

DM/ZP

5ú Eanáir, 2022

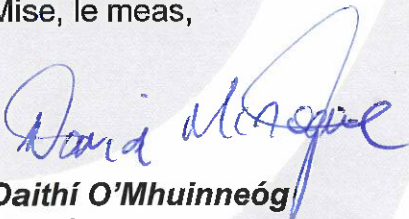
FÓGRA CRUINNITHE

Meeting of Wexford County Council
On Monday 10th January, 2022 - 2.30 p.m.
By Microsoft Teams

A Chara,

Tionólfar cruinniú de'n Chomhairle mar a léirítear thuas.

Mise, le meas,



Daithí O'Mhuinneóg
Runai



Ordinary Meeting of Wexford County Council – Monday 10th January 2022

Agenda (Amended 6th January 2022)

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 County Council Meeting 13.12.2021

2. Proposed disposal of property under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001:

2.1 Disposal of property at Main Street, Coolgreany, Gorey, Co. Wexford

3. Finance Matters

3.1 Increased Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Borrowing Requirement

- See Report of Head of Finance

3.2 Audit Committee Report to Wexford County Council

- See Report of Audit Committee

4. Section 24 of the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 as amended by the Standards in Public Office Act 2001 and as applied by the Local Government Act 2001.

Consideration of the Report of the Investigation by the Standards in Public Office Commission of Alleged Contraventions of the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 and 2001 and Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 - Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive, Wexford County Council

5. Return of Annual Declaration – Notice under S174 (b) of the Local Government Act, 2001

- See Report of County Secretary / Ethics Registrar

6. Section 51 of the Local Government Act 2001:

Consideration of the creation of a subcommittee of Wexford County Council called Wexford County Council Women's Coalition which will comprise of the female elected representatives on Wexford County Council in line with the Women's Caucus in the Houses of the Oireachtas & other local authorities.

7. Chief Executive's Report

- See Report of Chief Executive

8. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting):

- 8.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 10.11.2021
- 8.2 Rosslare Municipal District Special Meeting – 11.11.2021
- 8.3 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 17.11.2021
- 8.4 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 15.11.2021
- 8.5 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 15.11.2021
- 8.6 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 16.11.2021

9. Correspondence and Communications

- 9.1 Email from Private Secretary to Minister Roderic O’Gorman TD dated 20th Dec. 2021.
- 9.2 Letter from Louth County Council re motion dated 23rd Dec.2021.

10. Councillors’ Conferences and Training

- 10.1 Conference Report Cllr. Garry Laffan "Housing for All - How will it help people find homes", Carlingford, Co. Louth
- 10.2 Conference Report Cllr. Pip Breen "Delivering Plan Led Development Annual Conference 2021, Whites Hotel, Wexford
- 10.3 Conference Report Cllr. Fionntan O Suilleabhain – Mental Health & Wellbeing Conference, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

11. Deferred Motions – County Council Meeting 13th December, 2021

11.1 Cllr Davy Hynes

“This council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to scrap the RAS scheme or remove the discriminatory criteria and allow tenants to remain on the Housing Transfer list as is the case in the HAP scheme”.

Response of Executive:

11.2 Cllr. Michael Sheehan

“That this Council reaffirms our commitment and support for the local Greyhound and Equine sports industry; we commend the Government for its continued financial support and calls on the Minister to guarantee the level of grants for the life of the government so that the organising bodies can continue to invest in the sport locally and the standards of aftercare for retired animals. Furthermore, we call on our Oireachtas members to state their position on this issue and commit to oppose any moves to reduce the support.”

Response of Executive:

If the Motion is passed, the County Secretary will arrange for a copy of the Motion to be forwarded to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Charlie McConalogue TD for consideration, and will also arrange for the Motion to be forwarded to the six Wexford members of the Oireachtas as outlined in the Motion.

11.3 Cllr. Andrew Bolger

“Wexford County Council undertakes to increase its use of Irish Sign Language (ISL) in public communications. Irish Sign Language is the first and/or preferred language of 5,000 Deaf people in Ireland and approximately 40,000 people in general will communicate in ISL.

The Irish Sign Language Act 2017 provides a duty on public bodies to do all that is reasonable to ensure that interpretation into Irish Sign Language is provided for a person who is competent in that language and cannot hear or understand English or Irish when that person is seeking to avail of or access statutory entitlements or services provided by or under statute by that public body.”

Response of Executive:

Wexford County Council currently offers services in ISL at it's headquarters at Carricklawn, Wexford. ISL service will be available in all public libraries by the end of Qtr 1 2022 and in all Municipal District Offices by end of Qtr 4 2022.

