

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT
HELD AT 2.30P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH 2024 IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, COUNTY HALL, WEXFORD.**

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

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

In Attendance:

Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Interim Chief Executive
Mr. Shay Howell, A/Director of Services
Ms. Eilís Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Graeme Hunt, Executive Planner
Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment
Mr. Michael Sweeney, Administrative Officer, Property Unit
Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Tara Farrell, Senior Staff Officer, Community
Mr. Ronan Griffin, Assistant Staff Officer, Community
Ms Deirdre Mulally, Local Coordinator Wexford, Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme.
Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer
Ms. Caroline Crowe, Assistant Staff Officer.

Apologies from Mr. Anthony Bailey, District Manager for his inability to attend the meeting were noted.

At the outset of the meeting, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty welcomed Mr. S. Howell, on behalf of Members, as Acting Director of Services to Wexford Borough District.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 19th February, 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated were confirmed, and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

MINUTES OF JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Wexford Borough Joint Policing Committee meeting held on Friday 1st March, 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan.

HEALTHY AGE FRIENDLY HOMES PROGRAMME

Ms. Deirdre Mullally, Local Coordinator Wexford gave a presentation to Members on the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme. Ms. Mullally advised that the programme is a collaboration between the Department of Health and the Department

of Housing and Local Government, to provide a free service designed to enable older people to remain living in their own home for longer. Ms. Mullally outlined the assessment and referral process to Members.

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

- Clarification on grant application for older persons
- Minimum age for participants in the scheme.
- Project duration
- Warmer Homes Scheme
- Information availability on website.
- Linkage with Community Forum and other relevant stakeholders.
- Identification of vulnerable persons.
- Social Prescribing.
- Opportunities for provision of appropriate accommodation
- List of annual priorities.

Members broadly welcomed the scheme. His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty, thanked Ms. Mullally, on behalf of Members, for her informative presentation, and wished her every success with the scheme.

AMENDMENT TO WEXFORD LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN

The attached report regarding the amendment to wording in Wexford Local Economic & Community Plan to ensure its alignment with the Wexford County Development Plan, 2022 -2028, copies of which had previously been circulated was presented by Mr. R. Griffin, Assistant Staff Officer, and unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

SECTION 183 – DISPOSAL OF NO. 10 PETER STREET

The attached report regarding the proposed disposal of No. 10 Peter Street, a copy of which had previously been circulated was presented by Mr. M. Sweeney, Administrative Officer, Property Section, and unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

SECTION 183 – DISPOSAL OF LAND AT BALLYLEMIN, SCREEN

The attached report regarding the proposed disposal of land at Ballylemin, Screen, a copy of which had previously been circulated was presented by Mr. M. Sweeney, Administrative Officer, Property Section, and unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

SECTION 183 – EXCHANGE OF LANDS AT CARRICKLAWN

The attached report regarding the proposed exchange of land at Carricklawn, Wexford, a copy of which had previously been circulated was presented by Mr. M. Sweeney, Administrative Officer, Property Section, and unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan.

SECTION 183 – RECTIFICATION OF LAND TRANSFER AT LAMBSTOWN KILLURIN

The attached report regarding the proposed rectification of land transfer at Lambstown, Killurin, a copy of which had previously been circulated was presented by Mr. M. Sweeney, Administrative Officer, Property Section, and unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

SECTION 183 – RECTIFICATION OF LAND TRANSFER AT BALLYBOGGAN LOWER, CASTLEBRIDGE.

The attached report regarding the proposed rectification of land transfer at Ballyboggan Lower, Castlebridge, a copy of which had previously been circulated was presented by Mr. M. Sweeney, Administrative Officer, Property Section, and unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

3-YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024 -2026

The attached report regarding the proposed 3-year Capital Programme 2024-2026, a copy of which had previously been circulated was presented by Mr. S. Howell, A/Director of Services. Mr. Howell advised Members that the programme provides for the projects set out in the Economic and Community Investment Programme and which are subject of the €56m borrowing programme.

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

- Adequate funding for Crescent Quay Basin Project
- Progression of, and future funding for the Wexfordia Project.
- Intended use of the Mechanics Institute, once internal works are complete.
- Re-examination of Curracloe to Wexford Town Greenway.
- Provision of footpaths from Wexford Town to Castlebridge, which are included in Wexford County Development Plan.
- Repairs to Castlebridge House Conservatory.
- Options for Crescent Quay site.
- Intended use of Ballast Office.

On the recommendation of Mr. Howell, following discussion, Members unanimously adopted the 3-year plan as presented.

UPDATE ON FLEADH 24

Mr. E. Taaffe, Interim Chief Executive provided a brief update on Fleadh 2024. Mr. Taaffe advised Members that the Draft Traffic Management Plan had been presented at a public meeting on Tuesday 19th March, and is on display in “The Street”, County Hall for the coming week.

Mr. Taaffe stated that the statutory event licence application will be submitted to the Planning Section, by the end of March and following the statutory public consultation period, the formal road closures will be advertised.

Mr. Taaffe indicated that an additional public information evening will be scheduled for mid-April.

Mr. Taaffe was pleased to inform Members that the official launch of Fleadh 2024 will take place on Saturday 30th March, in the National Opera House.

