

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 12th December, 2022
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	FARRELL	MARY (Remote)	MURPHY	BRIDIN
BELL	MAURA	FLEMING	JOHN	O’ROURKE	JOHN
BOLGER	ANDREW	FORDE	TOM	Ó’SÚILLEABHÁIN	FIONNTÁN
BREEN	PIP	HEGARTY	JOHN	SULLIVAN	JOE
BROWNE	AIDAN	HYNES	DAVID	WALSH	OLIVER
BYRNE	CATHAL	KELLY	LEONARD	WHELAN	MICHAEL
CARTHY	GER	KENNY	DONAL		
CODD	JIM	LAFFAN	GARRY		
CODD-NOLAN	KATHLEEN	MCDONALD	LISA		
CONNICK	ANTHONY	MOORE	JIM		
DEVEREUX	DIARMUID	MURPHY	BARBARA ANNE		

Officials:

Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive
 Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services
 Ms. Annette O’Neill, Head of Finance
 Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services
 Mr. Sean Meyler, A/Director of Services
 Ms. Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services
 Mr. Paul L’Estrange, A/Director of Services
 Mr. Michael Drea, County Secretary

Apologies:

Cllr. Willie Kavanagh, Cllr. Michael Sheehan, Cllr. Frank Staples and Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the 3rd year CSPE class from Enniscorthy Community College who were attending the meeting with their teachers Jessica Doyle and Conor Dempsey.

Votes of Sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to the family of Nuala Kehoe, sister of Martin Murray, General Operative, Water Services and the family of Aidan Moran, father of Aishling Doyle, Credit Control, brother of Caitriona O’Sullivan, Arts Section and brother-in-law of Mary Moran, Water Services.

The Cathaoirleach remembered former employee Billy Kinsella who sadly passed away in tragic circumstances in February and he paid respect to Billy’s wife Rita and son Conor.

Votes of Congratulations:

Cllr. M. Whelan congratulated St. Mogue’s Fethard on winning the AIB Leinster GAA Intermediate Club Football Final and Horeswood on winning the AIB Leinster GAA Junior Club Hurling Final.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

- 1.1 County Council Meeting 14th November, 2022**
- 1.2 Special County Council Meeting (Housing) 14th November 2022**
- 1.3 Statutory Budget Meeting 28th November, 2022**
- 1.4 Special County Council Meeting (Housing) 5th December, 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. A. Connick, the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the County Council Meeting on 14th November, 2022, the Special County Council Meeting (Housing) on 14th November 2022, the Statutory Budget Meeting on 28th November, 2022 and the Special County Council Meeting (Housing) on 5th December, 2022.

2.1.1 Matters Arising

Cllr. G. Carthy sought an update in relation to rail connectivity for Rosslare. Ms. L. Hore advised that there is an all-island strategic rail review ongoing at present. Ms. L. Hore indicated that the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC has written to the Minister seeking an update.

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

2.1 LAC2210 - Install a replacement stairs to access the cliff top walk at Arthurstown Pier

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the installation of a

replacement stairs to access the cliff top walk at Arthurstown Pier in accordance with the terms of LAC2210, as circulated.

3. Savannah Delegation 2023

Ms. L. Hore outlined the reasons why the CPG recommended sending a strong delegation headed by the Cathaoirleach and the Chair of each Municipal District to Savannah in 2023 and sought the approval of the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan, the Council resolved to approve the Savannah delegation.

4. 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:

- Refusal of planning permission to convert two creches into residential units in Cluain Dara.
- Timeline for presentation of proposed works on Esmonde St. to locals.
- Pre-planning meeting delays and proposals to address same.
- Planning for upgrade works to water supply intake and rising main in Enniscorthy.
- Update on services for Rosslare and pumping of sewerage from Tagoat to Rosslare.
- Use of single stage process for housing developments.
- Update on two properties which are derelict in Churchview, Clongeen.
- Timeline for development of units in Tagoat.
- Does the Council have adequate salt, and sandbag supplies?
- Update in relation to funding for those affected by wind event in Clongeen and Foulksmills.
- Has the Council sufficient funds for road repairs?
- Update in relation to 6 derelict buildings in Taghmon.
- Timeline for action on 2 derelict sites in Wexford – Davitt Road and Hill St.
- Progress with pledged properties for displaced Ukrainians.
- Implication of Residential Zoned Land Tax.
- Did Wexford County Council carry out an assessment of cost of works in Clongeen & Foulksmills?
- When will Town Regeneration Officer role be filled and when will consequent vacancy in New Ross MD be filled?
- Contingency plan for rough sleepers.
- Safe route to school's programme – why no urban school?
- Is it possible to get better engagement with the ESB?
- Plan for planting 1,000,000 trees in Wexford and creating greater visibility.
- Request for presentation on implications for Wexford town if Fleadh is awarded.
- How do we deal with creeping dereliction and encourage businesses to upgrade?
- Process for getting planning permission for car parking and merits of use of town centre land for parking.
- Is there sufficient administrative support for preplanning meetings?
- Timeframe for Wexford LAP.
- Update on engagement process in relation to providing education for displaced Ukrainians.

- Update on N25 Rosslare Europort Road.
- Timeline for tendering Lot 4 of the Southeast greenway.

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

- Does the Council complete an entire estate under the Energy Retrofit Programme?
- Complaint of on-going water pressure issues in Bunclody.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. George Lawlor resumed the Chair.

