

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER, 2020 HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

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

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

In Attendance:-

- Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services.
- Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager.
- Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance.
- Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.
- Mr. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner.
- Mr. Sean Meyler, Senior Executive Engineer, Special Projects
- Mr. Michael Jones, Executive Engineer, Special Projects.
- Mr. Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer, Planning.
- Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer, Housing.
- Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment.
- Ms. Anita McLoughlin, Administrative Officer,
- Ms. Rita Byrne, IS Project Leader, IT
- 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. Anthony Rath, Ballybawn, Screen RIP
- Mr. Bob Staples, Galbally, Curracloe RIP
- Ms. Kathleen Dooley, Westgate Park RIP
- Mrs. Lena Connolly, Thomas Clarke Place RIP
- Mr. Paddy Curran, Ballyhennigan, Taghmon RIP
- Mr. Sean Stafford, Stafford Bakeries, Wexford and Gorey RIP

CONGRATULATIONS

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde, a vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

To Rihanna Jarrett on scoring her first ever goal in the Soccer Super League playing with Brighton Hove Albion versus Southampton yesterday.

MINUTES

- 1) The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st September, 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty.

- 2) The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 28th September, 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty.

Matters Arising:

In reply to Cllr. J. Hegarty, Mr. S. Kavanagh, SEE, confirmed that the proposal to introduce a one way traffic system on School Street will proceed to public consultation in the coming weeks.

Cllr. D. Hynes voiced his opposition to the proposal outlining concerns at the impact on traffic volumes on Francis Street/Waterloo Road/Davitt Road South.

DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN 2021 – GMA ALLOCATIONS

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance. Ms. O' Neill highlighted an amendment to the report to include an increased allocation under the Amenity Grant Scheme to €6,000 per Member as agreed by full Council.

In response to matters raised during discussion, Ms. O'Neill advised Members that the Draft Budgetary Plan must be adopted at today's meeting with or without amendment in accordance with the statutory process.

Members were advised that the total GMA for the County in 2021 amounts to €1,798,000 including a proposed allocation of €400,000 for Wexford Borough District.

Following discussion, the Draft Budgetary Plan, as presented, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan.

In reply to Cllr. J. Hegarty, the District Manager confirmed that a breakdown of allocations under the Residents Grants Scheme and the Festivals Budget will be circulated for information of members.

PART 8 – CARRIGFOYLE ADVENTURE CENTRE

Mr. Michael Jones, Executive Engineer, Special Projects, presented the attached Part 8 report in relation to the proposed Carrigfoyle Adventure Centre building. Members were informed that the Council are working on the detailed design with the Waterford/Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) who will operate the facility upon completion. Questions raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Jones and Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services.

Members welcomed the project and thanked Mr. Jones for his detailed presentation.

DERELICT SITES REPORT / UPDATE

The attached report, a copy of which was previously circulated, was presented by Mr. Tom Banville, SEO, Planning Department outlining activity under the Derelict Sites Act and the status of derelict properties within the Wexford Borough area.

During discussion, the following properties were raised:

Cllr. Lawlor welcomed the Council's intention to purchase two long standing derelict properties on Mary Street.

Cllr. Lawlor asked that the redevelopment of the two derelict houses on Bride Street be expedited.

Cllr. D. Hynes referred to a recent email communication to Members from former Mayor, Helen Corish Wylde, in relation to the Record of Protected Structures and expressing concern at the demolition of Westgate House. Cllr. Hynes highlighted the need to expedite the appointment of a Heritage Officer and a meeting of the new Heritage Committee. Following discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. Hynes, it was unanimously agreed that Helen Corish Wylde be invited to join the new Committee.

Given the deadline of 9th December for making submissions in relation to the Draft County Wexford Development Plan, it was agreed to convene an urgent first meeting of the newly formed Heritage Committee in the coming week.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOR TAKING IN CHARGE AT WHITEBROOK – WHITEROCK DRIVE AND HAWTHORN HILL.

The attached reports and recommendations regarding the Taking in Charge of Whiterock Drive and Hawthorn Hill, copies of which had previously been circulated, were unanimously adopted on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Leonard Kelly, seconded by Cllr. John Hegarty.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR TAKING IN CHARGE – PINERIDGE, SUMMERHILL.

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty.

Members thanked Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Service, for his assistance in bringing forward the taking in charge process for Pineridge which had been ongoing for a long number of years.

MEMBERS PORTAL SYSTEM

Ms. Anita McLoughlin, Administrative Officer, outlined details of the new Members Portal System – an update to the current Members Support System. Ms. McLoughlin

advised that the Corporate Policy Group had agreed to pilot the new system in the Wexford District. Training will be provided for Members by the I.T. Department.

Cllr. Hegarty stressed the importance of getting the system right from the start as feedback on the Wexford pilot will determine its success and the use/extension of the system to the other Districts. Cllr. Hegarty suggested that timeframe on feedback is important citing the unacceptable performance of the current system in that regard.

Cllr. G. Lawlor advised that he would not be engaging with the new portal suggesting the system is not the way forward for the elected members.

Ms. McLoughlin welcomed feedback from Members and it was agreed by Ms. Rita Byrne, IT, that an MS Teams session will be held to demonstrate the new system in more detail to Members.

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:

- Reinstallation of CCTV camera at alleyway in Talbot Green – Ms. Bridges Carley agreed to discuss the matter further with the TLO and SEO, Housing.
- Update on handover of housing scheme at The Ballagh
- Priority 1 v Priority 2 Grant applications and impact on delivery timeframe.

