

**Minutes of February Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the
Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow
on Monday 9th February 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
M. Brennan, 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. O'Brien, Climate Action Coordinator
Mr. L. Carroll, Senior Executive Officer,
Mr. D. Hayde, Administrative Officer
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise
Ms. A. Sweeney, Senior Planner *Remotely*
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer *Remotely*
Mr. N. Dillon, A/Senior Engineer *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. B. Knowles, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Votes of Sympathy

Timmons family on the death of Mary Timmons, Henry Street, Graiguecullen.
Mrs. Elizabeth Walker and family on the death of Thomas Walker of Idrone Park, Tullow Rd, Carlow.

Deere Family on the death of Elizabeth Deere, Bridge Street, Carlow,
Mrs. Margaret Carr and family on the death of Michael Carr of New Oak Estate, Carlow.

Mr. John Doyle & family on the death of Caroline Doyle, Raheendoran, Carlow.
Broughall Family on the death of Ina Broughall, Beech Park, Blackrock, Co. Louth

Mr. John Deverill & family on the death of Angela Deverill, Mountain View, Myshall, Co Carlow.

Nolan family on the death of Sheila Nolan, St Fiacc's Terrace, Graiguecullen, Carlow.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

Approval of Minutes of monthly meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday, 12th January 2026

Proposed by Cllr. W. Quinn,

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 12th January 2026 at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed”.

Emergency Motion

Motion for purpose of dealing with urgent business (Standing Order No 20)
Under the terms of Standing Order No. 20, the consent of at least nine Members was required to allow the motion to be discussed, which was agreed.

A group of IFA members entered the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach read out the Emergency Notice of Motion.

Proposed by Cllr. B. Ward,

Seconded by Cllr. P. Doogue

And agreed following a show of hand.

“That Carlow County Council ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to intervene in the Board Bia dispute and ask its Chairman Larry Murrin to step aside.”

It was further agreed to circulate a copy of this Notice of Motion to the Taoiseach and Tánaiste.

The IFA members left and the meeting resumed.

2.0 Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of Council/Gnó forordaithe do réir reachtaíochta, orduithe seasta, nó rúin an Chomhairle

21. Approval of Audit Committee Annual Report 2025

Susan Kearney, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, presented the Audit Committee Annual Report 2025, Audit Committee Charter 2026 and Audit Committee Work Programme 2026 and answered questions raised by the members.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Deane,

Seconded by Cllr. D. Pender,

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve the Audit Committee Annual Report 2025.”

2.2 Approval of Audit Committee Charter 2026

Proposed by Cllr. J. Deane,

Seconded by Cllr. D. Pender,

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve the Audit Committee Charter 2026.”

2.3 Approval of Audit Committee Work Programme 2026

Proposed by Cllr. J. Deane,

Seconded by Cllr. D. Pender,

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council approve the Audit Committee Work Programme 2026.”

2.4 Approval of Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026

Questions raised by the members on the Annual Service Delivery Plan were answered by the Management Team.

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan,

Seconded by Cllr. P. Doogue,

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026

2.5 Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 - Section 183 (1) - Disposal of land contained in Folio CW11257F (0.0120 Hectares) at 8 Castle Hill, Carlow.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Cassin

Seconded by Cllr. A. Gladney

And agreed following a show of hands

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 site and premises situate at and known as 8 Castlehill, Carlow, a plot of ground being part of the Townland of Carlow, measuring 0.0120 Hectares, registered under Folio CW11257F in consideration of the sum of €137,000 to Luke Connors, Tullow Road, Carlow, 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.”

2.6 Planning & Development Act, 2000 – Section 211 Local Government Act 2001 – Section 183 (1) - Lease of Lands at Woodview, Main Street, Borris, Co. Carlow, R95C982

Proposed by Cllr. T. Kinsella,

Seconded by Cllr. W. Quinn,

And agreed following a show of hands

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 15 year lease of 0.2 of an

acre of land as per Folio No. CW28938F at Woodview, Main Street, Borris to Carlow Community Enterprise Centres CLG in consideration of the sum of €100 per annum (Carlow Community Enterprise Centres CLG will be responsible for both their own and the Council's legal costs) 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.”

2.7 Planning & Development Act, 2000 – Section 211 Local Government Act 2001 – Section 183 (1) - Lease of Lands at O'Brien Road Carlow

Proposed by Cllr. F. Browne,

Seconded by Cllr. A. Dalton,

And agreed following a show of hands

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 15 year lease of 1.163 of an acre of land at O'Brien Road, Carlow (Folios CW23596F/CW31379F/CW31415F) to Southeast Catalyst Innovation Company CLG (trading as Catalyst HQ) in consideration of the sum of €100 per annum. Southeast Catalyst Innovation Company CLG (trading as Catalyst HQ) will be responsible for both their own and the Council's legal costs) 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.”

