

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT
HELD AT 2.30P.M. ON MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 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. Tom Enright, Chief Executive
Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Director of Services
Mr. Anthony Bailey, District Manager
Ms. Fionnuala Callery, A/Senior Engineer, Water Services
Ms. Eilís Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Therese Nolan, A/Senior Executive Architect, Housing
Mr. Walter Crean, Architectural Technician, Housing
Mr. Tom Byrne, Executive Engineer, Active Travel
Mr. Vincent Gallagher, A/Senior Executive Technician, Active Travel
Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment
Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Sharon Ryan, A/Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Mr. Tom Doyle, CEO, Wexford F.C.
Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer
Ms. Caroline Crowe, Assistant Staff Officer

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 16th October, 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. M. Bell request that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 16th October be amended to reflect that Members unanimously agreed to the proposed memorial garden being developed at Ely House.

Mr. A. Bailey, District Manager informed Members that he has contacted the H.S.E. and is currently awaiting confirmation of arrangements to allow Council site access to carry out site investigation works.

UPDATE ON PROPOSED LEAGUE OF IRELAND STADIUM, KILLEENS

Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive thanked the Mayor and Members for allowing him and Mr. Tom Doyle, CEO Wexford F.C, to attend today's meeting to provide an update to Members on the proposed league of Ireland Stadium at Killeen's.

Mr. Enright outlined that a new facility was necessary as the new motorway will go through the current facility in Ferrycarrig. A new stadium and training facility is to be located at Killeen's, in addition to the new university, school and housing development proposed for the area.

Mr. Doyle stated that this was a phenomenal opportunity for the county and the facility will be available to all clubs countywide. Mr. Doyle confirmed that there will be a planned approach to use the infrastructure to its full potential ensuring access for all. Mr. Doyle expressed his gratitude to Mr. Enright and Members for all the work carried out to date to secure this new location.

Mr. Enright clarified that a Section 183 for the disposal of the land to Wexford F.C. will be presented to the Members shortly, but that a covenant lease will be entered into to ensure that Wexford County Council retains an interest in the use of the facility for community training purposes, when not in use by Wexford F.C. He confirmed that the project will be managed by the Special Projects Section and that a master plan for the Ballynagee & Killeens area is to be drawn up. It is anticipated that this will be available, Qtr. 4, 2024 and Mr. Enright undertook to provide regular briefings to Member on its progress.

Members broadly welcomed the proposed stadium but did raise the issue of costs and the necessity for inclusion adequate carparking facilities, together with considered traffic management for the development of this area as a whole.

In response to a query from His Worship the Mayor J. Hegarty regarding the possibility of the relocation of Our Lady of Fatima school to the Killeens area also, as their current building is not fit for purpose, Mr. Enright confirmed that he had met with management at the school and that an alternative site is actively being sought.

MINUTES OF PROTOCOL MEETING

The minutes of the Protocol Meeting held on 16th October, 2023, copies of which had previously been circulated to Members were noted.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. John Hegarty asked Members to forward on their nominations to be included for proposed sports civic award night.

UPDATE ON FLEADH 2024

Mr. Taaffe, Director of Services provided an update to Members on Fleadh 2024. It was noted that the first public information evening is to be held, this evening, in The Street, County Hall.

Mr. Taaffe informed Members that ongoing discussions are taking place with An Garda Síochána and the H.S.E. Works are also progressing on finalising the venues for competitions and events.

Mr. Taaffe stated that it is anticipated that the Event Management Company will be appointed in the new few weeks, with the statutory planning process for the event to commence early in the new year.

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

- Official merchandise and its availability to local traders
- Life span of proposed performance structure in Crescent Quay.
- Volunteering for the Fleadh.
- Liaising with Failte Ireland to market the Fleadh internationally.

Mr. Taaffe confirmed that the dedicated Fleadh website is to be up and running in the next week, with the priority on registration for the provision of accommodation.

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:

- Ms. Margaret (Rita) Doyle, The Bushels, Cornmarket, Wexford RIP
- Mr. Simon Gubbins, Maunsells Rd, Galway & formerly Clonard, Wexford RIP
- Mrs. Maire Gately, Ard Aerach, Newtown Road, Wexford RIP
- Mrs. Helena Gaynor, Ballygoman, Barntown, Wexford RIP
- Mr. Oliver Shiggins, Oldtown, Castlebridge, Co. Wexford RIP

SECTION 183 – DISPOSAL OF NO. 10 PETER STREET WEXFORD

The attached report regarding the proposed disposal of No. 10 Peter Street, Wexford, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by the District Manager.

Following confirmation received, in response to a query from Cllr. Kelly, that the property was being disposed of following an open market process, the proposed disposal was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan.

PROPOSED PART 8 – 4 UNITS AT GROGAN’S ROAD, WEXFORD

The attached report regarding the proposed Part 8 for 4 units at Grogan’s Road, Wexford, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Ms. T. Nolan, A/Senior Executive Architect and unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

SECTION 38 – ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME, NEWTOWN ROAD REPORT

The attached report regarding the proposed Section 38 – Active Travel Scheme, Newtown Road, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. T. Byrne, Executive Engineer. Mr. Byrne informed Members that the public consultation process was completed on the 25th October, 2023 and all the

submissions received were supportive of the scheme. Mr. Byrne further added that the scheme is being design in-house and is anticipated that it will advance to procurement stage Qtr. 1, 2023, subject to available funding.

