

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council  
held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 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;
T. Dempsey;	A. Donohoe;	K. Doyle;	T. Forde;
W. Fitzharris;	J. Fleming;	D. Hynes;	R. Ireton;
P. Kavanagh;	W. Kavanagh;	G. Lawlor;	L. McDonald;
J. Moore;	B.A. Murphy;	O. O'Connell;	M. Murphy;
J. Mythen;	L. O'Brien;	J. O'Rourke;	F. Ó Súilleabháin;
M. Roche;	M. Sheehan;	J. Sullivan;	O. Walsh;
T. Walsh;	M. Whelan.		

**Officials:** Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive;  
Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services;  
Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services;  
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services;  
Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Services;  
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance;  
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Senior Executive Officer;  
Mr. P. Collins, County Secretary.

**Apologies:** Councillors: A. Connick, M. Farrell, F. Staples

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

1.1 County Council Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Hynes seconded by Cllr. P. Kavanagh and agreed by all the Council approved the minutes of the meeting as outlined above.

**Matters Arising:**

Cllr. M. Murphy asked about progress on his motion regarding dog fouling. It was noted that the motion was under review at present and that a plan will be brought to the next meeting of the SPC.

Cllr. J. Mythen asked for details of the Ambassador Programme and the Housing Protocol for the homeless which were to be circulated to the Members. Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services, agreed that both documents would be circulated.

## **Storm Emma**

The Cathaoirleach then spoke on behalf of all of the Members of the Council regarding the Council's response to the recent extreme weather conditions and Storm Emma. The Cathaoirleach noted that it was the worst weather conditions in 35 years and that the Indoor and Outdoor Staff of Wexford County Council made a massive contribution to deal with the storm conditions.

He thanked other agencies such as the Civil Defence, Gardai, Ambulance Service, Contractors and Farmers for their help in dealing with the emergency. He also highlighted that there was a sense of community amongst the people of County Wexford and noted what a great County we have for working together to help those in difficulties during the storm period.

He noted that a review will have to be done now to see what improvements can be made but that Wexford County Council got a lot of the things right and that there was no loss of life in County Wexford. He said a sincere thanks to all the people involved in dealing with the emergency and he hoped to have an event in the future to recognise the work done.

Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive, commended the huge effort of the outdoor and indoor staff of Wexford County Council, the Civil Defence, National Ambulance Service, the HSE, the Red Cross, the Coastguard, Armed Forces and noted that the helicopter from the Coastguard had to be brought into action 3 times to deal with serious medical issues. The response to the storm showed a great example of the community pulling together for the good of all of the community. He praised the staff of WCC for stepping up to the challenge of the extreme weather conditions.

## **Expressions of Sympathy:**

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

- Mr. George O'Connor, Wexford Town
- Mrs. Sheehan, Enniscorthy
- Mr. Jim O'Neill, Duncormick
- Mr. Hugh Dunne, Courtnacuddy
- Mr. Patrick Kehoe, Campile
- Mr. Willie Power, New Ross
- Mr. John Hearne, Shelmaliers
- Mr. Jim Hyland, Enniscorthy
- The family of Kathleen Kavanagh, mother of Sean Kavanagh, Senior Engineer, Borough District of Wexford.
- The family of William Ryan, father of Anne Culleton, Internal Audit
- The family of Chris Culleton, brother in law of Catherine Culleton, Motor Tax

## **Vóta Comhghairdeas**

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

- Paul Hynes, La Cote Restaurant on winning "Best Restaurant in Wexford" for 3 years in a row

- New Ross Musical Society celebrating 50 years in existence
- The birth of a new baby to the Cathaoirleach and his wife Karina
- The Arts Department on the launch of the Arts Plan “Advancing the Arts”
- Linda Power for International Women’s Day
- Tadhg Furlong on his part in the Ireland Six Nations Winning Rugby Team
- The Lodgers film which was made in Loftus Hall
- The Library Service who recently launch a new mobile library
- Dylan Fawsitt from Wexford who won a rugby cap with the USA

Cllr. G. Carthy raised the issue of official invites to Members for events and he advised that a number of invites over the past couple of months had been received very late in the day. He asked that the Executive look at the possibility of centralising invitations.

Cllr. P. Kavanagh advised that the LAMA Spring Training Conference will take place shortly in Donegal and asked for Members to attend.

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

### **2.1 Proposed disposal of property at 7 Fairfields View, Adamstown, Co. Wexford.**

The Council considered the Notice circulated under Section 183 of the Local Government Act.