2.8 Proposed Loan to Southeast Catalyst Innovation Company CLG, trading as Catalyst HQ in respect of Campus on O'Brien Road , Carlow.

K. Comerford briefed on the proposed loan to Southeast Catalyst Innovation Company CLG and answered questions raised by the members.

Proposed by Cllr. M. Doran

Seconded by Cllr. F. Phelan

And agreed following a show of hands

“That we the members of Carlow County Council pursuant to Section 66 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2001, approve a loan in the amount of €1,325,100 for a 15-year term on a non-interest basis, to Southeast Catalyst Innovation Company CLG (T/a Catalyst HQ) for the development of Enterprise Campus on O'Brien Road, Carlow.”

2.9 Implementation Report (2025) of Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

J. O'Brien gave presentation to the members and answered questions raised.

Proposed by Cllr. D. Pender

Seconded by Cllr. F. Phelan

And agreed following a show of hands.

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

3.1 Presentation from Acquired Brain Injury Ireland at 4.30 p.m.

Sarah Kavanagh and Sharon O'Neill, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, gave a detailed presentation, Paul Flinter and Trish Doyle spoke about their Aphasia group and they answered questions raised by the elected members.

The members thanked Sarah, Sharon, Paul and Trish for their presentations, who then left the meeting.

3.2 Training and Conference Approvals

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan,

Seconded by Cllr. A. Dalton

And agreed following a show of hands.

Organised by	Venue	Theme	Dates	Fee
AILG	Hotel Kilkenny	"From Policy to Practice; what Local Authorities in Ireland Can Offer to Support Disabled People and an Ageing Population".	21 st February 2026	€100
AILG	Hotel Minella	Annual Training Conference 2026	22 nd & 23 rd April 2026	€190

Extension of Time

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan

Seconded by Cllr. J. Cassin

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:

"We the members of Carlow County Council in accordance with Standing Orders, approve the continuation of the meeting until 6.00 p.m.

4.0 Chief Executives Report/Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

Noted.

5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

Members noted response from MEP Walsh in relation to Notice of Motion passed at the November council meeting in relating to Mercosur.

Members noted response from Caredoc in relation to Notice of Motion passed at the December council meeting.

Members noted response from Office of the Secretary General to the President acknowledging council's letter of best wishes following her Inauguration as President of Ireland.

Members noted resolution passed by Sligo County Council expressing deep concern to the Government's decision to ratify CETA and in particular, the Investor Court System (ICS) and calls for the Government to suspend Ireland's participation in the ICS element of CETA pending a full, independent assessment of its impact on local authorities, public services, and environment protections.

Members noted resolution passed by Offaly County Council calling on Government to instruct party MEPs to oppose adoption of the Mercosur Trade agreement when the agreement is presented at European Parliament. Members noted resolution passed by Tipperary County Council asking the Minister for Transport to ensure the compulsory wearing of hi visibility jackets by all E-Scooter and E Bike users, in addition to the lights they are already compelled to have on same said vehicles.

Members noted request for AILG Speaking Time at Plenary Council Meeting. It was agreed for AILG to address a meeting of Carlow County Council.

6.0 Notices of Motion/Fógraí Rúin

6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. Adrienne Wallace

"Given the current unrest in Minneapolis and the deaths of Reene Good and Alex Peretti, the increased amount of attacks on migrants and U.S. citizens and the U.S. attacks in Venezuela and threats made to Greenland, Iran, Colombia, Cuba and Mexico, it is being called for that any Carlow councillors attending U.S trips for St. Patrick's Day will boycott any and all events that associate with the Trump administration."

Proposed by Cllr. A. Wallace

Seconded by Cllr. J. Cassin

A roll call vote was taken as follows:-

Member of Carlow County Council	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Fergal Browne				√
John Cassin	√			
Andrea Dalton				√
John Deane	√			
Pu 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				√

Result 4 For, 10 Against, 4 Absent
Decision/Resolution: Motion Defeated

Extension of Time

Proposed by Cllr. P. Doogue,

Seconded by Cllr. J. Pender,

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:

“We the members of Carlow County Council in accordance with Standing Orders, approve the continuation of the meeting until 6.30pm.

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

The elected members raised questions relating to Housing Acquisitions Funding, Flood Relief Scheme, River Level Sensors, Flood Alleviation Scheme in Tullow, Works at Shamrock Square, Derelict Buildings, Funding required for road repairs; Ministers visit following Storm Chandra; Flooding in Clonegal; Discretionary Funding, issue with motorway and junction lighting, Flood Defence Scheme, Shamrock Square, Derelict Buildings and Rural Residents Wind Aware & Environmental Group Old Leighlin request for funding.

Members commended all staff on works completed during the recent floods. Chief Executive will convey thanks to all staff and huge team effort in relation to Storm Chandra.

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