

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council  
held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 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,
R. Ireton;	W. Kavanagh;	A. Kelly;	G. Lawlor,
L. McDonald;	J. Moore;	BA Murphy,	M. Murphy;
J. Mythen;	L. O'Brien;	O. O'Connell;	J. O'Rourke;
F. Staples;	F. Ó Súilleabháin;	M. Roche;	M. Sheehan;
J. Sullivan;	D. Wadding;	O. Walsh;	M. Whelan

**Officials:**

Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive;  
M. 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. P. Collins, County Secretary;  
Mr. G. Mackey, Administrative Officer.

**Apologies:** Councillor D. Hynes

At the outset the Cathaoirleach welcomed the Members and wished them a Happy New Year and looked forward to working with them in 2017. The Members welcomed the Cathaoirleach back after his recent illness.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

1.1 County Council Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.

On the proposal of Councillor M. Byrne, seconded by Councillor J. Moore and agreed by all, the Council approved the minutes of the County Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.

1.2 Joint Policing Committee Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.

On the proposal of Councillor A. Kelly, seconded by Councillor P. Breen and agreed by all, the Council approved the minutes of the Joint Policing Committee Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.

1.3 Joint Policing Committee Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2016, as amended.

On the proposal of Councillor J. Sullivan, seconded by Councillor M. Sheehan and agreed by all, the Council approved the minutes of the Joint Policing Committee Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2016, as amended.

**Congratulations**

The Members expressed their congratulations to the following:

- Appointment of Dr. Patricia Mulcahy as the President of Carlow Institute Technology and the appointment of Professor Willie Donnelly as President of Waterford Institute Technology
- Comhlta Ceoltoiri Eireann for their winter Ceili Mor which was took place recently
- The Rasper Players in Gorey who are representing Ireland in the World Drama Festival in Monaco
- Wexford Town for attaining the Purple Flag
- David White who won the kick boxing competition
- Wexford General Hospital Management and Staff for their improvements in dealing with patients on trolleys over the Christmas period
- The appointment of Redmond O'Toole as Musician in Residence in the National Opera House.
- LAMA Awards for New Ross Library and Wexford Marine Watch
- Hook Heritage and Lighthouse for being placed in the Top 10 attractions in Ireland in a recent survey.

**Votes of Sympathy:**

The Members expressed their votes of sympathy to the following:

- The family of Betty Doyle, mother of Siobhan Doyle, Planning Department
- The family of Andrew Poole, brother of Leonard Poole, Assistant Resident Engineer, Water Services
- The family of Mary Moore, mother of Terry Moore, Outdoor Staff, Gorey and Enniscorthy
- The family of John Doran, father of Grainne Doran, Archivist
- The family of Mary Quigley, mother of Bernie Quigley, Enniscorthy District Offices
- The family of Ned Finn, father of Angela Finn, IT Department
- The family of Maurice Sinnott and his mother Mrs. Marie Sinnott
- The family of Padge Berry who are involved in horse racing
- The family of Anthony Cronin, member of Aosdana

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

2.1 Disposal of Interest in Land at Stokestown, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Councillor A. Connick seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the Members agreed to the proposed disposal of interest in land at Stokestown, New Ross, Co. Wexford in accordance with the notice circulated.

**3. Chief Executives Report on the Draft Gorey Local Area Plan 2017-2023:**

The Members noted the Chief Executives Report as circulated to the meeting.

Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services, made a presentation to the meeting and he recommended that the Council approve the report as recommended by Gorey Municipal District. He advised that the plan would now go to public consultation and then come back to the Council for further consideration.

Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services, also advised the meeting that the County Development Plan process will commence in February 2017. Initially a public advertisement will be placed in the local newspaper over the next few weeks calling for submissions. This consultation is the first phase of the Plan. The Planners will be meeting with each of the four District Committees over the coming months and the County Development Plan process will take place over the next two years.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty the Draft Gorey Local Area Plan 2017-2023 was agreed by all.

**4. 2015 Final Accounts (Audited) and Statutory Audit Report:**

Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance, presented the Final Accounts and the Statutory Audit Report for 2015 which had been circulated to the Members. She advised the Members of a number of highlights in the documents, in particular, the improvement in the major revenue collection areas, the transfer of business to Irish Water, development levies and unfunded capital balances.

The Members raised a number of issues with regard to the documents presented which were answered by the Head of Finance. She clarified in particular that Planning Development Levies are not written off; they may have to be removed if a development doesn't go ahead but will continue in place otherwise.

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy seconded by Cllr. A. Donohoe the 2015 Final Accounts (Audited) and Statutory Audit Report were agreed by all.

**5. Nomination of Member of Wexford County Council to the board of the Energy Agency:**

Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services, outlined the purpose of the Energy Agency and the present composition of the board which now requires the appointment of a Member of Wexford County Council to the Board.

Cllr. O. Walsh was proposed by Cllr. F. Staples and seconded by Cllr. J. Moore.

Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin was proposed by Cllr. O. O'Connell and seconded by Cllr. A. Kelly.

Following a vote Cllr. O. Walsh was declared elected to the board of the Energy Agency.

**6. Submission by Wexford County Council to the Public Consultation on the Rail Review 2016 Report:**

The draft report which was circulated to the Members was presented by Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services.

