

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 19TH APRIL, 2021 HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS.

Presiding:- His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly
Councillors:- G. Lawlor, J. Hegarty, M. Bell, G. Laffan, D. Hynes, T. Forde.

In Attendance-

Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive
Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services.
Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager.
Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.
Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment.
Mr. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner.
Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing.
Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer,
Ms. Caroline Crowe, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

- Mr. Eugene Byrne, Killeens, former Member of An Garda Siochana RIP
- Mr. Jack Curran, Killurin, RIP
- Mr. Paddy Hanlon, Tomcoole, Taghmon RIP
- Mrs. Kay Lyons, Carrigmannon, Glynn RIP
- Mr. John Hore, Coolree formerly Davitt Road North RIP
- Ms. Liz. Maloney, Clonard Village RIP
- Mr. Terry Moran, Lambert Place, RIP
- Mrs. Philomena Hynes, Davitt Road South RIP

CONGRATULATIONS

Votes of congratulations were extended to the following:

- Mr. Billy O'Brien, Ballycogley, on his induction into the Darts Association, Hall of Fame.
- Wexford County Council for securing Failte Ireland funding for the Curraclloe Water Sports Activity Centre.
- To the successful businesses recently awarded Outdoor Trading Licences for the mobile units at Wexford Quayfront, Carraigfoyle and Min Ryan Park.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 19th April, 2021, 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 MEETINGS OF WEXFORD BOROUGH HERITAGE SUB COMMITTEE.

The minutes of the following meetings of Wexford Borough Heritage Sub Committee, copies of which had previously been circulated, were noted.

- Minutes of Meeting held on 27th November, 2020
- Minutes of Meeting held on 15th February, 2021
- Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd March, 2021

Cllr. J. Hegarty commended all involved in the Committee on their work as outlined in the minutes.

PROPOSED LIGHTSHIP RESTURANT IN WEXFORD HARBOUR – PRESENTATION BY MR. RICHARD MULCAHY.

The Chief Executive, Mr. Tom Enright, introduced Mr. Richard Mulcahy who was involved in the Min Ryan Park project and his Architect, Mr. Eunan McLoughlin, and welcomed them to the meeting to outline to the Members their vision for an ambitious commercial project on Wexford Quayfront.

Mr. Richard Mulcahy presented a proposed plan, developed in conjunction with Mr Harry Crosbie, to install a lightship restaurant on Wexford Quayfront. The plan would see the installation of the Kittiwake lightship, or similar, on the quayfront to operate as a restaurant/café and mini cultural centre as an attraction for the people of Wexford and tourists alike. Mr. Mulcahy advised that the significant investment required is in place. The promoters would seek a formal Licence Agreement from Wexford County Council to use the land for a period of 20 years with a 10 year review clause. Under the terms of the Agreement, the lightship would be made available to Wexford County Council 20 days per annum, free of charge, to host cultural or other civic events. Mr. Mulcahy clarified that approval in principle is being sought and, if approved by the Members, it is intended to prepare detailed drawings with a view to proceeding with a Part 8 planning application in the coming months.

The concept was outlined in detail by consultant architect, Mr. Eunan McLoughlin, of MCLA. He advised that the lightship would be sited parallel to the quayfront, set back

10m from the harbour wall so as not to encroach on the boardwalk. A functional service unit to include a storage area and toilets is also included in the preliminary design and would be situated alongside the bridge wall adjacent to the abutment of the bridge. Members were informed that the toilet unit would be made available for public use.

Members thanked Mr. Mulcahy and Mr. McLoughlin for their presentation of the project but advised that much more detail would be required before any decision could be made. Questions and various concerns raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Mulcahy and Mr. Mc Loughlin.

Following lengthy discussion and on the proposal of the Chief Executive, it was unanimously agreed by Members that additional information and more detailed planning drawings will be presented to Members at the May meeting to allow them to make a more informed decision with regard to approving the proposal to proceed to a Part 8 Planning Application.

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE SPACE ON WEXFORD QUAYFRONT – PRESENTATION BY MR. STEPHEN CARR, ARCHITECT.

Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services, informed the Members that Wexford Town has been selected following a call for proposals to provide an outdoor performance space in the County under the Departments Outdoor Public Space Scheme, 2021. He advised that the project will be subject to grant approval and, if approved by Members, will proceed to the planning process. The maximum grant available is €250,000 and subject to matching funding of 10%.

Mr. Stephen Carr, Architect, outlined in detail the concept to develop 'The Crest Pavilion', an outdoor performance space on a corner space on Wexford Quayfront close to the Crescent. It is envisaged that the proposed pavilion will be an all year multi-purpose facility with flexibility within the design to facilitate a variety of public performances or as a public space for people to sit and relax.

Members broadly welcomed the proposal and thanked Mr. Carr for his presentation.

Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager, confirmed use of the facility will be subject to bookings managed by the District, through the Council Events Management system.

Mr. S. Kavanagh, SEE, confirmed that the Council will consult with key stakeholders from the performing arts sectors facilitated by the County Arts Officer, Ms. Liz Burns.

Following discussion, on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor, it was unanimously agreed that the project proceed to public consultation through the Part 8 Planning application process.

SECTION 183 NOTICE – TRANSFER OF LAND AT CASTLEBRIDGE GARDA STATION TO THE OPW.

