

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council
held on Monday 10 April, 2017 – 2.30 p.m.
in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford.**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. P. Kavanagh, 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	J. Hegarty,
D. Hynes;	R. Ireton;	W. Kavanagh;	L. McDonald;
J. Moore;	B.A .Murphy,	M. Murphy;	J. Mythen;
L. O'Brien;	O. O'Connell;	F. Ó Súilleabháin;	M. Sheehan;
J. Sullivan;	D. Wadding;	O. Walsh;	M. Whelan.
J. O'Rourke;	F. Staples		

Officials: M. T. Larkin, Deputy Chief Executive
Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services;
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services;
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance;
Mr. D. Minogue, County Secretary;

Apologies: Councillors M. Roche; A. Kelly; G. Lawlor;
Officials: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive;
Mr. Pat Collins, County Secretary

Votes of Sympathy:

The Members expressed their votes of sympathy to the following:

- The family of former Councillor Fergie Kehoe, on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death
- The family of the late Mr. Aidan Cummins, Carrig-on-Bannow
- The family of the late Mr. John Kennedy, Coolgreaney
- The family of the late Mrs. Teresa Ward, mother of Council employee Ms. Anita Ryan

Congratulations

The Members expressed their congratulations to the following:

- All those involved in the organisation of the recent very successful Garda Youth Awards

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 Ordinary Meeting of 13th March, 2017.

On the proposal of Councillor M. Sheehan, seconded by Councillor T. Dempsey the Council approved the minutes of the County Council Meeting held on 13th March, 2017.

1.2 Matters Arising:

1.2.1 Roads Funding

Councillor J. Hegarty complimented Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services, on his recent report to the Council regarding Wexford's road network.

On the proposal of Councillor Hegarty, seconded by Councillor Barbara Anne Murphy, the Council agreed that based on Mr. Hore's report, a submission be sent to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, seeking an increase in funding for Wexford's road network.

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

2.1 Enniscorthy Sport Hub - LAC1701

This development comprises of a sports amenity building containing a multipurpose area, 2 no. dressing rooms and public toilet facilities (261m²), connecting to public drainage systems and all associated site works at the Sports Hub, Cherryorchard, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

The Members noted the report of Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive dated 21 March, 2017 in relation to the proposed development.

On the proposal of Councillor K. Doyle, seconded by Councillor J. Mythen, the Members approved the development as outlined in the report.

3. 2017 Capital Allocation for Publicly Funded Housing Loans

Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance, presented a report to the Members outlining proposals to borrow €3.5m for the purpose of funding the 2017 Capital Allocation for Publicly Funded Housing Loans.

In accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act, and on the proposal of Councillor M. Byrne, seconded by Councillor A. O'Donohoe, the Members approved the borrowing proposal as outlined in the report.

4. Consideration of Draft Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2017-2023 and accompanying Chief Executive's Report.

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the Draft Plan and accompanying Chief Executive's Report which had been previously circulated and he recommended the Plan to the Council for adoption.

On the proposal of Councillor A. Donohoe, seconded by Councillor Pip Breen, the Council unanimously agreed to make the Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2017-2023 as circulated.

There followed a discussion regarding the zoning of land, with a number of Members expressing concern regarding a direction, recently issued by the Minister, restricting the amount of land zoned for residential development within the Plan area.

The Deputy Chief Executive advised the Council that the process of reviewing the other development plans within the County had commenced, with an expectation that the process of reviewing each plan would be completed by 2019.

5. Road Works Programme 2017

Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services, summarised the contents of the proposed Road Works Programme which had been previously circulated.

Mr. Hore responded to queries from the Members regarding road works generally, including road reinstatement policy, surface dressing cycle, severe weather finance provision, public lighting improvements, and the improvement of national roads in advance of the completion of current motorway projects .

On the proposal of Councillor Michael Sheehan, seconded by Councilor John Hegarty, the members unanimously agreed to adopt the Programme as circulated.

6. Policy on Use of Library Spaces

Ms. Eileen Morrissey, County Librarian, attended the meeting and presented the draft *Policy on Use of Library Spaces* which had been previously circulated.

Ms. Morrissey advised the Members that in 2016 the Council's library service hosted more than 1000 events. In order to continue to serve the public and in the light of ever increasing demand for access to the library spaces, it is necessary to introduce a policy to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to requests for access to the libraries and manage public expectations.

On the proposal of Councillor Michael Sheehan, seconded by Councilor Mary Farrell, the Members unanimously agreed to adopt the *Policy on Use of Library Spaces* as circulated.

7. Wexford Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2015-2016

Mr. Ger Mackey, Chief Officer, Wexford Local Community Development Committee attended the meeting and presented the draft *Annual Report of the Wexford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)* which had been previously circulated.

Mr. Mackey gave the Members a brief summary of the work of the LCDC and reminded the Members that the Committee has statutory responsibility for overseeing significant community-related expenditure, including more than €5m under the SICAP Programme and a further €10m approximately under the current LEADER Programme.

