

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 18TH JANUARY, 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. 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. 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:-

- Former Mayor of Wexford, Mr. Noel Murphy RIP – a member of the Labour Party who served as Mayor 1981/1982
- Mr. Sean Meyler, St. Johns Road RIP
- Mr. Stephen Flood, Maudlintown RIP
- Mrs. Frances Crowe, Clonard Park RIP
- Mr. Michael Devereux, Bride Street RIP
- Mrs Mary Ryan, Crosstown RIP
- Mr. Richard Gaul, Ballyhogue RIP
- Mr. Tom O’Gorman, Tomcoole RIP
- Mrs. Mary Doyle, Ballyhogue RIP
- Ms. Kathleen Phillips, Maudlintown RIP
- Mr. Billy McCabe, Maudlintown RIP
- Nurse Solson Saviour, Bunclody RIP
- Mrs. Margaret Ryan, Corlican, Killurin RIP
- Mr. John Shortle, Kennedy Park, RIP

CONGRATULATIONS

Votes of congratulations were extended to the following:

- To the Cullen & Mahoney families for their participation in RTE’s Irelands Fittest Family.
- To Margaret Dunleavy Brennan on her nomination for the Woman’s Way People of the Year Award.

- To Ray Shannon on his nomination for Hero's Award for his campaigning and support of Youth Mental Health in Wexford.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 21st December, 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

Matters Arising

In response to Cllr. J. Hegarty, Mr. Sean Kavanagh confirmed that a proposal has been received for the automated bollards at Georges Street and is currently being assessed. The system would allow access for deliveries and loading/unloading from 8.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. with access outside of those hours to be facilitated on a case by case basis. A detailed design of the proposal will be presented to the Members at the February meeting.

FRAMEWORK FOR GRANTING OF LICENCES FOR OUTDOOR TRADING WITHIN WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT.

The attached proposed framework, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager.

The following matters raised by the Members were addressed by Ms. Laffan:

- Tender Assessment process.
- Proposed charging system.
- The provision of toilet facilities on the quay.
- Increase the area, greater than 100m, for the removal of litter in the vicinity of any unit.
- Requirement for additional servicing of existing litter bins on the quayfront.
- Trading at the Raven and Ballinesker currently licenced under the Council's Beach Bye Laws managed by the Environment Department.

Following lengthy discussion, on the proposal of Cllr G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan, it was unanimously agreed that a maximum of 3 units be permitted on the Quayfront and one unit at Min Ryan Park and Carrigfoyle.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor and seconded by Cllr. M. Bell, it was further agreed that a licence fee of €2,000 per unit will apply on the quayfront and €1,000 per unit at Min Ryan Park and Carrigfoyle.

The Members congratulated Ms. Laffan on the preparation of the comprehensive framework document.

ONE-WAY SYSTEM COMMON QUAY STREET/THE BULLRING/CORNMARKET.

Following discussion at the December meeting in relation to traffic flow on Common Quay Street/The Bullring and Cornmarket area wherein it was proposed that the Members would agree that traffic would not return to two way traffic as recommended by the Engineer in the interest of public safety and to remain one way in either direction following the results of the 3 month trial period, a roll call vote on the matter was taken on the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor which resulted as follows:

In Favour : Cllr. L. Kelly, Cllr. G. Lawlor, Cllr. M. Bell, Cllr. G. Laffan, Cllr. T. Forde (5)
Against: Cllr. J. Hegarty, Cllr. D. Hynes (2)

The majority being in favour the proposal for a permanent one way system was carried.

Mr. S. Kavanagh advised the Members that the reversal of traffic flow as requested by Members for a 3 month trial period, originally intended to commence on 1st February, will not take place until the current Covid Level 5 restrictions are lifted.

