

**Minutes of July Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council
Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow
on Monday 13th July 2026 at 2.00 p.m.**

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

In attendance: Mr. P. O'Gorman, Acting Chief Executive
Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Service
Mr. P. J. Leonard, Director of Finance
Ms. P. O'Brien, Director of Service
Ms. F. Byrne, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. C. Healy, Staff Officer
Ms. S. Corrigan, Staff Officer
Mr. L. Carroll, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. S. Casey, Biodiversity Officer
Mr. N. Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise
Ms. M. Finnerty, Financial Accountant *Remotely*
Ms. F. O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer *Remotely*
Mr. N. Dillon, Executive Engineer *Remotely*
Mr. W. Kehoe, Senior Executive Planner *Remotely*
Ms. S. O'Neill, A/Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Ms. N. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Votes of Sympathy

Ryan family on the death of Jack Ryan, Carlow Town.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

1.1 Approval of Minutes of monthly meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday, 8th June 2026

Proposed by Cllr. J. Pender,

Seconded by Cllr. W. Paton,

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

1.2 Approval of Minutes of annual meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday, 8th June 2026

Proposed by Cllr. W. Paton,

Seconded by Cllr. W. Quinn,

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That the Minutes of the annual meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 8th June 2026 at 4.00 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 Planning and Development Act 2000 Section 211, Planning & Development Regulations 2001, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183(1) - Lease of Tullow Road Multi Functional Community Hub

Proposed by Cllr. F. Browne,

Seconded by Cllr. A. Wallace,

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, Planning & Development Regulations 2001, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) the lease of

property contained within Folio 4581F Tullow Road, Carlow 0.524 Hectares (1.294 acres) to Carlow Regional Youth Services, Montgomery House, Athy Road, Carlow, for a period of 30 years at €100.00 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 disposal.”

2.2 Planning and Development Act 2000 Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) - Disposal of freehold on strip of Land at Tullow Road, Carlow.

Proposed by Cllr. K. Murnane,

Seconded by Cllr. F. Browne,

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 Strip of Land at Tullow Road, Carlow (0.15 ha/0.37 acres) contained in Folio CW3224F to Chillivale UC, in consideration of the sum of €35,000 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 Approval to place Draft Carlow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031 on public display

S. Casey gave a presentation and answered questions raised by the members.

Proposed by Cllr. A. Wallace,

Seconded by Cllr. M. Doran,

Following a show of hands it was agreed:-

“To approve the placing of the Draft Carlow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031 on public display for the purposes of public consultation.”

2.4 Approval of travel to Dole France for Chat Perché Gourmet Weekend

Proposed by Cllr. B. O’Donoghue,

Seconded by Cllr. F. Phelan

Following a show of hands it was agreed:-

“To approve travel of the Cathaoirleach and Mayor or their nominees to Dole France for *Chat Perché Gourmet Weekend* from 24th to 27th September 2026.”

2.5 Approval of Local Enterprise Development Plan 2026 – 2027

K. Comerford briefed on the Local Enterprise Development Plan 2026 – 2027 and answered questions raised by the members.

Proposed by Cllr. M. Doran,

Seconded by Cllr. W. Quinn,

Following a show of hands it was agreed:-

“To approve the Local Enterprise Development Plan 2026 – 2027.

2.6 Filling of Vacancy of Chairperson of Community Development, Recreation & Amenity, Sports, Arts & Culture, Libraries, Museum and Heritage Strategic Policy Committee

Following the resignation of Cllr. W. Quinn as Chairperson of the Community Development, Recreation & Amenity, Sports, Arts & Culture, Libraries, Museum and Heritage Strategic Policy Committee, Cllr. J. Deane was nominated as Chairperson.

Proposed by Cllr. W. Paton,

Seconded by Cllr. A. Gladney

And agreed following a show of hands

“That Cllr. J. Deane be appointed as Chairperson of the Community Development, Recreation & Amenity, Sports, Arts & Culture, Libraries, Museum and Heritage Strategic Policy Committee.”

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

3.1 Urban Speed Limit Review

O. Barrett gave a presentation on the Urban Speed Limit Review and answered questions raised by the members.

Proposed by Cllr. M. Doran

Seconded by Cllr. J. Pender

“Approval for the Council to go to non-statutory public consultation on the Urban Speed Limit Review.”

3.2 Bus Stop Enhancement Programme Update

O. Barrett gave a presentation on the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme Update and answered questions raised by the members.

