

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 9th January, 2023
in the Council Chamber at 2.30pm (with some remote attendance via Microsoft Teams)****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. George Lawlor, Cathaoirleach**Councillors:**

BARDEN	PAT (Remote)	DONOHUE	ANTHONY	MOORE	JIM
BELL	MAURA (Remote)	FARRELL	MARY	MURPHY	BRIDÍN
BOLGER	ANDREW	FLEMING	JOHN	O'ROURKE	JOHN
BREEN	PIP (Remote)	FORDE	TOM	Ó'SÚILLEABHÁIN	FIONNTÁN
BROWNE	AIDAN	HEGARTY	JOHN	OWENS	JACKSER
BYRNE	CATHAL	HYNES	DAVID	SHEEHAN	MICHAEL
CARTHY	GER	KAVANAGH	WILLIE	STAPLES	FRANK (Remote)
CODD	JIM	KELLY	LEONARD	SULLIVAN	JOE
CODD-NOLAN	KATHLEEN	KENNY	DONAL	WALSH	OLIVER
CONNICK	ANTHONY	LAFFAN	GARY	WHELAN	MICHAEL
DEVEREUX	DIARMUID (Remote)	MCDONALD	LISA		

Officials:

Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive
 Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services
 Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance
 Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services
 Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services
 Ms. Sinead Casey, A/Director of Services
 Ms. Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services
 Mr. Michael Drea, County Secretary (Remote)
 Ms. Susan Doran, Administrative Officer Corporate

Apologies:

Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting by wishing all present a happy and healthy 2023. He welcomed Ms. Sinead Casey in her new role as A/Director of Services.

Votes of Sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Catherine Quirke, mother of Tony Quirke, former Engineer with Wexford County Council.
- The family of Michael Jones, Executive Engineer, Special Projects.
- The family of Oliver Fingleton, father of Helena Browne, Chief Technician, Water Services.
- The family of Billy Myers former Revenue Collector with New Ross Town Council and Wexford County Council.
- The family of Denis (Dessie) O'Rourke father of Alan O'Rourke, IT and Paul O'Rourke, Credit Control.
- The family of Marie Kennedy, mother of Brian Kennedy, Housing Section.
- The family of Darren Murphy, Water Services Inspector, Gorey District.
- The family of Mark Fitzhenry, former employee Machinery Yard, Wexford County Council.
- The family of Bernadette Kavanagh, mother of Geraldine Kavanagh, Gorey Area Office.

Cllr. D. Kenny offered condolences to Dan Walsh on the passing of his mother Kitty, sentiment shared by all present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 County Council Meeting 12th December, 2022

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. A. Connick, the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the County Council Meeting on 12th December, 2022.

2.1.1 Matters Arising

Cllr. G. Carthy advised that there is a chronic shortage of bed capacity, resulting in serious delays in Wexford General Hospital. He called on the Wexford Members of the Regional Health Forum to seek an emergency open floor meeting of the Regional Health Forum to discuss the issues. Cllr. G. Carthy proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Finance requesting that he use the emergency legislative provisions introduced for Covid to provide emergency funding for the provision of 96 additional beds, and to consult the Attorney General in relation to same. This was seconded by Cllr. J. Owens.

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

2.1 LAC2211 - Public realm space and utilise heritage building for multi-purpose use at Brennan's Lane and The Shambles, Mary Street, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the public realm space and utilise heritage building for multi-purpose use at Brennan's Lane and The Shambles, Mary Street, New Ross in accordance with the terms of LAC2211, as circulated.

3. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:

3.1 Intention to dispose of a portion of a former public road which now serves Clearstream Technologies, Enniscorthy, to Clearstream Technologies Ltd, Moyne Upper, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. K.C. Nolan, the Council resolved to approve the disposal of a portion of a former public road which now serves Clearstream Technologies, Enniscorthy, to Clearstream Technologies Ltd, Moyne Upper, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of the Section 183, as circulated.

4. Delegation to Travel to New York for St. Patrick's Day

Mr. E. Hore advised that it is proposed to send a delegation of two Members and one official to New York to participate in various engagements for St. Patrick's Day, on foot of an invitation from the New York County Wexford Association.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly, the Council resolved to approve the New York delegation.

5. Invitation to New Ross Municipal District for Delegation to Travel to Hartford

Cllr. M. Sheehan, Chair of New Ross Municipal District advised that it is proposed to send a delegation of two Members and two officials to Hartford, Connecticut in light of the strong bond of the sister city relationship between Hartford and New Ross. The delegation will participate in various engagements for St. Patrick's Day, on foot of an invitation from the Central Connecticut Celtic Cultural Committee.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming, the Council resolved to approve the Hartford delegation.

Cllr. C. Byrne requested that for all future proposed trips abroad, details of the number of people travelling and the length of stay should be provided to the Members. This was agreed by the Executive.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive and members of the Management Team responded to a wide range of queries from the Elected Members regarding the following:

- Water issues and outages in Gorey.
- Potential need for greater resourcing of the Dog Warden Service.
- Timeline for completion of lighting in Gorey Town Park.

