

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council
held on Monday 11 September, 2017 – 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	J. Hegarty,
D. Hynes;	R. Ireton;	W. Kavanagh;	P. Kavanagh:
A. Kelly;	G. Lawlor;	L. McDonald;	J. Moore;
B.A .Murphy,	M. Murphy;	J. Mythen;	L. O'Brien;
F. Ó Súilleabháin;	M. Roche;	M. Sheehan;	O. Walsh;
F. Staples;	J. Sullivan;		

Officials: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive
Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services
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 J. O'Rourke, Oisín Ó Connell, M. Whelan,
D. Wadding
Officials: Mr. Pat Collins, County Secretary

1. Presentation from Union of Students in Ireland

Ms. Michelle Byrne, USI Vice President for the Southern Region and Ms. Lorna Fitzpatrick, President of IT Carlow Students' Union attended the meeting in deputation and presented a PowerPoint presentation to the meeting, outlining the case for a publically-funded 3rd-level education system in Ireland.

Following a Question and Answer session to which all Members contributed, the Cathaoirleach and Members thanked Ms. Byrne and Ms. Fitzpatrick for their professional and comprehensive presentation. The deputation then withdrew.

Votes of Sympathy:

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

- Mr. Martin Sinnott, father of Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance
- Mr. Terry Redmond, former member of Gorey Town Commissioners
- V. Rev Mathias Conon Glynn, brother of Jarlath Glynn, Executive Librarian

- Mr. Joe Forristal, father of Larry Forristal, Veterinary Officer
- Mr. Dick Phelan, Former Telephone Receptionist at Wexford County Council
- Ms. Joan O'Regan, Mother of Lena Regan, Cleaning Staff, WCC
- Ms. Kathleen Maher, mother of John Maher, Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer
- Mr. Stephen Lynch, brother of Sam Lynch, Storeman
- Ms. Sadie Whelan, sister of James Murphy, Credit Controller
- Mr. Frank Sinnott, Editor Free Press, Wexford Town
- Bidy (Bridget) Walshe, New Ross

Congratulations

Dean na Comhairleoirí comhghairdeas are na dhaoine liosta anseo:

- All those involved in the organisation of the 2017 Kennedy Summer School
- Ferns Heritage Group – recent highly successful “Norman Ireland” Conference
- Roscommon County Council – Commemorative event for Detective Garda John Morley and Garda Henry Byrne, killed in line of duty in 1980
- St Martin’s GAA Club, recent winners of the U21 Hurling title and numerous Under-Age successes
- Athlete Kevin O’Mahony, Piercestown, following his recent success in the national Community Games 100m finals in Athlone
- Piercestown / Murrintown Rounders Team, winners at national Community Games Finals in Athlone
- Mr. Michael Hennessy, Saltmills, member of the Irish Wheelchair Basketball Team who won bronze at recent European Championships
- New Ross-based Cumas, following their selection as a Pride of Place finalist
- Ms. Sheila Forsey, on the forthcoming publication of her recent book “Mending Lace”

2. Confirmation of Minutes:

2.1 Ordinary Meeting of 10th July, 2017

Proposed by Councillor Anthony Donohoe, seconded by Councillor Paddy Kavanagh, and agreed

2.2 Matters Arising:

2.2.1 Unfinished Estates

In response to a query from Cllr. Carthy, Mr. T. Larkin, DoS advised the meeting that he would bring a report to a meeting of the Housing SPC to update the members on the current position.

He added that where an unfinished estate had received funding from the Council to carry out remedial works, and a subsequent planning application was received seeking to carry out further development in that estate, the Council would, in any grant of permission, seek to apply a special levy to recover their investment.

2.2.2 Annual Service Delivery Plan – Progress Reports

The Cathaoirleach reminded the meeting that where future quarterly Progress Reports on implementation of the Council's Annual Service Delivery Plan are presented to a meeting of the Council, the Council will review such reports at the following monthly meeting, thus allowing sufficient opportunity to the members to familiarize themselves with the contents of the Report.

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 LAC1703 – the development comprises a new galvanised steel framed structure at the Men's Shed complex in the Irishtown, New Ross.

The Council considered the Report of the Chief Executive on the proposed development.

Proposed by Councillor L. O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Sheehan and agreed.

3.2 LAC1704 – the developed comprises a new Bring Centre to replace the older one in the village of Wellingtonbridge. It will comprise of up to 10 receptacles.

The Council considered the Report of the Chief Executive on the proposed development.

Proposed by Councillor L. O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Sheehan and agreed.

3.3 LAC1705 – proposed development of 10 no. housing units with associated site works at Danescastle, Carrick on Bannow.

The Council considered the Report of the Chief Executive on the proposed development.

Proposed by Councillor L. O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Sheehan and agreed.

4. 3-Year Capital Programme 2017-2019

The Council considered the Programme as circulated.

Proposed by Councillor R. Ireton, seconded by Councillor P. Breen and agreed.

The Head of Finance advised the Members that the 2018-2020 Capital Programme will be prepared and presented to Members early in 2018.

