

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council
held on Monday 9th July, 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;	K. Codd-Nolan;
A. Connick;	T. Dempsey;	A. Donohoe;	M. Farrell;
T. Forde;	W. Fitzharris;	J. Fleming;	J. Hegarty;
D. Hynes;	R. Ireton;	P. Kavanagh;	W. Kavanagh;
J. Moore;	B.A. Murphy;	M. Murphy;	J. Mythen;
L. McDonald;	L. O'Brien;	F. Ó Súilleabháin;	M. Roche;
M. Sheehan;	J. O'Rourke;	J. Sullivan;	O. Walsh;
T. Walsh;	M. Whelan.		

Officials: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive;
Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services;
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services;
Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Services;
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance;
Mr. T. Banville, A/Director of Services;
Mr. G. Forde, Senior Engineer, Environment Department;
Mr. P. Collins, County Secretary.

Apologies: Councillors G. Lawlor; O. O'Connell; F. Staples.
Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services

At the outset the Cathaoirleach welcomed Members of Ógra Fianna Fail who were attending the meeting. He also welcomed the previous County Council Cathaoirligh who were attending for a presentation and Kevin Sharkey who is seeking a Presidential nomination.

1. Presentation to honour former Cathaoirligh of Wexford County Council

Following on from the recent presentations to previous Chairpersons of Wexford County Council a number of presentations were made to former Chairpersons or their family who were unable to attend the first event. The presentations were made by Cllr. K. Doyle, Cathaoirleach, to the following:

- EP Foley (John Foley and Ken Foley - Grandsons)
- JJ O'Byrne (John O'Byrne - Great Grandson)
- Michael Doyle (Joe Funge - Grandson)
- Michael Kinsella
- Peter Byrne
- Hugh Byrne

2. Kevin Sharkey will attend the meeting regarding Presidential nomination

Mr. Kevin Sharkey addressed the Council with regard to his bid for a nomination for the upcoming presidential election. He set out his background in Donegal and growing up with adopted parents in Ireland. He set out his own characteristics and various areas that he had been involved in over his lifetime including his experience in growing up in care in Ireland. He also outlined a number of areas which he had a particular interest including immigration and the loss of identity of Irish people, his love of Irishness and Irish culture.

Mr. Sharkey responded to questions raised by members of the Council following his presentation. A number of Members commended his bravery in standing for the election and wished him well.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Sharkey for his presentation and wished him well in his bid to obtain a nomination for the presidency. It was agreed that the Presidential Election nomination would be put on the September 2018 agenda.

3. Confirmation of Minutes:

3.1 County Council Meeting – 11th June, 2018.

3.2 Annual Meeting of Wexford County Council – 18th June, 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr. B. A. Murphy seconded by Cllr. M. Byrne and agreed by all the Council approved the minutes of the meeting as outlined above.

Votes of Sympathy:

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

- The family of Peg Dempsey mother of Cllr. Mary Farrell
- The family of Katie Moran - mother of Catriona O'Sullivan, Credit Control, granny of Aishling Doyle, Personnel and mother-in-law of Mary Moran, Internal Audit.
- The family of Dymphna Doyle – sister of Eric Lawlor, GP
- The family of *Margaret (Peggy) Doyle* – mother of Bernie Doyle, Housing Department.
- The family of Tony Hayden, Glynn

Vóta Comhghairdeas:

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

- The organisers and those involved in the recent Pipe Band Competition in New Ross
- The organisers and those involved in the Fitness Festival in New Ross
- The Chieftain of the Day Event
- Limerick County Council for granting the Freedom of Limerick to the McCabe family to mark the 22nd anniversary of the shooting of Garda McCabe in Limerick.
- All County Teams who took part in the recent Feile

- The rescue services in Duncannon who rescued a number of people who got into difficulty while swimming
- Wexford Hurling Team for their recent win over Westmeath

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

4.1 Proposed disposal of site at Esmonde Road, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

4.2 Proposed disposal of site at St. Aidans Crescent, Wexford.

4.3 Proposed transfer of land at Ballynagee, Wexford.

The Chief Executive clarified a number of issues raised by Councillors with regard to the Section 183's.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. J. Mythen, the proposed disposals, as submitted to the meeting, were approved.

