

**Minutes of the Rosslare Municipal District Monthly Meeting  
held on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 10:30hrs in  
Council Chamber, County Hall**

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**Presiding:** Cllr. Jim Codd

**Councillors:** Cllr. Aoife Rose O'Brien  
Cllr. Lisa McDonald  
Cllr. Ger Carthy  
Cllr. Frank Staples

**Officials:** Lynda Lacey – District Director  
Nóirín Cummins – District Manager  
Michael Brazzill – District Engineer  
Derek Cowman – District Technician  
Sandra Martin – District Staff Officer  
Johanna Somers – District Assistant Staff Officer  
Helen Meehan – Senior Staff Officer Housing  
Angela Finn – Senior Staff Officer Housing Capital  
Rory O'Mahony – Senior Executive Engineer Environment  
Sonia Hunt – Executive Planner

**Apologies:** Caroline Creane – Administrative Officer Community

An Cathaoirleach opened the meeting and welcomed the new chair to the Wexford branch of the IFA, Tom Doyle. An Cathaoirleach thanked the outgoing chair, Ger O'Mahony, for his work during his term, Cllr. Staples also expressed his thanks. Mr. Doyle addressed the Elected Members by introducing himself noting he was looking forward to the future working relationship with the Rosslare Municipal District. The EMs welcomed Mr. Doyle and assured him that the District Engineer was very amenable to facilitate the cutting of ash trees by way of road closures where necessary.

### **Sympathies**

Sympathies were extended by an Cathaoirleach to the family of the late Paul Murray of Cleariestown.

### **Congratulations**

An Cathaoirleach congratulated Mr. Alan Walsh and his team on the film "One Last Show" being filmed in Taghmon.

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the January Monthly Meeting were proposed by Cllr. Staples and seconded by Cllr. McDonald.

### **1.2 Matters Arising**

The District Manager confirmed that Kilmannon Graveyard had been put forward for funding under the Community Monument Fund for 2025.

Cllr. Staples proposed that Minister Boxer Moran be invited down to Ballyhealy beach to witness the extent of the coastal erosion, this was seconded by Cllr McDonald. The DM advised she believed that Minister Boxer Moran had previously agreed to a visit and perhaps Cllr. Carthy would be able to confirm upon his arrival.

## **3. District Manager Report**

The District Manager delivered her previously circulated monthly report.

An Cathaoirleach voiced his delight with the Rathangan and Cleariestown Heritage Map created by the Rathangan Heritage Group.

## **4. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

### **4.1 Roads Report**

The District Engineer delivered the previously circulated report, gave an overview of the roads programme budget and addressed questions from the Elected Members.

A discussion ensued regarding the Taking in Charge of estates in the district. Cllr. Carthy requested a meeting to discuss further, Cllr. McDonald noted that a full report was needed and if there was difficulty regarding a possible data breach, that the meeting be held in committee. The DE confirmed the report would be made available for the next monthly meeting and they could go into committee if necessary.

The DE acknowledged the work put in by Cllr. McDonald and the Roads Safety Engineer in securing funding of €250,000 for safety upgrades on the R733.

Cllr. McDonald requested that the licence for future works by the ESB on the Forth Celtic Road detail all stipulations including a full reinstatement and if drainage is required on the road it is done at the same time. The DE confirmed he had requested full scale drawings and all proposed finishes at a recent meeting with the ESB and Roads Central, and confirmed drainage will be included.

Disappointment was expressed by the EMs at the level of funding allocated to the district for the 2025 roads programme, the DE stated he would welcome more funding. Cllr. Codd called upon TDs to provide more funding commenting he was shocked that the 2025 funding was less than 2024.

Cllr. Carthy stated a policy was required outlining the bypass protocol in instances of road traffic collisions. The DE agreed a meeting with roads policing was required to determine a protocol.

Cllr. Codd welcomed the new Community Safety Coordinator Liam O'Donovan to the meeting.

#### **4.2 Housing Report**

An Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members thanked Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer in Housing for her 28 years of service to Wexford County Council and wished her all the best on her upcoming retirement.

Cllr. O'Brien and Cllr. McDonald congratulated Minister Browne on his recent appointment as Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Cllr. O'Brien spoke about Choice Based Letting and the Housing for All Action Plan, referencing recent figures she queried its effectiveness and cited her worries at the desperate need for housing in the Rosslare District. In response to her request for an update on affordable housing schemes in the area, the SSO advised there were none planned at the moment but that an expression of interest would be issued to all developers shortly. The SSO of Housing Capital advised that there is a mix of houses planned for the site in Kilmore Quay which will provide some additional social houses.

