

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2019 IN GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM, BLOCK A, WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL , CARRICKLAWN ,WEXFORD.

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

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

Apologies from Cllr. T. Forde and Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer, for their inability to attend the meeting were noted.

In Attendance:-

- Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services.
- Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager.
- Mr. James Lavin, Senior Executive Planner
- Mr. Gerry Forde , Senior Engineer
- Mr. Ken Jones , Executive Engineer
- Mr. Anthony Bailey , Administrative Officer
- Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer.
- Ms. Joan Murphy, Staff Officer.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

- Mr. Larry Roche, Castlebridge,Wexford (formerly of Coolree) R.I.P.
- Mr. Coleman Burke, Brendan Corish Gardens Wexford R.I.P.
- Mrs. Mary Richard, Coill Aoibhinn, Newtown Road, Wexford. R.I.P.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd October, 2019 copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. D. Hynes seconded by Cllr J. Hegarty.

Matters Arising:

In response to Cllr. D. Hynes, Ms. Helen Meehan confirmed that enabling works on two derelict properties in Bride Street are scheduled to commence before end Q4, 2019 and the site is included for redevelopment as part of the overall social housing programme.

PRESENTATION ON CARRIGFOYLE ACTIVITY CENTRE.

Mr. Michael Jones, Executive Engineer, and Mr. Brian Galvin, Senior Engineer, Special Projects, presented Members with an up-date on plans for Carrigfoyle Activity Centre, where the sod had been turned by the Mayor on 15th November.

All members welcomed the construction of the Activity Centre / Park noting that the development will meet a demand for recreational, social, health and wellbeing activities for locals and visitors and complimented the Special Projects team on the project.

Questions raised by members were addressed by Mr. Jones and Mr. Galvin.

PRESENTATION BY MS. CATHERINE McLOUGHLIN , STAFFORD McLOUGHLIN ARCHAEOLOGY RE WEXFORD TOWN HERITAGE .

Arising from a motion adopted at the September Ordinary meeting whereby the establishment of a Heritage Sub-Committee to work to enhance and promote the various heritage sites throughout the Borough District was agreed, Ms. Catherine McLoughlin, Archaeologist, presented a detailed report and map of Wexford Town's medieval heritage sites.

In conjunction with the Council's Planning Department, Ms. McLoughlin outlined conservation actions which have been undertaken in the town's surviving built heritage since 1990 to date. Issues highlighted by Ms. McLoughlin included access to the sites for local residents and visiting tourists, vegetation management and continued access to funding.

Questions raised by Members in relation to the Westgate Tower, St. Patrick's Church, daily access to St. John's Graveyard, Selskar Abbey, development of the Old Gaol, further use of the Talking History app, and opportunities for the expansion of Wexford Walled Towns Day were addressed by Ms. McLoughlin and the District Manager .

Members thanked Ms. McLoughlin for her comprehensive and informative presentation.

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT THE CORNER OF SPAWELL ROAD AND 1798 STREET.

The attached report in relation to the sale of a derelict building at the corner of Spawell Road and 1798 street, a copy of which had previously been circulated was presented by Mr. Anthony Bailey, Property Manager, and discussed at length.

Noting Members concerns in relation to the proposed sale price of €30,000 in comparison to the sale price achieved for the adjoining property, on the proposal of Cllr. John Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. Leonard Kelly, it was unanimously agreed to place the property for sale on the open market.

REPORTS:

HOUSING

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Ms. Helen Meehan and noted.

Questions in relation to trigger points for the activation of the Cold Weather Strategy for the homeless, timeframe for demolition of 2 derelict houses in Bride Street, assistance measures available to a person presenting as homeless from abroad or another County, and request for the circulation of the list/addresses of social housing units to the elected members when allocated were addressed by Ms. Meehan.

PLANNING

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

In reply to Members, Mr. Lavin advised that the Council had received notice of funding allocation of €79,000 under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and advised that details of the scheme, which is open to owners of protected structures, will be advertised before end of 2019.