5. NOAC Performance Indicator Report 2016 – Analysis Report

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the report was approved by the Members.

Cllr. M. Byrne asked that the quality of responses to Councillors in the Members Query System be reviewed in 2018 as part of Performance Indicators.

Cllr. J. Mythen asked that the figures for homeless people include children.

6. WCC Waste Presentation Draft Bye-Laws

Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services, had previously circulated a copy of the "Waste Presentation Bye-Laws" to the Members. The document set out the main points of the draft bye-laws which are being introduced to give more powers to the County Council to deal with issues of illegal dumping and to encourage the correct segregation of waste.

A debate ensued on the issue of illegal dumping and littering throughout the county to which many of the Members contributed. Among the issues raised were the following:

- the enforcement and the speed of cases brought to court,
- increasing the fine for fly tipping,
- the responsibility for disposal of refuse,
- the data protection issues regarding the issuing of names and addresses of persons who have been involved in littering and fly tipping,
- the low levels of fines handed out for litter pollution,
- group collection schemes within housing estates,
- the use of mobile CCTV to combat illegal dumping,
- the compliance of all waste collectors with regard to the 3 bin service,
- cleaning of sheds and dumping,
- the operation of the rapid response unit,
- the doubling of resources on the ground,
- adding the price of the bin to the rent for Local Authority tenants,
- the closure of the Council's landfill has led to dumping in rural areas,

- good work being done by community groups to reduce littering,
- the number of court cases pending and the slowness of the process.
- the need for legislation to cover the data protection issues and the naming and shaming of offenders,
- the increase of fines and the extra finance from national funds to deal with illegal dumping and littering,
- incentivise the general public to take photos and supply names and addresses of those engaged in fly tipping,
- treble fines for fly tipping,
- queries regarding the number of fines issued by Wexford County Council for littering and fly tipping last year,
- bins overflowing in the towns,
- need for pooper scoopers at beaches,
- privatisation of the refuse service,
- increasing property tax to cover the cost of cleaning the county,
- the closing of laneways to address the issue of illegal dumping,
- 1500 clean ups carried out by WCC last year.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Draft Wexford County Council (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws 2018 were approved by the Members on the proposal of Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. P. Breen and agreed by all. The Draft Bye-Laws will now be the subject of a period of public consultation during which time members of the public and interested parties may make submissions to Wexford County Council concerning the draft bye-laws.

7. Annual Service Delivery Plan 2018 Quarter 2

Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Services, advised that the quarterly Annual Service Delivery Plan sets out the progress on a wide range of projects/objectives by departments of WCC - the results for Quarter 2 are shown on the document circulated to the Members. He advised that due to the large number of items in the plan that if Members had particular questions that they could email his office and that they would be dealt with.

The Members noted the Quarter 2 results.

8. OPW Flood Risk Management Plan

Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services, advised that the Plan contained details of funding allocated to towns in County Wexford, including an allocation of €9m for Wexford Town, and an extra €1.5m for New Ross. The Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme is included in the Plan.

On the proposal of Cllr. L. O'Brien seconded by Cllr. A. Donohoe the Plan was adopted by Wexford County Council.

9. Consideration of PPN Nominees to the LCDC

In a letter to members, which had previously been circulated, Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services, recommended a number of nominees to the LCDC for the Members consideration.

Cllr. K. Codd Nolan in her role as the Chair of the LCDC thanked the outgoing community members for their hard work over a number of years.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy seconded by Cllr. T. Dempsey the recommended nominees were approved.

10. Draft LCDC Annual Report 2017 for consideration and approval

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Rourke seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming the Draft LCDC Annual Report 2017 was approved by the Members.

11. Report of Corporate Policy Group

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Rourke seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell the Report of Corporate Policy Group of 2nd July, 2018 was approved by the meeting.

