

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF THE BOROUGH DISTRICT OF WEXFORD HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 IN THE GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM, BLOCK A, WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, CARRICKLAWN, WEXFORD.**

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

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

**In Attendance:-**

- Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Service.
- Ms. Angela Laffan , District Manager.
- Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.
- Mr. Mark. Collins, Executive Engineer.
- Mr. James Lavin, Senior Executive Planner.
- Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer.
- Ms. J. Murphy, Staff Officer.

**VOTE OF SYMPATHY:-**

On the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor, unanimous votes of sympathy were extended to families of the following:

- Sharon O'Brien, RIP, 41 Lower John Street, Wexford.
- Agnes Bergin RIP, Roches Terrace, Wexford.
- Eileen Donovan Morris RIP, 1 Walnut Grove, Wexford.
- Bridget Lacey (Nee Berry), RIP, Ferndale Park, Wexford.
- Frank Corley RIP, Ivy Lane, Coolcotts, Wexford.
- Pdraig O'Gorman, RIP, Ashbrook, Kellystown, Adamstown.

**VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

- To Glynn Barntown Ladies Rounder's Team on retaining their All-Ireland title at the recent National Rounders Championships.
- To the Shelmalier Ladies Football Team on winning the Senior County Ladies Football Final.
- To the Faythe Harriers on winning the Under 17 Premier Minor Hurling Final 2019.
- To La Cote Restaurant on their success in the South East Radio Hospitality Awards.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wexford Borough District held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. D. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. M.Bell.

### Matters Arising:

In response to a query raised by Cllr. Hynes , His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Lawlor confirmed that a Member may speak only once on any motion, as prescribed in the Standing Orders.

Cllr. Hegarty raised concerns in relation to the proposal adopted at the July Ordinary meeting authorising the disposal of a Council building at the corner of Spawell Road and 1798 Street.

Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Service, confirmed that there were various restrictions placed on the sale of property under the Section 183 Notice and assured Members that Council support of the request to consider the sale to the proposed purchaser will now be reviewed having regard to new information and changing circumstances.

Referring to the recent formation of the Protocol Committee and the process for official engagements, Cllr. Hegarty queried why he and other officials had not been invited to the “unveiling “of the new Columbarium Wall in St. Ibar’s Cemetery, Crosstown.

The District Manager clarified that no official unveiling ceremony had taken place and that she and the Mayor had merely responded to a request by the Contractor to be photographed next to the Columbarium Wall on the day of installation to promote his involvement in the project on his Company website.

The District Manager also confirmed that further works on a garden/seating area will be carried out around the Columbarium Wall and did not consider an official opening ceremony to be appropriate.

Arising from discussion at the July meeting, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. George Lawlor, confirmed that he had been in contact with the Parish Administrator, Fr. Aodhan Marken, with regard to the proposed sale of the Parish Hall. The Mayor read the detailed written response from Fr. Marken outlining the factual position and the reasoning behind the decision taken by the Parish Committee to dispose of the facility.

Members again expressed concerns on behalf of the many users of the Parish Hall for community events. Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Service, advised members that the Council has reached an agreement with the Parish Committee to acquire the property which will facilitate urban regeneration in the south end of town.

Mr. Larkin advised that a number of alternative solutions are being considered for the existing users who he planned to meet with in the coming weeks with a view to agreeing reasonable accommodation solutions.

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

Apologies from Ms. Catherine McLoughlin for her inability to attend the meeting were noted. Members were advised that the presentation on behalf of Stafford McLoughlin Archaeology will be rescheduled for the October meeting.

## **HOUSING MAINTENANCE UPDATE - MR. MICHAEL DOYLE, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, HOUSING.**

The attached housing report was presented by Mr. Michael Doyle, Executive Engineer, Housing outlining a comprehensive programme of services being delivered to Council tenants including Housing Maintenance, Response to requests for repairs, Tenant Information hand book, Pre-let repairs, Energy Efficiency Improvements and general Housing Performance.

Question raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Doyle. Members congratulated Mr. Doyle and all the Housing Maintenance team involved in the delivery of the various programmes.

Cllr. T Forde then joined the meeting.