3.3 The IPB Insurance Local Authority LEAF Fund 2026

J. Collier, Community Climate Action Officer gave a presentation on the IPB Insurance Local Authority LEAF Fund 2026 and answered questions from the members.

4.0 Chief Executives Report/Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

Questions raised by the members included illegal encampment at Eire Óg/Ballinacarrig, Borris Fair, Accessibility Officer, Register of Electors, emergency accommodation, house purchases, HAP, public lighting, St. Mary's cemetery staffing, public lighting, bus stops, CCTV, Clashganny, litter fines, Youth Centre car park, Pyrite update, Dooley's site, road verge cutting, Tinnahinch/Graiguenamanagh bridge, Carrigduff footpath, swimming on Slaney/Barrow and additional roads funding allocation. P. O'Gorman and Team answered questions raised.

5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

"Members noted resolution adopted by Limerick City and County Council to call on the Minister for Finance to review personal taxes and the Universal Charge with effect from January 2027."

"Members noted motion passed by Wexford County Council calling for the unwinding and abolition of the Universal Social Charge in Budget 2027."

Members noted correspondence from the Department of Transport regarding the provision of additional funding for the remediation of damage caused to regional and local roads during Storm Chandra earlier in the year.

6.0 Notices of Motion

6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. A. Wallace

"Noting that since the introduction of online Council meetings, Carlow Council has the technical equipment to record county council meetings. Accordingly, in the name of transparency and in an attempt to modernize council meetings. This council agrees to publish video recordings of Carlow County Council meetings on the official website."

**Proposed by Cllr. A. Wallace,
Seconded by Cllr. J. Deane,**

A roll call was taken as follows:

Member of Carlow County Council	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
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				√

Result: 5 For, 11 Against, 2 Absent
Decision/Resolution: Motion Defeated

6.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. J. Cassin

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Health and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to urgently abolish parking charges at all public hospitals.

This Council notes:

That patients, families, and visitors are being forced to pay excessive parking charges at times of illness, distress, and financial strain.

That St. Luke's General Hospital in Kilkenny generated €461,145 in parking revenue in 2025, an increase of over €60,000 from €397,962 in 2024, representing a rise of more than 15%.

That nationally, hospital parking charges reached a record €17 million last year, marking a 140% increase from €7 million in 2021.

That this sharp increase in revenue is occurring during a cost-of-living crisis, placing additional and unjust financial pressure on patients and their families.

That the current approach effectively penalises people for accessing essential healthcare services.

That the Programme for Government commits to “explore further ways” to reduce hospital parking fees, yet costs continue to rise significantly.

The Council further recognises:

That access to healthcare should be free at the point of need, including the ability to attend hospitals without incurring additional financial burdens.

That many families must attend hospitals frequently due to chronic illness, disability, or long-term treatment, compounding these costs.

Therefore, this Council calls on the Ministers to:

Abolish parking charges for patients, families, and healthcare workers at all public hospitals as a matter of urgency.

Introduce interim measures, including fee caps and free parking for long-term patients and frequent visitors, pending full abolition.

Provide Exchequer funding to hospitals to replace lost parking revenue, ensuring no negative impact on hospital services.

And that this motion be forwarded to the Minister for Health, the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, and all local authorities.”

**Proposed by Cllr. J. Cassin,
Seconded by Cllr. A. Gladney,**

A roll call was taken as follows:

<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				√

Result: 7 For, 8 Against, 3 Absent

Decision/Resolution: Motion Defeated

6.3 Standing in the name of Cllr. J. Cassin

"That this Council calls on Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment, Darragh O'Brien to immediately intervene in relation to the unacceptable delays being experienced with ESB connections for new business developments and council-led projects, including essential public lighting installations such as the lighting at Burrin Manor in Carlow Town.

This Council notes with serious concern that these delays are causing unnecessary hold-ups to economic development, undermining public safety, delaying housing and community infrastructure, and creating significant additional costs for both businesses and the local authority. Such a situation is wholly unacceptable and is having a direct negative impact on the delivery of vital services and projects within this county.

This Council further notes that local businesses seeking to expand or establish themselves are being left in limbo by a slow, opaque, and ineffective connection process, while council projects of clear public benefit are being delayed without proper accountability or urgency. The failure to provide timely connections is not a minor administrative issue; it is a barrier to growth, a barrier to progress, and a barrier to public confidence in the delivery of essential infrastructure.

