiate a full urgent review of local government funding, powers and democratic structures with a view to aligning Ireland with European norms.

Members noted resolution passed by Clare County Council calling on the Irish Government to respond urgently to the concerns raised by John Collison (co-founder of Stripe) and by businessman Denis O'Brien regarding Ireland's declining economic competitiveness, infrastructure shortages, skills mismatches in the labour market, and challenges in our tax and regulatory environment.

Members noted resolution passed by Clare County Council calling on the Minister for Health to provide for Vaginal Estrogen Gels & Creams to be available over the counter without a prescription like other countries.

Members noted response from Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage regarding motion passed at the June 2025 council meeting regarding the publication of the wind energy development guidelines.

Members noted response from Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage regarding motion passed at the December council meeting regarding nomination process for presidential elections.