PLANNING

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was discussed 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:

- Resurfacing of Heritage Park road at Ferrycarrig.
- Repairs to dangerous wall at Carrigmannon under Low Cost Safety Scheme
- Completion date for road strengthening works on Red Bog Road
- Consideration of one way system on Fishers Row
- Surface repairs on Killeens Lane following construction works at Min Ryan Park
- Request for a Public Lighting plan for Castlebridge

- Replacement of damaged bollards in Castlebrige
- Back alleyways in LA housing estates – Budget and responsibility of relevant Department needs to be agreed e .g. alleyway to the rear of North End soccer pitch
- Knotweed programme – Spraying of areas.
- Installation of automated bollards on Main Street to facilitate refuse collection, deliveries etc.
- Safety issues with traffic light system at Wexford General Hospital
- Trip hazard on Newtown Road
- Consideration of a one way system within St. Aidans Crescent housing estate
- Trip/fall hazard outside St. Bridgets Centre, Clifford Street
- Review of public lighting in general around Wexford Town
- Update in relation to possible acquisition of privately owned lands at “The Knock”, Bishopswater
- Installation of public lighting along laneway between Avondale Drive and Pinewood – Members Discretionary funds.
- Completion of cycle lane/footpaths on Newtown Road
- Ongoing issues with parking of school buses at Talbot Green and need to identify more suitable areas for coach and mini bus parking.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

It being 4.30 p.m., on the proposal of Cllr. Hegarty seconded by Cllr. Forde, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the remaining business of the meeting to be concluded.

COMMUNITY

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

Cllr. J. Hegarty congratulated the Healthy Ireland Committee on their Action Plan which will inform the work of the Committee going forward.

ENVIRONMENT

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment, and noted.

In response to the Mayor’s request that the Council consider the installation of an APC on the quayfront, Mr. Maguire advised that the APC at Paul Quay was removed and a new universal unit was installed in Crescent Quay Car Park to to serve the quays and surrounding areas.

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 SUPPORT SYSTEM

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

DEVELOPMENT/PUBLIC REALM AT MONCK STREET

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly, welcomed Mr. Colm Neville and Mr. Anthony Neville to the meeting to brief Members and officials on plans for redevelopment of properties on Monck Street as an extension to the existing Crown Bar and plans for the improvement /replacement of the street surface in collaboration with Wexford County Council.

Colm Neville advised that planning permission has been granted by Wexford County Council for the development which will involve the demolition of four derelict houses to facilitate the development of a daytime café/restaurant as an extension to the existing Crown Bar with outdoor dining facilities and with 19 bedroom units overhead for budget type accommodation. In addition, a Road Closure Order on Monck Street has been granted by Wexford County Council for the period 10 November, 2020 to 14 May, 2021 to facilitate the development.

Mr. Neville also advised that discussions have taken place with senior officials of Wexford County Council and the Special Projects Office with regard to upgrading the street surface to provide a fully accessible and quality shared surface to give priority to pedestrian users in place of the current mixing of cars and pedestrians. This new shared surface would give other property owners on Monck Street the confidence and opportunity to also improve their outdoor offering.

The Architects plans also propose the installation of a roof cover along the full length of Monck Street which would be retractable so as to open/close to suit weather conditions. Mr. Neville advised that discussions had taken place with the Council and, although no final decision has been reached, that he would commit to funding the section outside of the Crown Bar comprising approximately 34m of the 110m.

In conclusion, Mr. Neville advised that the success of the overall scheme would be dependent on the pedestrianisation of Monck Street and the support of Borough District Members.

Members welcomed and thanked Mr. Neville for his detailed presentation and ambitious plans for the area but also highlighted the need to find workable solutions so as not to negatively impact businesses on North Main Street and access to the disabled parking on Charlotte Street.

Mr. S. Kavanagh, SEE, confirmed that the bollards at the junction of Lower George Street/Selskar Street will be open from 8.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. daily to facilitate access for general deliveries and business owners on that section of North Main Street and special arrangements are in place outside of these hours to allow access for An Post vehicles and G4S cash collection vehicles.

Mr. Kavanagh advised that automated bollards are to be installed at this location which will allow controlled access and every effort is being made to expedite this installation.

During lengthy discussion, Members asked the Engineers for confirmation, in writing, that there's a workable solution with the automated barriers before committing to a permanent pedestrianisation of Monck Street.

Mr. Sean Meyler, SEE, Special Projects Office advised that the design and type of street surface will be determined by the decision taken in relation to the pedestrianisation of the street and stressed the urgency of a final resolution so that the project can move forward. He confirmed that the team are committed to the installation of an automated barrier as part of the Scheme and agreed to confirm the operational capabilities by email in the coming week.

All members agreed to support the Scheme, in principal, including the proposal for pedestrianisation subject to receiving the email communication from the engineers.

MOTIONS

Issue of Residents Parking Permits to Company Cars

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty, and unanimously adopted:-

"We ask that this Council adapt the relevant Bye Laws to allow residents who rely on the use of a Company car to avail of a residents parking permit".

Casual Trading on Wexford Quayfront and other Public Realm Areas

The following motion was proposed by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde and, following discussion, unanimously adopted:-

"In early 2021 Wexford Borough District issue a public open call for the provision of food and drink on Wexford Quay (and other public realm areas such as Min Ryan Park). This will be in the form of a licence which would be required to be renewed yearly. As part of this a feasibility study to take place to establish the type, number and location of businesses which will be allowed to trade? This should include investigating the aesthetic we wish to portray as well as possible trading hours. A public convenience should also be installed".

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED THIS 21ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2020

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.

