

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Wexford County Council Held Monday 21st June 2024
in the Council Chamber at 2.30pm (with some remote attendance)****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. John Fleming, Cathaoirleach.**Councillors:**

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Barden | Pat | Kavanagh | Paddy | O'Brien | Aoife Rose |
| Boland | Nicky | Kehoe | Pat | O'Rourke | John |
| Breen | Pip | Kelly | Leonard | Ó Súilleabháin | Fionntán |
| Browne | Aidan | Kenny | Donal | Owens | Jackser |
| Byrne | Cathal | Laffan | Garry | Shannon | Raymond |
| Carthy | Ger | Lawlor | George | Sheehan | Michael |
| Codd | Jim | McDonald | Darragh | Staples | Frank |
| Donohoe | Anthony | McDonald | Lisa | Staples | Robbie |
| Dwyer | John | Murphy | Barbara-Anne | Sullivan | Joe |
| Farrell | Mary | Murphy | Bridín | Walsh | Catherine Biddy |
| Forde | Tom | Murphy | Marty | Walsh | Oliver |

Officials:

Mr. M. Drea, County Secretary
 Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services
 Ms. L. Hore, Director of Services
 Mr. S. Howell, A/Director of Services
 Ms. L. Lacey, A/Head of Finance
 Ms. E. Morrissey, A/Director of Services
 Mr. E. Taaffe, Chief Executive

In accordance with Standing Orders, in the case of an Annual Meeting in an election year and until the election of the Cathaoirleach at such meeting, the Chair for this period shall be taken by a member or an employee selected by the meeting for this purpose. On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald, Cllr. J. Fleming was selected to Chair the meeting.

Cllr. J. Fleming welcomed the Members, Minister J. Browne, Deputy P. Kehoe, Deputy J. Mythen, Senator M. Byrne, and all present to the Annual Meeting of Wexford County Council.

Those present observed a minute's silence to mark the passing of John Whyte, uncle of Cllr. A. Donohoe.

1. Election of Cathaoirleach

Cllr. P. Breen was proposed by Cllr. D. Kenny and seconded by Cllr. O. Walsh for the position of Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. P. Barden was proposed by Cllr. P. Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. M. Murphy for the position of Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. T. Forde was proposed by Cllr. J. Codd and seconded by Cllr. A. R. O'Brien for the position of Cathaoirleach.

On a show of hands, 22 voted in favour of Cllr. P. Breen, 6 voted in favour of Cllr. T. Forde, 5 voted in favour of Cllr. P. Barden, and Cllr. L. Kelly abstained. Cllr. J. Fleming deemed Cllr. P. Breen to be elected Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council for the 2024-2025 term.

Cllr. P. Breen was presented by Cllr. J. Fleming with the Chain of Office, following which Cllr. P. Breen assumed the Chair. Cllr. P. Breen presented Cllr. J. Fleming with a certificate and County crest to mark his tenure as Cathaoirleach.

Cathaoirleach P. Breen acknowledged the presence of Minister J. Browne, Deputy P. Kehoe, Deputy J. Mythen, and Senator M. Byrne. Cllr. Breen thanked his proposer and seconder, and congratulated Cllr. J. Fleming on his term of office.

Cllr. Breen thanked those who voted for him and those who didn't, acknowledging that this is democracy in action. Cllr. Breen welcomed the new Members and sympathised with those who lost their seat.

Cllr. Breen emphasised his commitment to the betterment of Wexford and expressed his faith in the Executive and staff of Wexford County Council.

The Members and Chief Executive joined in congratulating Cllr. Breen on his election to the position of Cathaoirleach and wished him every success in the year ahead.

2. Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach called for nominations for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council.

Cllr. G. Carthy was proposed by Cllr. F. Staples and seconded by Cllr. J. Codd for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach. As Cllr. Carthy was the only nomination, Cathaoirleach P. Breen deemed him to be elected to the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council.

