

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council  
held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 – 2.30 p.m.  
in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford.**

**Attendance:**

**In the Chair:** Cllr. K. Doyle, Cathaoirleach.

**Councillors:**

P. Breen;	M. Byrne;	G. Carthy;	
A. Connick;	T. Dempsey;	A. Donohoe;	M. Farrell;
W. Fitzharris;	J. Fleming;	T. Forde;	J. Hegarty;
D. Hynes;	R. Ireton;	P. Kavanagh;	W. Kavanagh;
G. Lawlor;	L. McDonald;	B.A. Murphy;	M. Murphy;
J. Mythen;	O. O'Connell;	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. E. Taaffe, Director of Services;  
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance;  
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Senior Executive Officer;  
Mr. G. Mackey, A/SEO;  
Mr. S. Howell, Senior Executive Architect;  
Mr. P. Collins, County Secretary.

**Apologies:** Councillors K. Codd Nolan; J. Moore; L. O'Brien; J. O'Rourke;  
F. Staples.  
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services

**Votes of Sympathy:**

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

- Carmel Ryan, New Ross who was an active Member of the London/Wexford Association
- Fintan (Finn) Howlin, Duncormick, Co. Wexford - Retired Employee, Roads Department
- Sheamus Howlin, Piercestown who served both Wexford and Leinster GAA
- Jack Whelan Kinsella, Crossabeg
- Hannah Kelly, Wexford Town

**Vóta Comhghairdeas:**

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

- The Committee of Kilmore Parish Journal for their production of the Journal for the 47<sup>th</sup> year
- St. Martin's senior Camogie team who reached the Leinster semi final.
- Loughlin Gannon who won Mr. Universe 2018 title
- Bunclody for their win in the IPB Pride of Place in their category (Main Competition Population 2,000-5,000) with thanks to Ger Mackey and Michael Sweeney, Community Department for their help in advancing Bunclody's application.
- Clonegal who won a special award in the IPB Pride of Place 2018
- Wexford County Council for their recent Civic Reception for the teams who were successful in 1968 – Senior Hurling Team, Minor Hurling Team and Senior Camogie Team
- Students Luke McHale, Bunclody Vocational School, James Higgins, Gorey Community School, Caoimhín Emmet O' Connell, Good Counsel College, New Ross, Barry Hickey, FCJ, Bunclody, Shane Ryan, Bunclody Vocational School and Andrew Walsh, Bridgetown College, all of whom received engineering Certificates at the Engineering and Technology Teachers' Association Awards Ceremony in Mullingar.
- Michelle O'Neill who is selected to officiate as an Assistant Referee at the FIFA Women's World Cup Finals
- Organisers of the One Act Drama Festival 2018 which was held in Kilmuckridge.
- The Drama Group in Kilmuckridge
- Bree Village for their success in the Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Award
- Community Section, WCC and all those involved in the Science Week
- The organisers of the Wexford Boxing Cup in St. Joseph's Club, Wexford

**1. Three Counties Blueway (Wexford Waterford Wicklow):**

Humphrey Murphy from Irish Leisure Consultants made the Blueway presentation and a short report by Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services was also circulated.

The Members welcomed the Report asked a number of questions with regard to the project including the following:

- Consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the requirement for a Foreshore Licence
- The inclusion of facilities for anglers on the Blueway
- Access for people with disabilities
- Dovetailing with the Ancient East Project
- The need for Community Groups and private business to buy in to the Blueway
- The need for the National Parks and Wildlife Service to come to the table with regard to the project
- The need for something unique as part of the project that will encourage people to visit the Blueway in Wexford rather than other walkways.

- The need for the National Parks and Wildlife Service to be on board to support the project
- The extension of the walkway from Enniscorthy to Oylegate
- The promotion of wildlife on the Blueway

The Chief Executive advised that there is a need to develop walkways, tracks and trails for visitors and locals alike in County Wexford. At present there are two applications for Greenways from New Ross to Waterford and from Rosslare Harbour to Waterford.

While the result of the Curracloe application was disappointing, the Chief Executive noted that he would be attending a meeting in Dublin with regard to the Curracloe Greenway this week to try to progress the project. He advised that all the landowners in the area would like to see the project happen.

## **2. Confirmation of Minutes:**

- 2.1 County Council Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.
- 2.2 Statutory Budget Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh and agreed by all, the Council approved the minutes of the meetings as outlined above.

