

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council
held on Monday 8 April 2019 – 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	K. Codd-Nolan
A. Connick	T. Dempsey	A. Donohoe,	M. Doyle
M. Farrell	W. Fitzharris	J. Fleming	T. Forde
J. Hegarty	D. Hynes	G. Lawlor	L. McDonald
Jim Moore	B.A .Murphy	M. Roche	M. Murphy
J. Mythen	L. O'Brien	F. Ó Súilleabháin	M. Sheehan
O. Walsh	J. Sullivan	J. O'Rourke	T. Walsh
R. Ireton	P. Kavanagh	M. Whelan	W. Kavanagh

Officials: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive
Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services;
Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Services;
Mr. T. Banville, A/Director of Services;
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance;
Mr. D. Minogue, Senior Executive Officer;
Mr. Pdraig O'Gorman, Senior Executive Officer.

Apologies: Councillors: F. Staples
Officials: Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services
Pat Collins, County Secretary

Votes of Sympathy

The Council extended its sympathy to the families of the following recently deceased:

- Ms. Anne Shannon, Kilmore
- Mr. Nick O'Brien, New Ross
- Se Pdraig Joyce, Clonroche
- David Haslacher, Enniscorthy
- Jason O'Leary, Wexford
- James Dobbs, Enniscorthy, father of Billy Dobbs, Fire Services
- Ms. Eileen Moore, mother of Caroline O'Mara, recently retired employee
- John O'Connor, father of Jason O'Connor, Fire Services

Vóta Comhghairdeas

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

- Wexford County Council – on the occasion of the 120th Anniversary of Local Government in Ireland
- Kilmuckridge Drama Group – All Ireland Finalist
- Kilrush Drama Group – All-Ireland Finalist
- County Wexford Special Olympics Team
- Martin Kehoe, Medal Winner – European Ploughing Championships
- Dan Donnelly, Medal Winner – European Ploughing Championships
- Lorna Fitzpatrick, Gorey, recently elected President, Union of Students of Ireland
- Members of Wexford County Council Executive, following their recent success, in cooperation with the IDA, in attracting GrandPad to set up it's European Headquarters in Gorey
- Hartecast (Liz and Jack Harte) Wexford Enterprise Business Award 2019
- Cllr. Malcolm Byrne, on being selected to contest the upcoming European Parliament Elections

Other

It was agreed that Wexford County Council will afford a Civic Reception to the following:

Wexford Special Olympics	in acknowledgement of their success at national and international level
County Wexford Women's Darts Team	in acknowledgement of their repeated success at National level
County Wexford Handball Team	in acknowledgement of their success at international level
Senior Hurling Referee James Owens and his accompanying Umpires	in acknowledgement of their contribution at All- Ireland level to the game of Hurling
Martin Kehoe / Dan Donnelly	in acknowledgement of their recent success at European Ploughing Championships

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 County Council Meeting - 11th March, 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Sheehan, seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh and agreed.

1.2 Special County Council Meeting - 11th March, 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Sheehan, seconded by Councillor P. Kavanagh and agreed.

1.3 Matters Arising:

On the proposal of Cllr. Forde, seconded by Cllr. Mythen, the Council agreed to write to Minister Simon Harris, requesting that he immediately abandon / reverse any plans to implement a ban on recruitment and overtime within the Health Service.

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

2.1 Proposed lease of a plot of land at Ashgrove, Fethard on Sea, Co. Wexford to Fethard Community Development Association

Proposed by Cllr. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. Doyle and agreed

2.2 Proposed disposal of property at Carricklawn, Wexford to Slaney Clinic Ltd, 23 Abbey Court, Georges Street, Wexford.

Proposed by Cllr. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. Doyle and agreed

2.3 Proposed lease of a plot of land to New Ross Search and Rescue CLG

Proposed by Cllr. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. Doyle and 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 LAC 1901- Proposed development involves the construction of a new link road traversing parts of the Town Lands of Beak and Ballyteige at Kilmore Quay, linking the R739 regional road and the L3056 local primary road, and thus reducing the volume of traffic through the centre of the village of Kilmore Quay.