Cllr. G. Carthy was presented with the Leas-Cathaoirleach Chain of Office by Cathaoirleach P. Breen.

Cllr. Carthy congratulated Cllr. P. Breen on his election as Cathaoirleach and his great service to Wexford. Cllr. Carthy thanked his proposer and seconder, and acknowledged the great honour it is to serve his county.

The Members and Chief Executive joined in congratulating Cllr. Carthy on his election to the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach and wished him every success in the year ahead.

3. Appointments

The following appointments to committees were made:

Chair Designate of Each SPC –

For the purpose of appointing the Chair of the Housing SPC, the following Members formed a group in accordance with paragraph 18, schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2001 – Cllr.'s T. Forde, F. Ó Súilleabháin, A. R. O'Brien, J. Codd, J. Owens, J. Dwyer, M. Farrell, and L. Kelly.

Housing & Community SPC – Cllr. Jim Codd on the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin.

Climate Change, Biodiversity & Environment SPC – Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy on the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. B. Murphy.

Transportation & Water Services SPC – Cllr. Bridín Murphy on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Donohoe.

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC – Cllr. Cathal Byrne on the proposal of Cllr. P. Kehoe, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy.

Planning and Building Control SPC – Cllr. John Fleming on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. O. Walsh.

Corporate Policy Group (Cathaoirleach and Chairs of SPC's and must have a representative of each MD) –

Cllr. P. Breen, Cllr. J. Codd, Cllr. B.A. Murphy, Cllr. B. Murphy, Cllr. C. Byrne, Cllr. J. Fleming and one representative from Wexford Borough MD to be selected.

Budget Working Group (Members of the CPG and a representative from each party and independent representative) –

Cllr. P. Breen, Cllr. J. Codd, Cllr. B.A. Murphy, Cllr. B. Murphy, C. Byrne, Cllr. J. Fleming, one representative from Wexford Borough MD to be selected, plus the following:

Cllr. Jim Codd (Aontú) as only Aontú representative.

Cllr. Tom Forde (Sinn Féin) on the proposal of Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin, seconded by Cllr. A. R. O'Brien.

Cllr. George Lawlor (The Labour Party) on the proposal of Cllr. C. B. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald.

Cllr. Ger Carthy (Independent) on the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. A. Donohoe.

Protocol Committee (6 plus Cathaoirleach Ex-Officio, plus AILG and LAMA Members. Also, 1 representative from each party, plus 1 independent representative) –

Cllr. Jim Codd (Aontú) on the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan.

Cllr. Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin (Sinn Féin) on the proposal of Cllr. A. R. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde.

Cllr. George Lawlor (The Labour Party) on the proposal of Cllr. C. B. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan.

Cllr. Jackser Owens (Independent) on the proposal of Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin, seconded by Cllr. J. Codd.

Cllr. Joe Sullivan (Fianna Fáil) on the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy.

Cllr. Anthony Donohoe (Fine Gael) on the proposal of Cllr. C. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. F. Staples.

Cllr. Pip Breen by virtue of being elected Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Donal Kenny by virtue of being nominated as the LAMA representative.

Cllr.'s Garry Laffan, Pat Kehoe, and Oliver Walsh by virtue of being nominated as the AILG representatives.

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (5 plus Cathaoirleach Ex-Officio and Chairman of Housing & Community SPC) –

Cllr. P. Breen (Cathaoirleach), Cllr. J. Codd (Chair of Housing & Community SPC), plus the following:

Cllr. Pat Kehoe on the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. F. Staples.

Cllr. George Lawlor on the proposal of Cllr. C. B. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny.

Cllr. Tom Forde on the proposal of Cllr. J. Codd, seconded by Cllr. A. R. O'Brien.

Cllr. Lisa McDonald on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan.

Cllr. Aoife Rose O'Brien on the proposal of Cllr. J. Codd, seconded by Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin.