If Motion is passed, Wexford County Council proposes that any new public-facing Council-made videos will also be made available in ISL. We will also consider the provision of ISL at all public events where Council members or Council officials are making an address.

11.4 Cllr. Tom Forde & Cllr. George Lawlor

“We ask that this council allow for the representation of all parties and none on the Corporate Policy Group.”

Response of Executive:

Section 133 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) provides the following:

“The elected council of each local authority shall form a committee, to be known as the corporate policy group and in this section referred to as the ‘policy group’, consisting of:

- (a) the Cathaoirleach of the local authority who shall chair the policy group,*

- (b) *the chairpersons of the strategic policy committees of the local authority, and*
- (c) *where for any period of time, a policy group does not contain a member from a municipal district to whom paragraph (a) or (b) relates, a municipal district member for each municipal district concerned”*

As only the Members identified at (a) (b) and (c) above can be members of the CPG, it is not be possible to comply with this Notice of Motion.

11.5 Cllr. Andrew Bolger and Cllr. L. Kelly

“We propose that Wexford County Council considers piloting the Space-Finder App or similar technology in County Wexford to assist disabled drivers in the identification of vacant disabled parking spaces and to provide real-time navigation to the nearest available disabled space”.

Response of Executive:

Wexford County Council is in contact with relevant staff of Limerick City and County Council (where such a system has been recently installed) with a view to the provision of a similar service to users of disabled parking facilities in County Wexford.

12. Notices of Motions –

12.1 Cllr. M. Bell

“Wexford’s Women’s coalition calls on the Minister for Education to implement a programme to tackle adulthood domestic violence through early education in our schools”.

The current SPHE programme provided in secondary schools teaches our young people how to be safe and protect themselves. Instead the Women’s Coalition is calling for “respectful relationship education” to be introduced in schools during secondary school education. Respectful Relationships Education teaches our children how to build healthy relationships, resilience and confidence and also teaches our young people what constitutes criminal activity in a relationship such as the sharing of intimate pictures. This programme was initially rolled out in Australia in 2016 and is proving successful in preventing gender based violence”.

Response of the Executive:

If the Motion is passed, the County Secretary will arrange for a copy of the Motion to be forwarded to the Minister for Education, Norma Foley, TD for consideration.

12.2 Cllr. J. Fleming

“That this Council calls on Education Minister Norma Foley T.D. to ensure that third level institutions treat students from Meánscoil Gharman and other non-Gaeltacht meánscoileanna the same as students from meánscoileanna in Gaeltacht regions”.

At present, third level institutions offer restricted entry pathways on education courses for applicants from meánscoileanna located in Gaeltacht regions. Restricted entry pathways usually require less points than the general entry pathways to education courses. Given the benefits of Irish speakers sharing their knowledge as teachers, it is important that third level institutions equally share the benefits of providing a restricted entry pathway to students leaving meánscoileanna in both Gaeltacht and non-Gaeltacht regions. “

Response of the Executive:

If the Motion is passed, the County Secretary will arrange for a copy of the Motion to be forwarded to the Minister for Education, Norma Foley, TD for consideration.

12.3 Cllr. T. Forde

“I ask that this council review its policy regarding mutual transfers to make the process easier and quicker for tenants.”.

Many requests for works are often made as a prerequisite for a transfer taking place. In the case of mutual transfers, these should be relaxed to facilitate the transfer, provided that both applicants are happy with the current condition of the properties and that there are no safety issues outstanding.”

Response of the Executive:

12.4 Cllr. J. Fleming Fianna Fáil group

“That Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Housing Daragh ‘O Brien TD to allow pensioners purchase their homes under the tenant purchase scheme even if their only source of income is social welfare payments.”

Response of the Executive:

If the Motion is passed, the County Secretary will arrange for a copy of the Motion to be forwarded to the Minister for Housing Daragh ‘O Brien TD for consideration.

12.5 Cllrs. Aidan Browne, Pip Breen, John Flemming, Willie Kavanagh, Donal Kenny, Garry Laffan, Lisa McDonald, Barbara Anne Murphy, Michael Sheehan, Michael Whelan.

“There are 82 children in Ireland with Spina Bifida and or Hydrocephalus who require urgent orthopaedic intervention. Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Health to fast track these children for surgical review as a matter of urgency.

We also call on the Minister to ensure that provision of services is made to Disabled Children within elective hospital settings as well as acute hospitals to avoid a repeat of this situation.

Response of the Executive:

If the Motion is passed, the County Secretary will arrange for a copy of the Motion to be forwarded to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, TD for consideration.