## **PLANS FOR EXTENSION TO WEXFORD ARTS CENTRE – PRESENTATION BY MR. EDDIE TAAFFE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES.**

Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Director of Services presented plans for a proposed €1.5m extension to Wexford Art Centre comprising approximately 400 sq. metres in a three storey extension to the side of the building with a new internal lift to provide enhanced accessibility for all and improved facilities for the centre.

Mr. Taaffe confirmed that the Part 8 public consultation process will commence in Q3 2019 with work expected to commence on site in Q2, 2020, and an expected completed date in early 2021.

Members welcomed the announcement of a grant allocation of €750,000 from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs with matching funding support from Wexford County Council's own resources to be included within the Capital Programme which will be adopted as part of the upcoming budgetary process. Mr. Taaffe advised that the investment will give potential to generate increased income in the Centre and ensure its sustainability as a cultural hub into the future.

## **PROPOSED LEASE OF LANDS AT NEWTOWN AND CULLENTRA, (ED CARRICK), CO WEXFORD TO THE IRISH NATIONAL HERITAGE PARK**

The attached report in relation to the disposal of lands in the townlands of Newtown and Cullentra (ED Carrick) Co. Wexford comprising 38.5 acres to the Irish National Heritage Park, a copy of which had previously been circulated was adopted, on the proposal of Cllr. Hynes and seconded by Cllr. Hegarty.

## **PROPOSED LEASE OF LANDS AT COOLCOTTS WEXFORD**

Mr. Tony Larkin also referred to a report circulated to members by Property Management with regard to the sale of a piece of land, measuring 0.20 acres, adjacent to Wexford Racecourse, Coolcotts to CFO Construction for €4,000.00.

The proposal to dispose of the property, in accordance with the terms as set out in Mr. Larkin's email to Members on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019, was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. T Forde. In order to expedite the transfer, it was further agreed that the Section 183 Notice be brought before the next full meeting of Wexford County Council in October.

## **REPORTS**

### **HOUSING**

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer.

Questions raised by Members in relation to the Housing First Initiative, delays in allocation new social housing developments caused by Irish Water, availability of emergency accommodation and out of hours contact details were addressed by Ms. Bridges-Carley.

Cllr. Forde requested that the Homeless Protocol be circulated to members and the Homeless Rota be circulated to all Members each week.

### **PLANNING**

The attached reports, copies of which had previously been circulated, were presented by Mr. J. Lavin, Senior Executive Planner. Questions raised were addressed by Mr. Lavin.

### **ENGINEERING**

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer. Questions raised were addressed by Mr. Kavanagh.

Particular areas of concern raised by members included the following and were addressed by Mr. Kavanagh:

- Ownership of disused site to the rear of The Pillar development, King Street to be established to facilitate maintenance on properties.
- Section of wall at Ferrybank Motors in need of repair.
- Unacceptable delay in taking in charge - Pineridge Estate, Summerhill.
- Quality of the recent resurfacing work carried out in The Grove housing estate, Clonard.
- Update on proposed new Clonard Link Road.
- Lighting up of Ferrycarrig Castle.

- The installation of blue-coloured public lighting on Wexford bridge as a suicide prevention measure.

### **Revised Traffic Review Measures – Wexford Town.**

On foot of a review of traffic in areas of the town centre, Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer, presented members with a number of proposals to improve traffic flow and safer pedestrian movement in the town centre.

- Closure of Lower Rowe Street during pedestrian hours to eliminate traffic traversing the pedestrian area to access Church Lane and the Quays.
- Closure of Monck Street at junction with Main Street during pedestrian hours to eliminate traffic entering onto Main Street and exiting via Charlotte Street.
- No right turn onto Crescent Quay from Henrietta Street
- No right turn into Cinema Lane from Crescent Quay
- New zebra pedestrian crossing at The Bullring
- Provision of additional Disabled Parking Bays in various locations
- Provision of 10 new Age Friendly Car Parking spaces at various locations.
- Provision of dedicated coach parking facilities on Redmond Road and Trinity Street.

Mr. Kavanagh confirmed that the trial period for these traffic review proposals would operate for a 4 to 6 week period and Members were asked to refer enquiries or written submissions and /or observations in relation to the proposals which they may receive to the Wexford Borough email address details of which to be issued to Members.

