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

Present: Councillor T. Kinsella, Cathaoirleach
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin Remotely
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor J. Deane
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
Councillor B. Ward Remotely

Absent Councillor P. Doogue

In attendance: Mr. C. O'Reilly, Chief Executive
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Service
Ms. P. O'Brien, Director of Service
Ms. F. Byrne, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. T. Madden A/Senior Executive Officer
Ms. F. O'Neill Senior Executive Officer
Ms. S. Corrigan, Staff Officer
Ms. S. Hand, A/Assistant Staff Officer
Ms. A. Sweeney, Senior Planner
Mr. L. Carroll, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. M. Finnerty, Financial Accountant
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer *Remotely*
Mr. N. Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer *Remotely*
Ms. S. O'Neill, A/Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Ms. N. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Mr. B. Knowles, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Ms. J O'Brien, Climate Officer *Remotely*
Mr. J. Shortall, County Librarian *Remotely*

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Votes of Sympathy
No votes of sympathy were recorded.

Votes of Congratulations
Mount Leinster Rangers on winning the Carlow Camogie Senior title.
Carlow Town Hurling Club on winning the Intermediate Hurling County Final.
All involved in the standoff on the Garvaghy Road.
Carlow Library on the opening of the sensory area in the junior section.
Public Sector staff on the upcoming industrial action.
All the workers who are involved in the strike action at Tullow Credit Union.
Old Leighlin Ladies Gaelic Football Team on winning the County championship.
Michael Davitt's on winning the Minor Division 2 Championship.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

1.1 Approval of Minutes of monthly meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday, 14th September 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 14th September 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 Adoption of Carlow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031

Biodiversity Officer, Shane Casy presented the Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031 to the Members and answered all queries raised.

Proposed by Cllr. W. Paton
Seconded by Cllr. M. Doran
Following a show of hands, it was agreed for the,

"That we the members of Carlow County Council hereby Adopt the Carlow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031".

2.2 Planning and Development Act 2000 Section 211, Local Government Act 2001 Section 183 (1) – Disposal of site, FCA Hut, Green Road, Carlow.

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan
Seconded by Cllr. K. Murnane
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) - Disposal of site, FCA Hut, Green Road, Carlow, R93VK58. Site contained in folio CW30525F 0.171ha/0.422acres. Disposal to Shaw & Sons Ltd, for €150,000, 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 To seek the views of the Elected Members on the Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended – Ref: ACP-324447-26 – 10 Year Planning Permission for the Upgrades to the Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant and Kilkenny Road Pumping Station, Carlow, Co. Carlow. Applicant – Uisce Eireann.

Proposed by Cllr. K. Murnane
Seconded by Cllr. F. Browne
Following a show of hands it was agreed:-
"That we, the elected members of Carlow County Council submit one composite addendum on the application to An Coimisiún Pleanála under Section 37E of the Planning Permission for the Upgrades to the Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment

Plant and Kilkenny Road Pumping Station, Carlow, Co. Carlow. Applicant – Uisce Eireann:-
Councillors welcome this application to An Coimisiún Pleanála and wish to emphasise the critical nature of this upgrade to the Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant for the future of Carlow.

2.4 Amendment of Standing Orders.

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan
Seconded by Cllr. K. Murnane
Following a roll call it was agreed:-
"That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve in accordance with paragraph 16 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001 it is proposed to amend Standing Orders as follows;

"No member shall be permitted to have more than one motion (including adjourned motions) on the Agenda for any one meeting and the name of a member shall not appear more than once on the Agenda as proposer or co-proposer of motions for any one meeting. If any Notice of Motion of which notice has been duly given relates to a matter normally dealt with by a Municipal District or Committee or comes within the terms of reference of any Committee or Committees, it shall be referred to such Municipal District or Committee as the Meetings Administrator may determine in consultation with the Cathaoirleach. Any dispute on such reference shall be determined by the Corporate Policy Group. Where there are two or more motions relating to the same topic which are substantially the same, they shall be listed together".

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	√			

The result was 10 For, 7 Against and 1 Absent. The amendment was passed.

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

3.1 Training & Conference Approvals

Proposed by Cllr. W. Paton
Seconded by Cllr. A. Gladney
And agreed following a show of hands.
"To approve the following Training / Conferences."

No	Organised By	Venue	Theme	Dates	Fee
1	AILG	Horse & Jockey Hotel, Tipperary	Module 5	10th October 2026	€100

4.0 Chief Executives Report/Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

Council vehicles returning to Council yard each evening, mobile driving cameras, Council Part V, pyrite scheme, Bagenalstown Relief Road, data centres, water quality for bathing in Clashganny, Southern Relief Road – Brownshill Link road footpath, ESB connections, stoma friendly toilets, fireworks nuisance, define zebra crossings v courtesy crossings, trees Ballybeg Bridge, lights reconnection in Old Leighlin, Disability Access Officer, Second Hand Acquisition Programme, upheaval to motorist in East Carlow water works, purchase of Hosey car park, Tullow Road Community Centre ESB connection fee, planning rules, Tullow Hill ESB lighting connections, date for Foran's Way houses release, ICA Guild 80 years - request for civic reception, bus route New Ross to Carlow full bus when reaching Borris, Tinahely to Hackestown road speed, crowd safety crossing the road at Dr. Cullen park after matches.

C. O'Reilly and the team responded to the questions and provided updates and clarifications on the matters raised.

5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

Members noted motion passed by Clare County Council calling on the Minister for Social Protection to look at increasing the top up payment to Community Employment (CE) scheme workers to a minimum of €50 and broadening the eligibility criteria to access CE schemes to encourage uptake and provide workers for community services.

