

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30P.M ON MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021, HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS.**

**Presiding:-** His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly.

**Councillors:-** G. Lawlor, J. Hegarty, 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. Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer.

Mr. Paul L'Estrange, A/Senior Executive Officer.

Ms. Michele Bridges Carley, Administrative Officer, Housing.

Mr. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner.

Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer

Ms. Caroline Crowe, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

At the outset, the District Manager conveyed apologies on behalf of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor both of whom had advised of their late arrival to the meeting. In accordance with Standing Orders, Members nominated Cllr. D. Hynes to chair the meeting for a period pending their arrival.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

On the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, a unanimous vote of sympathy was extended to the family of the following:-

- Mr. Jim Rowe, Staplestown, Murrintown RIP

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Votes of congratulations were extended to the following:

- To the business community in the town for their innovation in successfully moving their businesses online during the current lockdown.
- To Management, the Special Projects Team and all involved in the Trinity Wharf Development project, following today's announcement that this development, which will revitalise this area of the town and beyond, is to proceed.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. T. Forde, then joined the meeting and assumed the Chair pending the arrival of the Mayor.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

## **AMENITY & ARTS GRANT SCHEME 2021**

The attached grants listing of funding allocated by Members to applicants under the Amenity/Arts Scheme 2021, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by the District Manager for consideration of the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell, the allocations were unanimously agreed, noting that Members asked to be informed of any allocated grants not availed of by any group before the end of the financial year.

## **DRAFT ROADS PROGRAMME 2021**

Following confirmation of the budget allocation for the Wexford Borough Roads Programme 2021 of €1,112,657 and €231,565 for Restoration Improvements and Surface Dressing Maintenance works, respectively, the attached programme, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was recommended to the Members by Mr. S. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan, the programme was unanimously adopted.

The following matters raised by the Members with regard to the proposed one way system on School Street were addressed by Mr. S. Kavanagh, SEE:-

- Associated drainage works required to eliminate problems with ponding which is causing issues for property owners at the narrowest section of School Street.
- ESB augmentation works of the medium voltage network.

Mr. Kavanagh advised that plans to show the full scope of the works under the scheme are being finalised with a view to proceeding to public consultation stage in the next 3 – 4 weeks.

## **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, Administrative Officer:-

- Provision of alternative emergency accommodation in the absence of the availability at The Foggy Dew, South Main Street, following the recent fire.
- Renovation of 2 derelict houses at Bride Street.
- Impact of Covid on the delivery of up to 186 housing units being developed by Approved Housing Bodies under 3 schemes in the Wexford District.
- Essential repairs post Level 5 restrictions.

In reply to Cllr. D. Hynes regarding alternative accommodation for the AA, Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services advised the Members, that Dun Mhuire is no longer available and, while Wexford County Council does not have any suitable alternative available in the town centre, he confirmed that he is happy to work with all stakeholders to assist in this matter.

## **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. L. Bowe, Executive Planner:-

- Timeline for completion and adoption of the County Wexford Development Plan and commencement of work on the Wexford Town Plan.
- Continued engagement on Pre Planning Meetings remotely during Covid restrictions.
- Residents concerns re adequate Site Notice at Ard Uisce Development, Whiterock Hill.
- Taking in Charge process.
- Derelict Sites in the town centre.

Cllr. John Hegarty advised that the Planning SPC is currently reviewing the pre planning process with a view to improving efficiencies / outcomes and also the Taking in Charge process and suggested that Members input/feedback will be welcomed as part of this review.

## **DISTRICT ENGINEERS REPORT**

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. S. Kavanagh, SEE.

- Residents concerns about the proposed improvement works at Whitemill Road
- Responsibility for quality of resurfacing at Church Lane following recent gas works.
- Consideration of one way traffic flow system at Fishers Row as part of Trinity Wharf project.
- Commencement of work on footpaths in Castlebridge.
- Active Travel Programme 2021 – announcement imminent.
- Additional safety signage requirements at Carraigfoyle and Three Rocks in light of increased traffic and pedestrians in the area.
- Replacement of footpaths in Beechgrove Estate, Castlebridge
- Update on programme of works on Killurin Bridge.
- Update on school bus parking at Talbot Green with schools reopening.
- Consideration of one way traffic flow system at St. Aidan’s Crescent.
- Parking fines and appeals for essential workers.

Cllr. Forde referred to correspondence issued to Councillors by the Primary Schools network raising concerns around road safety issues and lack of cycle infrastructure. Mr. Kavanagh asked that the correspondence be copied for his attention and review.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

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

The following matters were raised by the Members to be addressed for the April meeting.

- Provision of support to assist with maintenance of The Rocks, Maudlintown and the walking trails in this area.
- Suggested establishment of a task force to target the longstanding issue of litter and illegal dumping at Harbour View, Maudlintown beside the railway line and at other problem areas including Knockeen and Ferrycarrig Road.
- Timeframe for reopening the public toilets at Ballinesker Beach.

## **COMMUNITY**

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

- Cllr. M. Bell congratulated Ms. Oonagh Messitt and all involved in securing Phase 2 approval and funding of €2m to develop the Celtic Routes Project.
- Cllr. M. Bell also praised Ms. A. Dupuy, The Healthy County Coordinator, for her work including the popular ‘Wexford Together’ programme on SE Radio.

- Cllr. G. Laffan commended the Sports Active Section for all their on-line activity.

### **LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS REPORT**

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

Cllr. D. Hynes commended the County Librarian and her team on the services being provided to the public during the Level 5 restrictions.

### **FIRE SERVICES REPORT**

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.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly then joined the meeting and assumed the Chair.

### **PROPOSED PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS – THE BULLRING / CORNMARKE T / NORTH MAIN STREET**

The attached presentation outlining indicative designs for proposed public realm improvements at The Bullring / Cornmarket / North Main Street, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. S. Kavanagh, SEE. The presentation set out a design concept to improve public safety and give priority to pedestrians over vehicular traffic through a number of measures including enhanced street surfacing, street furniture, improved road layout at Cornmarket and removal of the roundabout at Cornmarket, as well as improvement works to enhance The Market Place.

Members welcomed the proposal and questions raised were addressed by Mr. Kavanagh.

Mr. Kavanagh advised that the project will be delivered on a phased basis subject to funding for which an application will be lodged under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.

Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services, thanked the Members for their support and advised that a detailed design will be finalised in the coming months with a view to bringing a final plan before the Members for approval in Quarter 4, 2021.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

**SIGNED THIS 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2021**

**MAYOR OF WEXFORD**