

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 18th FEBRUARY, 2019 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT OFFICES, SPAWELL ROAD, WEXFORD.

Presiding:- His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. T. Dempsey.
Councillors:- G. Carthy, G. Lawlor, J. Moore, D. Hynes, L. McDonald, T. Forde, T. Walsh.

Apologies from Cllr. F. Staples for his inability to attend the meeting were noted.

In Attendance:-

- Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services.
- Ms. A. R. Laffan, District Manager.
- Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer
- Mr. Mark Collins, Executive Engineer.
- Ms. Joan Murphy, Staff Officer.
- Mr. Pdraig O’Gorman, Senior Executive Officer, Housing
- Mr. Shay Howell , Senior Executive Architect, Housing
- Mr Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer, Environment
- Mr. Mick McCormack, Administrative Officer, Roads
- Ms. Michele Bridges Carley, Administrative Officer, Housing.

.VOTES OF SYMPATHY

On the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, unanimous votes of sympathy were extended to the families of the following:-

Mr. John Harrington, Orchard Lane, Ardavan. R.I.P.
Mr. Michael Reck , Lower Bride Street, Wexford. R.I.P.
Mr. Barry Goff, Wirrel, UK, and formerly of Boher, Kilrane, Co. Wexford. R.I.P

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st January 2019, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh.

The minutes of the Protocol Committee Meeting held on 21st January 2019, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. J. Moore, seconded by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. T. Dempsey.

The minutes of the Protocol Committee Meeting held on 7th February, 2019, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. J. Moore, seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy.

FIX DATE FOR ORDINARY MEETING – MARCH, 2019.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Moore, seconded by Cllr. D Hynes, it was unanimously agreed that the date for the March Ordinary Meeting be rescheduled to Tuesday, 19th March at 2.30 p.m.

PROPOSED 40 UNIT SOCIAL HOUSING SCHEME AT KILLEENS, WEXFORD

Mr. Pdraig O’Gorman, Senior Executive Officer, Housing presented a site layout plan and details of the proposed 40 no. mixed housing development at Killeens, Wexford Town.

Questions raised by Members in relation to the proposed development including the 6 No. two-bed sheltered homes, open space, density of the overall development, heating systems, and timelines for construction and completion were addressed by Mr. O’Gorman and Mr. Shay Howell, Senior Executive Architect.

Mr. O’Gorman advised that plans will be finalised with the Department before proceeding to public consultation.

Members welcomed the proposed development and thanked Mr. O’Gorman and Mr. Howell on their comprehensive presentation and complimented the Council’s Housing team on their on-going hard work and commitment in meeting and surpassing the Council’s targets for the delivery of social housing units in County Wexford.

PRESENTATION ON NEW SYSTEM OF E-PARKING.

Mr. Mick McCormack, Administrative Officer, Roads Section, presented a detailed report on the introduction of E- Parking which went live in Wexford Town on 14th January 2019.

Mr. McCormack confirmed that the Roads Department had received very positive feedback since its introduction and advised that the service, provided by ‘Park by Text’, will further improve and modernise options for parking services in the town by offering increased flexibility for parkers through a quick, easy and convenient mobile parking payment app.

Members welcomed the introduction of this service and suggested that consideration be given to assigning students under the Summer Student Placement Scheme, 2019 to help promote, encourage and assist those wishing to use the app and cashless parking payments methods in the town.

DRAFT ROADS PROGRAMME 2019

The attached Draft Roads Programme reports, copies of which had previously been circulated, were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G Carthy, seconded by Cllr. J. Moore.

TAKING IN CHARGE - ROSEHILL HEIGHTS, ROSSLARE STRAND.

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald.

Cllr. G. Lawlor requested an update on the status of the Glenbrook Estate, Newtown Road for next meeting.

REPORTS.

Housing

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer, Housing, and noted.

Areas of concern raised by Members, and noted by Ms. Bridges Carley for follow up with Housing Maintenance included the following:

- The number of units currently vacant and average turnaround time for reallocation of vacant units in local authority estates.
- Delays in carrying out necessary renovations and improvements, in particular, to older housing stock e.g. replacement kitchens, new windows and doors.

Planning

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

District Engineer's Report.

