

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council
held on Monday 13th January, 2020 – 2.30 p.m.
in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford.**

Attendance:

In The Chair: Cllr. M. Sheehan, Cathaoirleach

Councillors:

M. Bell	P. Breen	A. Browne	C. Byrne
G. Carthy	J. Codd	K. Codd Nolan;	A. Connick
D. Devereux	A. Donohoe	M. Farrell	J. Fleming
T. Forde	J. Hegarty;	D. Hynes	W. Kavanagh
L. Kelly	D. Kenny	G. Laffan	G. Lawlor
L. McDonald	J. Moore	B. Murphy	B.A. Murphy
J. O'Rourke	F. Ó Súilleabháin	J. Owens	F. Staples;
J. Sullivan	O. Walsh	M. Whelan	

Officials: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive.
T. Larkin, E. Hore, C. Godkin, E. Taaffe, Directors of Services;
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance;
Mr. P. Collins, Meetings Administrator;

1. Presentation to the Council – Comhairle na nÓg

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Paula Kelly, Co-ordinator of Comhairle na nÓg and a delegation from Comhairle na nÓg comprising Conor Brennan, Amy White and Matthew Colgan.

The delegation made a presentation to the Council on the subjects of self-harm and suicide prevention as it impacts on young people. They had examined and taken action on a number of themes associated with these issues.

Among the actions they had done was the distribution of posters, brochures and other information, a social media campaign and a setting up of Teentalk, an out of hours counselling service run through the FDYS. They noted that the counselling service required funding in order to continue.

The presentation was well received by the Council and the Members complimented Comhairle na nÓg on the work they had done and congratulated them for their confidence in making their presentation to the Council.

The delegation thanked the Council for their positive feedback.

Ms. A. Byrne, SEO, Community Section noted the positive partnership the Council enjoys with the FDYS and advised that Comhairle na nÓg should submit a formal letter to Wexford County Council concerning funding and other supports.

2. Presentation to the Council – Centre of excellence in high performance buildings

Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services advised that the full presentation had been circulated to the Members of the Council and that he would give a synopsis of the main points contained in the presentation.

The Director advised that Enniscorthy has been designated a UN Centre of Excellence on Nearly Zero Energy Building. (NZEB). Under the UN programme there is a network of Centres of Excellence which are a model of best practice with regards to energy saving.

Mr. Larkin advised that Wexford County Council was ahead of its counterparts across the globe when it came to provision of NZEB social housing. Effectively the techniques used in building and heating of local authority social housing are leading to a large reduction in the costs of heating for local authority tenants.

The County Council is collaborating with the WWETB to train people in the techniques required to achieve these improvements in the building and heating of houses. Funding in setting up the Centre of Excellence will be provided by Wexford County Council initially with applications for funding from Climate Action Fund to follow.

The Members congratulated the Chief Executive and Director of Services for this initiative and highlighted the improvements in the cost of home heating, health improvements, fuel poverty and problems such as dampness and mould. The opportunity for workers in the building trades to upskill at the Centre of Excellence was also highlighted.

Following this discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly and agreed by all that the Council would support the Centre of Excellence in working to achieve high performance buildings.

Expressions of Sympathy:

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

- The family of Margaret Breen, Ballymoney, Gorey, Co. Wexford.
- The families of Joe Sinnott, Kilmore Quay and William Whelan Fethard-on Sea. Thanks were also extended to the Emergency Services and volunteers for their efforts in dealing with the tragic sinking of the fishing vessel, "Alize"
- The family of Kathleen Greene, Clonroche, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
- The family of Peter (Pete) Walsh, Grange, Bannow, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Terry McDonald, Adamstown, Co. Wexford
- The family of Stephen (Dan) Dunne, Macmine, Bree, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
- The family of David Whelan, Monamolín, Gorey, Co. Wexford
- The family of Mary Doyle, St. Aidan's Villas, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Joseph (Joe) Breen, Duffry Gate, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Kathleen Anderson, Mount Carmel, New Ross, Co. Wexford (daughter of ex-Councillor, Denis North)
- The family of Mr. Ned Fenlon, stepfather of Ann Marie Laffan, Community Section