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:-

- The impact of level 5 restrictions on the Housing Building Programme.
- Cllr. Lawlor queried if notification of proposed allocations were not being sent out during level 5 restrictions. Ms. Bridges Carley confirmed that notifications are being issued, as normal but keys will not be given out until restrictions are lifted.
- Ms. Bridges Carley advised the Members that the community house in Wolfe Tone Vilas will be returned to general housing stock, when funding is made available by the Department to carry out the necessary maintenance works.
- HAP tenants unable to have properties inspected during Level 5 so defects are not being addressed.
- In reply to Cllr. Forde, Ms. Bridges Carley advised that the housing engineer has stated that maintenance of laneways/back alleys within housing estates is the responsibility of the District Engineer.

Cllr. J. Hegarty expressed his gratitude to Housing staff in dealing with a number of emergency accommodation situations over the Christmas period.

PLANNING

The attached report, a copy of which has previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner, and noted.

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:

- Refurbishment of Redmond Park Playground.
- Programme for Bus Shelters - Cllr. G. Laffan asked that Barntown be included in the programme for 2021
- Public Lighting Allocation – the 2021 programme is awaited from the Roads Department. Allocation will be notified to the Members when available.
- Ponding at Liam Mellows Park due to collapsed pipe.
- Cllr. T. Forde requested an update on the situation regarding school buses at Talbot Green. Mr. Kavanagh advised that a report on the school transport system will be presented at the February meeting.
- Road markings on Mulgannon Hill
- Maintenances of laneways and alleyways – Need to develop a programme in light of the housing engineer's response on the matter.
- Installation of water facility within the dog park at Min Ryan Park and provision of an additional litter bin for dog waste.
- Provision of ESB connections for boats moored at Wexford quayside.
- Programme for installation of roundabout at junction with Ard Carman/Whitemill.
- The introduction of one way traffic flow system at St. Aidan's Crescent
- Low pressure to property in the Faythe and cost to the householder for new connection.
- Condition of road surface from Ardcandrisk to Larkin's Cross, at Monmore Crossabeg and out to the Wildfowl Reserve, Ardcavan.
- Maintenance works on the Crooked Bridge, Harriestown.
- Hedge cutting on the R730 from Ardcandrisk towards Glynn GAA Club.
- Condition of footpaths in Beechgrove housing estate, Castlebridge.
- One-way system with appropriate signage be implemented at the newly surfaced walkway at Ferrybank.
- Back up of heavy vehicles on Ferrycarrig Bridge due to Garda checkpoints in the area and concerns re weight loading on the bridge.
- The completion date for the installation of a cycle lane on Newtown Road.
- Repair to the public light at the top of steps at the back of Tesco.
- Proposals for the development of the walled garden at Mulgannon.

Mr. Kavanagh informed Members that the 2021 Roads / Surface Dressing Programme will be presented at the February meeting.

COMMUNITY

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

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.

- Dog fouling in Wexford Town.
- The number of dog fouling prosecutions taken.
- Licensing of mobile coffee units at Ballinesker and the Raven.
- Resurfacing and line marking at the Raven Point car park.
- Illegal Dumping

The Members commended the work of the Rapid Response crews in dealing with illegal dumping.

MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM

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

MOTIONS

Cllr. T. Forde, through the Chair, asked to move the following emergency motion which had not been submitted in advance in accordance with Standing Orders for circulation with the meeting agenda. Members agreed to allow debate on the motion.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes:

"This council calls on the Minister Department of Education and Skills to engage in immediate and meaningful dialogue with the relevant unions and key groups that represent all school staff. This is needed to ensure that the many outstanding issues and concerns are addressed in full and so that the reopening of schools in Wexford can proceed in a safe manner and at an appropriate time."

During discussion on the motion, amendments were proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly and Cllr. G. Laffan and the following amended motion was unanimously adopted.

"This council calls on the Minister Department of Education and Skills to engage in immediate and meaningful dialogue with the relevant unions and key groups that represent all school staff. This is needed to ensure that any possible outstanding issues and concerns are addressed in full and so that the reopening of schools can proceed in a safe manner and at an appropriate time."

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED THIS 15TH FEBRUARY, 2021

MAYOR OF WEXFORD