PART XI – ESTATE NAMING POLICY 2024

The attached policy, copies of which had previously been circulated was presented by Mr. S. Howell, A/Director of Services. Mr. Howell informed Members that estates being named was a requirement in advance of applications to ESB and Uisce Eireann, respectively, for connections. Mr. Howell further advised that the use of names of recently deceased not being permitted was removed from the most up to date version of the policy, as agreed at the recent Council meeting.

In response to a query from Cllr. G. Lawlor regarding the naming of private estate, Mr. Howell clarified that the policy presented related to local authority housing estates. Mr. G. Hunt, Executive Planner added that the naming of private housing estate was part of the planning process and names were adjudicated on by a committee.

Mr. Hunt undertook to circulate the membership and format for the committee to Members. On the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor that the membership of the committee should include a nominee from the Wexford Borough Heritage Committee.

On the recommendation of Mr. Howell, Members unanimously adopted the Part XI Estate Naming Policy 2024.

REPORTS

HOUSING

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

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

- Availability of alternative accommodation for long-term residents of Ozanam House.
- Advertising for expression of interest for emergency accommodation for homeless.
- Closure of laneway at Talbot Green
- Update on Retro fit Windows and Doors Scheme.
- Review of income thresholds for housing applicants.
- Extension of application period to two weeks for Choice Based Letting Scheme and introduction of paper-based form.

- Update on demolished houses at Bride Street.

PLANNING

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. G. Hunt, Executive Planner.

- Validity of objections to planning permission applications.

Ms. S. Kehoe, Staff Officer informed Members that an information event will take place on Wednesday 10th April from 2pm to 6pm in the Borough Offices, hosted by the Regeneration Unit, to promote awareness and support for owners of vacant/derelict properties.

Suspension of Standing Orders

It being 4.30p.m., 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.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Members.

- Review of bollards on main street
- Update on automatic bollard at junction of the Main Street/Georges Street.
- Pondering at Crosstown.
- Line-marking required between Curraclloe and Ballinesker.
- Update on power supply on the quayfront.
- Issue of buses and refuse trucks damaging green area at Corish Park.
- Repairs to barrier at Ferrycarrig bridge
- Timeline for traffic speed limit review across the district.
- Update on Allocations for Community Improvement Schemes and Local Improvement Schemes.
- Re-lining of Disabled space in St. Aidan's Crescent
- Results of traffic survey on Johns' Road.
- Update on low-cost safety works at Bride Street and Whiterock Hill.
- Completion date for Active Travel Scheme on the Newtown Road
- Progress on repairs to the wall at Kerlogue.
- Update on the Traffic Management Plan
- Trialling of buses from Talbot Green to Grogan's Road
- Pondering at Liam Mellows Park.
- Update on the design of junction at Distillery Road and The Fairways.

- Installation of pedestrian crossing to Cuain Aingeal and lighting up of monument.
- Traffic calming at Mary Street.
- Resurfacing required at Codds Lane.
- Clarification on the reason for the number of faults with the traffic lights at Wexford Bridge.
- Repairs to surface on the Newtown Road.
- Infill public lighting in Crosstown.
- Repairs to the pier access barrier at Ferrybank.

In response to safety concerns raised by Cllr. G. Lawlor about an ambulance traveling against the flow of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Ms. S. Kehoe, Staff Officer advised that an event plan had been agreed in advance of the parade and that the incident would be investigated.

Cllr. M. Bell expressed her gratitude to Ms. E. Furlong, District Engineer for facilitating the removal of the flood barrier at John Barry Memorial, which has allowed ease of access for visitors.

COMMUNITY

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated were noted.

ENVIRONMENT

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

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

- Repairs to the beach access boardwalk at Raven's Point, Curracloe.
- Illegal dumping in a laneway at Belvedere Grove.

Mr. H. Maguire advised Members that the draft Litter Management Plan 2024-2027 is advertised as part of the public consultation process, and that the closing date for receipt of submissions on same, is 4p.m. Monday 22nd April, 2024.

In response to a request from His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty for an update on progress on the installation of a playground at Curracloe, Mr. Maguire advised that the tender prices had come in considerably higher than was anticipated at €65,000 and currently there was no funding source available to proceed with the project.

Following a lengthy discussion, during which Members expressed their frustration regarding the increase in costs from the initial proposal, Members unanimously agreed to examine redirecting funds from the proposed Covid Memorial Garden to the playground project, which does not appear to be proceeding.

LIBRARY, ARCHIVE AND ARTS

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated were noted.

FIRE SERVICES

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated were noted.

MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated were noted.

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:

- Mrs. Olive Lambert, Talbot Green, Wexford. RIP
- Mrs. Mary Foley Goodison, Hantoon Road, Maudlintown Wexford. RIP
- Mr. Michael Cullen, Devereux Villas, Wexford. RIP
- Mrs. Mary Fallon, Whiterock Heights, Wexford RIP
- Mrs. Ann Crosbie, Ballygoman, Barntown, Wexford RIP

CONGRATULATIONS

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- The Fleadh Executive Committee and all involved in securing The Fleadh for 2025.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 15TH APRIL, 2024

MAYOR OF WEXFORD