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

Areas of concern raised by members and addressed by Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer included the following:-

- Delay in the provision of bus shelters at Newtown Road and other locations in Wexford Town and the need for bus shelters in villages including Killinick and Tagoat.
- Traffic approach to Whitford Roundabout from the Maldron – Cllr. Lawlor asked if the left hand lane could be confined to left turn only?
- Condition of road surface work in The Grove Estate, Clonard.
- Delay in introducing Pay & Display parking in the new areas which were incorporated into the 2018 Traffic Bye Laws and the need for resurfacing and relining of the area at St. Aidan's Crescent to facilitate the new parking arrangements.
- While the installation of a ramp on Summerhill was welcomed the lack of advisory speed warning signs is still an issue.
- Lack of adequate notice given to residents on Hill Street by Virgin Media prior to the commencement of footpath restoration works on the street which is causing inconvenience for access for elderly residents.

- Status on completion of works on the Permanent TSB building at The Bullring and increased traffic congestion on Rowe Street/Supervalu Car Park arising from the one way system at Common Quay Street / The Bullring and the closure of Henrietta Street.
- Status of the survey and programme for the replacement of manhole covers?
- The derelict and overgrown walled garden at Cromwellsfort Estate in Wexford which previously featured in a television documentary highlighting the problems of unfinished housing estates.

Community

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

Cllr. T. Forde thanked Community Development Department and all involved in the provision of the new facility in Redmond Park for the Wexford Working Men's Club.

Environment

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated, was presented, and noted.

Mr. Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer, Environment, presented a report to Members in relation to particular areas of concern raised at the January meeting which included the following:

- **Septic Tanks:**

Mr. Forde outlined the Council's policy in relation to the inspection of Septic Tanks and advised that inspections are concentrated on areas where there is a threat to public health and /or water quality.

Questions raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Forde.

In relation to the €4,000 grant for inspection of septic tanks (€4,000 being the maximum grant available), Members proposed that a case be made to the Department to introduce a system of means testing grant applications.

- **Dog Fouling:**

Mr. Forde advised that Wexford Town is leading the way in the provision of dog fouling receptacles along particular routes and the Environment Section continues to promote anti dog fouling through a combination of measures including public awareness campaigns, education programs, information sessions and enforcement.

In reply to Members, Mr. Forde confirmed that the provision of receptacles in every village throughout the District is not sustainable.

- **Overhanging Trees at the Horse River:**

In reply to Cllr. Hynes, Mr. Forde advised that landowners either side of the river are responsible for maintenance of trees overhanging the horse river but the Roads Department may become involved where the overhanging trees affect drainage in the area concerned.

- **Wexford to Curracloe Greenway:**

Following the refusal by An Bord Pleanála to grant permission for the proposed Greenway from Wexford to Curracloe, Mr. Forde advised Members that, while discussions had been held with the National Parks & Wildlife Service during the design process, subsequent submissions raised concerns about the impact of the proposed development on the Raven Point Nature Reserve Special Area of Conservation and Wexford Harbour and Sloba Special Protection Area.

Mr. Forde confirmed that a meeting of senior Council officials and Department officials will take place in the next week to review plans with a view to submitting a revised proposal.

Members outlined the growing public demand for the provision of this type of recreational infrastructure and, on the proposal of Cllr. Lawlor, it was agreed that the Head of Special Projects be invited to attend the March Monthly Meeting to update Members and provide a progress report on the proposed Greenways projects.

- **Illegal dumping at Starvehall Lane and Whiterock Hill**

It was clarified that this was not a case of illegal dumping, rather bags of litter left for collection by the Council following a local clean up. This was acknowledged by Cllr. McDonald.

Libraries/Archives/Arts

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

Fire Service

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

Members Support System

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Rosslare Europort:

The attached reply to correspondence from the office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to Rosslare Europort, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was noted.

Members expressed disappointment at this response, criticising its lack of clarity and commitment in relation to investment in Rosslare Europort particularly in the context of Brexit.

Use of Eircode System by Wexford Fire Service:

In response to the discussion at the January Meeting wherein Members expressed concern at the non-use of the Eircode system by the Fire Service, the attached communication from the Chief Fire Officer, Mr. Paul L'Estrange, in this regard, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was noted.

Cllr. G. Lawlor again confirmed that the information he had received was that this system was not in use.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED THIS 19th DAY OF MARCH, 2019.

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.