

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2019 IN GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM, BLOCK A, WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL , CARRICKLAWN ,WEXFORD.

Presiding:- Her Worship the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell.

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

Apologies from His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G Lawlor, and Cllr. L. Kelly for their inability to attend the meeting were noted.

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. James Lavin, Senior Executive Planner
- Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer.
- Ms. Joan Murphy, Staff Officer.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

- Mr. George Lawlor, Kennedy Park, Wexford R.I.P.
- Mr. Thomas (Mossy) Kehoe, High Street, Taghmon R.I.P.
- Mr. James Cash, Ballira, Screen. R.I.P.
- Mr. Denis O'Brien, Mannix Place, Wexford. R.I.P.
- Mr. Brendan Carty, Maudlintown, Wexford R.I.P.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

Votes of congratulations were extended to the following:

- Shelmaliers GAA Club on winning the County U15 Premier Hurling Championship
- Faythe Harriers on winning the County U20 Hurling Final.
- To Tom Murphy and Aaron O Connor on winning gold medals at the international boxing championships.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th September, 2019 copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

Arising from the minutes, Cllr. T. Forde referred to the following entry in the minutes and requested an amendment:

MOTION:- PROVISION OF SERVICES TO PERSONS AT SPECIFIC SITES

"In the interest of health, safety and dignity, I call on this Council to provide basic services, such as bins and water to groups of people that have gathered at a Council site in Park and who have been without appropriate accommodation on a long term basis subject to the proviso that the Council reserves the right to immediately withdraw such services in the event of any reports of anti-social behaviour"

Cllr. T. Forde requested that this entry be amended to read as follows:

In the interest of health, safety and dignity, I call on this Council to provide basic services, such as bins and water to groups of people that have gathered at a Council site in Park and who have been without appropriate accommodation on a long term basis subject to the proviso that the Council reserves the right to immediately withdraw such services in the event of any **confirmed incidents of anti-social behaviour**"

DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN 2020 – GMA ALLOCATIONS.

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance.

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.

Ms. O'Neill confirmed that the draft General Municipal Allocations for 2020 had been amended to reflect the boundary changes and fifth District introduced during 2019. Members were advised that the total GMA for the County in 2020 amounts to €1.7m, an increase of 57.5% since 2015. The proposed 2020 GMA allocation for Wexford Borough District is €393,000.

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

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 71, ARD ALAINN, CASTLEBRIDGE CO. WEXFORD

The attached report in relation to the disposal of property at 71, Ard Alainn, Castlebridge to Mr. Wayne Mallon, 27 Bride Street, Wexford, a copy of which had previously been circulated was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell seconded by Cllr. T. Forde.

SALE OF PROPERTY AT SPAWELL ROAD/1798 STREET

Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services, also clarified the position in relation to the Section 183 Notice authorising the disposal of a Council building at the corner of Spawell Road and 1798 Street as approved by Members at the July meeting and confirmed that the sale of the adjoining dwelling has fallen through and, as such, the disposal of the Council's property would not now proceed for the present.

Mr. Larkin added that the Property Management have taken the opportunity to review the valuation and any future proposal to dispose of the property will be brought back before the Members for approval by way of a revised Section 183 Notice.

REPORTS:

HOUSING

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley and noted.

Ms. Bridges-Carley circulated details of the Protocols for Managing Persons Presenting as Homeless and the Homeless Supports and Service Unit- Rota as requested by members at the September meeting.

Questions in relation to same were addressed by Ms. Bridges-Carley.

Cllr. J. Hegarty requested a list of all our current housing stock asked that members be notified of housing allocations as allocations are made.

Cllr. Hynes welcomed the imminent demolition of houses in Bride Street and queried if there were any further developments on the availability of emergency accommodation in the district.

Ms. Bridges Carley confirmed that the provision of secure longer-term accommodation for clients with complex housing needs would be met through the Housing First Initiative and that on-going efforts were being made to ensure that services reached the most entrenched "rough sleepers".

In response to Cllr. Hynes query in relation to options available to those presenting as homeless during the weekend, Ms. Bridges-Carley advised that there is no weekend cover at present and that in some cases referrals may be made by the Gardai or the HSE to the Women's Refuge and/or Oznam House but that anybody presenting during office hours can be assured of social welfare support and financial support under "Place Finder" provided they have lost the tenancy through no fault of their own.

PLANNING

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

In response to a query raised from Cllr. T. Forde in relation to the suspected anthrax burial sites in Mulgannon and the current housing development, Mr. Lavin advised that Wexford County Council is taking advice from the HSE and the Department of Agriculture in relation to this matter and will update Members when the HSE and Department of Agriculture revert with proposals and update.

In relation to biodiversity/natural heritage, Cllr. J. Hegarty congratulated the Planning Section on the creation of a Bug/Bee Hotel in the grounds of County Hall and on the "Changing Landscapes" initiative.

With regard to encouraging community groups or individuals to undertake similar projects, Mr. Lavin advised that there is no funding support available at present but the Council are creating and promoting awareness of such initiatives.

DISTRICT ENGINEERS REPORT

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was then presented by Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.

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

- Time frame for completion of ongoing works by Irish Water at Bishopswater.
- Safety issues in relation to the parking of school buses in the busy built up residential area at Talbot Green.
Mr. Kavanagh agreed to set up a meeting with the Road Safety Officer, the Gardaí and all interested parties to look at parking facilities for school transport serving schools in the area.
- Timeframe for installation of trial roundabout at junction of Sinnottstown Lane.
- Timeframe for completion of footpath reinstatement at King Street.
- Risk of flooding due to accumulation of debris in Horse River.
- Pedestrian safety at Whitemill Industrial Estate and need for a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Clonard Village.
- Need for a pedestrian crossing at LIDL/Avondale Drive/Pinewood.
- In relation to the revised traffic measures recently introduced in Wexford Town, Mr. Kavanagh confirmed that pedestrian movement and safety had been greatly improved. In relation to the lack of access to the disabled spaces on Charlotte Street during pedestrian hours, members were advised that alternative spaces will be rolled out in the North end over the coming week weather permitting.

COMMUNITY

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

Cllr. D. Hynes then departed the meeting.

ENVIRONMENT

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

Cllr. G. Laffan recommended that, having regard to the success of the recent mattress amnesty, that this initiative be held twice yearly.

In response to a query from Cllr. Laffan in relation to the inspection of septic tanks etc. it was agreed to request an official from the Environment Department to attend the November meeting to update members on the process and the protocols around same.

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 congratulated the Chief Fire Officer and his team on the recent very successful and informative Open Day which was held at the station in conjunction with Fire Safety Week.

CORRESPONDENCE

Wexford Bus

The attached correspondence from Mr. Brendan Crowley, Wexford Bus, in response to a request to extend the local bus service to serve the housing estates on Upper Coolcotts Lane (Clos na Ri, Radharc na Fiaidh, Radharc na Mara, Garran Beithe, Cois Carraige), a copy of which had previously been circulated, was noted.

In response to Cllr. J. Hegarty, Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services, confirmed that the new Development Plan will include a strategic public transport plan as part of the process.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED THIS 18th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.