He advised the Members that the Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is in place and the Committee is now focused on the implementation of the strategies, objectives and goals set out in that Plan.

Finally Mr. Mackey advised that the Annual Report covered the period January 2015 to December 2016.

On the proposal of Councillor A. Donohoe, seconded by Councilor F. Staples, the Members unanimously agreed to adopt the *Wexford Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2015-2016* as circulated.

8. Ratification of PPN Representatives to Wexford County Council Committees

Ms. Annette Dupuy, Public Participation Network (PPN) Officer, attended the meeting. Ms. Dupuy advised the Members that a number of committees of Wexford County Council provided for representation thereon by a nominee selected by the PPN.

A number of these positions are currently vacant and Ms. Dupuy advised that following a recent selection process, the following persons have been selected by the PPN to fill these positions:

Name	Position	Committee
Mr. Senan O'Reilly	Environment Rep	Economic Development and Enterprise SPC
Ms. Marie Therese Power	Environment Rep	Housing, Community & Environment SPC
Ms. Ann Walsh	Community and Voluntary Rep	Housing, Community & Environment SPC
Mr. Danny Forde	Environment Rep	Planning and Building Control SPC
Ms. Joy L. Rice	Social Inclusion Rep	Joint Policing Committee

On the proposal of Councillor R. Ireton, seconded by Councilor T. Dempsey, the Members unanimously ratified the nominees above to the positions described

The Members wished the representatives every success in their new positions and requested that every assistance and training be offered to them to allow them to fulfill their roles effectively.

9. Report of Corporate Policy Group:

The report of the Corporate Policy Group was noted.

10. Chief Executive's Report:

The Chief Executive's Report for April 2017 was circulated to the meeting.

Questions raised by Councillors present were answered by Council Officials. The issues raised included the following:

- Roads Norman Way Signage
Proposed Road Improvements in Ferns Village
- Planning Report on Noise emanating from Windfarms
LEO end of year results
Unfinished Estates
Gorey Hatch Lab
- Environment Signage for Recycling Centres
Clarification on waste disposal arrangements at Homestown
Courtown Harbour Improvement Works
- Housing & Community HAP and Buy & Renew Schemes
Baile Eoghan Housing Scheme
Allocation for house purchases
Sports Partnership "Learn to Swim" programme
- Other Market House, Gorey

11. List of Councillors' Conferences and Training:

The County Secretary circulated details of foreign travel proposals (Lugo, Italy) and this was agreed by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. M. Byrne.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. M. Byrne, the Members also noted and approved the List of Councillors' Conferences and Training as circulated to the meeting.

12. Minutes of Meetings:

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. R. Ireton, the Council noted and approved the following minutes:

- 12.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting 08.02.17
- 12.2 Gorey Municipal District 21.02.17
- 12.3 Enniscorthy Municipal District 20.02.17
- 12.4 Economic Development & Enterprise SPC 28.03.17

At this junction, Councillor O'Rourke left the meeting.

13. Notices of Motion:

13.1 Cllr. M. Murphy:

"I call on Wexford County Council to put a plan in place to clean and reinstate the many 1798 memorials throughout our county, most of which were erected by voluntary groups to respectfully honour local heroes from the 1798 period, as part of the bicentenary commemorations which took place almost twenty years ago".

Proposed by Councillor M. Murphy, seconded by Councillor K. Doyle and agreed by all Members present.

13.2 Cllr. M. Byrne:

"Noting the Government's proposed 2040 National Planning Framework, the need for greater regional balance, and the excessive concentration of decision making in Dublin, Wexford County Council calls for the Capital of Ireland to be moved back to its ancient location at Ferns".

Proposed by Councillor M. Byrne, seconded by Councillor R. Ireton and defeated on a vote of 2 in favour and 12 against.

13.3 Cllr. J. Fleming:

"That we call on Wexford County Council to engage immediately with Irish Water regarding taking in charge of estates".

Proposed by Councillor J. Fleming, seconded by Councillor R. Ireton and agreed by all Members present.

Both the Cathaoirleach and the Deputy Chief Executive reminded the Council that the Executive is in constant dialogue with Irish Water regarding this on-going issue.

13.4 Cllr. L. McDonald:

“In accordance with its obligations under circular PL/5215 we hereby request that Wexford County Council in its role as a water services authority commences the process of taking in charge sewerage treatment plants where the bond has expired or is no longer applicable”.

Proposed by Councillor L. McDonald, seconded by Councillor M. Sheehan and agreed by all Members present

The Deputy Chief Executive advised the Council that the Executive is currently in the process of taking these estates in charge, as the Council is legally required to do. Mr. Larkin advised that he anticipated difficulties in remediating many of these estates in the future, and that the Executive was engaged in discussions with Irish Water with a view to resolving the complex issues involved.

13.5 Cllr. A. Kelly:

“I move that this Council would call on Minister Denis Naughton to introduce the necessary legislation to address the easy accessibility to online gambling”.

