

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council
held on Monday 8th January, 2018 – 2.30 p.m.
in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford.**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. J. Hegarty, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors:

P. Breen;	M. Byrne;	G. Carthy;	K. Codd Nolan
A. Connick;	T. Dempsey;	A. Donohoe,	K. Doyle;
M. Farrell;	W. Fitzharris;	J. Fleming	T. Forde;
D. Hynes;	R. Ireton;	P. Kavanagh;	W. Kavanagh;
G. Lawlor;	L. McDonald;	J. Moore;	BA Murphy,
M. Murphy;	J. Mythen;	L. O'Brien;	O. O'Connell;
J. O'Rourke;	M. Roche;	F. Ó Súilleabháin;	M. Sheehan;
F. Staples;	J. Sullivan;	T. Walsh;	O. Walsh;
M. Whelan.			

Officials:

Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive;
Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services;
Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services
Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Services;
Mr. P. O'Gorman, A/Director of Services;
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance & ICT;
Mr. P. Collins, County Secretary;

At the outset the Cathaoirleach welcomed the Members back to the Council Chamber and wished them a Happy New Year for 2018.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 County Council Meeting – 11th December, 2017.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Moore seconded by Cllr. M. Roche and agreed by all the Council approved the minutes of the meeting as outlined above.

Votes of Sympathy:

The Members expressed their sympathy to the families of the following recently deceased:

- The family of Martin Redmond, husband of Betty Redmond, Gorey Municipal District
- The family of Ellen Brennan, mother of Tom Brennan, General Operative, Enniscorthy Municipal District
- The family of Denis Ryan, father-in-law Hugh Maguire, Environment Department
- The family of John Leacy husband Sheila Lacey, Block C, Reception
- The family of Peter Sutherland, former EU Commissioner
- The family of Jim Nolan
- The family of Paddy Nolan, previous Mayor of Wexford

- The family of Eddie Malone, Rosslare
- The family of Sean Chapman, Enniscorthy
- The family of Oggie Nolan, New Ross
- The family of Mrs. Redmond, Castledockrell
- The family of Claire Firman, Wexford Town
- The family of Peggy Sinnott, Wexford Town
- The family of Peter Quinn, Enniscorthy (Retired Superintendent)

Congratulations/Comhghairdeas:

Déan na Comhairleoirí comhghairdeas ar na ghrúpaí/dhaoine liostaithe thíos:

- Rev. Aodhán Marken and Canon Arthur Minnion who collected almost €50,000 for local charities at the Christmas Fast
- Leabharleann Loch Garman for their Nollaig na mBán celebrations on 6th January celebrating the year 1918 as the year when suffrage was extended to women, giving them the right to vote.
- The Government decision to give financial assistance to Omagh District Council to celebrate 20 years of the Omagh bombing atrocity.
- The work of the staff and Management of Wexford General Hospital in dealing with the trolley crisis over the Christmas and New Year period.
- The FCA Pipe Band, New Ross, whose anniversary occurs this year.
- The St. Patrick's Pipe and Drum Band, Wexford who are 125 years in operation this year

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

2.1 Proposed disposal of land at Carricklawn, adjacent to Wexford General Hospital to the Health Services Executive for the purpose of facilitating the future development of Wexford General Hospital

On the proposal of Councillor G. Carthy seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor, it was agreed to transfer the land at Carricklawn in accordance with the notice circulated.

2.2 Proposed transfer of approximately 0.21hectares of land to the Parish of Rathnure/Tempeludigan for the purposes of car parking facilities for the school and parish at Rathure, Wexford.

Following an objection by Cllr. R. Ireton to the sale of the land for a nominal fee of €1.00 a wide ranging discussion then took place. Mr. P. O'Gorman, A/Director of Services, advised that the house was in a poor state of repair and that the site would accommodate only one house which would be adjacent to the school.

Following further discussion it was proposed by Cllr. G. Lawlor and seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes that a condition be attached to the sale of the land to the Parish of Rathnure/Tempeludigan that the land be sold for the purposes set out in the Section 183 Notice but that if the land is no longer required for parking WCC are to be offered the land back at a nominal cost of €1.00. It was further agreed that a similar provision should be put in place for all future similar land transfers.

Cllr. A. Donohoe then asked for a report of land transactions between WCC and the Church Authorities over the past 10 years.