12. 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 inclusion of the boundary revisions for County Wexford and the administrative concerns arising from the new Districts to be dealt with at the September 2018 County Council Meeting as an agenda item
- On the proposal of Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. P. Kavanagh it was agreed that while the Council accepts the Boundary Commission recommendations the Council should write to Minister JP Phelan regarding their concerns as Members in relation to the boundary extension were ignored.
- Fire problems arising from the dry weather
- Meeting with Ministers
- The need for clearer maps of the new electoral area
- Targets for WCC with regard to solar farms
- Meeting 3rd Housing Summit with Minister Murphy
- The Council's housing programme
- Camper vans blocking coastal views in scenic places in County Wexford.

Cllr. J. Fleming left the meeting at 4.35 p.m.

- Congratulations to the Fire Staff for their training in regard to community resilience and fire safety in Kilmuckridge
- Water shortages and clarity from Irish Water regarding the water services on the ground in the current dry spell
- The urban regeneration programme
- Jet skis problem in Courtown

Cllr. M. Whelan left the meeting at 4.50 p.m.

- Prioritisation by Irish Water of the provision of water to old persons homes and hospitals

13. List of Councillors' Conferences and Training

The list of Councillors' Conferences and Training were proposed by Cllr. L. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. W. Fitzharris.

- Report on 3 day delegation visit to Savannah in May 2018 – this was noted by the meeting
- Approval to attend 5th Open Government Partnership Global Summit from July 17-19 in Tbilisi, Georgia – this was approved by the meeting
- Consideration for deputation from Gorey Municipal District to attend Gmina Puck, Poland – this was approved by the Members

14. Minutes of Meetings:

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. A. Connick, and agreed by all the Members present, the following minutes were noted and approved:

- 14.1 Gorey Municipal District Meeting 15.05.18
- 14.2 New Ross Municipal District Meeting 09.05.18
- 14.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting 21.05.18
- 14.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting 21.05.18

15. Sealing of Documents

The Sealing of Documents as submitted to the meeting was proposed by Cllr. L. O'Brien seconded by Cllr. K. Codd Nolan.

16. Correspondence and Communications

The County Secretary advised that the Council had received a letter from the Special Olympics seeking a Civic Reception to celebrate their success at the recent Special Olympics. This was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. T. Walsh seconded by Cllr. M. Byrne.

The County Secretary advised that the Hungarian Ambassador will be visiting Wexford on Monday 16th July 2018 and it was agreed that he would be afforded a civic reception.

17. Deferred Notice of Motion:

17.1 Cllr. Tom Forde

"I call on this Council to write to Minister of State for Defence, Paul Kehoe, to express disappointment and frustration regarding the purchase and upgrade of UVA's (drones) from an Israeli company. And to request that the Department stop purchasing these weapons systems and all forms of military equipment from Israeli companies as they are live tested on civilians by a state that has killed many unarmed protesters, including children, journalists and doctors".

Cllr. Forde advised that he wished the wording to remain as he had originally proposed - the motion was then passed following a vote.

18. Notices of Motion:

18.1 Cllr. Tom Forde

"In light of the recent resignations of psychiatrists, amid claims that their positions are untenable and unsafe, and claims that Wexford may be left without psychiatric services for children, this Council requests an emergency cross party meeting with the HSE to discuss this as a matter of urgency as well as the future of mental health services in the South East"

Proposed by Cllr. T. Forde seconded by Cllr. J. Mythen. A wide ranging discussion took place on mental health issues in County Wexford. Following the discussion the motion was passed; it was also agreed that Chris Walsh be asked to meet with the Council and also that a meeting take place with Aileen McCauley. The following members of the Council were nominated to a cross party group to meet with the Minister – The Cathaoirleach Cllr. K. Doyle, Councillors W. Kavanagh, W. Fitzharris, G. Carthy, T. Walsh, D. Hynes, J. Mythen and R. Ireton.

18.2 Cllr. Malcolm Byrne

"Noting the planned national growth in population over the next two decades and the increasingly competitive global economy as well as existing challenges in housing, health, transport, education and other areas, Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Finance, in October's Budget, to use any additional available resources to the State to invest in infrastructure that will meet current challenges as well as future opportunities."

Proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. T. Dempsey and agreed by all.

18.3 Cllr. John Fleming, Chair of Housing, Community & Environment SPC

"That this Council call on the Minister to review the loan to value ratio of 90% under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan, for construction loans where the applicant(s) owns their own unencumbered site. This Council believes, such applicants should be considered for a maximum of 100% of the construction costs subject to meeting the affordability and eligibility criteria, as the site would represent a minimum of 10% equity".

This motion was deferred as Cllr. Fleming was not in attendance.

18.4 Cllr. Jim Moore

"Wexford County Council submits the names of the two elected members of the Council for inclusion in the Governments National Commemoration ceremony later in 2018.

Cllr Thomas L Esmonde, Enniscorthy was duly elected to WCC in 1911 and also served as Chairman of Wexford Committee of Agriculture.

Also Cllr John S Hearn, member of New Ross Urban Council and duly elected to WCC in 1908. Both men perished when the Royal Mail steamer "Leinster" sank on October 10th 1918 with the loss of over 500 lives"

Proposed by Cllr. J. Moore seconded by Cllr. P. Kavanagh and agreed by all.

18.5 Cllr. Malcolm Byrne

"Wexford County Council calls for first aid training to be provided as part of the driving test process".

Proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. W. Kavanagh. Following the approval of the motion it was agreed to write to the Department of Transport asking that the cost not be passed onto the applicant.

18.6 Cllr. Fionntán ÓSúilleabháin:

"Wexford County Council notes the lack of funding for the maintenance and re-construction of much of our rural road network. It further notes this year's NOAC report which highlighted the need for such re-construction. As we contribute a higher than average percentage of our own funding towards roads works this council calls on the Department of Local Government to allow local authorities such as ours to keep a higher percentage of our road tax income towards such works. (We further ask for this motion to be circulated to all local authorities)

Proposed by Cllr. F. ÓSúilleabháin seconded by Cllr. T. Forde. Following discussion it was agreed that this motion would be reworded and dealt with at the September 2018 Meeting of the Council.

18.7 Councillors Fionntán ÓSúilleabháin, Johnny Mythen, Michael Roche, Oisín O'Connell, Tom Forde

"We ask that proposals for reduced speed limits will be put in place across Co. Wexford's housing estates by summer 2019"

Proposed by Sinn Fein Councillors seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes. Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services, advised that a commitment had been given to deal with signage in 300 problem estates which had been identified by Members of the Council, members of the public or through other channels.

The balance of the estates roughly numbering 700 will be reviewed by the summer of 2019 by a set of criteria and signage will be put in the appropriate estates following that review. It was agreed that the motion would be amended to say that "we ask that proposals for reduced speed limits will be put in place across Co. Wexford's housing estates by summer 2019 as resources allow". This was agreed by all.

18.8 Cllr. Johnny Mythen

"That this council calls on a representative of Iarnrod Eireann to address this Council ,on the current and future plans of the rail link between Gorey and Rosslare and the plans they have for the future development of the port. Taking into consideration the cancelling of the winter services by the Oscar Wilde Ferry to Cherburg and Roscoff and have they got a concrete plan for Rosslare Euro Port, Post Brexit".

Proposed by Cllr. J. Mythen seconded by Cllr. M. Roche. The Chief Executive advised the meeting that there is much greater focus by Irish Rail needed in Rosslare. He advised that there are a number of challenges not least that Irish Rail will stop running the line if coastal protection to protect the rail line is not carried out and this is the biggest issue regarding the railway line.

He also noted that it is important for the south east and the whole country that a proper plan for the future development of the port is put in place. A similar plan is also required for New Ross as the south east needs property functioning ports. He further advised that

a consultant's report is due to be released shortly and will be put forward for consideration at either September or October 2018 meeting of the Council.

The motion was agreed by the Members.

19. Any Other Business

None.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

County Secretary

Daingithe ar an lá de Meán Fómhair, 2018.

Cathaoirleach