Having considered the proposed development and the Chief Executive's Report in relation to same as circulated, the Members agreed that the development proceed as proposed.

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3.2 LAC 1902 – Proposed construction of a new Fire Station at Hewitsland, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the proposed development and the Chief Executive's Report in relation to same as circulated, the Members agreed that the development proceed as proposed.

4. Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.

Senior Housing Officer Pdraig O’Gorman delivered a PowerPoint presentation to the meeting, outlining the main provisions of the draft Programme.

- As at December 2018, 744 traveller families were resident in County Wexford
- Of those 744 families, 99 families have sought social housing support
- Of those 99 families, 95 families have indicated a preference for conventional social housing, while 4 families have requested accommodation within a Group Housing Scheme
- Wexford County Council proposes to meet its obligations over the lifetime of the Programme by accommodating 20 families per year

The Members welcomed the fact that Wexford County Council exceeded its accommodation targets as set out in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018,

During the debate, attention was drawn to the issue of anti-social behavior by some members of the travelling community, particularly in the areas of Drumgoold, Enniscorthy and Irishtown, New Ross. It was felt that the issue may be symptomatic of wider social difficulties within the Traveller community and in this context the Members agreed that the matter be referred to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee for further consideration.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ireton, seconded by Cllr. O’Rourke, the Members noted the draft Report.

The draft Report will now enter the statutory public consultation process, following which the Report and any submissions thereon will return to the Council for consideration and final adoption.

5. Road Works Programme 2019

Proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Breen and agreed

6. Draft County Wexford Tourism Strategy Project 2019-2023

A/Director of Services Tom Banville outlined a number of changes to the Draft County Wexford Tourism Strategy Project 2019-2023, since it’s presentation to the March 2019 monthly meeting of the Council.

The Members welcomed the proposed changes and suggested a number of further additions to the list of attractions as contained in the Strategy, including Vinegar Hill, the 9 Stones Cycling Route, the National 1798 Visitor Centre Enniscorthy.

Attention was also drawn to the county’s beautiful beaches with Morriscastle Beach in North Wexford described as particularly noteworthy.

On the proposal of Cllr. BA Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Byrne, the Members adopted the Strategy.

7. 2019 Annual Service Delivery Plan - Quarter 1 Update

Director of Services Eddie Taaffe presented the Report, which outlined the progress made by the Council in achieving the targets and objectives set out in the Plan.

The Director and Chief Executive responded to queries from the Members regarding progress in the delivery of a number of capital projects, including Advance Technology Building New Ross and Enterprise Centre New Ross

The Members noted that plans to build a new Ross Fire Station in New Ross are well advanced. It was noted that a cluster of prominent buildings in New Ross - including current Fire Station site - will become vacant shortly and the Council is to examine their potential for re-use.

At this juncture, Councillors M. Whelan and J. O'Rourke left the meeting

8. Local Election Update

D. Minogue SEO updated the Members in relation to arrangements for the 2019 Local Elections. He undertook to advise the Members by email in relation to the latest date for acceptance of applications for a postal vote

E. Taaffe DoS advised the Members that due to legislative provisions, applications for entry onto the Supplementary Register cannot be made in bulk.

Completed applications will be accepted individually at each of the Council's Municipal District Offices and can also be posted / delivered to County Hall Wexford.

At this juncture, Councillor Tony Walsh left the meeting

9. Minutes of Meeting of Corporate Policy Group – Monday 1 April, 2019

Proposed by Councillor Sheehan, seconded by Councilor Hegarty and agreed

10. Chief Executive's Report

The Members raised a number of issues which were responded to by the Chief Executive and Management Team – among these issues were the following:

- Gorey Town Park – tender costs
- Extension of Open Libraries project across the county's library network
- Public realm improvements in local authority estate locations
- Derelict buildings in the Rosslare Harbour area and opportunity to create a Village Centre Plan to revitalise the area
- New Ross Port
- Ballyminaun Water Treatment Plant
- Wexford Arts Centre
- County Development Plan review
- Site of former Wexford Garda Station

11. List of Councillors' Conferences and Training

11.1 Training:

- 11.1.1 21 March AILG Training Module 2 – Forecasting Services and Local Authorities – Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford – Fee €55.
- 11.1.2 12/14 April Training Seminar – Changing Trends & Approaches to Drug and Alcohol Abuse – Casey's Hotel, Baltimore, West Cork – Fee €145.
- 11.1.3 3/5 May Training Seminar – Health & Safety for your Council, The Workplace and Your Constituents – Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge, Carlow – Fee €145.