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

- 3.1 Proposed lease of Drumgoold Community Centre to Ferns Diocesan Youth Service Ltd

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, the proposed disposal, as submitted to the meeting, was approved.

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

- 4.1 LAC1808 – Pembrokestown, Wexford Rural – Proposed development of 44 Social Housing Units (26 Apartments & 18 Houses) and all associated site services necessary.

On the proposal of Cllr. R. Ireton seconded by Cllr. T. Forde the proposed developments, as submitted to the meeting, were approved and agreed by all.

During discussion it was agreed that Mr. P. O’Gorman, Housing Officer, would give a full report in January 2019 of houses built and acquired in 2018.

## **5. Nomination to the board of The Model County Enterprise Support Group**

Cllr. B. A. Murphy was proposed by Cllr. W. Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty. Cllr. J. Mythen was proposed by Cllr. D. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. F. O’ Súilleabháin.

A vote was then taken and Cllr. B. A. Murphy was nominated to the board of The Model County Enterprise Support Group.

## **6. GDPR Section 40 Verification Form for Access to Personal Data held by Housing Section:**

At 3.40 p.m. Cllr. M. Byrne arrived at the meeting.

Following a wide ranging discussion, questions from a number of Members of the Council were answered by Council Officials in attendance.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan seconded by Cllr. M. Byrne it was agreed to use the form as submitted to the Council and to review it in 3 months.

The Chief Executive advised that the form was the best compromise the Council could offer at the present time. He agreed that the Council would look at the possibility of using an electronic version of the form and making some other improvements.

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

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan seconded by Cllr. M. Byrne the Report of Corporate Policy Group of 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2018 was approved by the meeting.

Cllr. M. Sheehan referred to a previous letter to the HSE asking them to attend a County Council Meeting and asked that the County Council write again.

## **8. 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 including the following:

- The enforcement of the vacant sites levy
- Planning permission for two advance factories in New Ross
- Derelict sites in north Wexford

At 4.08 p.m. Cllr. A. Connick left the meeting.

- Smoky coals and air quality in towns especially Enniscorthy and Gorey
- Taking in charge of Shannon Court, Riverchapel
- Progress on Min Ryan Park development
- Planning enforcement cases including Dealz
- Update on Sam McCauley's headquarters moving to Dublin

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

- Report of Cllr. A. Donohoe of Visit to Poland with Gorey Poland Cultural Association
- Conference Report Cllr. M. Murphy – 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural Water Services Conference
- Conference Report Cllr. L. O'Brien – Mental Health in the Workplace and Wider Community

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan seconded by Cllr. P. Breen the Members noted and approved the Conference Reports as outlined above and the list of Councillors' Conferences and Training as previously circulated.

## **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 following minutes were noted and approved:

- 10.1 Gorey Municipal District Meeting 16.10.18
- 10.2 New Ross Municipal District Meeting 17.10.18
- 10.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting 15.10.18
- 10.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting 15.10.18
- 10.5 Special Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting 25.10.18
- 10.6 Planning & Development SPC 06.09.18

## **10. Sealing of Documents**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty the Sealing of Documents as submitted to the meeting was noted and approved.

## **12. Correspondence and Communications**

The following correspondence was noted by the Members:

- Correspondence from Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport regarding the M11
- Email from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding Part V
- Correspondence from the TII regarding the N11/N25 Oylegate to Rosslare Road Scheme

## **13. Closure of Post Offices, lack of Broadband and other matters concerning rural villages in Co. Wexford:**

A wide ranging discussion then took place with regard to matters affecting rural villages in County Wexford including the following:

- Planning to allow people to live in their home areas
- The turning around of vacant houses quicker
- The location of housing acquisitions by WCC
- Holding onto shops and post offices in rural villages
- Sale of houses affected by lack of broadband
- Restrictive planning regulations
- School buses
- Closure of Local Garda Stations
- Lack of Post Offices
- The National Planning Framework
- The role of Irish Water and their insistence that new houses in rural areas must be built in or adjacent to villages
- The Local Authority is no longer acquiring single rural houses
- Restrictions imposed by Irish Water holding back the development of rural villages
- Disadvantaged areas in County Wexford
- Water treatment and water
- Public lighting

