

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 17TH JULY 2023 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, CARRICKLAWN, WEXFORD.

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

Councillors: - G. Laffan, T. Forde, G. Lawlor, M. Bell

In Attendance:

Ms. Sinead Casey, A/Director of Services

Mr. Anthony Bailey, District Manager

Mr. Claude Clancy, Administrative Officer, Community

Ms. Melissa Goff, Senior Staff Officer, Environment

Ms. Caroline Creane, Senior Staff Officer, Housing

Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing

Ms. Sonia Hunt, Executive Planner

Mr. Chris Burke Young, Planning

Mr. Paul Delaney, Cornmarket Project

Mr. Niall Conway, KPMG

Mr. Liam Mannix, KPMG

Ms. Caroline Crowe, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies from Cllr. D. Hynes, Cllr. L. Kelly, Ms. E. Furlong, District Engineer for their inability to attend the meeting were noted.

At the outset, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty welcomed the attendance of Mr. Paul Delaney, Co-Ordinator, Cornmarket Project, Mr. Niall Conway and Mr. Patrick Jequrs of KPMG.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

- Mr. John Redmond, Northampton, UK, brother in law of Cllr. David Hynes, RIP
- Mr. Jim O'Mahony, RIP, Killinick, Co. Wexford

CONGRATULATIONS

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following;

- Special Olympians, Jenna Carty & Tadhg O'Shaughnessy
- Organisers of Relay for Life

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 19th June, 2023 copies of which had previously been circulated, were not signed as Members requested that Minutes be amended to reflect their dissatisfaction with the proposed Adult School Warden Policy 2023 (Draft) as outlined by Mr. David Codd, Chief Technician.

Matters Arising

A letter of invitation is to be issued to relevant parties/stakeholders to discuss issues of antisocial behaviour and the discarding of drugs paraphernalia in the public thoroughfare at Talbot Green.

MINUTES FROM ANNUAL MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Monday, 26th June, 2023, copies of which had been circulated to Members, were confirmed, and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

MINUTES FROM JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 6th July, 2023, copies of which had been circulated to Members, were noted, and signed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

CHOICE BASED LETTING SYSTEM

Ms. Caroline Creane, Senior Staff Officer, Housing Department gave a detailed explanation of the purpose and operation of the new Choice Based Letting System. Ms Creane addressed any questions raised by Members. Members welcomed the new system but requested a selection of photographs for each property listed before the system goes live. Ms. Creane reminded Members that they are to act as facilitators only, and not to complete applications for members of the public. Ms. Creane confirmed that information sessions for applicants would start the following week with time slots to be booked on the website for each Municipal District. Video tutorials would also be available.

HOUSING

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer.

- Tenant in Situ Scheme – update on how scheme is working.

- Policy on the maximum three night from four absence policy.
- Vacant House Grant.

THE CORNMARKEt PROJECT – PRESENTATION BY MR. PAUL DELANEY, CO-ORDINATOR.

Mr. Paul Delaney, Co-Ordinator, Cornmarket Project gave a brief overview of the range of essential services and programmes offered by the project in addition to their primary service of one-to-one addiction counselling. Other services include advocacy services, group therapy, drop-in low-threshold service, outreach service, homelessness day service, women's substance misuse service, DSP Community Employment Drugs Rehab Schemes. Two social enterprises - Kafé Connect and EPIC Printed Promotional Materials are also part of the project. In 2022 support was provided to 141 individuals from the Wexford Town area. Mr. Delaney informed Members that recidivism is at 23%, below national average of 40-60%. Mr. Delaney thanked Members for their goodwill and support.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. John Hegarty thanked Mr. Delaney for his comprehensive report. Members undertook to promote both Kafé Connect and EPIC Printed Promotional Materials in any way they could and pledged their unwavering support.

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP) – DISCUSSION OF DRAFT LECP ACTIONS, ONJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

Mr. Niall Conway and Mr. Liam Mannix of KMPG presented an overview of high-level goals, objectives and outcomes resulting from the third consultation of the LECP. The following issues raised by members were acknowledged by Mr. Conway and Mr. Mannix who gave assurances that points raised would be taken on board.

- The language used in reference to the goal of continuous life-long learning did not appear to address older learning.
- School going children should be included in road safety in the Goal – Towns, Villages & Rural Communities.
- The Goal – Wellbeing, Inclusion, Equality and Diversity looked better than in previous drafts.

PLANNING

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Sonia Hunt, Executive Planner.

- Update on works currently underway at the old Garda Station

- Timely flow of information on projects to Members was needed to prevent opportunities for scare-mongering.
- Lack of pre-planning meetings affecting the planning refusal numbers. Cllr. G. Laffan requested confirmation that all vacancies within the planning department have been filled with an update to be provided for the next meeting.

In response to concerns raised by Cllr. J. Hegarty about the high rate of planning refusals, Ms. Hunt confirmed that all pre-planning meetings were up to date and the backlog cleared.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Sinead Casey, A/Director of Services.

- The timeframe for completion of the performance space on the old Tesco site for the Fleadh.
- Plans for the old rubbish dump in Carcur.
- Confirmation if responsibility for Cromwellsfort wall was ever established following previous emergency repair works
- Repairs for Kennedy Park carpark badly damaged by Irish Water burst, trip hazards.
- Reports of multiple falls on Quay due to kerbing.
- Confirmation of a one-way system plan for School Street.
- Update regarding progress for plan for Castlebridge

Cllr. G. Laffan requested an update from Ms. E. Furlong, District Engineer in relation to the damaged concrete fencing at entrance to Crossabeg.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. John Hegarty requested that an update on the fleadh be included on the agenda for the monthly meetings, together with a regular flow of information to Members.

ENVIRONMENT

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Melissa Goff, Senior Staff Officer, Environment.

- Update requested on the proposed toilet facility in the Failte Ireland office on the quay.
- Water dispensers in Ballinesker non-operational.
- Mechanism be found to name people convicted of litter fines as a deterrent and a zero tolerance approach should be enforced. Requested co-operation of the local press to name and shame.
- Littering with cigarette butts outside staff entrances on the main street.
- Unauthorised advertisement posters for upcoming events.

16.58 Cllr. Garry Laffan gave his apologies and exited the meeting.

It being 17.02 on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty, it was unanimously agreed to suspend standing orders.

- Difficulty with accessibility at Curracloe Beach – insufficient board walk access, non-accessibility of tables.
- Update on plans for Curracloe playground.
- Update on the weatherproofing of Monck Street.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS

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

FIRE SERVICES REPORT

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

Cllr. T. Forde queried that in light of fire officers returning to strike action only being able to attend an incident should there be a threat to life what contingency plan is in place for other incidents, e.g. fire at The Raven Forest. Mr. Anthony Bailey, District Manager, confirmed that he will liase with his contact in the Fire Services and provide an update to Members.

MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM

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

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty thanked Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Engineer, Water Services for all his efforts in works on Airfield Road which are an undoubted success.

He wished all an enjoyable Summer and meetings will reconvene in September.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2023

MAYOR OF WEXFORD