

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2:30P.M ON MONDAY 21ST JUNE, 2021 HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS.

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

In Attendance:

Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services
Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager
Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer, Environment
Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment
Mr. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner
Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Mary B. O'Leary, Wexford Local Link
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. Paul Fenlon, Avondale Drive, Wexford, RIP
Mr. Eddie Busher, Pineridge, Wexford, RIP
Mr. Aidan Murphy, Westgate, Spawell Road, Wexford, RIP
Mr. Michael Bright, Belvedere Grove, Wexford RIP
Mr. Henry (Sonny) O'Leary, Oaktree Heights, Castlebridge, Wexford RIP
Mr. Billy Fox, Carrigmannon, Killurin RIP
Mr. Albert McGrath, The Faythe, Wexford RIP
Mrs. Kathleen Reynolds, Rosslare Strand, RIP

CONGRATULATIONS

Votes of congratulations were extended to the following:

- Michelle O'Neill on her appointment as an Assistant Referee for the upcoming Olympic Games football tournaments in Tokyo.
- Barntown Rounders Club who had three teams play in All Ireland Finals all achieving a Silver Medal.

- All Sporting Bodies/Clubs countywide, on reopening their facilities for training and competitions once again for all age groups.
- All involved in showcasing the county on the recent RTE Programme Tracks and Trails including Wexford's Walking Trails and the Irish National Heritage Park.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 17th May, 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. D. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan.

Matters Arising.

Cllr. J. Hegarty queried if any submissions had been made for the Healthy Places initiative and suggested that the following areas be included - The Rocks, Min Ryan Park, Redmond Park, and Ferrybank.

DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The date for the Annual Meeting was fixed for 11.00a.m. on 28th June, 2021 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Carricklawn. Members were invited to attend, in person.

Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services, advised that the I.T. Department are currently trialling a system to facilitate a blended format for meetings from September whereby Members can attend in person or log in remotely via Microsoft Teams.

MINUTES OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 26TH MAY 2021.

The minutes of the Wexford Borough Heritage Sub Committee Meeting, held on the 26th May, 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, were noted.

PROPOSED ROAD TO BE TAKEN IN CHARGE – ROAD KNOWN AS ROCKLANDS LANE

The attached report and recommendations regarding the Taking in Charge of Rocklands Lane, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT TO BE TAKEN IN CHARGE CLUAIN AOIBHINN

The attached report and recommendations regarding the Taking in Charge of Cluain Aoibhinn, Clonard, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

PRE-PLANNING – WEATHERPROOFING INFRASTRUCTURE AT MONCK STREET.

Mr. Sean Kavanagh, District Engineer, provided an update to the Members on the proposed installation of weatherproofing infrastructure at Monck Street and advised that application for funding has been submitted to Failte Ireland under the Local Authority Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme. The aim of the Scheme is to provide a retractable roof cover for the full length of the street which can be operated to provide shelter at night time and in inclement weather.

Mr. Kavanagh added that the project will complement the proposed public realm / street resurfacing scheme previously advised to Members and for which funding has been secured under Active Travel.

If the grant application is successful, the project will be subject to a Part 8 planning/ public consultation process.

Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services, complimented Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager and Mr. S. Kavanagh, District Engineer on the comprehensive grant application submitted, in such a short timeframe.

In response to comments from Cllr. D. Hynes in relation to South Main Street, Mr. Larkin briefly outlined plans for the South Main Street area including Dun Mhuire, the old Tesco site, Lowney's Mall, restoration of the Ballast Office etc. and agreed to bring a full briefing to the July meeting.

Members welcomed the proposals for significant investment to deliver an overall improvement of the public realm on this busy thoroughfare in the heart of the town.

Mr. Kavanagh also outlined details of a further application for funding to Failte Ireland under the Local Authority Urban Animation Investment Scheme to provide an Illumination Scheme for North Main Street and Selskar Abbey which would complement the redevelopment of Monck Street and transform the public realm in this area.

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL (WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT) DRAFT TRAFFIC & CAR PARKING BYE LAWS 2021

Following completion of the public consultation process and consultation with the Garda Commissioner, on the recommendation of Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager, and following clarification to the Members on a number of queries, the Draft Traffic & Car Parking Bye Laws, 2021 and the District Manager's report, copies of which had previously been circulated, were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

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. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer.

- Lack of responses to Members emails / GDPR policy.
- Choice based Lettings rollout in October 2021.
- Update on the redevelopment of the 2 derelict houses on Bride Street.
- Petition submitted by Talbot Green Residents to close off the laneway due to persistent issues with anti-social behaviour. The installation of CCTV cameras may be looked at, as there may be issues around the extinguishment of a public right of way.
- Energy Efficiency Grant to upgrade housing stock under the Energy Maintenance Programme and proposal to bring all LA houses up to a B1 energy rating before 2030.
- Current Vacant Housing Stock Numbers.
- Update on the offer of accommodation to families currently residing in Park.