5. Budget 2018 – Preparation Process

The Members noted and agreed the following dates for the holding of various meetings during the 2018 Budget process, as recommended by the CPG.

- Cross Party Budget Strategy Meeting - Monday 18th September 10.00am
- Council Meeting to consider Variation of LPT - Thursday 28th September 10.00am
- Municipal District Meetings to consider draft budgetary plan (GMA) – as per Scheduled October Municipal District meetings (New Ross MD to adjust their date to meet prescribed dates)
- Statutory 2018 Budget Meeting - Monday 27 November 10.00am

It was agreed that those Members who attended the 2017 Budget Strategy cross-party meeting would be invited to attend the 2018 Budget Strategy cross-party meeting.

6. Sub-Committee of Wexford County Council to promote Third Level Education in County Wexford.

The Cathaoirleach advised the meeting of the names of those Councillors who have been nominated to sit on the above committee.

Committee to promote 3rd Level Education in County Wexford		
Nominating Body	Councillor	Party
Enniscorthy MD	Johnny Mythen	SF
Borough District of Wexford	Jim Moore	FG
Gorey MD	Pip Breen	FF
New Ross MD	TBC	
Labour Party	George Lawlor	LAB
Solidarity - People Before Profit	Deirdre Wadding	PBPA
Non- Party	TBC	Non Party
Chairman	Paddy Kavanagh	FG

The Council agreed the above nominations and noted that New Ross Town Council is to finalise it's nominee while the non-party Members of Wexford County Council will meet among themselves to agree their nominee to the Committee.

7. Adoption of Annual Report 2015

The County Secretary presented the Draft Annual Report for consideration and adoption.

Proposed by Councillor Dempsey, seconded by Councillor Byrne, and agreed.

The Members noted that the draft 2016 Annual Report is in preparation with a view to it being presented to the Council before the end of 2017.

8. Protected Disclosures Act 2014 - Section 22 Report

The Members noted the Report as circulated.

9. Report of Corporate Policy Group – Meeting of Monday 4 September, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Carthy, seconded by Councilor Sheehan, and agreed

10. Chief Executive's Report.

The Chief Executive presented his monthly Management Report, prepared under Section 136 of the LG Act 2001 in respect the months of July and August 2017.

The following updates were provided by the respective members of the Management Team in response to queries from the Elected Members:

- Wexford Quays Regeneration Project

Current grant aid towards the project applies to the section of the Quayside from the Crescent Quay to Trinity Wharf

Efforts will be made to remediate the section from Crescent Quay to Wexford Bridge which is acknowledged as needing attention.

A draft of the Quayside Regeneration Plan has been received from the Council's consultants and will be presented for consideration by the Members at the next available meeting of Wexford Borough District.

- Proposed sale of Council lands at Carricklawn

Any proposed sale of these lands will be a matter for decision by the Elected Members under Section 183 of the LG Act 2001.

- *Tuskar Rock Tragedy – Commerative Event*

The Council's Community Department offers its assistance to the local community in their efforts to organise an appropriate commerative event

- *Planning Enforcement*

The Council's Planning Department acknowledges there has been a marked an increase in multi-unit housing development applications and will ensure that sufficient staff resources are deployed to this area to ensure these new developments comply with appropriate standards of development.

- *Dog Fouling*

The Council will continue to allocate resources through it's warden services to combat this problem, including the monitoring of public beaches.

- *Templeshannon Renewal Project*

A draft of the Templeshannon Regeneration Plan has been received from the Council's consultants and will be presented for consideration at the next available meeting of the Members of Enniscorthy District.

- *Enniscorthy Traffic Management Plan*

An initial draft will be presented for consideration at the next available meeting of the Members of Enniscorthy District.

- *Vinegar Hill Research Project*

The maintenance of the Vinegar Hill area will receive additional priority.

The Research Project has uncovered very significant artifacts relating to the 1798 Rebellion – the Members of Enniscorthy District will be kept updated in relation to this on-going and very exciting project.

- *Wind Farm Noise Report*

An Executive Summary will be provided to the Members.

An Action Plan for implementation of the Report's recommendations is being prepared and will be brought to the SPC for consideration.

- *Taking in Charge of Estates*

The statutory proposals to take almost 50 estates in charge will be placed on the agendas for the next meetings of the respective Municipal Districts

- County Council Housing Programme

The Council will hold a special meeting to discuss Wexford's Housing Programme, with a view to speeding up delivery of accommodation, reducing incidence of homelessness and reducing the number of people in need of housing.

- N80 Resurfacing

The Council will continue to seek funding from TII to allow further sections of the N80 to be re-surfaced.

- Town and Village Renewal Scheme

No decision has yet been notified to Wexford County Council regarding recent applications under this Scheme.

- Unauthorised Waste Collection facility in North Wexford

The Council continues to pursue legal proceedings in respect of this unauthorised activity.

- Duncannon Beach Water Quality

The Council has sought funding for an innovative land management plan that will, in cooperation with local landowners, help improve water quality.

- Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme

Tender documentation is being prepared.

11. Conferences / Training

The Members considered the list of conferences and training events as circulated.