The attached report and recommendation in relation to the transfer of a plot of land at the rear of Castlebridge Garda Station to the OPW, was unanimously approved on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

In response to concerns raised by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly, in relation to the old Garda Station on Roches Road, Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services, agreed to follow up on the issue with the OPW.

NOMINATION TO WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSED LITTER & WASTE ACTION COMMITTEE.

Mr. H. Maguire, A.O., Environment, informed the Members that at the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment SPC Meeting on 25th February, 2021 it was agreed to establish a Litter and Waste Action Committee to deal with litter/waste issues the membership of which would include one elected Member from each of the Municipal/Borough Districts. Cllr. G. Lawlor was nominated to the Committee, on the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell, and unanimously agreed.

REPORTS

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:-

- Breakdown of number and house types of units being constructed at Pairc na Dara and Pairc an Ard.
- Update on completion of houses at Belvedere Road.
- Timeframe for demolition works on two derelict houses at Bride Street.
- Housing Needs Policy 2021 – changes to income calculation and increase in thresholds for larger families.
- Potential backlog in Housing Maintenance programme once Level 5 restrictions are eased.
- Applicants on housing waiting list for extended periods.

In reply to Cllr. Forde, Mr. T. Larkin undertook to follow up with the County Secretary, Mr. D. Minogue, in relation to any proposed visit to Wexford by Mr. Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

It being 4.30 p.m., on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the business of the agenda to be transacted.

Cllr. D. Hynes then conveyed his apologies and departed the meeting.

PLANNING

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services and Mr. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner.

- Update on location of anthrax burial sites at Mulgannon.
- Procedure for future planning on sites where anthrax burial is suspected.

DISTRICT ENGINEERS REPORT

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.

- Need for School Warden service at Educate Together and the Gaelscoil.
- Active Travel Funding works on the Newtown Road Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme.
- Update on the Beechlawn/Clonard Avenue Cycle Scheme.
- Safety crossing at Curraclloe National School under Low Cost Safety Scheme.
- Lights at the pedestrian crossing between Ferndale and Londis, Coolcots will be progressed Qtr 4, 2021.
- Installation of Water Dispensers at Redmond Square and The Bullring, following easing of Level 5 restrictions.
- Development of new playground at Redmond Park - To commence in September once activity in the park reduces after the school holidays.
- Controlled pedestrian crossing at Brendan Corish Roundabout.
- Maintenance programme for laneways & alleyways in LA housing estates.
- Safety concerns regarding pedestrian crossing at the Loreto School.
- Update on school bus parking at Talbot Green.

- Progress on discretionary funded schemes.
- Footpath in Curracloe Village.
- Castlebridge Footpath project and need for a pedestrian crossing in the village
- Road Safety at Crosstown due to drivers taking short cut on cemetery road to beat traffic queues. Need to erect safety signage as a minimum.
- Non operation of new public lights installed on road into Rugby Club/Pairc Charman.
- Reinstatement of grounds at St. Johns Volunteers GAA pitch following the installation of new public lighting standards.
- Plans for public consultation on the proposed introduction of a one -way traffic system on School Street.
- Possibility of surfacing and marking of overflow car park at Culletons Gap, Curracloe.
- Parking on cycle lane at Clonard Village in front of Ufucoffee.
- Details on proposed ESB Networks upgrade works in the town.
- Call for additional public conveniences in Wexford Town.
- Diversion of water supplies from Fardystown RWSS into areas in Wexford town.
- Road closure on Coolballow Road from 4th May to facilitate watermain replacement by Irish Water.
- Road closures at various locations throughout the town centre to facilitate work by Gas Networks from May to July 2021.
- Road Safety Surveys - report to be presented at the May meeting.

Cllr. J. Hegarty complimented Mr. Kavanagh for the recent road improvement works carried out in Screen Village. Cllr. M. Bell also extended her compliments on resurfacing works on Wexford Quays.

Cllr. G. Lawlor thanked the Borough outdoor staff on the standard of grass cutting carried out recently in the District.

ENVIRONMENT

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer.

- Draft Beach Byelaws advertised. Submissions can be made up to 8th June, 2021.

- Request for a Public Convenience on Wexford Quayfront.
- Licensing of mobile trading units at beaches.

COMMUNITY

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

In response to Cllr. G. Lawlor, Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services, agreed to discuss with Ms. C. Godkin, A/Director of Services, the possibility of making available part of the Council's lands intended for the future extension of Crosstown Cemetery for an allotment scheme until such time as it is required for the graveyard extension.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly, acknowledged the support of the Arts Department staff for their support to the Paintbox Project completed in recent months under the Creative Ireland Programme and informed Members that a further phase of the project will be rolled out in 2021.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS REPORT

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.

MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM

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

As the Borough nominee to the Working Group, Cllr. J. Hegarty informed the Members that the new portal has potential but requires further trialling.

MOTIONS

Temporary Pedestrianisation of Henrietta Street

The following motion was proposed by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor, and following discussion unanimously adopted:-

“Following on from requests from a number of local rate paying businesses involved in the hospitality sector, I would like to propose the trail pedestrianisation of Henrietta Street as soon as Covid 19 restrictions allow for seated outdoor dining. The

hospitality sector is one of the cornerstones of our local economy, and the Council need to support its return in all ways possible.”

During the discussion, it was agreed that the trial period would be for the summer months to be reviewed thereafter.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED THIS 21ST MAY, 2021

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.