11.2 Conferences:

- 11.2.1 4/5 April Annual Planning Conference 2019 – Landmark Hotel, Leitrim – Fee €360.
- 11.2.2 10 April Cross Border Tourism Conference 2019 – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee €30.
- 11.2.3 12/14 April Ireland and Plastic Waste – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee €100.

11.3 Foreign Travel

The Members noted that the Mayor of Wexford and accompanying officials have been invited to attend the *Calvacade de Fleurus* on 21st and 22nd April 2019.

On the proposal of Cllr. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. Byrne, the Members approved all of the above events for attendance in accordance with S.142(5) of the Local Government Act 2001.

12. Minutes of Meetings

- 12.1 Borough District of Wexford 18.02.19
- 12.2 Gorey Municipal District 19.02.19
- 12.3 Enniscorthy Municipal District 18.02.19
- 12.4 New Ross Municipal District 13.02.19

Proposed by Councillor Sheehan, seconded by Councillor Mary Farrell and agreed

13. Sealing of Documents

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

14. Correspondence and Communications

- 14.1 Correspondence from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing regarding the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

Noted

- 14.2 Correspondence from Dr. Patricia Mulcahy, President, Institute of Technology Carlow

Cllr. Byrne absented himself from the meeting during discussion on this item

The Members expressed disappointment as Dr. Mulcahy's inability to attend a meeting of the Council on the dates offered.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. Kavanagh, the Members agreed to write to Dr. Mulcahy, inviting her to attend a meeting of the Council on a date of her choosing.

It was further agreed to invite Mr. John Moore, Chairman Carlow Institute of Technology Governing Body, to also attend.

- 14.3 Acknowledgement from the Minister for Health concerning solidarity and support to nurses and midwives

Noted

- 14.4 Acknowledgement from Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People regarding report of the Mental Health Sub-Committee

Noted

It being past the hour of 5.30pm, the Members considered suspending Standing Orders for a period of 30 minutes to allow a number of Notices of Motion to be considered.

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

15. Notices of Motion

15.1 Cllr. Malcolm Byrne:

“That Wexford County Council condemns the outrageous cost overruns of the planned National Children’s Hospital and calls for those responsible to be held to account.”

Proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Sheehan and agreed

15.2 Cllr. Michael Sheehan:

"That this Council supports our GPs campaign for better terms and conditions with the undoing of FEMPI legislation and to calls on the Minister for Health to engage with the stakeholders to ensure that practices remain open, new doctors are recruited to ensure that practices remain viable and that patients do not have to travel long distances for GP appointments".

Proposed by Cllr. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. Farrell and agreed

15.3 Cllr. Tom Forde:

"I propose that this Council write separately to RTE, Eurovision Song Contest Ireland and the Irish performers, calling on all participants not to play any part in the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest, due to be held in Israel, until Israel recognises equal rights for Palestinians and observers international law."

Proposed by Cllr. Forde, seconded by Cllr. Mythen and defeated, on a show of hands with 4 voting For the Motion and 7 voting Against

15.4 Cllr. David Hynes:

"That this Council considers in view of the many housing applicants, that the Council is not in a position to provide a social house for at present, would therefore develop a more direct link with letting agencies to find out what accommodations are available to rent within the HAP income guidelines and as far as possible which landlords will accept HAP. As many applicants are under severe pressure and are often stressed trying to find a suitable place to rent".