On the proposal of Councillor Malcolm Byrne, seconded by Councillor Oisín O’Connell and agreed by all, the proposed disposal was agreed.

## **3. Part XI of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended):**

### **3.1 LAC1710 – proposed development of a three storey apartment block consisting of three number two bedroom apartments and ancillary site development works at King Street Upper, Wexford.**

This item was withdrawn.

### **3.2 LAC 1711 – to provide 6 No. Social Housing Units along with auxillary and associated siteworks at Glentire, The Ballagh, (E.D. Bolaboy), Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.**

The Members noted the report of Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive dated 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018. On the proposal of Cllr O. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. J. Mythen the Members agreed and approved the proposed development as outlined in the report.

It was noted that there is no preservation order on the existing house shown on the drawings.

It was also noted that footpaths would be included as part of the housing scheme.

#### 4. 3 Year Capital Programme 2018-2020:

Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance, presented the 3 Year Capital Programme 2018-2020. She advised the meeting that the major projects included in the programme were limited to those with a total cost value of €200,000 or greater over the lifetime of the particular project. The list was produced with the best information available at the present time. She also noted that the programme will be revised each year over the three year period with an emphasis on the funding status of each project.

She drew Members attention to changes within the programme as presented which assist in further understanding the contents including:

1. Funding position - three categories have been identified within the programme
  - a. Planning stage (funding in place)
  - b. In Progress (funding approved)
  - c. Feasibility/Concept (funding to be sought)
2. Assignment of Project – each project is labeled to identify the directorate to which the project is assigned.

Questions regarding the programme raised by the Members and answered by Council Officials in attendance.

Issues raised included the following:

- The funding and initiation of water services projects.
- Castlebridge public realm
- Columbarium wall in the Municipal cemeteries
- Ministerial sanction for the loan of €40m – current position.
- An update on New Ross Fire Station
- Footpaths in the districts
- An update on Enniscorthy Courthouse
- An update on the Market House in Gorey

A discussion also took place about how the Council would make up the financial shortfall to fund some projects. The Head of Finance advised that funding of a number of projects is dependent on grant income being secured. She also advised in relation to local funding that the borrowing approved by Members at the February meeting would provide significant funding for projects once ministerial sanction is secured. The Head of Finance indicated that levies of between €10m-€12m estimated to be received over the 3 years of the programme are accounted for within the report and the programme contains additional projects that will only progress if funding becomes available.

The Head of Finance also clarified that the programme and associated funding will be refined annually and aligned with confirmed funding as projects progress.

The 3 Year Capital Programme 2018-2020 was proposed by Cllr. T. Dempsey seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan and agreed by all.

## **5. Draft County Wexford Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2018 (for noting)**

The Council considered the report from Mr. David Codd, Chief Technician in the Roads Department regarding the Draft County Wexford Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2018. It was noted by the Members that the Bye-Laws are currently on display. The draft bye-laws and submissions will be presented to the Council in June/July 2018.

## **6. Draft Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with Disabilities 2016-2020**

Mr. P. O’Gorman, SEO, Housing, presented the Plan to the Members. He advised that this is a new plan that covers the period 2016-2020 and it outlines the services on the ground for persons with disabilities.

He highlighted the delivery targets on page 40 whereby 20% of allocations for various schemes would be allocated to people with disabilities. He advised Members that Wexford County Council was already at the 20% target level for those areas of housing.

He further advised that the strategic plan had been approved by the Disability Working Group and the Strategic Policy Group.

A wide ranging discussion then took place, and a number of issues raised by Members were answered by the Housing Officer and Director of Services.

The Draft Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with Disabilities 2016-2020 was proposed by Cllr. T. Dempsey seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy and agreed by all.

## **7. Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2018-2024.**

Mr. P. O’Gorman, Housing Officer, presented the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2018-2024 and advised the meeting that Aisling Doyle had taken the lead role in developing the strategy. He advised that an Anti Social Behaviour Unit has now been set up in the Housing Directorate to look at individual cases and that the Council will take a proactive approach in dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour.

He further noted that the SPC and CPG have already approved the strategy and he is now seeking formal approval from the full Council.

A wide ranging discussion then took place and a number of issues were raised by the Members regarding Anti-Social Behaviour and related issues.

Members highlighted the need to liaise closely with the Gardai. It was also noted that WCC need to listen carefully to Elected Members who are aware of situations on the ground and in the local areas with regard to rehousing of families in particular housing estates.

Following discussion and issues raised being dealt with by Council Officials in attendance, a vote took place proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. R. Ireton to adopt the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2018-2024 which was agreed by all.

