

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2020 IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, CARRICKLAWN, WEXFORD.

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.
- Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer.
- Ms. Liz Hore, Head of Enterprise, Economic Development.
- Mr. Liam Bowe, Executive Planner.
- Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer, Housing.
- Mr. Michael Doyle, Executive Engineer, Housing.
- Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment.
- Mr. Michael Sweeney, Senior Staff Officer, Community Development.
- 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 family of the following:-

- Mr. Frank Kelly, Liam Mellow Park and formerly Corish Park.

CONGRATULATIONS

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, a vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Glynn Barntown U17 Football Team on winning the Premier Championship County Final.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20th July, 2020, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME, 2020

The attached report was presented by Ms. Liz Hore, Head of Enterprise, Economic Development, outlining activity under the 2020 Town & Village Renewal Scheme accelerated measures and funding of €187,500 secured under Phase 1 & 2 for a number of areas including Castlebridge.

Ms. Hore advised that a number of further projects have been submitted to the Department under Round 3 including Wexford Town which is now eligible due to the changes in the criteria to include towns with a population over 10,000.

The Mayor and Members thanked Ms. Hore for her presentation and welcomed the funding allocated to the Wexford District.

COVID 19 MEASURES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The attached report presented by Ms. Liz Hore, Head of Enterprise, Economic Development, outlined the response of the LEO Office to the Covid 19 pandemic and outlined a range of targeted measures and supports delivered to assist businesses throughout the County over the past six months.

Members praised Ms. Hore and her team in the LEO Office and expressed their appreciation to the team for their combined efforts in supporting the business sector over this period.

PART 8 – REDEVELOPMENT OF BALLAST OFFICE BUILDING, CRESCENT QUAY

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Ms. Liz Hore, Head of Enterprise, and unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. John Hegarty seconded by Cllr. George Lawlor.

SECTION 183 NOTICE – PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT ST. IBAR'S VILLAS, BALLYBOGGAN LOWER, CASTLEBRIDGE TO THE OPW.

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

DRAFT BYE LAWS FOR THE REGULATION OF ALL OPEN BURIAL GROUNDS IN COUNTY WEXFORD

The attached Draft Bye Laws regulating all open burial grounds in the County were presented by Mr. Michael Sweeney, Senior Staff Officer, Community Development. Members were advised that the updated Bye Laws seek to strengthen the existing bye laws in a number of areas as outlined in the report.

Questions raised by members were addressed by Mr. Sweeney and, following discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. Lawlor, that the Draft Bye Laws proceed to public consultation stage.

PART 8 – PROPOSED GYM FACILITY AT FERNDALE PARK

Due to the unavailability of the County Architect, Mr. Shay Howell, it was agreed to defer consideration of this proposal to the Special Meeting to be held on 28th September.

TRAFFIC REPORT – PROPOSED ONE WAY SYSTEM AT SCHOOL STREET

Following discussion at the July Ordinary Meeting with regard to traffic management and in particular the suggested implementation of a one way system on School Street and the review of the one way system at The Bullring/Common Quay Street, Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer, informed Members that traffic Consultants were appointed to examine traffic in the town and their report and findings were only just delivered. Mr. Kavanagh expressed a view that the comprehensive report lacks a level of confidence in some areas and suggests that any changes to traffic flows could have unintended consequences in other areas and need to be carefully considered.

Members were informed that the Consultants have recommended that more detailed modelling be carried out in relation to School Street and The Bullring area which will require a further 6 weeks to complete.

Members expressed their frustration with the delays in addressing their concerns and the suggestion that concrete proposals would not be available for at least a further 6 weeks.

Following discussion, Mr. Kavanagh suggested that the current report and its findings would warrant a Special Meeting to discuss the various elements of the report in detail.

On the proposal of the Director, it was agreed to convene a Special Meeting on Monday, 28th September at 2.30 p.m. to include particular discussion in relation to School Street, The Bullring and Monck Street.

STRATEGIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT CARCUR

Mr. James Lavin, Senior Executive Planner, presented an indicative drawing in relation to a proposed housing development at Carcur comprising 413 housing units in 7 apartment blocks ranging from 3 to 6 storey in height. Mr. Lavin advised that the planning application has been submitted to An Board Pleanala for decision and is being advised to Members for comment and to afford an opportunity to make a submission to the Board.

Questions raised by members on matters including flood risk assessment, Part 5 agreement, implications for residential zonings in the County Development Plan, taking in Charge etc. were addressed by Mr. Lavin. Cllr. G. Lawlor asked that apartments not be accepted by the Council in any Part 5 arrangements with the developer.

