

**Minutes of June Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council
Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow
on Monday 8th June 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
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
Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Service
Mr. P. J. Leonard, Director of Finance
Ms. C. Hartley, Director of Service
Ms. P. O'Brien, Director of Service
Ms. F. Byrne, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. M. Griffin, Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Healy, Staff Officer
Mr. B. Woodhouse, A/Chief Fire Officer
Ms. M. Finnerty, Financial Accountant
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise *Remotely*
Ms. A. Sweeney, Senior Planner *Remotely*
Mr. B. Knowles, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Mr. N. Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer *Remotely*
Mr. T. Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer *Remotely*
Mr. N. Dillon, Executive Engineer *Remotely*

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Votes of Sympathy

Cllr. John Pender on the death of his brother, George Pender, Larkfield.
Dee Sewell on the death of her father, Charles Coburn, Old Leighlin.
Dugald Fitzgerald on the death of Nuala Fitzgerald, Riverside.
O'Neill Family on the death of Fintan O'Neill, Graiguecullen.
Zena Keane on the death of her father, John Keane, New Ross.
Bolger family on the death of Edward Bolger, Pairc Mhuire, Bagenalstown.
Mulligan Family on the death of Dermot Mulligan, Paulstown.
Martin Family on the death of Oisin Martin, Tinnecarrig.

A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect on the death of Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator.

Votes of Congratulations

Organisers of the very successful Borris House Festival of Writing & Ideas.
Carlow Darts Organisation on being crowned the undisputed kings of Leinster darts after winning the men's, ladies & youth Leinster Championship titles and Rebecca Allen on being crowned the Leinster ladies' single champion.
Carlow Hurlers on a fantastic year of hurling.
Askea Parish on marking the parish's 50th anniversary.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

Approval of Minutes of monthly meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday, 11th May 2026

Proposed by Cllr J. Pender,

Seconded by Cllr. W. Quinn,

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 11th May 2026 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 Approval of Carlow County Council Fire and Emergency Plan 2026 – 2030 – Section 26 Fire Services Act 1981 – 2003

B. Woodhouse briefed the meeting on Fire and Emergency Plan 2026 – 2030 and answered queries raised.

Proposed by Cllr. W. Paton,

Seconded by Cllr. F. Phelan,

And following a show of hands it was agreed:-

“To approve Carlow County Council Fire and Emergency Plan 2026 – 2030 in accordance with Section 26 Fire Services Act 1981 – 2003.

2.2 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 development of Hacketstown Training Tower, Confined Space Training Facility & Perimeter Fencing

Proposed by Cllr. W. Paton,

Seconded by Cllr. J. Pender,

And following a show of hands it was agreed:-

“To approve 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 development of Hacketstown Training Tower, Confined Space Training Facility & Perimeter Fencing 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.”

2.3 Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) Lease of Lands at O’Brien Road, Carlow.

Mr. K. Comerford briefed the members on Lease of Lands at O’Brien Road, Carlow, and answered questions raised.

Proposed by Cllr. M. Doran,

Seconded by Cllr. P. Doogue,

And 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 25 year lease on lands at

O'Brien Road Carlow (Folio Numbers CW23596F, CW31379F and CW31415F – 1.163 acres to Southeast Catalyst Innovation Company CLG (trading as Catalyst HQ) in consideration of the sum of €100 per annum. This replaces a previous Section 183 notice approved by the elected members on February 9th 2026 for a 15 year lease on the same land. Southeast Catalyst Innovation Company CLG (trading as Catalyst HQ) will be responsible for both their own and the Council's legal costs. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not necessary in this disposal.

2.4 Approval for Cathaoirleach to attend WHO European Healthy Cities Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference in Viana do Castelo, Portugal – 15 to 18th June 2026

**Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan,
Seconded by Cllr. F. Browne,**

And following a show of hands it was agreed to approve the attendance of the Cathaoirleach or his nominee to attend the WHO European Healthy Cities Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference in Viana do Castelo, Portugal – 15 to 18th June 2026

2.5 Approval of Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2026 for County Carlow

K. Comerford briefed the members on the Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2026 and answered questions raised by the members.

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

And following a show of hands it was agreed to approve Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2026 for County Carlow.

4.0 Chief Executives Report/Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

Questions raised by the members included caper van stops, Barrow Track, roadworks at Friarstown, septic tanks, dog breeding establishments, housing at Foran's Way Tullow, accessible changing places facility for Carlow, issues at Clashganny, Carlow bus service review, Bus Stops update, Carlow Southern Relief Road progress update, River Barrow/Burrin dredging, staff vacancies update, URDF update, funding for road repairs, lifebuoys, Carlow arts festival, Kilkenny Road roadworks, IBAL, Pyrite, Route 4 Bus Eireann and Grange sewerage.

5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

Members noted resolution passed by Clare County Council calling on the Government to bring forward a fair and comprehensive cost of living package.

Members noted motion passed by Waterford City & County Council regarding withdrawal of three Expressway services and calling on NTA and Bus Eireann to keep Routes 4 and 40 operating.

Member noted resolution passed by Waterford City & County Council in recognition of the rights of people with disabilities and of the importance of complying with legal obligations, including the Disability Act 2005.

Members noted motion passed by Longford County Council calling for an extension scheme to retain the Just Transition Tourism Activators.

Members noted acknowledgement from Tánaiste and Minister for Finance, Mr. Simon Harris of letter advising of motion passed by Carlow County Council at the May Council meeting relating to Drugs Payment Scheme.

Members noted correspondence from Tánaiste and Minister for Finance, Mr. Simon Harris of letter advising of motion passed by Carlow County Council at the May Council meeting relating to request for the removal of the Universal Social Charge from all workers.

Members noted resolution passed by Galway County Council regarding the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA).

Notices of Motion

6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. F. Browne

"That Carlow County Council draw up a protocol policy for the wearing of chains of office."

Proposed by Cllr. F. Browne,

Seconded by Cllr. M. Doran,

And agreed following a show of hands.

Emergency Motion

Motion for purpose of dealing with urgent business (Standing Order No 20)

The Chair advised that 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.

The Emergency Motion was read out.

Proposed by Cllr. A. Wallace

Seconded by Cllr. J. Cassin

And agreed following a show of hands:

"This Council will write to the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to call for clarity on the 87 jobs in Carlow College. We call for enhanced redundancy packages for those who choose redundancy and the option of redeployment to be offered for those who would prefer this.

The priority should be to protect jobs in Carlow and maintain vital educational services for students. We are calling for urgent, meaningful negotiations about the future of Carlow College, including engagement with SETU, to explore all viable options.

This concluded the business of the meeting.