In the absence of Councillor Kelly and in accordance with Standing Orders the Motion was deemed withdrawn, to be resubmitted at a later date.

13.6 Cllr. D. Wadding:

“This Council calls on Minister Simon Harris to immediately move to make available Medicinal Cannabis in support of Vera Twomey and other families in need . We furthermore request the Minister to acknowledge that the terms of the HPRAs report limiting use to three conditions only is too narrow and fails many suffering chronic pain from a range of conditions”.

Proposed by Councillor D. Wadding, seconded by Councillor J. Mythen and agreed by all Members present.

13.7 Cllr. M. Sheehan:

“Recognising the need for continuous activation programmes for job seekers and to ensure every person is given a fair opportunity to develop their skills and attributes in search of their preferred career; this Council calls for a review of the terms and conditions of the Turas Nua scheme to be more accommodating to allow participants to enrol in and continue on courses/ programmes training that will lead to employment in their chosen field”.

Proposed by Councillor M. Sheehan, seconded by Councillor G. Carthy and agreed by all Members present.

13.8 Cllr. O. O'Connell:

"This Council notes:

- the 2015 government capital plan for new primary and secondary school buildings was based on demographic birth, migration data and assumptions, that will shortly be two-to-three years old;

- that this state has one of the highest birthrates in Europe;

and requests that the Minister re-examine the latest demographic data, with a view to prioritising and bringing forward building schedules.

Refs:

<http://m.independent.ie/life/family/mothers-babies/baby-boom-hits-ireland-as-we-top-the-european-birth-rate-31368622.html>

<http://www.thejournal.ie/new-schools-ireland-2449713-Nov2015/#comments>

<http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/Statistical-Reports/Other-Statistical-Reports.html>

Proposed by Councillor O. O'Connell, seconded by Councillor D. Wadding and agreed by all Members present.

13.9 Cllr. M. Byrne:

"That in placing planning application notices, that Wexford County Council would require the applicant to place the advertisement in at least one local newspaper, being defined as a newspaper published in the County of Wexford with an independently audited circulation in Co. Wexford in excess of 1,000 copies weekly or, if online, with at least 1,000 independently audited unique users per week".

Proposed by Councillor M. Byrne, seconded by Councillor F. O'Suilleabháin and agreed by all Members present.

Mr. Tony Larkin advised the Members that he would arrange to review the list of approved publications in accordance with the provisions of the relevant legislation, and would provide an update in respect of that review to the June 2017 meeting of the Council.

Mr. Larkin reminded the Members that the Council's free MapAlerter service provides a useful mechanism whereby a member of the public can receive an "alert" text or "alert" email when the Council receives a planning application relating to their locality

13.10 Cllr. D. Wadding:

“This Council welcomes the opportunity for cultural awareness training in preparation for the arrival of Syrian refugee families to Wexford, I call upon our Council to similarly, in the light of the official acknowledgement of Traveller Ethnicity undertake a programme of training in awareness of Traveller Culture, issues and rights”.

Proposed by Councillor D. Wadding, seconded by Councillor J. Mythen and agreed on a vote of eleven in favour and seven against.

14. Sealing of Documents:

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Byrne, seconded by an Cathaoirleach, the Members noted and approved the sealing of documents as submitted to the meeting.

15. Correspondence and Communications:

The Members noted the following correspondence:

- Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills regarding St. Senan’s Hospital and grounds.
- Correspondence from Mr. Simon Harris, TD, regarding St. Senan’s
- Correspondence from the Office of Simon Coveney, TD, regarding the assessment of Family Income Supplement payments for social housing eligibility purposes.
- Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills regarding school admissions.
- Correspondence from Simon Harris, TD, regarding C.A.M.H.S. posts in Wexford.
- Correspondence from the HSE regarding St. Senan’s.
- Acknowledgement from the office of Michael Creed, TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, regarding fisheries.
- Acknowledgment from the Taoiseach’s Private Office regarding the Tuam Mother and Baby home.
- Correspondence from Graham Lennox, Private Secretary to Minister Creed regarding Fishery Harbours

16. **Any Other Business:**

16.1 Origami “Cranes” Exhibition

Councillor Barbara Anne Murphy congratulated those involved with the recently installed exhibition at County Hall of “1000 Cranes” and recommended it to her colleagues to view.

16.2 Enniscorthy Main Drainage – Upgrade works

Councillor K. Doyle welcomed recent reports of an announcement by Irish Water of an allocation to fund Phase 3 of the Enniscorthy Main Drainage Scheme.

16.3 Mr. Ibrahim Halawa

Councillor J. Mythen raised the issue of the continued detention of Irish citizen Mr. Ibrahim Halawa, who is believed to be suffering ill-health.

Councillor Mythen asked that the Council write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and request the Minister to do everything within his power to secure Mr. Halawa’s immediate release from prison.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

County Secretary

Daingithe ar an la de , 2017.

Cathaoirleach