Proposed by Councillor M. Sheehan, seconded by Councillor M. Byrne and agreed.

Suspension of Standing Orders

It being 5.30pm, the Council considered suspending Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue

Proposed by Councillor G. Lawlor, seconded by Councillor M. Byrne and agreed.

12. Minutes of Meetings:

The following Minutes were considered for adoption:

- 12.1 Minutes of Joint Policing Committee held on 10.07.17
- 12.2 New Ross Municipal District 14.06.17
- 12.3 New Ross District Annual Meeting 28.06.17
- 12.4 Special Meeting of New Ross District 28.06.17
- 12.5 Gorey Municipal District 20.06.17
- 12.6 Annual Meeting of Gorey Municipal District 20.06.17
- 12.7 Borough District of Wexford 19.06.17
- 12.8 Annual Meeting of the Borough District of Wexford 26.06.17
- 12.9 Special Meeting of Borough District of Wexford 26.06.17
- 12.10 Enniscorthy Municipal District 16.06.17
- 12.11 Enniscorthy District Annual Meeting 19.06.17

Proposed by Councillor M. Farrell, seconded by Councillor M. Sheehan and agreed.

13. Notices of Motion:

- 13.1 “That this Council calls on Minister Naughten to stop these new waste management proposals, to establish a national regulator, introduce more measures to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste. To establish substantive measures to protect families on F.I.S., old age pensioners, citizens with medical conditions, and those on social welfare payments from the impending increases that will come about because of these new waste management proposals”.

Proposed by Councillor J. Mythen, seconded by Councillor A. Kelly and agreed.

- 13.2 “I move that this Council have meaningful discussions with the OPW in regards the suitability of the Wexford Garda Station (when vacant) to use for emergency housing”.

Proposed by Councillor A. Kelly, seconded by Councillor D. Hynes and agreed.

- 13.3 “That Wexford County Council resolves to strongly oppose any proposal to remove any powers from local government and expresses particular concern at reports that Government wishes to remove powers with regard to housing. Further, this Council expresses deep concern at the failure of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to support local authorities in providing housing and shall communicate that concern in writing”.

Proposed by Councillor M. Byrne, seconded by Councillor A. Kelly and agreed.

- 13.4 “In order to facilitate the proper development of Rosslare Europort and to allow the port to realise its full economic potential, I move that the Council calls on the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to establish Rosslare Europort as a separate and autonomous company under the CIÉ Group. This would ensure that all profits generated in Rosslare Europort would be retained locally by the new company and reinvested in the future development of the port. The board of directors of the new company should be representative of the various stakeholders.”

Proposed by Councillor T. Dempsey, seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh and agreed.

- 13.5 "This Council acknowledges that we are in the midst of housing and homelessness crisis, and over the coming months will establish a point of contact for housing emergencies on weekends"

Proposed by Councillor Fionntáin Ó'Súilleabháin, seconded by Councillor A. Kelly.

The Members agreed to defer debate and decision on this Motion to the upcoming Special “Housing” Meeting of Wexford County Council.

The following Motions were deferred to the next Monthly Meeting of Wexford County Council

Cllr. D. Wadding:

- 1(a) “That this Council calls on Government to immediately scrap the failed Rebuilding Ireland programme, to be replaced by rent control, increased rent allowance , a large scale social building project and immediate use of vacant properties as emergency provision.
- 1(b) In acknowledgement of the scale of the crisis, we demand Government calls a National Emergency status with regard to Housing and Homelessness”.

Cllr. D. Hynes:

“This Council supports Social Justice Ireland call on Minister Eoghan Murphy to put plans in place for than 90,000 social homes and apartments needed to be built in the next five years and agrees that current attempts to solve the unprecedented problem and heart breaking problem have failed abysmally in light of recent deaths”.

Cllr. P. Kavanagh:

“That Wexford County Council implements a plan to deal with the problem of Japanese Knotweed and to educate the public to the dangers of this invasive species”.

Cllr. A. Kelly:

“I move that this Council call on the HSE and Minister Simon Harris to extend and adequately staff the existing mental health services at Summerhill Wexford to facilitate 24/7 access to emergency assessment”.

Cllr. M. Byrne:

“That Wexford County Council develop a digital strategy that will work toward this County being to the fore in utilising the advantages of technology and this Council leading in terms of the ability of citizens to interact digitally and to use open data. The Council shall also consider the appointment of a digital champion to lead this initiative”.

Cllr. D. Wadding:

“I call on this Council to ban the use of Roundup by Council staff on public land, grass verges etc”.

Cllr. D. Hynes:

“The recent announcement to take over vacant houses and renovate these is to be welcomed as part of addressing the houses crisis but it can only be done if the finance is made available and the each vacant house in Wexford ear marked by the Council for such renovation is matched by the finance, otherwise it is just more spin”.

14. Sealing of Documents

The Members considered the list of documents for sealing as circulated.

Proposed by Councillor M. Byrne, seconded by Councillor K. Codd-Nolan, and agreed

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

County Secretary

Daingithe ar an la de , 2017.

Cathaoirleach