Vóta Comhghairdeas:

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

- The Cathaoirleach and Deputy Cathaoirleach of WCC for their refusal to attend at RIC Commemoration.
- Rathgarogue -Cushenstown GAA Club for winning the All Ireland Junior Football semi-final
- The Wolfe Tones for their number 1 hit, the proceeds of which will be given to the homeless.
- The Chief Executive, Eamonn Hore, Director of Services and all those involved in New Ross Bypass which is due to open shortly.
- Tánaiste for his work in re-establishing the executive in Northern Ireland.
- Planning Staff in Wexford County Council for being nominated for a LAMA Environmental awards for their Wex Bee Aware and Community Pollinator Education projects.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 County Council Meeting - 9th December, 2019

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Connick seconded by Cllr. J. O'Rourke and agreed by all the Council approved the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th December 2019.

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

- 4.1.1 Proposed disposal of property – 25 Woodbine Close, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
- 4.1.2 Proposed disposal of lands at Beak, Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Moore seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy the proposed disposals were agreed by the Council.

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

5.1 LAC 1911 Proposed development involves the provision of a new roundabout at Ballygillane Little, Rosslare Harbour, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan LAC 1911 as presented was agreed by the Council.

5.2 LAC1910 – Proposed alterations, extensions, partial demolition & external works to Wexford Arts Centre. The Arts Centre is a protected structure (RPS NO. WBC0055). The proposed development sits close to the Old Town Wall, which is a national monument.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly LAC 1910 as presented was agreed by the Council.

6 Nomination of Chair to the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC (following the resignation of Malcolm Byrne)

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Sullivan seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy and agreed by all, Cllr. M. Whelan was nominated to the Chair of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC.

7 Ratification of Martin Reading as PPN Environmental Representative to LCDC replacing Karin Dubsy

Following the recommendation of the Protocol Committee, on the proposal of Cllr. BA Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell and agreed by all Martin Reading was ratified as a member of the LCDC.

8 Ratification of Jer O'Mahony as Farming Pillar Representative to LCDC replacing John Joe Kavanagh

Following the recommendation of the Protocol Committee, on the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan and agreed by all Cllr. Jer O'Mahony was ratified as a member of the LCDC.

9 Nominations to Mental Health Sub-Committee (to be administered by the Housing & Community Department)

The following were nominated to serve on the Mental Health Sub-Committee:

Cllr. W. Kavanagh, proposed by Cllr. G. Laffan and seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy
Cllr. F. Staples, proposed by Cllr. J. Moore and seconded by Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. D. Hynes, proposed by Cllr. J. O' Rourke and seconded by Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin
Cllr. J. Owens, proposed by Cllr. J. Codd and seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes
Cllr. L. Kelly, proposed by Cllr. D. Hynes and seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell
Cllr. B. Murphy, proposed by Cllr. O. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. A. Donohoe
Cllr. T. Forde, proposed by Cllr. Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin and seconded by Cllr. J. Codd
Cllr. G. Lawlor, proposed by Cllr. G. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. A. Connick

10 Extension of Courtown Local Area Plan

Mr. T. Larkin then advised the meeting of the process required to extend the Courtown Local Area Plan, which has the support of the Gorey Municipal District.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin, and agreed by all, a request was made to the Chief Executive to furnish a report, prepared pursuant to Section 19(1)(e)(ii) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), on the appropriateness of extending the duration of Courtown and Riverchapel Local Area Plan 2015.

The Chief Executive's Report on the Extension of the duration of the Courtown and Riverchapel Local Area Plan 2015 had been circulated to the members in anticipation of this request.

The Chief Executive's Report was then considered by the Council. On the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. J. Sullivan and agreed by all, it was agreed to defer the sending of notices under Section 20(3)(a)(ii) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) by a period of 5 years, thereby extending the duration of the Courtown and Riverchapel Local Area Plan 2015.

11 2019 Q4 Annual Service Delivery Plan

Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Services then presented the 2019 Q4 Annual Service Delivery Plan, which had been previously circulated to members. He advised the meeting that any questions in relation to the Plan should be emailed to his office.