2.3 Proposed disposal of land at 20 & 20a Duffry Gate, Enniscorthy to Grants Pharmacy, Duffry Gate, Enniscorthy, for the purposes of increasing the commercial unit space of the purchasers.

On the proposal of Councillor J. O' Rourke seconded by Cllr. P. Kavanagh, it was agreed to transfer the land at 20 & 20a Duffry Gate in accordance with the notice circulated.

Cllr. J. Mythen objected to the Section 183 proposal and argued that the houses could be used for emergency accommodation. Mr. P. O'Gorman, A/Director of Services advised that the two houses were below standard and would cost too much to bring up to standard. He also advised that there was a proviso on the sale that the house was being sold for commercial purposes only.

A vote was then taken:

All voting in favour with the exception of – Councillors J. Mythen; O. O'Connell; T. Forde, M. Roche; D. Hynes; T. Walsh.

2.4 Proposed disposal of land at "Slievebloom", Killincooley, Kilmuckridge, Gorey to Fintan & Ann Sinnott, 7 Larkfiled Place, Lucan, Co. Dublin

On the proposal of Councillor M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. P. Breen, it was agreed to transfer the land at Slievebloom in accordance with the notice circulated.

P. O'Gorman, A/ Director of Services, advised that the house was mortgaged and was in very poor repair condition. It would cost in excess of €50,000 to carry out repairs to bring the house back to a habitable standard.

The Chief Executive advised that the funding raised goes back into the Council's Housing Programme.

Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance, advised that the Council has a mortgage on the house and that the Council is obliged to get the best price possible in the market both to pay off the mortgage and to give the maximum amount to the people who had taken out the mortgage in the first instance.

The motion was then agreed by the Council.

3. Chief Executive's Report:

The Chief Executive's Report was considered by the Members.

The Chief Executive and other Council Officials in attendance answered a number of queries raised by Members including the following:

- The public consultation phase of the National Broadband Plan.
- Tender documents for the new Greenway on the Rosslare to Waterford line. Consultants will examine the tenders submitted, looking at the potential economic

benefit of a Greenway to County Wexford. This is a medium to long term project and further discussion on the matter will take place with the Members in the future.

- Successful application for Sports Partnership funding for Enniscorthy.
- Littering/dumping/fly tipping.
- Results of the domestic bin survey carried out a number of years ago.
- The NRA funding for County Wexford.
- The audit of telecommunications black spots throughout the County.
- Enterprise Ireland grants to the South East to be issued to Members.
- The prevention and collection of illegal dumping and the review of the staffing for the Rapid Response Crews.
- Illegal dumping at Taghmon.
- Illegal dumping at Turret Rocks, Enniscorthy.
- The ongoing closure of the Solsborough Road.
- The issue of littering will be discussed at the Environment SPC and the Chief Executive advised that the budget 2018 had been increased to allow for the increased staffing on the Rapid Response Crew. Following discussion at the Environment SPC, a report will be brought back to the Council with a number of initiatives and proposals. The Chief Executive highlighted the need for illegal dumping prosecutions. The Environment SPC will meet on 7th February 2018.
- The naming and shaming of persons convicted of littering.
- The Sports Capital Grant for Enniscorthy Athletic Hub.
- The Failte Ireland Viking Connection to include Wexford Town.

At 4pm Cllr. F. OSúilleabháin arrived.

- Presentation regarding improvement works to Wexford Quay.
- Road closures associated with Enniscorthy By-Pass.
- Appointment of School Wardens.
- Vacant and derelict buildings in Rosslare Harbour.

At 4.10 p.m. Cllr. J. O'Rourke left the meeting.

4. List of Councillors' Conferences and Training:

The List of Councillors' Conferences and Training as submitted to the meeting was noted and agreed by the Members.

5. Minutes of Meetings:

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Murphy seconded by Cllr. P. Kavanagh and agreed by all the Members present the following minutes were noted and approved.