Following lengthy discussion, Members agreed to support the development in principle subject to comments in relation to Part 5 being considered.

REPORTS

HOUSING

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

Questions raised by Members in relation to Grants for Older People, housing maintenance, delay in relation to Phase 2 of 44 housing units at Whitrock Hill, and other matters were addressed by Mr. Michael Doyle and Ms. Michele Bridges-Carley.

Noting the reduction in the housing maintenance budget and the resulting impact on pre letting repairs carried out prior to allocating a dwelling to a new tenant, Cllr. G. Lawlor proposed that a rent waiver be applied where a new tenant has to now complete certain works at their own cost that heretofore would have been undertaken by the Council to bring a housing unit up to an acceptable standard. It was agreed to refer this proposal to the Senior Housing Officer with a view to having the matter brought before the Housing SPC for a review of housing policy in this regard.

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. Tony Larkin, Director of Services -

- Cllr. Lawlor again raised the continued delays in completing the taking in charge process for Pineridge, Summerhill due to ongoing issues with Irish Water and asked that the Council proceed to take this estate in charge as provided for in the relevant legislation.
The Director, in acknowledging the ongoing delay and the legal provisions, advised that a proposal will be brought before the Members at the October meeting to recommend that Wexford County Council proceed to take the roads and public lighting in charge and Irish Water will then be responsible for water and sewerage in this estate.
- Cllr. Lawlor referred to consistent noise issues arising from late deliveries into the Aldi Store on Trinity Street contrary to the terms of their planning permission and requested that the Council write to the Regional Office on the matter. Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services, confirmed that Planning Enforcement will be instructed to immediately follow up on the matter.

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:

- Design and construction of new link road at Clonard Village linking Clonard Road and Whitemill in light of announcement of site for new school in the area.
- Ongoing issue with blocked gullies in Bishopswater.
- Cleaning of back alleyways in LA housing estates – Budget and responsibility of relevant Department needs to be agreed.
- Need for more public toilets in Wexford Town centre.
- Installation of additional gullies at O'Connell Ave., St. Johns Road to alleviate flooding in heavy rain.
- Sight lines exiting housing estate on town side of Killeens Service Station.
- Dishing of footpath to cycle lane at Ballinagee towards Min Ryan Park.
- Lack of action by IW to deal with ongoing leaks on Coolballow Road.
- Disappointment at level of funding under Active Travel - particularly in relation to the €10,000 allocated for the R741 - and expected timeframe for implementation of approved projects.
- Appointment of Consultants in relation to Killurin Bridge and next steps.
- Public Lights on entrance road into Pairc Charman.
- Need for traffic calming on Mulgannon Hill.
- Timeframe for completion of Low Cost Safety works on Whitemill 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 the Mayor seconded by Cllr. Hegarty, 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.

ENVIRONMENT

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

Mr. Maguire briefed Members on the following matters:

- Recent Mattress Amnesty – in excess of 2000 mattresses taken in at Holmestown.
- Review of Bye Laws – Harbour & Piers Bye Laws and Beach Bye Laws due to be presented to the Environment SPC in coming week.
- Review of the Litter Management Plan – Public consultation process November/December, 2020.

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.

MOTIONS

CCTV at Talbot Green

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. D.Hynes and following discussion, unanimously adopted:-

“We call on the Council to reinstall CCTV in the Talbot Green area in response to the continuous and serious anti-social behaviour in the area and that the laneways in question be included in the town CCTV Scheme. We also ask that the Council actively work with An Garda Síochána to address the problems in these laneways to improve safety for all residents and the wider community.

Provision of Allotment Schemes

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor and following discussion, unanimously adopted:-

“That Wexford Borough District support any countywide initiative aimed at the provision of allotment schemes for the people of Wexford”.

CORRESPONDENCE

Name Plaque on O'Hanrahan Station, Wexford.

The attached correspondence from Mr. David Murphy, Station Manager, O'Hanrahan Station with regard to the reinstatement of the name plaque on O'Hanrahan Station was noted.

PAINTBOX WEXFORD

Cllr. L. Kelly briefed the Members in relation to Paintbox Wexford, a Public Art Project being rolled out by Wexford County Council and Art in the Open, whereby 8 ESB boxes have been selected at various locations in Wexford Town and with permission from the ESB will be transformed with public art features. A call out to local artists will issue in the next week. The project is being supported with funding of €4,500 under the Creative Ireland Programme. The initiative was welcomed and supported by Members.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED THIS 19TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2020

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.