On the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes, it was agreed that a letter be issued to Irish water to highlight Wexford Borough District Members concerns over the major increase in water and wastewater connections.

DISTRICT ENGINEERS REPORT

In the absence of Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer, the attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was noted.

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

- Update on meeting with the Gardai/Road Safety Officer with regard to safety issues in relation to the parking of school buses in the busy built up residential area of Talbot Green as discussed at the October meeting.
- Roll out and locations of additional Disabled Parking spaces in the North End to compensate for lack of access to spaces in Charlotte Street. In response to Cllr. Bell, the District Manager advised that the following 9 additional spaces have been provided:

2 at Selskar Street (outside Burgermac), 2 at Common Quay Street, 2 at Allen Street Car Park, 1 at South Main Street, 2 in Crescent Quay Car Park.
- Trial period for the revised Wexford Town traffic arrangements.

Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager, confirmed that a small number of email submissions had been received and that proposed Draft Bye Laws to give effect to the new arrangements will be brought to the December meeting and, subject to Members approval, will then go out for public consultation following which the Draft Bye Laws together with a report on any submissions would come back before the Members for adoption.

Following discussion and on the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty, a cut-off date of 29th November for receipt of submissions in relation to the pilot was agreed by the Director to enable the Engineer to consider any submissions/comments and to report on same to the December meeting prior to any new Draft Bye Laws proceeding to public consultation.

- Request for more signage on the approach to the new trial roundabout at Sinnottstown Lane.
- Replacement of festive lighting on Wexford Bridge and The Faythe.
- Condition of the Horse River and risk of flooding due to blockage resulting from the accumulation of debris in same.
- Request for a feasibility study report to be carried out to investigate the structural integrity of Killurin Bridge.
- Cllr. G. Laffan commented that the Engineering report is primarily urban focused and called for investment in rural areas beyond the Ring Road and in particular in Castlebridge and Curraclloe.

COMMUNITY

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

His Worship the Mayor raised concerns over an outstanding historic water debt bill of €3,037.00 received by St Mary's Handball Club from Irish Water. The Director advised that this is not a matter for Wexford County Council since the transfer of functions to Irish Water.

Mr. Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer, suggested that the club check the system to establish if the bill is for actual consumption or a possible leak on the system. In the event that a leak, Mr. Forde recommended that the club seek a reduction through the leak allowance policy and the Director suggested that the Club write to Irish Water asking for some leniency on the outstanding debt should this be the case.

ENVIRONMENT

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

In response to queries from Members at the October meeting, the Mayor welcomed Mr. Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer, to the meeting to address the issue of septic tank inspections and outline the process to Members.

Mr. Forde confirmed that, in accordance with EPA requirements, Wexford County Council is required to carry out a minimum number of inspections in the County each year of which 90% are carried out in high risk areas based on potential risk to waterways, the environment, public health or on foot of complaints received. Remaining inspections are picked at random. If remedial works are required, property owners are notified and may apply for a grant – maximum grant €4,000.

Mr. Forde acknowledged that there is an issue in relation to the inadequacy of grants as necessary remedial works could cost in the region of €4,000.00 to €12,000.00 and advised that this issue has been raised with the Department of the Environment.

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.

MOTIONS

PARKING IN VICINITY OF NEW COURTHOUSE

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes, and following discussion unanimously adopted.

“I ask that additional Traffic Warden resources are put in place to ensure that driveways, paths and roads in around the area of Wexford Courthouse are correctly monitored for illegal parking especially on days when the courts are in session. Also that rules around illegal parking on cycle lanes are enforced”

To encourage greater usage of the new public car park on Belvedere Grove, Members suggested that signage be improved and that the parking charges be reviewed to consider the introduction of a daily charge in place of the current hourly rate.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED THIS 16th DAY OF DECEMBER 2019

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.