Members noted motion passed by Clare County Council calling on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Government to amend legislation requiring election candidates to have their precise residential address published on polling cards, that the candidate's town or general locality and county be sufficient.

Members noted response from Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD. Query has been forwarded onto Minister Mary Butler – Minister of state with responsibility for Mental Health regarding policies for people attending A&Es in acute mental health distress.

Members noted response from Minister Mary Butler acknowledging receipt of correspondence transferred to her office regarding policies for people attending A&Es in acute mental health distress.

Members noted the response from Iarnród Éireann acknowledging the request to reinstate catering services on the Dublin/Waterford train line.

Members noted the response from the Slaney River Trust SRT on the health, ecology and passage of migratory fish within the River Slaney catchment.

Members noted motion passed by Limerick City & County Council calling on the Department of Transport, the National Transport Authority and TII to ask for additional road budget specifically for the routes in the city where there has been a serious deterioration with visible tracks on roads across the city due to the weight of the new bus fleet.

Members noted motion passed by Donegal County Council calling on the Minister to urgently review the current operation of the Housing Adaption Grant for older people and people with disabilities.

Members noted motion passed by Donegal County Council calling on the Minister for Housing to confirm when the Building Stands Agency will be operational. The members also call for the publication of Ireland's commitments to the Commission

and a funded timetable for the establishment of the independent Building Standards Regulatory Authority.
Members noted the motion passed by Mid Ulster District Council condemning the scheduling of the upcoming UEFA National League fixtures between Ireland and Israel, due to take place in September and October 2026.

Members noted the motion passed by Roscommon County Council requesting funding from relevant Ministers for the OPW to carry out a full review of areas of Roscommon Town, County Roscommon and the County deemed liable to flooding where flood mitigation measures have been put in place, to free up lands for housing purposes.

Members noted the motion passed by Roscommon County Council to write to the Minister for Health, Minster for Housing, Local Government and heritage, Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, and the HSE requesting them in the interest of public safety to outline what action they intend to take following on from recent testing and findings by the HSE Emerging Drug Trends Laboratory, in relation to awareness raising and stronger regulation of synthetic cannabinoid products being sold in Vape form.

6.0 Notices of Motion

6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. Willie Quinn.

“I am calling on Carlow County Council to compile and maintain a register of former petrol stations throughout County Carlow, identifying sites that contain underground fuel storage tanks and indicating whether those tanks have been decommissioned because over time a vapour builds up in the tanks which is highly flammable and dangerous. In many cases these former petrol stations were built close to schools and in the middle of towns and villages. There is so much development going on in towns and villages at the moment this issue is becoming very relevant and needs to be looked at particularly as street surfaces are being ripped up for works. Also properties change on a regular basis but the details do not and sometimes the location of these tanks does not come to light until works commence. It is the responsibility of the person who owns the property to have the tanks decommissioned. A register would be of great assistance to any person who is looking to buy a former property that was selling petrol”.

Response to the motion was circulated to the elected members (as follows) and P. O’Gorman briefed the members on same.

Section 32(5)(a) of the Dangerous Substance Act 1972 under the issue of Licences by local and harbour authorities: *"The authority shall cause a register of all licence granted by it under this Act to be kept in such form and containing such particulars as it may direct.*" Carlow Fire Authority have a register of all Filling Stations in Carlow that has been built up over the past 45 years, since the Dangerous Substance Act 1972 and Regulations came into force in 1979. We currently have a database of 50 Filling Stations and Bulk Storage premises in Carlow.

Each premises has a file with drawings showing the location of the underground tanks. This information is available and we would encourage any developer to contact the Fire Authority for verification of the tank location before they proceed with any works.

It is the responsibility of the owner of any disused underground tank to ensure that the tank is decommissioned in accordance with the S.I. No. 630/2019 - Dangerous Substances (Flammable Liquids and Fuels Retail Stores) Regulations, 2019 and inform the Local Authority within 90 days. The same applies for major modifications and alterations. *"Where a licensee or owner or operator of a retail store or a kerbside retail store decides to discontinue usage of the store, the licensee or owner or operator shall inform the appropriate licensing authority in writing not less than 90 days prior to cessation of operations and shall comply with all necessary Standards, Codes of Practice or Guidance Documents as set out in Part 1 of Schedule 1, and where applicable, in Part 2 of Schedule 1 regarding the closure, decommissioning and any other relevant matters governing the cessation of activities at that store, as well as any other existing relevant Irish or EU legislation."*

S.I. No. 630/2019 - Dangerous Substances (Flammable Liquids and Fuels Retail Stores) Regulations, 2019 Part 1 of Schedule 1 lists Standards, Codes of Practice and Guidance Documents which must be adhered to by all stores insofar as is reasonably practicable and insofar as they do not conflict with relevant existing Irish or EU legislation. Schedule 1 lists Energy Institute Design, construction, modification, maintenance, and decommissioning of filling stations (known as the Blue Book) which gives guidance on the decommissioning of such underground tanks.

Proposed by Cllr. W. Quinn
Seconded by Cllr. W Paton
Following a show of hands, the motion was agreed.

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

- Date for the annual budget meeting set for 27th October at 2.30pm in the Chamber, Carlow County Council.

- The Cathaoirleach gave his best wishes to Cllr. Wallace on her upcoming maternity leave.

- Director of Service Paula O'Brien informed the members of the upcoming Public Sector Industrial Action on the 14th October 2026. Seeking derogations from unions for emergency services. Services will be similar to Christmas Day.

This concluded the business of the meeting.