Audit Committee –

Cllr. Joe Sullivan on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy.
Cllr. Darragh McDonald on the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. O. Walsh.

Environmental Monitoring Committee –

The following were nominated to the Environmental Monitoring Committee:
Cllr. Garry Laffan on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Browne.
Cllr. Leonard Kelly on the proposal of Cllr. J. Codd, seconded by Cllr. J. Dwyer.
Cllr. Robbie Staples on the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. F. Staples.

As there were three nominations and only two positions to be filled, Cllr. Garry Laffan and Cllr. Robbie Staples were deemed to be appointed after a show of hands, the result of which was:

Cllr. Garry Laffan 20
Cllr. Leonard Kelly 7
Cllr. Robbie Staples 20

Local Community Development Committee –

Cllr. Aidan Browne on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan.
Cllr. Anthony Donohoe on the proposal of Cllr. O. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. D. McDonald.
Cllr. Michael Sheehan on the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan.
Cllr. Frank Staples on the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. C. Byrne.

Rural Water Monitoring Committee – (5 plus Cathaoirleach Ex-Officio, must include 1 from each Municipal District)

Cllr. Donal Kenny on the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy.
Cllr. Pat Kehoe on the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. F. Staples.
Cllr. John Fleming on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny.
Cllr. Aoife Rose O'Brien on the proposal of Cllr. J. Codd, seconded by Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin.
Cllr. Catherine Biddy Walsh on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan.

Sports Active Wexford –

Cllr. Garry Laffan on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. A. Donohoe.

The following appointments to bodies were made:

Southern Regional Assembly (3 Members – gender, geography, and inclusivity consideration) –

The following were nominated to the Southern Regional Assembly:
Cllr. Pip Breen on the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy.
Cllr. Oliver Walsh on the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen.
Cllr. Aoife Rose O'Brien on the proposal of Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde.
Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald.

As there were four nominations and only three positions to be filled, Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. Oliver Walsh, and Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy were deemed to be appointed after a show of hands, the result of which was:

Cllr. Pip Breen 20
Cllr. Oliver Walsh 20
Cllr. Aoife Rose O'Brien 7
Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy 20

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances –

Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming.

Education and Training Board (7 – 3 male, 3 female, plus one more) –

For the purpose of appointing to the Education and Training Board, the following Members formed groups in accordance with paragraph 18, schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2001:

Cllr.'s T. Forde, F. Ó Súilleabháin, A. R. O'Brien, J. Codd, and J. Dwyer.
Cllr.'s P. Barden, R. Shannon, P. Kavanagh, N. Boland, and M. Murphy.

Cllr. Jim Codd on the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin.
Cllr. Aidan Browne on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny.
Cllr. Darragh McDonald on the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. O. Walsh.
Cllr. Bridín Murphy on the proposal of Cllr. F. Staples, seconded by Cllr. P. Kehoe.
Cllr. Paddy Kavanagh on the proposal of Cllr. P. Barden, seconded by Cllr. N. Boland.
Cllr. Mary Farrell on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly.
Cllr. Michael Sheehan on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald.

Mr. M. Drea noted that the Members weren't compliant with the gender balance requested by the ETB, and there may be a request to amend the balance.

LAMA –

Cllr. Donal Kenny on the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. A. Browne.

South Eastern River Basin District (Chairman of Climate Change, Biodiversity & Environment SPC) –

Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy by virtue of being appointed as chair of the Climate Change, Biodiversity & Environment SPC.

Regional Health Forum (South) –

Cllr. Joe Sullivan on the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan.
Cllr. Cathal Byrne on the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. B. Murphy.
Cllr. John Fleming on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny.
Cllr. Frank Staples on the proposal of Cllr. O. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. P. Kehoe.

Association Irish Local Government –

Cllr. Garry Laffan on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny.
Cllr. Pat Kehoe on the proposal of Cllr. C. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. A. Donohoe.

Cllr. Oliver Walsh on the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. F. Staples.

