

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30P.M. ON MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2021 REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS.

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

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

In Attendance:-

Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services

Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager

Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer

Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Engineer

Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance

Mr. Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer, Planning

Mr. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner

Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment

Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing

Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer

Ms. Caroline Crowe, 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. Daniel (Con) Hore, Rosepark, Old Hospital Road and formerly of Poole, Dorset. RIP
- Ms. Catherine Roche, Oak Tree Rise, Newlands, RIP
- Mr. Brian Murphy, St. Ibar's Villas, Castlebridge, RIP
- Mr. Conor Ruttledge, The Faythe, RIP
- Monsignor O'Neill, Diocese of Savannah Georgia and formerly of Co. Tipperary, RIP
- Mr. Harry Byrne, Gowran, Kilkenny, RIP

CONGRATULATIONS

Votes of congratulations were extended to the following: -

- Cllr. J. Hegarty, in his capacity as Manager of the Shelmaliers Senior Football Team on winning the County Senior Football Championship.

- St. Mary's Football Club on reaching the Intermediate Football Championship Finals.
- Crossabeg-Ballymurn Football Club on winning the Intermediate County Football Championship.
- Sarsfield's & St. Volunteers GAA Clubs on maintaining their current group status in the league.
- Wexford Tidy Towns for winning a Gold medal in the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition, with particular thanks to the Chairperson, Ms. Philomena Murphy, for all her hard work.
- Rosslare, Enniscorthy & Blackwater who won silver and bronze medals respectively in the Tidy Town's competition and to Blackwater also, on being named Wexford's tidiest town
- Paddy Berry on the launch of his 3rd Collection book of Wexford Ballads

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 18th October 2021, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed, and signed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

Matters Arising

Cllr. G. Lawlor sought an update on the timescale for the commencement of work on the dangerous wall at Cromwellsfort citing the six-week road closure was causing serious difficulties for motorists and that works need to be progressed urgently to make the wall safe and reopen the road.

At the request of Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services, Members unanimously agreed to defer discussion on this to Item 6 on the Agenda.

DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN (GMA), 2022

The Draft Budgetary Plan 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance.

In response to matters raised during discussions, 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 2022 amounts to €1,798,000 including a proposed allocation of €400,000 for Wexford Borough District. This represented no change from 2021 despite the uncertain financial position and possible reduction in government supports in 2022.

Questions raised by members were addressed by Ms. O'Neill and, following discussion, the Draft Budgetary Plan as presented was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR TAKING IN CHARGE – AIRHILL, BELVEDERE ROAD

The attached report and recommendations regarding the Taking in Charge of Airhill, Belvedere Road, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR TAKING IN CHARGE – ARD UISCE (PHASES 1 – 3), WHITEROCK, WEXFORD.

The attached report and recommendations regarding the Taking in Charge of Ard Uisce (Phases 1-2), Whiterock, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

In response to a query raised by Cllr. T. Forde in relation to older estates, Mr. T. Larkin advised that there is a long list of older estates outstanding due to a range of issues but under the New Building Regulations newly constructed housing estates are being inspected regularly and where there have been no issues during construction the process of taking in charge can be expedited.

SECION 183 NOTICE – MANNIX PLACE

The attached report and recommendation, a copy of which had previously been circulated, regarding the extension of a 25 year Lease of land at Mannix Place to Wexford United Pigeon Club for a further period of 8 years, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

UPDATE ON DERELICT SITES IN THE WEXFORD DISTRICT

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was summarised for Members by Mr. T. Banville, Senior Executive Officer.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. T. Banville, Senior Executive Officer.

- Ownership and development plans for the vacant site at Browne's Corner, Bishopswater.
- Need for additional hoarding at the site of the former Westgate House to tidy up the vacant site following demolition works.

- Inspection of the former Westgate Bar for inclusion on the Derelict Sites Register.

Mr. Banville provided an update to Members on the Walled Garden at Cromwellsfort, following concerns raised about the ongoing road closure. Mr. Banville confirmed that following investigations by Council officials and a further independent investigation, both concluded that the wall is in a dangerous condition. He added that a recommendation has been forwarded for consideration by Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Service, to issue Notices to the established landowners.

Mr. Larkin agreed to issue an update to Members following consideration of Mr. Banville's report and having regard to the legal position and financial implications.

Mr. Banville advised that work can commence on the demolition of the roadside wall on expiry of 7 days following the issue of the Notices. This will be irrespective of any responses received from the landowners.

Mr. S. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer stated that it is expected that the road would be fully opened to traffic by the 3rd December 2021.

PART 8 – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT ADORATION CONVENT, BRIDE STREET.