5.1 Borough District of Wexford 20.11.17

5.2 Gorey Municipal District 21.11.17

5.3 Enniscorthy Municipal District 20.11.17

5.4 Protocol Committee of the Borough District 20.11.17

5.5 Transportation & Water Services SPC 29.11.17

5.6 3rd Level Education Committee 11.12.17

6. Notices of Motion:

6.1 New Ross Municipal District:

“That this Council supports the request from New Ross Municipal District to proactively promote the inclusion of Ramsgrange village in the proposed wastewater bundle scheme for Duncannon, Arthurstown and Ballyhack. Existing provision for wastewater treatment in Ramsgrange is limited to isolated package plants and private provision. The village is well serviced with an excellent public water network, secondary school, 2 national schools, sports ground, shop etc. and is within close proximity of the proposed scheme. Benefits to the Area include:

- Environmental protection;
- Consolidation of wastewater treatment and associated benefits to treatment and performance
- Potential for development of village etc”.

The above motion was proposed by Cllr. W. Fitzharris seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan and agreed by all.

6.2 Cllr. Tony Walsh:

“Calling on Wexford County Council (WCC) to acknowledge that housing is a basic human right for all and that WCC will do all in its power to ensure that all residents of County Wexford have a home and that everyone has a fundamental human right to housing, which ensures access to a safe, secure, habitable, and affordable home with freedom from forced eviction.

The Right to Housing is protected in:

- Article 25 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- Article 11 of the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)
- Article 27 of the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- Article 5 of the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#)
- Article 14 of the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#)”

The above motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Walsh seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

Following discussion Cllr. Walsh agreed to an amendment to his motion to remove the words “with freedom from forced eviction” – the amended motion was then passed by the Council, as follows:

“Calling on Wexford County Council (WCC) to acknowledge that housing is a basic human right for all and that WCC will do all in its power to ensure that all residents of County Wexford have a home and that everyone has a fundamental human right to housing, which ensures access to a safe, secure, habitable, and affordable home.

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- Article 27 of the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- Article 5 of the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#)
- Article 14 of the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#)”

6.3 Cllr. Tony Walsh:

“Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)

That Wexford County Council calls on our Government to review the decision to join PESCO which is clearly in breach of the Irish Constitution (Article 29.4.9) and ensure that no alteration to Ireland's intended neutrality status will ever take place without the Irish people deciding this in a referendum.”

The above motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Walsh seconded by Cllr. M. Roche.

The motion was put to the Council:

Voting in favour: Councillors: T. Walsh; M. Farrell; D. Hynes; J. Mythen; F. OSuilleabhain; O. O’Connell; T. Forde; M. Roche.

Voting against: K. Codd Nolan; P. Kavanagh; W. Kavanagh; B.A. Murphy; O. Walsh; P. Breen; M. Byrne; A. Donohoe; J. Hegarty; R. Ireton; J. Sullivan; A. Connick; W. Fitzharris; J. Fleming; M. Murphy; L. O’Brien; M. Sheehan; M. Whelan; T. Dempsey; G. Lawlor; L. McDonald; J. Moore; F. Staples.

Cllr. G. Carthy and Cllr. K. Doyle abstained from the vote.

The motion was defeated.

6.4 Cllr. Tom Forde:

"I propose that this Council write to the Department of Justice calling on Minister Charlie Flanagan to commence with the Commission of Investigation to examine claims sex abuse crimes by paedophile Bill Kenneally were covered up".

The above motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed 2 people associated with the motion, Jason Clancy and Colin Power to the Council Chamber.

The Council agreed unanimously in favour of the motion.

7. Sealing of Documents:

The sealing of documents as submitted to the meeting was noted.

8. Correspondence and Communications:

The Members noted the following correspondence received:

- Correspondence from Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, regarding Road Grants

9. Any Other Business:

The County Secretary advised the Members that the Disclosure of Political Donations forms had been circulated to the meeting and that the forms were to be completed and returned to the County Secretary by 31st January 2018.

The County Secretary also advised that the Ethics Register Forms would be circulated to the Members next week and that they would be required to be returned by 28th February 2018.

Cllr. M. Sheehan sought an update of the position with regard to the presentation of centenary medals to the Fire Service.

The Chief Executive then informed the Members that the brochure on the Economic & Community Investment Programme 2018-2022 is almost ready for publication and will be printed and delivered to 65,000 homes throughout the County by the end of January 2018.

He advised that a copy of the brochure will be sent to each of the Members before the main release. The challenges to the county in economic, social and community terms over the next few years are highlighted in the brochure and the Chief Executive thanked the Council for their decision to increase the rates by 3% and was heartened by the vote of 27 Members of the 31 present in favour of the budget proposals.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

County Secretary

Daingithe ar an la de Feabhra, 2018.

Cathaoirleach