

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30P.M. ON MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY, 2021 HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS.

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

In Attendance:-

Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services.
Ms. Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services.
Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager.
Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.
Ms. Anita McLoughlin, Administrative Officer.
Mr. Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer.
Mr. Paul L'Estrange, A/Senior Executive Officer.
Mr. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner.
Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer, Housing.
Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment.
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. John Dodd, Corish Park RIP
- Mr. John Hanrahan, Curracloe RIP
- Mrs. Joan Doyle, (nee Sinnott), Raheenduff, Oulart RIP
- Mr. Pat Ryan, Farnogue Drive and former teacher Wexford CBS RIP
- Mr. Jimmy Murphy, Kennedy Park RIP
- Mrs. Margaret Jackman, Killurin RIP
- Mrs. Dymphna Donohoe, Kilamcoe, Curracloe RIP
- Mrs. Jane (Rennie) Turner, Colestown, Barntown RIP

CONGRATULATIONS

Votes of congratulations were extended to the following:

- To the Mahoney and Cullen families on reaching the finals of RTE's Irelands Fittest Family.
- To the Emergency Services for their rapid response in dealing with the recent fire at The Foggy Dew Pub.
- To the Housing Staff for their efforts over the weekend to successfully secure alternative emergency accommodation for those affected by the fire at The Foggy Dew.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 18th January, 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde

Matters Arising:

With regard to the emergency motion proposed by Cllr. T. Forde in relation to the reopening of schools, Cllr. Forde asked that the minutes of the meeting be amended to reflect the fact that, while the motion was carried, the vote to allow the motion to be taken and debated was not unanimous. The amendment was noted.

MEMBERS REPRESENTATIONS – SECTION 40 OF THE DATA PROTECTION ACT, 2018.

Ms. Amanda Byrne, A/ Director of Services, and Ms. Anita McLoughlin, A.O., gave a short presentation clarifying the requirements for Councillors to comply with Section 40 of the Data Protection Act, 2018.

Ms. Byrne informed the Members that the new Members Portal being more user friendly is the most straightforward way for dealing with Section 40 requests and will serve as the Members record of representations made. Further training will be provided for Members over the coming weeks.

Questions raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Byrne and Ms. McLoughlin.

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr. John Hegarty, would represent the Wexford District Members on the Members Portal Working Group.

DEVELOPMENT FOR TAKING IN CHARGE – EDENWOOD (PHASE 2)

The attached report and recommendations regarding the Taking in Charge of Edenwood (Phase 2), copies of which had previously been circulated, were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

Cllr. Lawlor sought clarification on the requirement of residents in private housing developments to pay management fees, which in some cases can be quite high, with very little evidence of where expenditure has been incurred.

Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Service, advised that the establishment of Management Companies was Government policy for a time and the Council would condition this as part of the planning permission for a development. As Government policy changed, this is no longer inserted in granting planning permission and as such is not an active enforcement matter for Wexford County Council.

Mr. Larkin suggested that residents should attend the A.G.M. of their Management Company to ensure they have an input and to ascertain how their contributions are being spent and propose, if deemed necessary, a reduction in the annual charges.

DRAFT ROADS PROGRAMME 2021

The attached Draft Roads Programme 2021, a copy of which had previously circulated, was discussed. Mr. S. Kavanagh, SEE, advised Members that the Roads Budget for 2021 had not been yet been confirmed and the Draft Programme has been prepared on the assumption that the allocation will be similar to that in 2020. Mr. Kavanagh proposed the adoption of the Draft Programme subject to the adjustment of values, if necessary, when the 2021 allocation is notified.

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

- The inclusion of the mini roundabout in works at Ard Charman and Whitemill Road.
- Traffic calming at LIDL / Avondale Drive.
- Temporary road surface on Killurin Bridge

During discussion, Cllr. Laffan referred to the Government announcement earlier in the day of an allocation of €550m for Regional and Local Roads and suggested that the 2021 allocation for the District is imminent and will be available for the March meeting. On this basis, Members agreed to defer adoption of the programme to the March meeting.

LICENSING OF OUTDOOR TRADING AREAS – APPLICATION AND GENERAL CONDITIONS.

Following the adoption of a policy Framework at the January meeting, the attached application form, general conditions and tender assessment for the Licensing of Outdoor Trading Areas, copies of which had previously been circulated, were presented by the District Manager and discussed.