Following clarifications, the scheme was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell seconded by Cllr. T. Forde.

REPORTS

HOUSING

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

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

- Lack of available properties in the district on the Choice Based Letting System.
- Requirement for assistance and/or additional training for members of public using the Choice Based Letting System.
- Number of people currently on the housing list both countywide and in the district.
- Number of refusals of housing offers.

Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Services clarified that one of significant benefits of the Choice Based Letting system is that it eliminates the refusal process.

PLANNING

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

Mr. A. Bailey, District Manager asked that in the absence of Ms. Sonia Hunt, Executive Planner, that any queries be emailed directly to the Planning Section.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

Ms. F. Callery, A/Senior Engineer, Water Services gave a brief presentation to Members on the recent issues experienced with the public water supply in Wexford Town.

Ms. Callery advised that a series of issues led to the supply system being stressed beyond its capabilities which resulted in repeated outages in October. Ms. Callery acknowledged Members and the public frustration with the situation.

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

- Capability of infrastructure to deal with extreme weather events.
- Investment required to upgrade assets.

- Additional reservoir capacity for higher parts of town.
- Improvements to communication to public

Ms. Callery took the opportunity to compliment Wexford County Council staff, Uisce Eireann staff and contractors who worked through very difficult conditions to restore the water supply as quickly as possible to all the areas affected.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. John Hegarty thanked Ms. Callery, on behalf of Members, for her presentation.

Ms. E. Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer provided an update to Members on the recent extreme rainfall event on the 28th October which impacted both properties and the curtilage of the districts road network. Ms. Furlong advised that the Emergency Response Team had met following the weather and high tide alerts from Met Eireann, which resulted in crews being mobilised to deal with issues and close off roads where necessary.

Ms. Furlong further advised that a clean-up operation is underway, and investigations are continuing regarding the causes of flooding at the worst affected properties and roads.

Ms. Furlong thanked Members for directing calls to the emergency out of hours number and asked that Members forward any information of flooding at properties, including videos to her, for investigation.

Ms. Furlong confirmed that the winter maintenance plan, cleaning gullies, had been enacted and jetting had occurred in high-risk areas but the level of rainfall on the night was unprecedented.

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

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

- Ponding at Liam Mellows Park
- Update on installation of curtesy crossings at Browne's Pub, Bishopswater.
- Numbers of, and availability of Bolt Bikes across the district.
- Update on proposed active travel works in Castlebridge.
- Resurfacing works and illumination of car parking area at Kennedy Park, opposite Wexford Albion football pitch.
- Additional lights at the bank area, Kennedy Park.
- Provision of lights at Harris Lane heading to The Rocks.
- Update on speed survey on Whiterock Hill.
- Requirement for double yellow lines adjacent to dished crossings on footpaths, to prevent parking.
- Installation of additional bus shelters across the district.
- Flooding repairs at Castlebridge Community Hall.
- Request for traffic calming measures close to the entrance to a property at Larkins Cross.
- Ongoing flooding at Ballynaglough Lane and Badger's Hill, Barntown.
- Cleaning of shores between Kilpatrick and Kyle Cross, Crossabeg.
- Speed survey needed on road between Crossabeg and Edenvale.

- Impact of staff numbers on routine road maintenance works being undertaken.
- Update on proposed crossing at Cluain Dara.
- Energisation of lights at the pedestrian crossing at Whitemill Industrial Estate.
- Ongoing flooding at the shrine at Drinagh
- Update on the automated bollard at junction of Lower George's Street and Main Street.
- Completion date for the canopy on Monck Street.
- Completion date for resurfacing works in The Faythe.
- Flooding in Crosstown.

Cllr. G. Laffan paid tribute to the roads crew who worked in extremely difficult conditions on the 28th of October, to deal with all the flooding issues.

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.

ENVIRONMENT

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

Mr. H. Maguire reminded Members that the closing date for submissions on the draft Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029, is Tuesday 21st November, 2023.

Cllr. M. Bell congratulated all those who received an Environment Award and the staff involved in organising the awards night.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVE & ARTS

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

Cllr. M. Bell welcomed the new initiative “Any News”, which was launched in Wexford Library recently, which is an extension of the “Happy to Chat” initiative to increase social engagement and reduce isolation in the community.

Cllr. G. Laffan also welcomed the initiative being introduced by Sports Active in Wexford Library in the next number weeks, whereby activator poles will be available to borrow.

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.

Cllr. T. Forde reiterated that the system was fit for purpose and consideration should be looked at to its requirement.

Christmas in Wexford

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty reminded Members that the Wexford Winterland Parade and Turning on the Christmas Lights will take place on Saturday the 25th of November, with the parade starting at 4p.m. from Selskar.

Talbot Green Interagency Meeting

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty informed Members that a meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 30th November 2023 to provide an update on the laneway closure and a resolution to bus parking in the area.

M.V. Kerlogue

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty confirmed to Members that a ceremony will take place on Friday 29th December, 2023, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the M.V. Kerlogue rescue.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 18TH DECEMBER, 2023

MAYOR OF WEXFORD