County Wexford Drugs & Alcohol Task Force –

Cllr. Jim Codd on the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan.

South Eastern Drugs & Alcohol Task Force –

Cllr. Jim Codd on the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan.

South East Energy Agency –

Cllr. Frank Staples on the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy.

Age Friendly Alliance (Cathaoirleach of the Council) –

Cllr. Pip Breen by virtue of being elected Cathaoirleach.

Wexford Heritage Trust Ltd. –

Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. A. Browne.

Cllr. Garry Laffan on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny.

Hook Heritage Ltd. –

The following were nominated to Hook Heritage Ltd.:

Cllr. Bridín Murphy on the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. O. Walsh.

Cllr. Marty Murphy on the proposal of Cllr. P. Barden, seconded by Cllr. P. Kavanagh.

Cllr. Michael Sheehan on the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy.

As there were three nominations and only two positions to be filled, Cllr. Bridín Murphy, and Cllr. Michael Sheehan were deemed to be appointed after a show of hands, the result of which was:

Cllr. Bridín Murphy 22

Cllr. Marty Murphy 5

Cllr. Michael Sheehan 23

Wexford Monument Trust Ltd. –

Cllr. John Fleming on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald.

Wexford Swimming Pool and Caravan Park –

Cllr. Catherine Biddy Walsh on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald.

Cllr. Robbie Staples on the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. B. Murphy.

High Performance Building Alliance –

Cllr. Garry Laffan on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Browne.

Model Enterprise Group –

Cllr. Donal Kenny on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald.

4. Municipal Districts: (For Noting)

The following appointments which are to be made by the Municipal Districts were noted by the Members:

Chairman/Mayor of Municipal Districts

1798 Centre, Enniscorthy 2

The Athenaeum Committee 2

St. Stephen's Cemetery Joint Committee - New Ross Municipal District Members

5. Schedule of County Meetings

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. O. Walsh and agreed by all, the Council adopted the schedule of meetings, as circulated.

2.30 pm on 8th July, 2024

2.30 pm on 9th September, 2024

2.30 pm on 14th October, 2024

2.30 pm on 11th November, 2024

2.30 pm on 9th December, 2024

2.30 pm on 13th January, 2025

2.30 pm on 10th February, 2025

2.30 pm on 10th March, 2025

2.30 pm on 14th April, 2025

2.30 pm on 12th May, 2025

2.30 pm on 9th June, 2025

6. Dates For First Municipal District Meetings

The Members noted the dates for the first Municipal District Meetings, as circulated:

Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District - 25th June, 2024 at 2.30 pm

Wexford Borough District - 25th June, 2024 at 6pm

Rosslare Municipal District - 26th June, 2024 at 10.30 am

Enniscorthy Municipal District - 26th June, 2024 at 2.00 pm

New Ross Municipal District - 26th June, 2024 at 2.30 pm

7. Draft Standing Orders for Adoption

On the proposal of Cllr. O. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde and agreed by all, the Members adopted the draft standing orders, as circulated.

8. Induction Training for Elected Members

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. O. Walsh, the Members approved the AILG Training for Elected Members on Saturday 13th July, 2024 in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Cork.

9. Any Other Business

Cllr. G. Carthy asked that presentations be taken prior to the start of the Plenary Meetings or at the end, as they are impacting on the ability to get through the agenda effectively.

Cllr. B.A. Murphy suggested that Plenary Meetings should be held at 10.30am, as this may encourage greater female membership. There was a lengthy discussion on this matter with varying views expressed. Mr. E. Taaffe advised that this is a matter for the Members to decide and the Executive will work with whatever the majority decide.

Cllr. M. Sheehan asked that the Protocol Committee meet as soon as is practicable to review standing orders, and in particular issues such as, time of meeting, speaking time, who can speak to a motion, direct negatives etc.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an

lá de Iúil, 2024.

Cllr. Pip Breen
Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,
County Secretary