In relation to the fee structure, members proposed that this would be a fixed fee rather than allocation on the basis of the highest tender. Following agreement on the amendment of the fee structure, the Licensing of Outdoor Trading areas at Wexford Quayfront, Min Ryan Park and Carrigfoyle, was unanimously agreed on the proposal of his Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan.

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, A.O.:-

- Severe Weather Plan and provision of shelter for homeless persons / the recent use of St. Josephs Community Centre.
- Out of Hours procedure for homelessness.
- Suggested use of existing vacant Housing Stock for emergency accommodation.
- Suggested use of the former Garda Station at Roches Road as emergency accommodation.
- Communication with Members.

Members congratulated Council housing staff in dealing with the location of emergency accommodation during the recent bad weather.

Members also congratulated Mr. Michael Drea, A.O. on his upcoming appointment to the position of Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section, and expressed their good wishes to Mr. N. McCabe, outgoing A/Senior Executive Officer.

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. Banville, SEO, and Mr. L. Bowe, Executive Planner:-

- Update on list of Derelict Sites in the Wexford District.
- Council policy on granting planning permission for log cabins.

DISTRICT ENGINEERS REPORT

The attached report, a copy of which has previous been circulated, was discussed and noted.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Sean Kavanagh, SEE. :-

- Assessment of the pedestrian crossing at TK Maxx.
- 4-way stop at Glenville Road
- Road markings on Mulgannon Hill
- Prioritisation of public lighting requirements – Farnogue to Seamus Kelly roundabout and Ferrybank Motors to Crosstown Road
- Damage to hardshoulder between Maldron and Whitford roundabouts
- Update on appointment of consultants and programme for works on Killurin Bridge.
- Issues with non-residents parking at St. Aidan's Crescent and Devereux Villas and possible introduction of a one way traffic flow system through St. Aidan's.
- Traffic enforcement and issue of parking fines to people working in Wexford Town during Level 5 restrictions.
- Update on trial of one way system on School Street

- Cllr. Garry Laffan thanked the Roads staff for the recent hedge cutting carried out on the R730 from Ardcanrisk to Glynn GAA Club.

One Way System at The Bullring/Common Quay Street:

Members discussed the content of recent submissions received from local businesses and the Wexford Retail Committee in relation to the proposed 3 month trial reversal of the traffic flow in The Bullring area. Having agreed the non-return to two way traffic flow at the January meeting and noting the concerns expressed by local businesses around the negative impact of a reversal of traffic flow, on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty, it was unanimously agreed that the one way system and direction of traffic flow from the Quays to Cornmarket would remain as it currently is on a permanent basis. The District Manager confirmed that the one way system will be incorporated into the Draft Bye Laws which are due to proceed to public consultation stage.

Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Service, welcomed the final decision on the one way system and advised that an urban renewal plan for civic improvement works in the Cornmarket / Bullring/ North Main Street area, including an upgrade of the Market Place, will be presented to the Members for discussion at the March meeting.

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.

- Beach Bye Laws and licensing of outdoor mobile trading units.
- Ringbuoy inspections – Role of Rapid Response Crews and potential for technology solutions.
- Dog fouling and Green Dog Walker initiative.
- Mattress Amnesty 2021.

COMMUNITY

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. P. L'Estrange and the District Manager.

- Community grant allocations under various funding streams.
- Members discretionary allocations under the Amenity Grant Scheme.

As Chair of Wexford Sports Active, Cllr. G. Laffan welcomed the grant of €327,741 from Sports Ireland for 2021 and acknowledged the efforts of Fran Ronan and the Sports Active Team in the delivery of their programme of work.

Cllr. J. Hegarty commended Mr. L'Estrange and his team in the Community Department for their activities with local communities under the Healthy County Programme.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS REPORT

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

FIRE SERVICES REPORT

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

MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM

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

MOTIONS

CCTV AT MIN RYAN PARK

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell, and following discussion unanimously adopted:-

“Wexford Borough District supports and requests the installation of CCTV at Min Ryan Park”.

During discussion, the District Manager advised that Cllr. G. Lawlor has allocated funding from his discretionary budget towards the cost of installation.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED THIS 15TH MARCH, 2021

MAYOR OF WEXFORD