- Update on lighting of pedestrian crossing at supermarket in Ferndale.
- Timeframe for construction of Trinity Wharf.
- The possibility of using housing stock for emergency accommodation.
- Request that Loci plan be made available to Enniscorthy MD Members prior to meeting to discuss plan next week.
- Timeframe for development of St. Joseph's site in Gorey.
- Number of on-the-spot fines issued under the Control of Dogs Act and number of prosecutions?
- Request to enhance the Dog Warden service.
- Request for campaign re: byelaws and Control of Dogs Act.

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

Cllr.'s G. Carthy, D. Devereux, L. McDonald, & J. O'Rourke left the meeting at this point.

5. Minutes of CPG

5.1 Minutes of CPG Meeting 5th December, 2022

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen, the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the CPG of 5th December, 2022.

6. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting):

- 6.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 19th October, 2022**
- 6.2 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 19th October, 2022**
- 6.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting– 17th October, 2022**
- 6.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 17th October, 2022**
- 6.5 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 18th October, 2022**
- 6.6 Economic Development & Enterprise SPC Meeting – 22nd September, 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. K. Codd-Nolan, the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the above meetings.

7. Correspondence and Communications

- 7.1 Letter from Wicklow County Council re: motion dated 8th November, 2022.**
- 7.2 Letters from Sligo County Council re: 3 motions dated 11th November, 2022.**
- 7.3 Letter from Monaghan County Council re: motion solar panels dated 9th November, 2022.**
- 7.4 Letter from Monaghan County Council re: motion concrete/block levy dated 9th November, 2022.**
- 7.5 Email from Niamh Redmond, Private Secretary, Minister O'Brien's office re: motion dated 17th November, 2022**
- 7.6 Letter from Mayo County Council refund for TIC Housing Estates dated 29th November, 2022**

The Members noted the above correspondence.

In relation to the response received from Minister O'Brien's Office (7.5 above), Cllr. T. Forde expressed his dissatisfaction that there is no room for discretion when assessing income over a 52-week period for social housing eligibility. Cllr. T. Forde is supportive of Cllr. M. Sheehan's previous motion which sought "to permit Local Authorities the ability to disregard the Annual Average (52 Week) Income rule to accept applications for Social supports in cases that present evidence of exceptional incidents of hardship and/or extenuating medical conditions". Cllr. T. Forde proposed that Wexford County Council write to the Minister expressing dissatisfaction with the current assessment process and this proposal was seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

8. Councillor's Conferences and Training

8.1 List of Conferences/Training – List Attached

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny, the Council approved for attendance the list of conferences and training events, as circulated.

8.2 Councillor's Conference Report:

Conference Report - Cllr. Mary Farrell "Women's Caucus Pathways to Participation" - 22nd November, 2022

The Members noted the report above, as circulated.

9. Notices of Motion

9.1 Cllr. J. Moore

"Wexford County Council formally invites the Russian Ambassador and his officials to Wexford County Council including Rosslare Europort to see the effects of Russia's current policies and actions on the community of Wexford and Ukraine."

Response of the Executive:

If passed an invitation will be extended to the Russian Ambassador.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Moore and seconded by Cllr. F. Ó'Súilleabháin.

Cllr. J. Moore spoke in favour of his motion highlighting that Ireland has led the way in peacekeeping and the intention of the invite is to highlight the impact on those who had to flee Ukraine. Cllr.'s T. Forde, D. Hynes and F. Ó'Súilleabháin spoke in favour of the motion.

Whilst acknowledging the well-intended spirit of the motion, Cllr.'s L. Kelly, M. Whelan, P. Breen, J. Codd, B.A. Murphy and G. Lawlor spoke against the motion.

The Cathaoirleach advised that there would be a roll call vote at Cllr. L. Kelly's request. The outcome was the motion fell with 5 in favour and 20 against. The voting was as follows:

BARDEN PAT	A	FORDE TOM	F	SULLIVAN JOE	A
BELL MAURA	A	HEGARTY JOHN	A	WALSH OLIVER	A
BOLGER ANDREW	A	HYNES DAVID	F	WHELAN MICHAEL	A
BREEN PIP	A	KELLY LEONARD	A		
BROWNE AIDAN	A	KENNY DONAL	A		
BYRNE CATHAL	A	LAFFAN GARRY	A		
CODD JIM	A	LAWLOR GEORGE	A		
CODD-NOLAN KATHLEEN	F	MOORE JIM	F		
CONNICK ANTHONY	A	MURPHY BARBARA ANNE	A		
FARRELL MARY	A	MURPHY BRIDIN	A		
FLEMING JOHN	A	Ó'SÚILLEABHÁIN FIONNTÁN	F		

9.2 Cllr. M. Sheehan

“That this Council reaffirms our support for the Greyhound industry locally and welcomes the continued funding from the Government to uphold and maintain the standards, employment and recognises the economic benefit and return on investment. Furthermore, we call on our Oireachtas members to support the Industry and notes the opposition by three of them to ensure the passage of funding and jeopardising the future of the sport.”

Response of the Executive:

If passed, this motion will be forwarded to the Wexford Oireachtas Members for consideration.

This motion fell as the proposer wasn't present to move the motion.

10. Any Other Business

Cllr. K. Codd-Nolan asked the Cathaoirleach why he wasn't proceeding with the Chairman's Christmas Dinner. Cllr. G. Lawlor advised that he felt it had run its course and each Municipal District was having their own lunch.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUISNESS OF THE MEETING

Daingithe ar an lá de Eanáir, 2023.

Cllr. George Lawlor
Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,
County Secretary