

**Minutes of Meeting of the Carlow Municipal District
held in the Town Hall Chamber, Carlow, on
Thursday 29th January 2026, at 4.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor P. Doogue (Mayor)
Councillor A. Dalton (Remote)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor A. Wallace (Remote)
Councillor J. Cassin (Remote)
Councillor K. Murnane (Remote)

In Attendance: Ms. P. O'Brien, Director of Service, Corporate Services, Human Resources, Planning, Regeneration, Health and Safety, Economic Development /LEO and Information Systems
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Service, Transportation, Environment and Climate Action, Capital Projects, Building Control & Emergency Services (Remote)
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Local Enterprise
Mr. B. Knowles, Senior Executive Officer, Community
Mr. C. Madden, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. F. Byrne, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. M. Griffin, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. A. Connolly, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services

Mayor P. Doogue opened the meeting by welcoming all to the January meeting of Carlow Municipal District.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Minutes of Meeting of Carlow Municipal District held on Thursday 11th December 2025 at 4.00 p.m.

The Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 11th December 2025 were:

**Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor F. Phelan**

And agreed following a show of hands

2.0 Business Prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members for Transaction at such meeting

2.1 Notice of Section 183 – Disposal of Site and Premises at 8 Castle Hill, Carlow R93 E521

Ms. P. O'Brien, Director of Service, advised members that the Section 183 disposal of site and premises at 8 Castle Hill, Carlow would be brought to the February Council meeting for approval.

Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan
Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

And agreed following a show of hands

2.2 Notice of Section 183 – Lease of Lands at O'Brien Road

Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Economic Development, gave a brief report and advised of the Section 183 proposed lease of lands at O'Brien Road for approval at the February Council meeting.

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor F. Phelan

and agreed following a show of hands

2.3 Community Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026

Mr. B. Knowles, Senior Executive Officer Community, briefed members on grant funding for Carlow Municipal District for their consideration. These included Carlow's Pride of Place, Carlow's Pride of Place Tidy Towns and Community Development Grants with a total amount of €63,000 being allocated. He advised that members discretionary funds total €70,000 which can be used individually or aggregated with agreement of Members. Mr. Knowles answered all queries raised.

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor F. Phelan

and agreed following a show of hands

3.0 Consideration of Reports & Recommendation

3.1 Community Section Update

Mr. B. Knowles, Senior Executive Officer presented members with an update from the Community Section which included Community Development, the Tullow Road Multi-Functional Community Hub, Tullow Road Masterplan, Carlow Water Activity Hub and Community Support Centres. Mr. Knowles and Mr. P. O’Gorman, Director of Service, answered all queries raised these included:

- Inclusion of a second access road on the Tullow Road
- Provision of space for the Town Bus to stop at Tullow Road Community Hub
- Number of sports clubs interested in pitches at Tullow Road
- Age Friendly initiatives at Carlow Train Station
- The use of scrambler bikes at Community Hub
- Stability of the tensile fabric structure at Ducketts Grove
- The possibility of the provision of outdoor pools in construction of the Waterhub

Members complimented staff in the Community Section, welcomed upcoming initiatives and noted it was great to see progress being made, particularly on the Community Boards in Carlow Town Park.

3.2 Carlow Town Bus Update

Mr. P. O’Gorman, Director of Service, updated members on the Carlow Town bus service. He gave an update received from NTA regarding the review of the Carlow Town bus service which included an analysis of current and past boarding trends, pattern of demand, review of planned housing completions and of correspondence received regarding the service. Mr. O’Gorman informed members that he will issue an invite to the NTA to attend an MD meeting later in the year. Members welcomed the review of the bus service but raised concerns that this was long overdue and the need for changes to make bus routes more effective and the possibility of a third route.

Concerns were raised over the delays caused by roadworks on the Kilkenny Road and the frustration caused for motorists travelling that route. Mr O’Gorman stated that he would contact the contractor and will circulate a response to the elected members.

3.3 Carlow URDF Project Scheme Update

Mr. P. O’Gorman gave a comprehensive update on URDF project schemes in the district which included the Rail Link, the Town Centre scheme and the Bank of Ireland building. Both Mr. O’Gorman and Ms. P. O’Brien answered all queries raised by members.

3.4 Climate Action SEAI Pathfinder – Visual Building

Mr. P. O’ Gorman gave a brief report on the Climate Action SEAI Pathfinder project. He advised that there are currently two buildings included in the programme, County Buildings and the Visual building. He added that a design team have been appointed and works to be completed on the Visual building will be finalised next month with the possibility of a new heat pump required.

3.5 Carlow MD Engineer’s Report

Mr. C. Madden, A/Senior Executive Engineer, presented members with a report on ongoing enhancement works and upcoming projects in the Carlow Municipal District. He also reported on preparation works for upcoming Storm Chandra and advised the Town Park will be closed for the coming days. Mr. Madden answered all questions raised. These included:

- Road surface in disrepair at St. Mary’s
- Dogfouling at St. Mary’s Road
- Graffiti at Barrack Street
- Parking issues at College Green
- Enhancement features on roundabouts and cost of maintaining
- Gully issues at Askea Lawns
- Flooding on The Numbers road

Members commended Mr. Madden and his team on works completed during recent floods.

4.0 Correspondence

5.0 Notices of Motion

5.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. Fergal Browne

“To give an update regarding the old FCA building on the Green Road including ownership, reason for it lying empty for so many years and also future plans and funding options.”

The following response was circulated to members:

The Housing Department is currently undertaking a number of investigations on this site and anticipates progressing to Part VIII later this year. It is expected that the site will be suitable for approximately six units.

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor F. Phelan

And agreed following a show of hands

5.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. Fergal Browne

“That Carlow County Council commits to providing workspaces for local artists so as to build on the Carlow Strategic Arts Plan 2025-2035.”

The following response was circulated to members:

The Minister for the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media at that time announced on 12th June 2024, €6m funding to deliver Artist Workspaces Nationwide under the Artist Workspaces Scheme 2024. The purpose of the pilot scheme is to enable Local Authorities to increase provision of Artist Workspaces across Ireland. Capital grants up to a maximum of €150,000 is available or €50,000 per individual workspace. The Local Authority has to match fund by 40%. Carlow Council propose to apply for funding for 1 No Artist Workspace in each Municipal District.

1 No application has been submitted in respect of the Municipal District of Tullow i.e the Old Fire Station. An application is being prepared for the Municipal District of Muinebheag i.e Tide Cottage, St Mullins and work is ongoing to identify a suitable property in Carlow Town.

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor A. Wallace

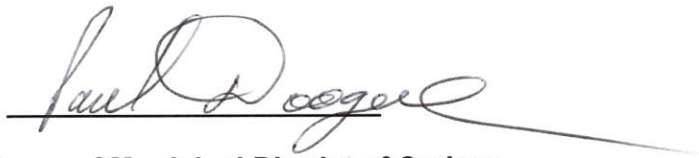
And agreed following a show of hands

6.0 Any Other Business

Members queried if there were any updates on the Entente Florale and Mr. B. Knowles informed the meeting that an array of events and excursions have been arranged for the delegates visiting from overseas on the 17th September. He added that Ireland has two entries Blackrock in Co. Louth and Riverstown in Co. Sligo.

A query was raised on the demolition of the building at Shamrock Plaza and it there were any costs to Carlow County Council. Ms. P. O'Brien advised that Carlow County Council sought legal advice on the demolition of the building but the owners bore the full costs of the demolition.

There being no other business concluded the meeting.

Signed: 
Mayor of Municipal District of Carlow

Dated: 26-2-26.