## **8. Draft Polling Scheme 2018**

The Draft Polling Scheme 2018 was then presented to the members by the County Secretary. The Draft Plan had been advertised for public consultation in December 2017, with an extension to the end of February 2018.

A number of submissions had been received which for consideration by the Council.

Cllrs. Kathleen Codd-Nolan and Barbara Ann Murphy made representations on behalf of people who had previously voted in the Polling Station of Clohamon. They asked that consideration be given to relocate these people to the Polling Station in Ballyroebuck, rather than Kilmysall

it was agreed to defer the Draft Polling Scheme to the April 2018 meeting of the Council.

At a later stage in the meeting, the County Secretary advised the meeting that the County Registrar is happy to accept that persons from Clohamon will now vote in Ballyroebuck.

On the proposal of Cllr. K. Codd Nolan seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy the Draft Polling Scheme 2018 was adopted, as presented, with the amendment set out above in relation to persons from Clohamon now voting in Ballyroebuck.

## **9. a. Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2018**

The Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2018 (Planning Levies) was circulated to the Members. A draft has gone through the public consultation phase and observations from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government were received and circulated to the Members. No further submissions were received. The scheme will be an item for the April 2018 Meeting of the Council to allow Members to consider the matters raised in the report.

## **9. b. Report of Corporate Policy Group**

Report of Corporate Policy Group of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 was noted by the meeting.

## **10. Chief Executive's Report**

The Chief Executive's Report was considered by the Members. The Chief Executive and Members of the Management Team responded to Members queries arising from the report in relation to the following:

- Update on the Third Level Campus in County Wexford
- Illegal dumping throughout the county
- Update on Waterford Airport
- Update on New Ross Business Park
- Value for Money for new housing developments in Gorey and Wexford
- Progress with regard to the Women's Refuge
- Department of Marine funded projects 2018
- Lack of sewerage facilities hampering housing developments in villages in County Wexford including Tagoat
- National Planning Framework

- Restoration works to roads affected by Enniscorthy By-Pass
- Effect of National Planning Framework on County Development Plan

## **11. List of Councillors' Conferences and Training**

The Cathaoirleach notified Members that an invitation had been received from New York to attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was agreed that the Leas-Chathaoirleach Barbara Anne Murphy will attend on behalf of Wexford County Council.

The List of Councillors' Conferences including the trip to New York and invitations to a number of events being held by the London Wexford Association, as set out below, were agreed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. L. O'Brien.

- Fr. Murphy's GAA Club 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner & Dance – 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018.
- London Wexford Association Annual Dinner Dance – 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.
- London Wexford Association Towns Reunion Buffet Dance – 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.

## **12. Minutes of Meetings:**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh, and agreed by all the Members present the following minutes were noted and approved.

- 12.1 Gorey Municipal District Meeting 16.01.18
- 12.2 New Ross Municipal District Meeting 10.01.18
- 12.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting 15.01.18
- 12.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting 15.01.18
- 12.5 Twinning Committee Meeting of Borough District of Wexford 15.01.18
- 12.6 Economic Development & Enterprise 28.11.17

## **13. Sealing of Documents**

The Sealing of Documents as submitted to the meeting was noted.

## **14. Correspondence and Communications**

- Correspondence from Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Equality.
- Correspondence from Data Protection Assistant Commissioner regarding access to housing lists.
- Acknowledgement from Finian McGrath, TD, regarding the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Acknowledgement from Private Secretary to the Minister for Education and Skills regarding schools in County Wexford.
- Correspondence from Iarnród Éireann regarding the DART expansion.

Cllr. M. Byrne highlighted the response from Iarnród Éireann to the Council's correspondence. He advised that there is no improvement to the N11 or to the railway between Wexford and Dublin between now and 2040 set out in the National Planning Framework.

He asked that the Council liaise with Wicklow County Council and Dun Laoghaire County Council to co-ordinate a strategy to improve both the road and the rail network. He also asked that the letter be replied to saying that it doesn't deal with the issues raised. Following a wide ranging discussion on these matters Cllr. T. Dempsey proposed and seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan that the Chief Executive and the Cathaoirleach would arrange to meet with Iarnród Éireann to discuss the development of Rosslare Port.

The Chief Executive advised that it would be more appropriate to meet with TII, given the poor response from Iarnród Éireann to previous proposals from the Council - it was agreed that such a meeting would take place.

Cllr. M. Whelan raised the issue of correspondence from the Data Protection Commissioner and welcomed a reply in response to the Council's motion regarding their role in housing applications.