Accordingly, this Council calls on the Minister to:

urgently engage with ESB and all relevant stakeholders to address these delays without further delay;

direct that a clear, transparent, and time-bound process be put in place for business and council connections;

ensure that public lighting and other safety-critical infrastructure is treated as a priority;

report back on what immediate steps will be taken to remove the bottlenecks currently holding back development.

This Council is clear that the current situation is not good enough. Communities, businesses, and local authorities cannot continue to be left waiting indefinitely for basic infrastructure connections. Immediate ministerial action is now required."

This motion is circulated to all local authorities.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Cassin

Seconded by Cllr. A. Gladney

And agreed following a show of hands.

6.4 Standing in the name of Cllr. J. Deane and Cllr. A. Gladney

Motion: Opposition to Ireland Playing Israel in International Football Fixtures
That Carlow County Council notes:

- the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and Palestine, including the deaths of tens of thousands of civilians and the destruction of civilian infrastructure, including sporting facilities;
- notes reports that hundreds of Palestinian footballers and athletes have been killed during the conflict;
- acknowledges widespread concern among football supporters, players, unions, activists and civil society groups regarding proposed Ireland v Israel fixtures in the UEFA Nations League.

Carlow County Council calls for:

1. The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) to oppose and seek the cancellation of any forthcoming fixtures involving Ireland and Israel;
2. The Irish Government to make its position clear and actively encourage the selected venue and relevant authorities to reconsider hosting the fixture, and use all diplomatic channels available to it to convey that the Irish people and Government do not wish to see this match proceed in light of ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Deane

Seconded by Cllr. A. Gladney

And following a show of hands the motion was defeated.

Extension of Time

Proposed by Cllr. B. O'Donoghue,

Seconded by Cllr. F. Browne,

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.

6.5 Standing in the name of Cllr. F. Browne

"That Carlow County Council explore the option of developing a 50 m swimming pool in Carlow town in partnership with other stakeholders to meet the huge need in the region that currently exists for same."

Response to the motion was circulated to the elected members (as follows) and M. Brennan briefed the members on same.

Carlow County Council currently provides annual funding for the following swimming pools in County Carlow;

- Graiguecullen €60,000
- Muinebheag €25,000
- Carrigduff €22,500

The estimated cost of 50-metre public swimming pool varies enormously depending on whether it is a standalone competition pool or part of a full aquatic/leisure centre with gym, learner pool, changing facilities, café, spectator seating, etc.

1. Construction Cost

- A new-build public aquatic centre with a permanent 50 m pool, changing facilities, plant rooms, accessibility works, spectator seating and associated amenities would typically cost **€25–50+ million** in today's market. This reflects current Irish construction inflation and the complexity of pool mechanical and electrical systems.

As a broad planning estimate:

Facility Type	Estimated Capital Cost
Basic 50 m public pool	5m–€25m
50 m pool + learner pool + changing village	5m–€40m
Full aquatic/leisure centre	0m–€60m+

2. Annual Operating Cost

Swimming pools are among the most expensive public sports facilities to operate because of heating, ventilation, water treatment and staffing. Swim Ireland notes that public pools have significant energy consumption and energy costs are a major challenge for operators.

For a typical 50 m public pool:

Cost Category	Annual Cost (€)
Energy (heating, ventilation, pumps)	€300,000–€800,000
Staffing (lifeguards, management, cleaners, admin)	€500,000–€1,200,000
Water treatment & chemicals	€50,000–€150,000
Maintenance & repairs	€100,000–€300,000
Insurance, rates, overheads	€50,000–€200,000
Total Annual Operating Cost	€1.0m–€2.5m+

3. Annual Lifecycle Reserves

Funding required to cover the future cost of repairing, replacing or renewing assets as they reach the end of their useful life €0.5m- €1m

Having regard to the motion it is proposed to make application under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), Project Development Funding Measure in relation to the provision of an outdoor swimming pool on the river barrow which would compliment the Water Activity Hub.

Proposed by Cllr. F. Browne

Seconded by Cllr. B. O'Donoghue

And agreed following a show of hands.

6.6 Standing in the name of Cllr. J. Cassin & Cllr. J. Deane

"That Carlow County Council calls on the Government to respond to all Notices of Motion submitted by local authorities within six weeks of receipt. In the event that no response is received within that period, the Council will write to the relevant Department seeking a reply, and a further update will be provided to Councillors at the Council meeting held approximately two months after the motion is submitted. This motion is to be circulated to each Government Department and to all local authorities."

Proposed by Cllr. J. Cassin

Seconded by Cllr. J. Deane

And agreed following a show of hands

This concluded the business of the meeting.