- Better roads
- More investment
- Better health services
- The low level of education achievement in County Wexford
- The highest truancy figures in Ireland
- The third highest figures in drink and drug offences
- It was also noted that the IDA only created 600 jobs in the south east over the last number of years
- The organisation of County Wexford
- The fear of robbery and theft and the lack of Garda presence
- The difficulty for Wexford people working and commuting to Dublin
- The role of supermarkets in reducing the income of primary producers
- The rural towns are dying
- Lack of third level education
- Young people moving to other parts of the country to gain employment
- The lack of availability of broadband restricts working from home arrangements for people who work in their own local community
- Rural GAA clubs need help
- Wexford has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest level of rural deprivation in the country
- Problem with centralising and regionalising all services and the concept of subsidiarity being ignored - the need to move back to local services
- The need to get small wins
- The need to find solutions and work on community development
- The support of the Council
- Increases in suicide
- The rise of online shopping
- Low cost selling in the supermarkets.
- The effect of Drink Driving laws on rural communities.
- People need to buy in local shops
- International trend towards urbanisation
- Involve young people in the process because they are better tuned into technological advances

A number of positive actions were also pointed out by the Members, as follows:

- The voluntary sector working hard in County Wexford
- The need for people to work together
- The need to look at things that work well in Wexford and to try to expand them
- To recognise the problems and see what can be done to solve the problems

The Cathaoirleach agreed with the idea of setting up a subcommittee as had been proposed by Cllr. Sheehan and to get appropriate people from the Executive to see what can the County Council can do to deal with some of the issues identified. The subcommittee should meet over a short period of time and come back to the Council with a full report.

The Chief Executive advised that he would make the Executive support available for the committee but advised that the committee should concentrate on areas within the Council's control. The Council could lobby in respect of separate issues outside its

control. He also advised that there are some things the Council could do quickly and that the work of the committee could be completed in 2-3 months.

It was agreed that each party and the independents would nominate one person to sit on the subcommittee and that the names be forwarded to the County Secretary.

### **13. Deferred Notices of Motion:**

#### **14.1 Cllr. O. O'Connell**

"In the interests of transparency and accountability: policy documents adopted by Elected Members of this Council will be archived online permanently - in an accessible manner for the public".

The above motion was proposed by Cllr. O. O'Connell and seconded by Cllr. T. Forde. It was agreed that this motion will be referred to the Wexford County Archive.

At 5.50 p.m. Cllr. M. Byrne left the meeting.

#### **14.2 Cllr. R. Ireton**

"Wexford County Council need to put a plan together through Education and Life Long Learning on environment issues for future needs of all living and visiting our coastal towns and villages. There is at present no policing of some areas and this needs to be addressed. The Department of Environment through Wexford County Council needs to not only raise awareness with communities but to get input from said communities in working together".

The above motion was proposed by Cllr. R. Ireton seconded by Cllr. W. Fitzharris. It was agreed to leave this matter on the agenda and to refer the motion to the Environment SPC.

At 5.57 p.m. Cllr. G. Carthy left the meeting.

#### **14.3 Cllr. D. Hynes**

"That this Council urges the Dept of Justice to look at the current system of Garda Vetting which requires the same person on each occasion for each organisation to apply separately".

The above motion was proposed by Cllr. D. Hynes seconded by Cllr. P. Kavanagh and agreed by all.

Amendments to the motion were agreed and the amended motion was proposed as follows

"That this Council urges the Dept of Justice to change the current system of Garda Vetting which requires the same person on each occasion for each organisation to apply separately; the Department of Justice should issue a unique access number relating to the applicant".

These amendments were accepted by the proposer, Cllr. D. Hynes and agreed by all.

#### **14.4 Cllr. J. Hegarty**

"Following last month's decision by an Bord Pleanala to refuse planning permission for the proposed Greenway from Ferrybank to Curracloe, this Council absolutely reaffirms its commitment to developing a Greenway in this location. Furthermore we call on the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (who has responsibility for National Parks and Wildlife and Birdwatch Ireland) to meet with representatives from Wexford County Council to find an agreed solution that will protect the wildlife while allowing this flagship project for the county to go ahead".

The above motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Hegarty seconded by Cllr. P. Kavanagh and agreed by all.

#### **14.5 Cllr. T. Dempsey**

"That Wexford County Council would consider creating a cross party deputation and same to include local members of HEFSE to meet with Minister Simon Harris to both appraise him of the critical service issues on the ground and to request the immediate appointment of a full time Intervention al Cardiologist to begin intervention al duties in the Modular Catholic lab presently on site at UHW".

The above motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Dempsey seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes. It was agreed that the Cathaoirleach would set up the deputation of 6 Members, one member from each party and one member from the Independents. This was agreed by all.