Cllr. Carthy & Cllr. McDonald highlighted issues with the housing report and requested older data be removed as it was misleading and very confusing in its current format. Cllr. Carthy commented on the low figures delivered by way of new housing in the RMD and asked what can be done to ensure houses are built at scale, Cllr. McDonald requested that each village is looked at to see where housing can be placed noting that funding would be provided by the Department.

Cllr. Codd pointed out that the issue around a lack of water and sewerage treatment was exasperating the issue and said a call needed to be put out to farmers for pockets of land to be made available. Cllr. Carthy commented that it must be cheaper than the current Tennant in Situ Scheme for the Local Authority to build a house and suggested a proposal be brought to Minister Browne in the Department.

Cllr. McDonald queried why Water Services were no longer included in the meeting report pack, stating that the EMs need an update on the investment announced four years ago for Tagoat and Wellingtonbridge and the possibility of building houses in those villages. The DM advised that updates are provided quarterly by Uisce Eireann. Cllr. Carthy requested who was advised of that change and why the EMs were not advised, he further requested an Cathaoirleach to ask his party leader to raise it in the Dáil and ask if Uisce Eireann will engage with the Local Authority.

An Cathaoirleach raised issue with the provision of housing being extended to Approved Housing bodies, Cllr. McDonald agreed that long term there may be

regret at being unable to purchase back housing stock provided by AHBs, but noted that AHBs stock is provided far quicker than LA stock, that people are being housed and it is more efficient in the middle of a housing crisis.

The suspension of Standing Orders was proposed by Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. McDonald.

A discussion ensued regarding the inability of AHB tenants to purchase their home, the SSO clarified that an AHB tenant may apply for a housing transfer on certain grounds, but the purpose of purchasing their home was not one of them. An Cathaoirleach accepted that it was national policy and not a rule set by the Local Authority.

Cllr. Carthy requested that the Housing Section hold a roadshow and meet developers and AHBs from surrounding counties and request if they will build houses in Wexford. The SSO advised that the Housing Section had met with developers on several occasions and another meeting was planned for early 2025, the SSO of Housing Capital advised that they are looking at a new strategy which will involve going out and approaching landowners in the villages that have the required infrastructure. Cllr. Carthy called for the use of the CPO powers of the Local Authority. The DD acknowledged the frustrations of the EMs and stated she would speak with the two DOS involved in the issues at hand.

The SSO of Housing Capital updated the EMs on the site in Ballygillane advising tenders were currently being assessed after which there will be an allowance of 8 weeks for detailed design and an expectation to be on site this Summer.

An Cathaoirleach requested an update on the Grantstown Shelter Housing Scheme phase 3 for the next meeting.

Regarding the proposals for extending zoning, Cllr. Carthy sought legal comment on the possibility of including a prerequisite that any extension to zoning that have wastewater infrastructure be solely for the purpose of social and affordable housing.

### ***4.3 Planning Report***

Cllr. Carthy welcomed the decision regarding the lighthouse keepers houses in Rosslare Harbour.

### ***4.4 Environment Report***

Cllr. Carthy requested that the public toilets in the new community centre in Rosslare Harbour be incorporated into the maintenance programme of Rosslare Strand.

The Senior Executive Engineer delivered a summary of the previously circulated report.

Cllr. McDonald requested an update on the combined assessment in Rosslare Strand and further information on the challenge of ABP's decision on the facility in Kilrane. Cllr. Carthy requested a meeting in committee at the next monthly meeting to discuss.

#### **4.5 Community Report**

Cllr. McDonald queried where Wexford Childcare Group fall under in the structure of Wexford County Council.

#### **4.7 Library Report**

In response to an Cathaoirleach seeking an update on the request for a PJ McCaul mural, the DM advised that funding was not available from the Arts Department this year. An Cathaoirleach voiced his disappointment, Cllr. Carthy requested an estimate on the cost be sought and the instruction be issued to the Arts Department for its commission. This was agreed by the members, and they requested a representative from the Arts Department attend the March monthly meeting.

#### **6. AOB**

Cllr. Carthy proposed Cllr. McDonald join the European Year of the Normans' Countywide Forum, this was seconded by Cllr. Staples.

To facilitate the visit of the Elected Members and Officials to the USA for St. Patrick's Day, it was unanimously agreed to move the March meeting to Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 10:30.

### **THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

Signed on the 31st March 2025

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jim Codd', is written over a horizontal line.

**Cllr. Jim Codd**

**An Cathaoirleach**

**Rosslare Municipal District**