Members welcomed the revised proposals and noted that the permanent implementation of any or all of the above will require an amendment to the Traffic Bye Laws in due course.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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 noted.

Cllr. J. Hegarty congratulated the Environment Section in relation to Curracloe beach and the achievements in the National Awards. He also expressed concern over the ongoing issue with illegal dumping and the unauthorised use of facilities at Curracloe beach.

Cllr. L. Kelly highlighted the dangerous condition of the approach road leading to the carpark at Curraclloe beach.

Cllr. G. Laffan queried if, in light of recent reports, anything could be done to make The Raven Walk a safer place for walkers/visitors.

### **LIBRARIES /ARTS / ARCHIVES**

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

Cllr, Hegarty congratulated the Wexford Library on the very successful Summer Stars Reading Adventure and hoped that the Open Library Service would be rolled out to all areas.

### **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.

### **MOTIONS:-**

#### **PROVISION OF SERVICES TO PERSONS AT SPECIFIC SITES**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. L Kelly.

(a) "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 specific sites in this district and have been without appropriate accommodation on a long term basis"

Following lengthy discussion, members agreed to support an amendment to the motion making it specific to the site at Park currently occupied by a number of traveller families and that such services would be withdrawn should there be any reports of anti-social behaviour of any description at the site.

The amended motion was then put 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 reports of anti-social behaviour"

The amended motion was then declared carried. In favour: Cllr. T. Forde, Cllr. R. Kelly, Cllr. G. Lawlor, Cllr. M. Bell, Cllr. G. Laffan, Cllr. D. Hynes. Against: Cllr. J. Hegarty.

## **PROVISION OF SAFE SECURE CYCLE PARKING FACILITIES**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr T. Forde seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly and following discussion unanimously adopted.

"I ask that this Council increase the provision of safe, secure cycle parking facilities at convenient locations throughout the district as the absence of appropriate cycle parking facilities has been shown to significantly deter people from cycling in the first place"

## **INVITATION FROM WexBUG (Wexford Bicycle Users Group)**

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

"That Wexford County Council accepts an invitation from WexBUG (Wexford Bicycle Users Group) to participate in an experiential bicycle ride through Wexford town on a prearranged weekday in October, the objective being to observe what children and adults see when doing this every day on their daily commute to work and school, and social cycling".

The invitation is open to all decision-makers and their advisors in Wexford County Council comprising at least:

- all Councilors (this being a Wexford town event, the Wexford District Councillors are particularly welcome - other events can be arranged in other areas);
- the Chief Executive of Wexford County Council;
- all Directors of Service who can influence decision-making on investment and design for active transport - in particular the directors for transport, environment, planning and special projects;
- all road engineers and designers who implement Council policy in design and construction.

## **LANDS AT FERRYBANK – PROPOSED PUBLIC AMENITY AREA**

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

"I propose that all avenues are investigated by the Council to ensure that the full potential as a public amenity of the site at Ferrybank (which faces Wexford Quay) can be realised".

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF A HERITAGE SUB - COMMITTEE**

The following motion was proposed by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. L Kelly, and following discussion unanimously adopted.

"Wexford Borough District proposes the establishment of a Heritage Sub Committee. The purpose of the committee will be to work to enhance the various Heritage sites throughout the Borough District".

During discussion it was agreed that Wexford Lions Club, Wexford Rotary Club and Wexford Walking Tours would be invited to nominate a representative to the Committee.

## **TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CALMING SYSTEM AT KYLE CROSS.**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. G Laffan, seconded by Cllr. M Bell.

"That a temporary traffic calming system be erected at Kyle Cross junction using signage, bollards and cones immediately and to be left in place until a suitable and safe road layout system is in place".

Following discussion, the following amendment to the motion was agreed and unanimously adopted:

"That Wexford Borough District urgently calls on Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to immediately put in place a temporary traffic calming system at Kyle Cross junction using signage, bollards and cones, such system to be left in place until a suitable and safe road layout system is in place".

It was further agreed that Transport Infrastructure Ireland be advised that the public and motorists do not have confidence in the current lay-out and request a review of the new traffic arrangements at this junction in the interest of public safety.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**

**SIGNED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2019.**

**MAYOR OF WEXFORD.**