A number of queries were raised. Cllr. D. Devereux sought clarification about number of people with disabilities working in Wexford County Council. Mr. E. Taaffe advised that the number of staff with disabilities employed by Wexford County Council is slightly above 3% of the workforce.

Cllr. J. Hegarty raised an issue with regard to speed limit bylaws. Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services advised the bylaws will be finalised by next month.

Cllr. G. Carthy sought a report back to council regarding Headquarters for Rosslare Municipal District and the Chief Executive agreed that he would bring a report back to Municipal District by March 2020.

12 Reporting of political donations by elected members for noting

The County Secretary advised the meeting that forms for Political Donations had been circulated to members and are due to be completed and returned by 31st January, 2020.

He also advised that Declarations of Interest (Ethics Register) has been circulated and completed documentation is to be returned by 28th February, 2020.

Cllr. J. O'Rourke left the meeting at 4.00pm.

13 Chief Executive 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:

- Update on Market House, Gorey
- Invest Wexford Networking Event held recently in Enniscorthy
- Quality of water from Fardystown, Mayglass supply
- Pumping sewerage from Lady's Island to Rosslare Harbour
- Update on New Ross Port
- Update on New Ross Advance Factory
- Update on fire damaged house in Ballycullane
- Provision of services in Park
- Inclusion of Homeless figures in Chief Executive Report
- Support for Companies and Businesses facing into Brexit
- Chimney Fires in County Wexford
- Removal of Oil Tanks in New Ross

Cllr. T. Forde left the meeting at 4.40pm.

- Illegal Camping in Courtown
- Condition of water in Rosslare
- Sewage system going into Neamstown
- Homeless figures published recently in the National press
- Air quality monitoring in Schools
- Monitoring of waste and litter in Maudlintown
- Illegal dumping – power to enquire how people dispose of their rubbish.
- County Development Plan – growth of villages in County Wexford
- Public consultation by Carlow County Council with regard to new wind turbines on the border of Carlow and Wexford.
- Hard water devices for houses in Ard Uisce Council houses
- Homeless addresses – An Post
- Congratulations to Carolyne Godkin on her new appointment.
- Date for opening of Min Ryan Park and skateboard park
- Investment in Rosslare Harbour post Brexit
- Murphy Floods Hotel
- Houses on Ross Road, Enniscorthy

Cllr. J. Owens left the meeting.

- Update regarding Storm Brendan
- Expansion of School Traffic Warden Service
- Tenders for new Fire Station in New Ross
- Update consumption of intoxicating liquor bye-laws

14 List of Councillors Conferences and Training

The list of Councillor Conferences and Training, as circulated, was proposed by Cllr. B. Murphy seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes and agreed by all.

The members also noted the conference reports submitted by Cllr. G. Laffan, Cllr. G. Lawlor, Cllr. J. Fleming, Cllr. C. Byrne and Cllr. P. Breen.

15 Minutes of Meetings

- 15.1 Rosslare Municipal District – 18.11.2019
- 15.2 Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District – 19.11.2019
- 15.3 New Ross Municipal District – 13.11.2019
- 15.4 Wexford Borough District – 18.11.2019
- 15.5 Enniscorthy Municipal District 18.11.2019

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Farrell seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming and agreed by all, the above minutes, as circulated, were noted and approved.

16 Sealing of documents

The Sealing of Documents as submitted to the meeting was noted and approved.

17 Correspondence and Communications

- Acknowledgement from Office of the Minister of State Andrew Doyle re: Enniscorthy Greyhound Stadium Funding
- Acknowledgement from Office of Private Secretary to Minister Ross regarding Enniscorthy Greyhound Track
- Email from Simon Harris, Minister for Health regarding Mental Health Services in County Wexford
- Email from Private Secretary to Eoghan Murphy, Minister for Housing, Planning and and Local Government regarding Traveller Accommodation
- Email from Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform regarding insurance reform
- Email from Minister for Health's Office concerning palliative care for children in the South East Region.
- Circular AQ4/19 – