

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT
HELD AT 2.30P.M. ON MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2023 IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, CARRICKLAWN, WEXFORD.**

Presiding: - His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty

Councillors: - L. Kelly, G. Lawlor, M. Bell, G. Laffan, T. Forde, D. Hynes.

In Attendance:

Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Director of Services
Mr. Anthony Bailey, District Manager
Ms. Eilís Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment
Ms. Martina Donoghue, Administrative Officer, Housing
Mr. David Wall, Assistant Planner
Mr. Enda Waters, Executive Engineer, Special Projects
Mr. Kevin O'Connell, Nicholas Dwyer Consultants (Remote)
Dr. Flavio Fuso, Nicholas Dwyer Consultants (Remote)
Ms. Caroline Crowe, Assistant Staff Officer

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 18th November, 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated were confirmed, and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. G. Lawlor and Cllr. M. Bell raised the issue of speeding on Whiterock Hill. District Engineer Ms. E. Furlong confirmed that a speed survey is complete and the area is a candidate for Low Cost Safety measures.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES HELD 19TH OCTOBER 2023

The Minutes from the Wexford Borough District Heritage Committee Meeting held 19th October 2023 were noted.

Cllr. M. Bell congratulated the Heritage Committee on recent works and was delighted to see the Westgate Heritage Centre in use over the Opera Festival period.

Mr. A. Bailey, District Manager confirmed that a number of parties have expressed interest in the Westgate Heritage Centre and following significant investment by Wexford County Council it will likely be utilised as an arts based centre.

In response to a request from Cllr. L. Kelly for an update on the old hospital site, Mr. Bailey, District Manager, confirmed that he would follow up with the Planning Section.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty and Members commended the good work of Ms. Helen Corish-Wylde on the Presentation Convent.

UPDATE ON FLEADH 2024

Mr. Taaffe outlined to Members the proposed assignment of areas/venues for competitions, events and vendors. A further meeting with An Garda Síochána is to be held in January with Members to be briefed afterwards. Additional public information sessions will also be organised.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Taaffe.

- Date for all aspects of the website going live.
- Opportunity to relaunch the Ambassador Programme to upsell Wexford for future visitors.
- Tender for security companies
- Opportunity for local companies to tender for PR.
- Availability of additional resources for An Garda Síochána
- Installation of electric advertising in old Tourist Office to promote Fleadh.

SECTION 183 – LEASE OF PROPERTY AT COOLCOTTS COMMUNITY CENTRE TO CLONARD AREA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION LTD.

The attached report regarding the proposed lease of property at Coolcotts Community Centre to Clonard Area Development Association Ltd., a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by the District Manager.

The proposed lease of property was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. George Lawlor and seconded by Cllr. Leonard Kelly.

WEXFORD TOWN AND ENVIRONS FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME PRESENTATION

Mr. Enda Waters, Executive Engineer, Special Projects, Mr. Kevin O’Connell and Dr. Falvio Fuso of Nicholas Dwyer Consultants gave a brief presentation to Members on the Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme to Members.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Enda Waters and Mr. E. Taaffe;

- Illegal dumping in the Horse River contributing to flooding issues
- Surging of manhole covers
- Dredging of quay
- Completion time for works
- Availability of crews in extreme weather events
- Flooding at the Wexford Heritage Park

Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Services thanked the team for their presentation and commented that extreme weather events will become more frequent. He requested

Members to encourage people to come forward with information regarding historical flooding so as to be better able to prepare for future flooding.

REPORTS

PLANNING

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was discussed.

The following issues raised by the Members were addressed by Mr. D. Wall, Assistant Planner and Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Services;

- Update on area known as The Knock
- Legitimacy of new entrance to Coolballow/Starvehall junction

HOUSING

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was discussed.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. M. Donoghue, Administrative Officer.

- Delays to retro fitting of windows and doors.
- Assisting tenants of other housing agencies who do not offer services over the weekend.
- Advertising for expressions of interest to supply emergency accommodation.
- Availability of funding for emergency accommodation for people based in Wexford in the former An Garda Síochána building, Roches Road.

Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Services clarified that funding for the provision of emergency accommodation is not an issue, as a demand led service there are no expressions of interest.

ENVIRONMENT

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was discussed.

The following issues were raised by Members and addressed by Mr. H. Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment;

- Levy on drinks cans from 1st February 2024
- Nuisance element of horse riders on beaches, reinforcement of messaging regarding responsible use of beaches by horse riders required.

His Worship the Mayor Cllr. J. Hegarty on behalf of Members congratulated the entrants of the Christmas Decorations competition which are currently on display in the "Street" County Hall.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was discussed.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Furlong.

- Parking issues at Wexford Swimming Pool and clamping signs in place.
- Review of barriers on working dock area
- Requirement for double yellow lines adjacent to dished crossings on footpaths
- Surface quality on Glenville Road
- Roadmarkings required at Newtown/Glenville Road junction
- Bolt Bike stand at St. Aidan's/Talbot Green.
- Trinity Wharf update
- Road markings across the district.
- Update on Cluain Dara crossing
- Update on drainage at entrance to Liam Mellows Park
- Update on canopy works on Monck Street
- Update on flood repairs to Kerlogue wall
- Requirement for traffic survey for St. John's Road
- Completion date for design works for Elderwood and Ballyboggan, Castlebridge
- Possibility of a second entrance to St. Ibar's Cemetery, Crosstown.
- Flooding on Crosstown and Ardavan Road

Suspension of Standing Orders.

It being 4.30pm on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty, it was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow for the remaining business on the agenda to be concluded.

COMMUNITY

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVE & ARTS

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

FIRE SERVICES

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

TALBOT GREEN INTERAGENCY MEETING

Following a suggestion from His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty, Members unanimously agreed that a request be submitted to the Housing Department for the laneway at DePaul to be blocked, together with the disposal of land at the gated laneway.

Cllr. M. Bell requested that minutes from the Talbot Green Interagency meetings be included as an item on the agenda for the January meeting.

ERECTION OF PLAQUE

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell, Members unanimously agreed that a commemorative plaque be erected on the Crescent to mark the John Barry connection between Wexford and Annapolis.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty advised Members that discussions are being held between the Mayors of Wexford and Annapolis regarding collaboration on future projects.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

On the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. John Hegarty, a unanimous vote of sympathy was extended to the families of the following:

- Mr. Kevin Murphy, William Street, Wexford, RIP
- Mrs. Alice Heffernan, South Main Street, Wexford, RIP.
- James Shiggins, Old Town Road, Castlebridge, Wexford, RIP.
- James Furlong, Ballyvelig, Campile, Co. Wexford, RIP.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 15th JANUARY 2024.

MAYOR OF WEXFORD