Clarification was by sought by Cllr. G. Lawlor regarding budgets for the clean up of housing estate laneways, Mr. Tony Larkin Director of Services agreed to the discuss the matter with Ms. Carolyne Godin, Director of Services for Housing.

Following discussions in relation to the lack of responses from housing staff to Members queries and the impact of the Council's GDPR policy on Councillors ability to do business, on the proposal of the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. D.

Hynes, it was unanimously agreed that a special meeting be organised to agree business interactions between staff and the Members.

Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services acknowledged the Members concerns and undertook to discuss the matter with the Management Team.

It was agreed that Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager, write to the County Secretary with a formal request to convene a meeting of all County Council members to discuss this matter.

PLANNING

The attached report, a copy of which has previously been circulated, was discussed and noted:

The following matter raised by Members was addressed by Mr. L. Bowe, Executive Planner.

- Period after which planning enforcement proceedings can no longer be taken.

COMMUNITY

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

Cllr. M. Bell, extended congratulations to all involved in the Cruinniú na nÓg, National Day of Free Creative Activity, held on the 12th June.

ENVIRONMENT

Mr. G. Forde, Senior Engineer, Environment Section, delivered a detailed presentation to the Members on the new Traffic Management System at Curracloe and Ballinesker Beaches and improvements implemented for the coming tourist season. The plan, which will operate until September, includes the provision of additional car parking spaces, line markings, no roadside parking, overflow car parks, new picnic and pedestrian friendly area at Culleton's Gap, a new shuttle bus service and the appointment of a Beach Warden, Mr. M. Carthy.

Ms. Mary T. O'Leary, Wexford Local Link, outlined details of the new shuttle bus service from Wexford Town to Curracloe village and Park and Ride facilities from the village to Curracloe Beach. Ms. O'Leary highlighted data for passenger trips in the two previous weekends. Members welcomed the new service but suggested that the advance publicity was poor and members should have been briefed in advance in order to deal with the many representations received since the launch.

The following matters raised by the Members were addressed by Mr. Forde, Senior Engineer.

- Limited spaces at the beach car parks for camper vans
- Provision of a serviced site for camper vans
- Upgrade of facilities at Ardavan Beach.
- Ongoing discussions with National Parks and Wildlife regarding accessibility at the Raven Forest entrance.
- Additional signage on dunes – “Protect this Area”
- One-way traffic flow system from Ballinesker to Curracloe, being ignored by drivers.
- Provision of overflow carparks at Curracloe and Ballinesker.
- Wexford to Curracloe Greenway Project to be reconsidered and pursued.
- Provision of Public Conveniences on or close to the Quayfront.
- Access point for Ferrycarrig Rowing Club training site.
- Treatment and eradication of Japanese Knotweed.

Mr. G. Forde, Senior Engineer confirmed that a review of public conveniences in the county is being carried out and will submit a report for the Borough at the July meeting.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

It being 4.30 p.m, on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow for the remaining business of the agenda to be concluded.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS REPORTS

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

MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM

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

DISTRICT ENGINEERS REPORT

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

The following matters raised by the Members were addressed by Mr. S. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.

- Traffic disruption due to the number of rolling road closures in place to facilitate essential works in the town centre by EBS and Gas Networks.
- Provision of a storage shed at Carraigfoyle
- Update on the installation of temporary public convenience at Carraigfoyle.
- Installation of line markings at Killurin Quay
- Road Safety concerns at Kyle Cross Junction in N11.
- Reinstatement of The Bullring Fountain.
- Bus Transport System at Talbot Green.
- Refurbishment of Fettits lane
- Request for ramps at Corish Park, Kennedy Park, Pinewood and Whitemill Road.
- Pedestrian crossings at the roundabouts at the Loreto Secondary School.
- Improved communication in respect of roadworks.
- Overgrown areas and illegal dumping at the Horse River.
- Overgrown areas at the Drinagh Roundabout.
- Update on road safety measures at Educate Together Primary School as School Warden not approved.
- Flooding at layby close to Ferrycarrig Railway Bridge.
- Allocation of spaces in St. Peters Square to Outdoor Dining.
- Line marking and parking at Killeens Estate.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

It being 5:45pm, on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, it was agreed to conclude the meeting and the remaining business of the agenda to be discussed at the July meeting.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS 19TH JULY 2021

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.