

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF THE BOROUGH DISTRICT OF WEXFORD HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 22nd July 2019 IN THE GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM, BLOCK A, WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, CARRICKLAWN, WEXFORD.**

Presiding:- His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor.

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

Apologies from Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Service, Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager, and Mr. Eoin Atkinson Resident Engineer for their inability to attend the meeting were noted.

**In Attendance:-**

- Mr. D. Houston, Acting Director of Service.
- Mr. S. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.
- Mr. M. Collins, Executive Engineer.
- Mr. J. Lavin, Senior Executive Planner.
- Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer.
- Ms. J. Murphy, Staff Officer.

**VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

- St. Joseph's Club Wexford and St. Ibars Club Castlebridge on their recent success in Feile.
- To the Oyster Lane Theatre Group on winning best overall show at the AIMS Awards in Kilkenny.
- To the Wexford Senior Hurlers, the Wexford U-20 Hurlers and the Wexford Ladies Footballers on reaching the Leinster final.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Wexford Borough District held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G Laffan seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly.

Arising from the minutes, Cllr. T. Forde referred to the following entry in the minutes:

“Cllr. T Forde and Cllr. D. Hynes thanked the public for their support in the recent local elections but expressed their dissatisfaction with the process for selection of Mayor and what they considered to be a predetermined outcome of the election of Mayor at the Annual Meeting. Both then departed the meeting in advance of nominations.”

Cllr. T. Forde requested that this entry be amended to read as follows:

“Cllr. T Forde and Cllr. D. Hynes thanked the public for their support in the recent local elections but expressed their dissatisfaction with the process for selection of Mayor and what they considered to be a predetermined process including a reference to allegations of financial exchanges in a previous pact system. Both then departed the meeting in advance of nominations.”

**IMAGINE.IE BROADBAND DELIVERY IN WEXFORD.**  
**PRESENTATION BY MS. EILEEN MULQUEEN, BUSINESS**  
**DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

Apologies from Ms. Eileen Mulqueen for her inability to attend the meeting were noted. Members were advised that the presentation on behalf of Imagine.ie will be rescheduled to a future meeting.

**FORMATION OF COMMITTEES:-**

**Protocol Committee**

Nominations were invited for membership of the Protocol Committee (Mayor ex-officio plus three members.)

Cllr. Forde was proposed by Cllr. Hynes seconded by Cllr. Kelly.  
Cllr. Bell was proposed by Cllr. Laffan seconded by Cllr. Kelly.  
Cllr. Laffan was proposed by Cllr. Bell seconded by Cllr. Kelly.

There being only three councillors nominated, Cllrs. Forde, Cllr. Bell and Cllr. Laffan were then confirmed, in addition to the Mayor ex-officio.

**Twinning Committee**

Nominations were invited for membership of the Twinning Committee (Mayor ex-officio plus three members.)

Cllr. Bell was proposed by Cllr. Laffan seconded by Cllr. Kelly.

Cllr. Laffan was proposed by Cllr. Kelly seconded by Cllr. Bell.  
Cllr. Kelly was proposed by Cllr. Bell seconded by Cllr. Laffan.  
Cllr. Hynes was proposed by Cllr. Forde, not seconded.

There being only three nominations proposed and seconded, Cllrs. Bell, Cllr. Laffan and Cllr. Kelly were then confirmed, in addition to the Mayor ex-officio.

### **St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee**

Nominations were invited for membership of the St. Patrick's Day Committee (Mayor ex-officio plus two members.)

Cllr. Hynes was proposed by His Worship The Mayor, seconded by Cllr. Bell.

Cllr. Forde was proposed by Cllr. Bell seconded by Cllr. Hynes.

There being no further nominees, Cllrs. Hynes and Cllr. Forde were then confirmed, in addition to the Mayor ex-officio.

Cllr. John Hegarty then joined the meeting.

### **PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF BUILDING AT THE CORNER OF SPAWELL ROAD AND 1798 STREET**

The attached report in relation to the sale of Council property at the corner of Spawell Road and 1798 Street, a copy of which had previously been circulated was adopted, on the proposal of Cllr. Hegarty seconded by Cllr. Bell.

Cllr. Kelly outlined his reasons for not supporting the proposed sale, stating that the property should be sold on the open market and his objection to the disposal of the building by means of a Section 183 Notice was noted.

### **REPORT ON N11/N25- OILGATE TO ROSSLARE HARBOUR**

The attached report in relation to the allocation of €800,000 funding in 2019 to advance planning and design work on the N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare scheme, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was then presented by Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer and following discussion, was noted .

Question and answers raised by Members were addressed by Mr. D. Houston, Director of Service and Mr. S. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.

In response to questions raised in relation to plans to revise the corridor route, Mr. Kavanagh advised that environmental studies and non-intrusive walk-over surveys by environmental specialists requiring access to some private lands will start in August as part of the feasibility and option selection process and that surveys will be carried out through the project study area, adding that location surveys will not indicate possible route options for the scheme.

Initial public information and consultation exercise will begin towards the end of 2019 and further consultation processes will take place in 2020.

Concerns were also raised in relation to traffic congestion arising as a result of traffic lights which became operational in Oilgate village following the opening of the new M11 and Mr. Kavanagh agreed to follow up on these concerns with the Roads Department.

### **UPDATE ON CRESCENT QUAY WORKS – EOIN ATKINSON, RESIDENT ENGINEER**

As Mr. Eoin Atkinson, Resident Engineer, was not in a position to attend the meeting as arranged, the update on Crescent Quay Works did not proceed.