- Update on measures to address safety concerns as a result of flooding at the Ahare bridge.
- Update in relation to odour issues at Ballyminaun, Gorey.
- Update in relation to property which has been confirmed as having a mica/pyrite problem.
- Update regarding Irish Water announcement of €12m upgrade for Newtown Road treatment plant.
- Potential for defibrillators outside all Council public offices.
- Timeline for plan on South Main St. upgrade to be brought to the Members.
- Has Wexford County Council engaged with the Church regarding potential emergency accommodation?
- Timeframe for taking in charge of estate in Enniscorthy.
- Update in relation to the Sports Hub in Enniscorthy.
- Planning permission being granted for upgrade of water works in Enniscorthy was welcomed.
- Possibility of street lighting being provided from Ferns village to Ferns GAA Club.
- Which local authority estates will be upgraded in 2023?
- Current status of Murphy Floods purchase.
- Residential Zoned Land Tax implications for someone who is in process of applying for planning. Will they be exempt?
- Update on Enniscorthy Flood Scheme?
- Timeline for works on Murphy Floods site once purchased.
- Timeline for repair works to bridge at Wilton.
- Emergency accommodation available in Enniscorthy?
- Possibility of street lighting from Drumgoold to Castlegardens.
- Timeline for review of speed limits outside schools.
- Will CBL have an impact on the type of property an applicant qualifies for?
- Has Respond reverted in relation to vacant units in Irishtown, New Ross.
- Update in relation to additional funding for repair of 7 streets in New Ross.
- Status of potential new hotel site for New Ross and status of John St. Enterprise Centre in New Ross.
- Commencement date for Local Area Plan for New Ross.

Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael Whelan took the Chair as Cathaoirleach Cllr. George Lawlor excused himself from the meeting momentarily.

In relation to the queries raised regarding the newly adopted Housing Allocation Scheme, Ms. C. Godkin, Director of Services committed to review the allocation scheme having regard to the concerns raised. The scheme will be discussed at the next Housing SPC.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. George Lawlor resumed the Chair.

- Concerns raised in relation to signage at Ballygillane Roundabout.
- Possibility of purchasing land in Kilrane for social and/or affordable housing.
- Proposed site visit to Carne beach to view impact of erosion and possible mitigation measures.
- Update on wastewater capacity for Rosslare Strand.
- Need for cleaning and maintenance programme for Wexford streets.
- Congratulations for running Ukranian Christmas event.

- Timeline for availability of KPMG report in relation to affordable housing.
- Necessity for affordable housing to be able to cater for local need rather than a 70/30 split.
- Delays in relation to repairs to public lighting.
- Energy retrofit programme and selection criteria.
- Pre-planning meeting delays.

Cllr. G. Carthy and Cllr. J. O'Rourke left the meeting at this point.

The meeting adjourned for a comfort break and at this point.

Cllr. J. Hegarty left the meeting at this point.

- Timeframe for credentials for CBL to issue to housing applicants and communication plan.
- Request for list of local authority properties due to be retrofitted and window and door replacements, to be circulated.
- Possibility of Wexford County Council purchasing the old Garda station for emergency accommodation.
- Derelict properties at Hill St. and Davitt Road and timeline for works once notice is served.
- Status of Respond housing project in Taghmon.
- Update on possible assistance for people in Clongeen/Foulksmills.
- Request for safety improvement works at the junction of Taghmon and Barntown roads.
- Road repairs on secondary and tertiary roads.
- Number of prosecutions for littering.

7. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting):

- 7.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 9th November, 2022**
- 7.2 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 16th November, 2022**
- 7.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 21st November, 2022**
- 7.4 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 15th November, 2022**
- 7.5 Protocol Committee Meeting 11th April, 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes, the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the above meetings.

8. Correspondence and Communications

- 8.1 Letter from Limerick County Council re: motion bus shelters dated 2nd December, 2022**
- 8.2 Letter from Kerry County Council re: motion Ukrainian Refugees dated 14th October, 2022**
- 8.3 Letters from Cork County Council re 3 motions dated 12th December, 2022**
- 8.4 Email from Niamh Redmond Private Secretary, Minister O'Brien Office re evictions dated 20th December, 2022**

The Members noted the above correspondence.

Cllr. L. Kelly expressed his support for the motion outlined in 8.1 and all Members agreed.

9. Councillor's Conferences and Training

8.1 List of Conferences/Training – List Attached

On the proposal of Cllr. O. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan, the Council approved attendance for the following conference:

- Association of Irish Regions Conference in Monaghan Town – 7th to 9th February, 2023

10. Any Other Business

Cllr. G. Laffan congratulated Derek Kent on his election as Chairman of the GAA Leinster Council.

Cllr. M. Sheehan proposed that Wexford County Council write to Caredoc requesting them to meet to discuss issues which arose over Christmas, this was seconded by Cllr. J. Owens and agreed by all.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUISNESS OF THE MEETING

Daingithe ar an lá de Feabhra, 2023.

Cllr. George Lawlor
Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,
County Secretary