The Director set out the main arguments for retention of the Dublin to Rosslare Europort south of Gorey and made a number of recommendations which are set out in the Executive Summary. A wide ranging discussion took place in which the following items were discussed

- The transfer of service at Bray
- The re-introduction of the Rosslare to Waterford line
- The development of Rosslare Port
- Linking of the rail schedule with the ferry times
- The privatisation of the ferry port
- The cost of the rail service
- Disability aspects of the current rail service
- The moving back of the fast track to Enniscorthy to encourage extra passengers
- The pricing travel for tourists
- Environment aspect
- Freight rail options

The Chief Executive advised that the Council submission sought more frequent trains and better services. He recognised that there are physical constraints for the trains and that the D.A.R.T. service is the only fully profitable service in Iarnród Éireann.

The report as presented, with amendments suggested by the meeting regarding access issues and quality of service, was proposed by Cllr. J. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. A. Donohoe and agreed by all.

**7. Report of Corporate Policy Group:**

The report of the Corporate Policy Group was noted.

## **8. Chief Executive's Report:**

The Chief Executive's Report was circulated to the meeting. Questions raised by Councillors present were answered by Council Officials. The issues raised included the following:

- Progress reports on motions agreed by the Council
- Update on Fethard on Sea Sewerage Scheme
- LEO Plan
- Rates Initiative
- Houses offered to Wexford County Council by NAMA
- Bonds on Housing Schemes
- Monthly Reports on Greenways
- Planning at Wexford Retail Park
- REDZ funding
- Training for tendering
- Updated staff details following recent transfers
- Road Improvements
- Circulation of Energy Efficiency Conference brochure

Director Tony Larkin then presented a report outlining the extension of the Vacant Property Grant Initiative Scheme which had been previously considered by the Corporate Policy Group.

The report, as presented, was proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell and agreed by all.

Director John Carley then presented the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018, which had previously been considered by each of the Municipal Districts.

The Programme, as presented, was proposed by Cllr. D. Wadding, seconded by Cllr. K. Doyle and agreed by all.

## **9. List of Councillors' Conferences and Training:**

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

## **10. Minutes of Meetings:**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. B. A. Murphy and agreed by all the Members present the above minutes were noted and approved.

- 10.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting 09.11.16
- 10.2 Gorey Municipal District 15.12.16
- 10.3 Borough District of Wexford 21.11.16
- 10.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District 21.11.16
- 10.5 Special Enniscorthy Municipal District 01.12.16

**11. Notices of Motion:**

**11.1 Cllr. J. O'Rourke:**

"I call on Wexford County Council to write to minister of education Richard Bruton and ask for a review of the syllabus in project maths at junior and leaving certificate at all levels".

This motion was withdrawn.

**11.2 Cllr. J. Hegarty and Cllr. F. Staples:**

"We welcome the recently granted planning permission for a dialysis facility in Co Wexford and we call on this Council to now do all within it power to encourage the HSE to get a fully functioning dialysis unit up and running within the county as soon as possible."

This motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Hegarty and Cllr. F. Staples, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor and agreed by all.

**11.3 Cllr. F. Staples:**

"I call on this Council and all its Members to lobby the Department of the Environment and the Department of Agriculture to reduce the numbers of wild deer in County Wexford because of the effect it can have on TB on our farms and more importantly before we have a fatality on our roads".

This motion was proposed by Cllr. F. Staples, seconded by Cllr. K. Codd Nolan. A vote was taken and the motion was carried.

**11.4 Cllr. D. Wadding:**

"At the request of the ISPCA and in support of their campaign, I call on this Council to ban the use of Council land for all Wild Animal circuses".

This motion was withdrawn as it was agreed that it had been previously agreed by the Council.

**11.5 Cllr. D. Wadding:**

"This Council supports the call for Mandatory inquests in the case of maternal death and calls on the Minister to take action to ensure this".

This motion was proposed by Cllr. D. Wadding seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor and agreed by all.

An emergency motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Mythen and seconded by Cllr. F. Staples. The emergency motion was allowed in accordance with Article 20 of the Standing Orders and agreed by all.

"That this Council calls on the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, to give a commitment to ring fence the money received from the sale of St. Senan's Mental Hospital for the sole purpose of restoring a 24/7 Acute Mental Health Service in County Wexford".

## **12. Sealing of Documents:**

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

## **13. Correspondence and Communications:**

The Members noted the following correspondence:

- Correspondence from Department of Social Protection in relation to the State pension (contributory) reform measures
- Acknowledgement from Simon Harris, TD, Minister for Health concerning the C.A.M.H.S. posts in Wexford.
- Acknowledgement from Chris Smith, Private Secretary to Minister Ross regarding expansion of the M11/M50

The non response by Government Departments in terms of requests for meetings with Ministers and replies to queries raised by Wexford County Council were noted by the meeting. It was agreed that Council delegates would raise these matters with LAMA and AILG.

## **14. Any Other Business:**

- Discussion took place about the lack of an emergency towing vessel to deal with marine emergencies.
- The misuse of Disabled Bays outside the County Council buildings.
- The Co. Secretary reminded members of their obligations to submit Ethics Declarations by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and Disclosure of Political Donations by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.
- First meeting of the Junior Council will take place in the Council Chamber at 4.30 P.M. on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017.
- Wexford County Council Just 1 Life Invitation – 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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County Secretary

Daingithe ar an la de , 2017.

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Cathaoirleach