

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER, 2020 HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Presiding: - His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly.

Councillors: - J. Hegarty, G. Lawlor, M. Bell, G. Laffan, D. Hynes, T. Forde

In Attendance:-

- Ms. Elizabeth Hore, A/Director of Services.
- Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager.
- Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.
- Mr. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner.
- Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer, Housing.
- Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment.
- Ms. Siobhan Kehoe, Staff Officer.
- Ms. Caroline Crowe, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

Apologies from Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Service, for his inability to attend the meeting were noted.

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. Seamus Swan, Fisher's Row, RIP
- Mr. Anthony Rath, Ballybawn, Screen RIP
- Mr. Jack Wilde, Columba Villas RIP
- Mr. James Laffan, Monck Street RIP
- Mr. Alan Hayes, Taghmon RIP
- Mr. James (Jimmy) O'Neill, Tinakilla, Ballyhogue RIP
- Mrs. Mai Swaine, Dittcott formerly of Wexford, RIP

CONGRATULATIONS

Votes of congratulations were extended to the following:

- To Jamie McDonald, Faythe Harriers on his All Ireland success playing with Louth
- To Cillian Doyle on receiving his Pope John Paul Award in recognition of his charity work.
- To Wexford Pantomime Society and the Wexford School of Ballet for their online productions.
- To the staff of Wexford Borough for their efforts with the festive lighting and the general presentation of the town for the Christmas period.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th November, 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. G. Laffan thanked the Engineer for the surfacing/raising of the road at the Heritage Park but raised concerns in relation to a landslide of Ardcastrisk in need of attention.

In relation to the proposed redevelopment on Monck Street and the pedestrianisation of the street to facilitate outdoor dining, Cllr. Hegarty pointed out that Members were to receive an email confirming a workable solution to facilitate access for local businesses via an automated bollard system on Selskar Street. Mr. S. Kavanagh, SEE, advised that the detailed design is ongoing with a view to undertaking site investigation in January and installation as soon as possible thereafter.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT STANDING ORDERS 2019 – REMOTE MEETINGS

The attached proposed amendment to the Wexford Borough District Standing Orders, 2019 was unanimously approved on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan. The amendment outlines procedures governing the holding of Remote Council Meetings in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2020 (Section 29) (Local Authorities) (Designation) Order, 2020 (S.I. No. 445 of 2020).

TRANSFER OF LANDS AT MAUDLINTOWN – SITES A & B

- 1) The attached report in relation to the disposal of a parcel of land at Maudlintown to Anthony & Trish Murphy, 6A Maudlintown, was unanimously approved on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.
- 2) The attached report in relation to the disposal of a parcel of land at Maudlintown to Daniel & Kitty Conway, 8 Maudlintown, was unanimously approved on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell, it was unanimously agreed to recommend to Property Management that the nominal fee of €200 be reduced to €50 in each case in recognition of the inconvenience endured during the construction of neighbouring developments.

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. Michele Bridges Carley:

- Community House at Wolfe Tone Villas – taking back both units into housing stock should the community project cease to operate.
- Laneways and alleyways within housing estates – need to establish responsibility and management of same.
- Query re removal of tents belonging to homeless persons
- Update on reinstallation of CCTV camera at alleyway in Talbot Green
- Update on Traveller Accommodation Programme and provision of suitable housing for traveller families currently occupying lands at Park. Query re installation of security services at the Park site.
- Cllr. Lawlor queried what portion of income from housing rents is allocated to the Planned Maintenance Capital Programme given that the housing maintenance budget has significantly reduced which is impacting the nature and standard of pre letting repairs undertaken on a dwelling prior to reallocation.
- Inspections of HAP properties – Suspension of inspections is national policy under the COVID restrictions.

PLANNING

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

In reply to query from Cllr. G. Laffan with regard to Pre Planning meetings, Mr. L. Bowe, Executive Planner, advised Members that meetings are currently being held via MS Teams for larger group meetings and confirmed it is unlikely that face to face meetings will be on the agenda before February, 2021.

DISTRICT ENGINEERS REPORT

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer, and noted.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Kavanagh:

- Change of road layout at Ferrycarrig Bridge and removal of RH turn – request for advance warning signage on road approaching Ferrycarrig from Wexford Town.
- Update on works at Killurin Bridge for which money was allocated in the 2020 Roads Programme.

- Removal of tents occupied by homeless persons.
- Report of recent trips/falls on Main Street.
- Installation of public water dispensers.
- Cleaning of gullies at Liam Mellows Park – issue with collapsed pipe.
- Clearing of gullies at the back of Talbot Green.
- Update on completion of accessibility works along King Street.
- Condition of road outside St. Bridgets Centre.
- Excessive ponding of water at various locations – Liam Mellows Park, Beechlawn, Bishopswater.
- Programme for completion of works at junction of Liam Mellows Park/Ard Carman including the installation of a new mini roundabout and a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the entrance to LIDL.
- Issues with traffic lights on Newtown Road.
- Public Lighting Programme – request for additional lights at Ferrybank towards Crosstown.
- Request for installation of public lighting at Carcur from the old landfill site up to Seamus Kelly roundabout.

One Way System at Common Quay Street / The Bullring

Mr. Kavanagh informed Members that arrangements are being made to reverse the direction of the traffic flow on the one way system at Common Quay Street / The Bullring for the trial period of 3 months as requested by Members. Modifications to signage / road markings etc. will be undertaken during January with a view to reversing traffic flow from 1st February.

Cllr. L. Kelly proposed that a decision be taken by Members that traffic flow would not return to two way traffic and the direction of the one way system be decided following the findings/evidence to be presented at the end of the 3 month trial. During discussion, to which all members contributed, it was agreed that no vote be taken and the Mayor's proposal be deferred for decision at the January meeting.

Mr. Kavanagh also advised Members that plans for an attractive outdoor dining/public realm area have been proposed by a business owner in the Cornmarket area which can only be considered in the context of a one way system as two way traffic would make the proposal unworkable.

He further advised that plans to improve the surfacing and public realm in The Bullring/Cornmarket area are under consideration and will be brought before the Members when detailed designs are complete.

COMMUNITY

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

Cllr. M. Bell congratulated the Healthy Ireland Committee and Sports Active on the following initiatives :

- The Farmer Health & Well Being Programme – well received.

- The distribution of 400 packs to our Older Age Community via Meals on Wheels.
- Sports Active on their delivery of online Yoga / Fitness classes.

ENVIRONMENT

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment, and noted.

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

- Date for next mattress / furniture amnesty?
- Plans for overflow parking at our main beaches for 2021?
- Provision of a public toilet facility at Carraigfoyle?

LIBRARIES /ARTS / ARCHIVES

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

FIRE SERVICE

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.

Referring to the recent presentation made by Ms. Anita McLoughlin, A.O. in relation to the new Members Portal System, Cllr. Hynes asked if further one to one training could be provided by the IT Department. It was agreed to raise the matter with Ms. Rita Byrne, IT Department, to offer further assistance to Members where required.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED THIS 18TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2021

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.