Cllr. W. Fitzharris reported that he had met the Minister and that the issue was very complex. He advised that the Minister had given money to Waterford to extend the hours but that the money had not been spent. He also advised that there are issues with staffing in Waterford Hospital.

#### **14.6 Cllr. O. O'Connell**

"This Council, recognising:

- the historical impact of the Irish who - like the Wild Geese - have fought abroad throughout the centuries, out of necessity or commitment;
- the sacrifices and traumas of both fighters and survivors of those conflicts;
- the diversity of our diaspora and national experiences;
- our significant UN peacekeeping commitments;

Will commemorate all such broader "Wild Geese" simply, inclusively, and respectfully on November 11 ("Armistice Day"/US Veterans of Foreign Wars/Remembrance Day)"

The above motion was proposed by Cllr. O. O'Connell seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan and agreed by all.



## **15. Notices of Motion**

### **15.1 Cllr. L. McDonald:**

"That this Council noting the recent Cervical Check Scandal, calls upon the Minister for Health and An Taoiseach to acknowledge, support and respond in detail to the demands of the Standing4Women\* campaign. These include: Legislation and policy on mandatory open disclosure independent of the patient safety bill, provision of a start and end date and full disclosure on the 1800 smears yet to be audited, and a breakdown of the new packages being negotiated with laboratories carrying out smear slide analysis including mandatory site audits".

### **15.2 Cllr. T. Walsh:**

"That Wexford County Council commission a sociological study to examine those areas of County Wexford that are considered 'very disadvantaged' by multiple reports over many years, with a view to devising a plan to break the cycle of generational deprivation recurring in those areas".

### **15.3 Cllr. F. OSúilleabháin:**

"That this Council acknowledges Co. Wexford's rich cultural heritage and will establish the post of Heritage Officer (with possibly a Conservation or other role if deemed necessary/appropriate) in 2019".

The above motions were deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

## **16. Any Other Business**

Cllr. O. O'Connell advised the meeting that this would be his last meeting as a Councillor and that he will be resigning before Christmas, for family reasons. He advised that a dedicated and committed Member of his party, Marie Doyle from New Ross Town, would be co-opted to the Council in his place.

He thanked his parents for their guidance and also his siblings; he also thanked his wife and children for their support during his time as a Councillor. He thanked all of his fellow Councillors, in particular Members of his own party including Anthony Kelly - he saw the group as a band of brothers. Finally, he thanked all of the Council Officials for their help during the duration of his time on the Council.

All of the political parties and Independents and many other Members of the Council then offered their congratulations to Cllr. O'Connell and highlighted his positive contribution to the Council. Members also admired his honesty and integrity and wished Cllr. O'Connell and his family the best of luck in his retirement.

Members also praised his work during his time on the Council and noted that he put a lot of work and research into his motions. Members also noted that he was a pleasure to work with, he was approachable and capable, and again highlighted his integrity. Other Members said that Cllr. O'Connell is a gentleman – he is courteous and respectful and that he could leave the Council on his own terms with his head held high for his contribution over the past number of years.

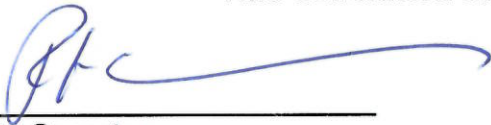
Cllr. J. Mythen noted that this was a sad day for Sinn Fein and that Oisín was a man of great intelligence and integrity and his decision to look after his family and business was a good one. He also advised that his replacement Marie Doyle would do the party proud.

The Cathaoirleach also mentioned the integrity of Cllr. O. O'Connell and that he was an honourable man and gained the trust of his colleagues on the Council.

The Chief Executive said he was very sorry to see Oisín step away from the job. He knew it was not an easy job to be a Councillor and he thanked him for his great contributions and his way of helping people during his time on the Council. He also presented his ideas in a very articulate way to the Council. He wished Cllr. O'Connell's family well and he also welcomed Maria Doyle to the Council.

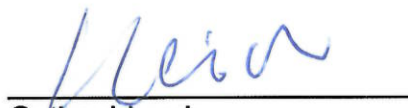
The Cathaoirleach then wished all the Members and Staff a Happy Christmas and thanked them for their support during the year.

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**



\_\_\_\_\_  
County Secretary

Daingithe ar an 14<sup>ú</sup> lá de Eanáir, 2018.



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Cathaoirleach