Concerns were raised by Members in relation to the provision of set down parking facilities for coaches and bus parking bays and it was agreed that a request be sent to Special Projects Team for an update on same before the next Ordinary meeting.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Housing**

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer. Questions raised by Members in relation to the lack of emergency accommodation and the allocation of units in new social housing projects were addressed by Ms. Bridges-Carley.

## **Planning**

The attached reports, copies of which had previously been circulated, were presented by Mr. J. Lavin, Senior Executive Planner. Questions raised were addressed by Mr. Lavin.

## **Engineering**

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer. Questions raised were addressed by Mr. Kavanagh.

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

- Need to maintain part of grass verges where there is little hard shoulder.
- Need to relocate 4 disabled car park spaces from inside Paul Quay car park and the non-accessibility of disabled spaces in Charlotte Street on weekends during the summer months, when the street is closed for the purpose of outdoor entertainment.
- Poor road surfaces of some areas of town, in particular King Street, The Folly and School Street.
- The inclusion of Age Friendly Car Parking Spaces in the town.
- The need for a pedestrian crossing to facilitate people wishing to visit the 'Cuan Aingeal' (Angel Harbour) at Ferrybank and the wildflower Memorial garden at Ely .
- Proposals, if any, to reduce traffic speeds at Killurin Bridge/Kyle Cross.
- Request to have a Feasibility Study Report conducted to investigate the structural integrity of Killurin Bridge.
- Lack of public consultation and discussion with households by Irish Water in the replacement of lead piping in about 400 homes in six locations in Wexford town as part of the first of two phases of improvement works.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

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

Referring to recent outbreaks of fires on beaches at Ballineskar and Curracloe members queried if action may be taken to prevent such further outbreaks.

Cllr. L. Kelly asked if clarification on the control of horses under Beach Bye-Laws could be made available at the next Ordinary meeting.

## **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 praised County Wexford Fire Service on its quick response to recent outbreaks of fire at beaches in Curracloe and Ballineskar .

## **MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM**

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

Cllr D Hynes expressed his concern over the lack of detail included in some replies to queries raised through the Member's support System and in particular to the generic nature of replies regarding Housing queries.

## **MOTIONS:-**

### **HOUSING WAITING LISTS:-**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Hynes seconded by Cllr. Forde and following discussion was adopted:

"I would ask the this council to take the following into consideration: housing applicants who for some reason lose ' waiting time on their housing list' ( it may be because they moved accommodation and didn't

understand the regulations and notify the housing section ) but can show that they have received rent allowance from SW to which there is a prerequisite that one has to be a 'housing applicant' should be allowed to have their years restored to them."

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Lawlor, proposed that a housing official be asked to attend the next Ordinary Meeting to outline the waiting list process.

### **SALE OF DUN MHUIRE:-**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Hynes seconded by Cllr. Forde and following discussion was adopted:

"This council is concerned at the rumours regarding the sale of Dun Mhuire (the Parish Hall) . The people of Wexford should be consulted regarding any plans to sell this iconic building which has played so much a part in the cultural life of Wexford for many generations."

Following discussions it was agreed that His Worship the Mayor would write to the Administrator, Wexford Parish on behalf of Members in relation to the proposed future use of Dun Mhuire.

### **ELECTION POSTERS:-**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Kelly seconded by Cllr. Hynes:

"I would like to call on all parties and politicians from across the political divide to unite in calling for a ban on plastic coriboard election posters in Wexford LEA. I believe that Wexford LEA can champion a ban on these posters for the forthcoming by election and/or General Election. I propose an alternative to the coriboard posters. This would involve the council designating zones in and around the edges of towns, where images and information about candidates can be communicated to voters in a controlled an environmentally responsible way."

Following lengthy discussion the motion was put to a vote.

In favour: Cllr. Kelly, Cllr. Forde and Cllr. Hynes. (3)

Against: Cllr. Bell, Cllr. Laffan, Cllr. Hegarty, His Worship the Mayor Cllr. Lawlor. (4)

As the majority of members voted against the Motion the Chair ruled the Motion defeated.

### **WEXFORD BUS LOCAL BUS ROUTES:-**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Kelly seconded by Cllr. Forde and following discussion was adopted:

"I propose that the council engage with Wexford Bus or another bus provider to support the provision of a regular bus service to Wexford Town from the housing estates (Clos Na Ri, Radharc Na Fiaidh, Radharc Na Mara, Garran Beithe, Cois Carraige) on Coolcott's Lane."

### **ROAD SAFETY AT WHITEMILL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE:-**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Forde seconded by Cllr. Kelly and following discussion was adopted:-

"As a result of recent incidents on the link road between Killeens and Whitemill industrial estate, I ask that road safety be assessed and measures put in place to improve safety for all road users including cyclists and pedestrians."

### **PRESENCE OF ANTHRAX AT ANIMAL BURIAL SITE IN MULGANNON:-**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Forde seconded by Cllr. Hynes and following discussion was adopted:-

"Due to the sensitivities regarding confirmed and suspected anthrax burial sites in Mulgannon, we ask that Wexford County Council ensure that testing of the land is done in full accordance with the guidelines set down by the World Health Organisation."

Mr. D. Houston, Director of Service advised Members that Wexford County Council is taking the strongest possible precautions to ensure that there is no disturbance of an animal burial site containing anthrax during construction of the housing development in Mulgannon and confirmed that Wexford County Council is taking advice from the HSE and the Department of Agriculture in relation to contamination.

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

**SIGNED THIS 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPT 2019.**

**MAYOR OF WEXFORD.**