### **15. Deferred Notice of Motion:**

#### **15.1 Cllr. D. Hynes:**

"This Council calls on the Dept of Justice to insure that the 'Spent convictions' under the Criminal Justice (Spent convictions and Certain Disclosures) Act 2016, that the measures are followed through for people who are applying for employment and are need Garda vetting"

Proposed by Cllr. D. Hynes seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh and agreed by all.

At 17.19 Councillor Willie Kavanagh left the meeting.

### **16. Notices of Motion:**

#### **16.1 Cllr. M. Sheehan:**

"That this Council calls for any review or changes in the calculation or administration of the LPT by the Minister, to reflect a household's ability to pay, outgoings and expenses (including Mortgages) and should also be conducted in a way that increases, not impairs or reduces, the level of central funding to Local Authorities annually. Upon passage, this motion is to be circulated to our colleagues nationwide."

Proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh – this motion was defeated.

At 17.30 p.m. Councillors A. Donohoe, K. Codd Nolan, M. Sheehan and T. Dempsey left the meeting. The Chief Executive also left at that time.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. R. Ireton it was agreed that Standing Orders would be extended to allow the meeting to continue until 18.00 p.m.

Item 16.5 was then dealt with:



**16.5 Cllr. K. Codd Nolan:**

"In keeping with the tradition that a funeral cortege stops at the deceased's place of residence I call on Wexford County Council to include in its Roads Policy for severe weather conditions any local road for gritting/salting where there is a bereavement on that road".

Proposed by Cllr. K. Codd Nolan seconded by Cllr. L. O'Brien and agreed by all that the matter would be referred to the Transportation SPC for further consideration.

**16.2 Cllr. D. Hynes:**

"That this Council calls on the government to set up a standalone management structure to run Rosslare Europort, (comprising the main stake holders) not tied to Iarnród Éireann if it is left as is, profits will continue to be redirected away from the port . The port urgently, needs to develop to meet the challenge of Brexit as well the many other challenges in the South East Region".

Proposed by Cllr. D. Hynes seconded by Cllr. J. Mythen and agreed by all

**16.3 Cllr. F. ÓSúilleabháin:**

"Over recent years the Government has on average provided Local Authorities with less than half the amount of funding they need to maintain their roads. This is despite a commitment made in the Programme for Government to increase the capital budget for regional and local roads by approximately 50%. The Government has failed to deliver on this commitment and the end result is terrible surface conditions for road users' right across the country."

"At least an additional €163m is needed each year to maintain our road network to safe standard. Wexford County Council calls on the Government to significantly increase funding for regional and local roads through the Capital Investment Plan. This council also calls for a full response to the findings of the NOAC and a detailed plan to address the issues and defects identified in this report."

"We once again call on the Minister to agree to meet with a delegation from Co.Wexford to discuss the need for adequate roads funding"

Proposed by Cllr. F. ÓSúilleabháin seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes and agreed by all. It was agreed to write to the Minister to express the Council's disappointment that, to date, the Minister has not agreed to meet with Wexford County Council, and to seek an urgent meeting with the Minister.

**16.4 Cllr. L. McDonald:**

“That this Council is gravely concerned and disappointed about how Wexford County was overlooked in the National Planning Framework as announced by the Government. In particular with the omission of the development of Rosslare Europort therefrom. We hereby call for a constructive debate on the document as it pertains to Wexford County and in particular for the inclusion of the development of our Europort and its infrastructure”.

Proposed by Cllr. L. McDonald seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes. Following discussion on the motion it was agreed that the Council would invite the 5 TDs for Wexford and the 2 MEP’s for Ireland South to a Special Meeting to deal with the development of Rosslare Europort. It was also agreed that a request be forwarded to Minister Ross to meet with a delegation from Wexford County Council to deal with the future development of Rosslare Europort

**17. Any Other Business**

The Cathaoirleach notified Members that the Chief Superintendent of Wexford Garda Station and the Chief Executive Officer of Wexford Chamber of Commerce would both be retiring in the near future and it was proposed that an event be held to mark their retirement prior to the April 2018 meeting.

The Cathaoirleach advised the meeting of the membership of the Wexford Healthy Cities and County Committee and advised if any Members wish to join the committee they should contact the County Secretary or the Cathaoirleach to be included.

The Cathaoirleach proposed that the Council recognise former Chairpersons of Wexford County Council and would be looking to contact families of those Cathaoirligh to arrange a function in their honour.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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County Secretary

Daingithe ar an                      lá de Aibreán, 2018.

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Cathaoirleach