

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> January , 2019 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BOROUGH DISTRICT OFFICES, SPAWELL ROAD, WEXFORD.**

**Presiding:-** His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. T. Dempsey.

**Councillors:-** G. Carthy, G. Lawlor, J. Moore, D. Hynes, M. Roche, T. Walsh, T. Forde, F. Staples, L. McDonald

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

**In Attendance:-**

- Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager.
- Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.
- Mr. Mark Collins, Executive Engineer.
- Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Engineer.
- Mr. James Lavin, Senior Executive Planner.
- Mr. Niall McCabe, Administrative Officer, Housing.
- Ms. Joan Murphy, Staff Officer.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

Arising from the Minutes and in response to Cllr. G Lawlor, the Mayor confirmed that he had discussed the increased admission prices at Johnstown Castle with some regular users of the grounds and agreed to discuss the matter further with Cllr. Lawlor in advance of issuing an official letter to the Irish Heritage Trust on the matter.

Members suggested that a graded pricing structure be proposed and a structure that will ensure inclusivity for all.

The Mayor also confirmed that he had been in communication with Irish Ferries to express Councillor's concerns in relation to the withdrawal of sailings of the Oscar Wilde ferry from Rosslare Harbour to France and with Mr. Michael Tierney, the owner of the Riverbank House Hotel and the Centenary Stores to convey the support of all Members of Wexford Borough District with regard to the recent appointment of an Examiner.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY.**

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

- Kathleen (Kate) Kearney, Selskar Street, Wexford.
- Scott Doran, Robinstown, Duncormick.
- Stephen Lawlor, The Hide Out, Tomhaggard, Wexford.
- Martin Ryan, Forest, Barntown, Wexford.
- Ann Sinnott, Hodgesmill, Piercestown, Wexford.
- Mattie Maddock, Caolas Ciúin, Kilmore Quay, Wexford.
- Kevin Carr, Tenacre, Tomhaggard, Co. Wexford.

### **RENEWAL OF LEASE OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS WESTGATE COMPUTER CENTRE**

The attached report in relation to the renewal of the lease of Westgate Computer Centre, Westgate, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. D. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald.

### **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2018 –WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT**

The content of the attached report presented by the District Manager, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh.

The Mayor then welcomed Mr. Ken Jones to Wexford Borough District as the new Water Services Engineer and Mr. Mark Collins to Roads following the recent transfer of Mr. Laurence Lett, Executive Engineer, to the Housing Department, County Hall.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Housing**

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. Niall McCabe, Administrative Officer, Housing, Housing, and noted.

Questions raised by Members in relation to the HAP Scheme and the new appointment based system for housing clinics were addressed by Mr. McCabe.

#### **Planning**

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. James Lavin, Senior Executive Planner, and noted. The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Lavin.

- Continued unauthorised building activity in Bridgetown. Mr. Lavin confirmed that he will liaise with Planning Enforcement and revert with response directly to Cllr. Moore in this regard.
- Kilmannon Castle – Mr. Lavin advised that he expected that funding will be secured in 2019 under the “Buildings at Risk” programme to enable essential maintenance and restoration works to be carried out.

- Current status of the Great Southern Hotel, Rosslare Harbour and the imposition of the 3% derelict sites levy. Cllr. G. Carthy requested that a status report in relation to this matter be brought to the February Meeting.
- Policy in relation to granting planning permission to developments which are not linked to the nearest village / urban area and the resulting increased level and cost accruing to Wexford County Council in providing footpaths, public lighting etc. as a result.
- Length of waiting time for preplanning meetings with Planning Officers.

Cllr. T Forde then joined the meeting.

### **Engineering**

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

Particular areas of concern raised by members included the following and were addressed by Mr. Kavanagh:

- Poor condition of roads in Wexford Town centre including King Street, The Folly and School Street and the unacceptable delays to the delivery of the Roads Programme while awaiting the completion of works by the Utility Companies.
- The 6 month closure of Henrietta Street, a key artery for traffic travelling onto the Quays, to facilitate works on Crescent Quay, at a time when the road at Common Quay Street / The Bullring is already operating a one-way system. Councillors asked that the work on Henrietta Street be expedited and the road reopened in a lesser timeframe. Mr. Kavanagh confirmed that he would pass on Members concerns to the Special Projects team.
- Unacceptable delays in completing the road works contract on the R741 from Wexford town to Castlebridge. Councillors also expressed concern at the poor standard of works on this major approach road to Wexford town. Mr. Kavanagh advised that the poor workmanship and remedial works required will be discussed with the contractor.
- Need for public lighting on section of Newtown Road towards the Maldron Hotel and the need to improve the definition of entrances to housing estates along this section in the interim. In response, Mr. Kavanagh confirmed that funding has been secured to provide additional public lighting on Newtown Road in 2019.
- Position in relation to the road improvement works from Westwinds to Kilrane Village. Mr. Kavanagh noted for discussion with Roads Section re funding.
- Bottleneck at junction of John's Road / Davitt Road North & South following the installation of traffic calming measures. Mr. Kavanagh advised that this work was carried out in the interest of pedestrian safety.
- Permanent reinstatement of road at Hodgesmill and other areas by Irish Water.
- Need for public lighting at Rocklands close to Wexford Creamery.
- Safety issues at Summerhill/Davitt Road roundabout.

- Need for raising the height of road signs at Rathaspeck junction in the interest of traffic safety.

## **COMMUNITY**

Cllr. G. Lawlor expressed concern over the delay in progressing the design plans for the promised redevelopment of Redmond Park as included in the Council's Capital Programme. Cllr. Lawlor highlighted the urgent need to spend the initial available funding of €250,000 as a first phase and to apply for a regeneration grant to help finance the remainder of the project which has an overall cost estimate in the region of €800,000.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

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

Particular areas of concern raised by members included the following:-

- The increase in the level of dog fouling and the need for more pooper scoopers /dispensers particularly in housing estates and on designated walking routes and in villages such as Castlebridge.
- Dog Waste Dispensers for Forth Mountain.
- The septic tank inspection process and the level of grant aid available for the repairs or upgrade of existing systems.
- Overhanging trees at the back of the Horse River.
- Illegal dumping at Starvehall Lane and Whiterock Hill
- Current position in relation to the proposed Wexford to Curracloe Greenway.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, it was agreed that an official from the Environment Department be requested to attend the monthly meetings of Wexford Borough District to address matters raised by Members pertaining to the operations of the Environment Department.

## **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. Cllr. G. Lawlor asked why Postcodes are not used by the Fire Service in responding to a call out and gave an example of an incident he was aware of. Cllr. Carthy advised the meeting that the Ambulance Service uses mobile data terminals with an Eircode based direction system and recommended that the Fire Service Department also incorporate this system into their response service.

## **MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM.**

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

**A.O.B.**

Following the recent announcement of the new electoral areas and Municipal Districts, members requested early clarification in relation to the operation and funding of the new Municipal District of Rosslare and the Wexford Borough District after the upcoming Local Elections.

The District Manager agreed to discuss with the Management Team.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**

**SIGNED THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2019**

**MAYOR OF WEXFORD.**