The attached report and recommendations regarding the proposed development at the Adoration Convent, Bride Street a copy of which had previously been circulated, and following discussion, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

On the recommendation of Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services, Members agreed to defer discussions on the suggested inclusion of public allotments within the Convent grounds to a later date.

PART 8 – PROPOSED OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE PAVILLION ON WEXFORD QUAY FRONT.

The attached report and recommendations regarding the proposed Outdoor Performance Pavilion on Wexford Quay Front, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Laffan seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

Cllr. G. Lawlor requested that the long awaited upgrade of the electricity supply on Wexford Quayfront be prioritised in tandem with this development to eliminate the use of generators to augment power supply for events.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION – CLOSURE OF ALLEYWAY AT TALBOT GREEN/THOMAS STREET.

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented to Members by Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager. Ms. Laffan informed Members that following discussions at the July statutory meeting, the formal public consultation process was commenced and no submissions or objections had been received during the public consultation period.

Ms. Laffan advised that it will be a matter for the Housing Engineer to decide on the optimum solution to implement the closure. Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Service, suggested to Members that a locked gated arrangement might be their preferred option so as to allow access for cleaning etc. and should anti social behaviour in the area cease, consideration could be given to reopening the laneway in the future.

Following a lengthy debate on the matter to which all members contributed, the closure of the public right of way was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT – PARKING AT TALBOT GREEN

Mr. S. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer, informed Members that he had no further update on the school transport system and parking at Talbot Green. Mr. Kavanagh summarised the current pilot system, whereby 9 of the 28 buses in operation were now relocated to a collection point at the CBS school on Thomas Street. Mr. Kavanagh also advised that these 28 buses represented double the normal capacity due to Covid restrictions. Members expressed their concerns about the traffic congestion, large gathering of students, together with the impact of buses parked with engines running, in this residential area.

While acknowledging Member's concerns, Mr. Kavanagh stated that all possible solutions had been explored but unfortunately there was no alternative available to the relocate these buses, within the network of roads within in the town, at present.

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.

- Delay in the allocation of new housing scheme at Airhill, Belvedere Road and the ongoing presence of a security firm at these unoccupied houses.
- Clarification on the transfer request policy.
- Crash beds and out of hours bed provision at Ozanam House.
- Circulation of the 'Housing for All' presentation made to members at the Housing SPC.
- Filling of the 'Place Finder' Role.

Suspension of Standing Orders.

It being 4.30p.m, on the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow for the remaining business on the agenda to be concluded.

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. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner.

- Decommissioning of individual septic tanks for houses seeking a connection to the public system via an adjacent proposed new development.
- Delays to the water and sewerage connections to new estates at Whitebrook.

WATER SERVICES

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

COMMUNITY

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

ENVIRONMENT

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. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer.

- Coastal Erosion at Curraclloe

- Programme for installation of a new public convenience facility on Wexford Quay Front.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS

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

FIRE SERVICES

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

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE CASES

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

DISTRICT ENGINEER

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. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.

- Request for the presentation of the design of the proposed Active Travel measures at Beechlawn/Clonard and Newtown Road to Members.
- HGV's accessing Lambert Place due to Mulgannon Road road closure and need for additional signage requirements.
- Update on the Public Realm proposal for Cornmarket and The Bullring Area
- Name Stone for Shana Court Estate, Coolcots
- Replacement of name stone at Whiterock View.
- New signage for Cuan Aingeal Garden, Ferrybank.
- Timeframe for the lights on the pedestrian crossing at Whitemill.
- Upgrade and augmentation of the power supply on the quay front.
- Provision of improved lighting and streetscape at Fettitts Lane to deter antisocial behaviour.
- Update on the reinstatement and lighting works at the laneway at Pinewood.
- Maintenance of surface on Forestry Road, Coolree.
- Damage to Stop Sign at Davitt Road South
- Height advisory sign for Ferrycarrig Railway Bridge at Seamus Kelly Roundabout for HGV's.
- Review of left turn only at the R730 & Ferrycarrig Bridge and impact on motorist behaviour.

MOTIONS

Bus Parking Provision in new temporary Car Park, Crescent Quay.

On the recommendation of Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services, the following motion proposed by Cllr. G. Lawlor was withdrawn and deferred for consideration pending completion of the Part 8 planning process which will be presented to Members at the January meeting.

“Wexford Borough Council request that provision be made for the parking of buses at the new “temporary” car park at Crescent Quay. This provision should facilitate the parking of school buses and tourist buses”.

Lights at Dog Park at Min Ryan Park.

The following motion proposed by Cllr. G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. M. Bell, and following discussion was unanimously adopted.

“Wexford Borough Council requests that lighting be installed at the dog park at Min Ryan Park”

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 20TH DECEMBER 2021

MAYOR OF WEXFORD