Deferred in the absence of Cllr. Hynes

15.5 Cllr. Michael Sheehan:

"That this Council calls on the Minister for Social protection to abandon the costly piecemeal practice to reviewing all those affected by the 2012 pension rules changes and to reinstate the old criteria of the pre-change State pension while developing a mechanism to backdate the full arrears to those pensioners affected"

Proposed by Cllr. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. BA Murphy and agreed

15.6 Cllr. Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin:

"This Council acknowledges the large number of homeowners in County Wexford who are currently experiencing mortgage distress. It welcomes the passing of the first stage of the 'No Consent, No Sale' legislation in Leinster House which prevents banks selling home mortgages to vulture funds without the consent of the borrower/home-owner. This council is calling on all

T.D.s to facilitate the speedy passage of the bill through the remaining legislative stages".

Proposed by Cllr. Ó Súilleabháin, seconded by Cllr. Roche

A Roll-Call vote ensured – the following are the results - with the Motion carried on a vote of 12 voting For the Motion and 7 voting Against

Councillor		For	Against	Absent	Abstain
BREEN	PIP			1	
BYRNE	MALCOLM		1		
CARTHY	GER	1			
CODD-NOLAN	KATHLEEN			1	
CONNICK	ANTHONY	1			
DEMPSEY	TONY			1	
DONOHUE	ANTHONY		1		
DOYLE	KEITH	1			
DOYLE	MARIE			1	
FARRELL	MARY	1			
FITZHARRIS	WILLIE		1		
FLEMING	JOHN		1		
FORDE	TOM	1			
HEGARTY	JOHN		1		
HYNES	DAVID			1	
IRETON	ROBERT	1			
KAVANAGH	PADDY				
KAVANAGH	WILLIE			1	
LAWLOR	GEORGE	1			
MCDONALD	LISA			1	
MOORE	JIM			1	
MURPHY	BARBARA-ANNE	1			
MURPHY	MARTIN			1	
MYTHEN	JOHNNY	1			
O'BRIEN	LARRY			1	
O'ROURKE	JOHN			1	
O'SUILLEABHAIN	FIONNTAIN	1			
ROCHE	MICK	1			
SHEEHAN	MICHAEL	1			
STAPLES	FRANK			1	
SULLIVAN	JOE		1	1	
WALSH	ANTHONY				
WALSH	OLIVER		1		
WHELAN	MICHAEL			1	
		12	7	14	0

15.7 Cllr. David Hynes:

“That this Council calls on the government to reverse the decision by revenue to impose VAT at 23% on Food supplements from health stores”.

Deferred in the absence of Cllr. Hynes

15.8 Cllr. John Fleming

“That Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Housing Planning and local Government Mr. Eoghan Murphy to allow pensioners who have resided in a County Council property for many years to purchase that property regardless of income under the tenant purchase scheme”.

Proposed by Cllr. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. Sheehan and agreed

15.9 Cllr. Malcolm Byrne

“Noting

- (i) the seriously damaging effects on health and the environment of the continued burning of smoky fuels;
- (ii) the motion carried by this Council in March, 2015 seeking to prohibit the burning of smoky coals in the County;
- (iii) the announcement in October, 2015 by then Minister, Alan Kelly, of the Government's intention to proceed with a nationwide ban;
- (iv) the further motion carried by this Council in March, 2017, expressing concern at the failure of Government to proceed with this ban and the continued failure since;
- (v) the call in that motion in March 2017 for the introduction of this ban within six months,
- (vi) the continued evidence of the damage caused by the burning of smoky fuels being provided by the Council's own assessments,

This Council now resolves,

- (vii) to introduce and enforce a Countywide ban on the sale and use of smoky fuels to take effect on 1st May, 2019.
- (viii) to provide an information campaign to consumers on the dangers of poor air quality and on this ban.

Proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Ireton and agreed

DoS John Carley pointed out that notwithstanding the passing of this Motion, it may not be possible to bring the Motion into effect as it would appear to be beyond the statutory remit of the Council to do so

It was agreed that the Council would seek legal advice on the matter and advise the Members of the resulting findings.

15.10 Cllr. David Hynes

“This Council calls on the relevant Minister or administrators of the HAP scheme to cover the 4 weeks rent in advance that some landlords are demanding from new tenants along with the deposit”.

Deferred in the absence of Cllr. Hynes

15.11 Cllr. Ger Carthy

“That Wexford County Council allow Wexford Fire Service participation in the Fire/co-responder Scheme with the National Ambulance Service (NAS)”.

Cllr. Carthy withdrew the Motion

15.12 Cllr. Johnny Mythen

“That this Council calls on the Minister of Transport, to double the fixed charge notice, where illegal parking in a disabled bay is detected and to consider using a penalty points system in such cases”.

Proposed by Cllr. Mythen, seconded by Cllr. Farrell and agreed

15.13 Cllr. Michael Sheehan

“That Wexford County Council calls for changes to the Housing Aid for Older People Grant to allow applications from people who ordinarily meet the criteria but who are also caring for a resident dependent or family member under the age of 66, who are in receipt of a long term disability payment or someone incapable of living alone requiring full time care of the applicant”.

Proposed by Cllr. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. Farrell and agreed

15.14 Cllr. Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin

"That this Council will do a review this Spring on the widespread felling of mature, healthy trees which is taking place across County Wexford. That we will seek to implement measures that will preserve this important part of our natural heritage and landscape".

Proposed by Cllr Ó Súilleabháin, seconded by Cllr. Roche.

Following debate, the Motion was agreed on the understanding that:

- (i) a widespread felling of mature, healthy trees by Wexford County Council was not taking place
- (ii) Any such review would be conducted on a Municipal District by Municipal District basis to allow for local needs to be ascertained and met

It being past the hour of 6pm, the Cathaoirleach closed the meeting, with the following Notices of Motion deferred to the next available meeting

15.15 Cllr. Malcolm Byrne

“That Wexford County Council amend our County Development Plan to permit the construction of log cabins or other structures for housing for a defined period and that the appropriate amendment and regulations be presented at the April meeting of the Council”.

15.16 Cllr. Michael Sheehan

“That Wexford County Council Housing section will review it’s transfer policy of current tenants and consider accepting transfer applications on the grounds of unresolved antisocial behavior as legitimate reasons for requesting a move”.

15.17 Cllr. Fionntán ÓSúilleabháin

"In the event of a no-deal Brexit, Wexford County Council will back the growing calls for an All-Ireland Border Poll, as enshrined under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement".

16.1 Cllrs: George Lawlor; Malcolm Byrne; John Hegarty

“That Wexford County Council, in view of the damage that spiraling insurance costs are causing to community groups, voluntary organisations, charities and small business, calls on the Government to accelerate its insurance reform programme. In particular, Wexford County Council calls on the Government to urgently recalibrate the Book of Quantum to reflect international norms, immediately establish a distinct Insurance Fraud Unit within an Garda Síochána and quantify the benefits to policyholders of the reforms currently being implemented.”

16.2 Cllr. Tony Dempsey

“Due to the loss of jobs and the probability of further job losses in the Leisure and Play-activity centres in Wexford, that representatives of Wexford Co Co and the Leisure/Play activity centres seek an immediate Meeting with Minister Darcy.

The purpose of this Meeting

1. To discuss with Minister Darcy the problems faced by the Leisure/Play activity industry resulting from cost of Insurance and unavailability of Insurance.

2. To ask Minister Darcy to arrange a Meeting with Minister Charles Flanagan with same reps to discuss their concerns re current legislation and impact of same on the Industry”.

16.3 Cllr. John Fleming

“That Wexford County Council calls on the minister for employment affairs and social protection not to link pensions to an inflation index . A lot of County Wexford pensioners who receive the state pension struggle at or below the poverty line and these measures if introduced would lock these pensioners in to poverty”.

16.4 Cllr. John Fleming

“That Wexford County Council:

- calls on the Minister to amend current legislation in order to increase the minimum litter fine to €500
- brings in a “name and shame” policy in relation to detected litter offences”.

16.5 Cllr. Pip Breen

“That Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Health Simon Harris and the HSE to fast track the provision of a second cat lab for Waterford University Hospital and stop using outdated figures and discredited reports to deprive the people of Southeastern region of this badly needed second cat lab”.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

County Secretary

Daingithe ar an lá de , 2019.

Cathaoirleach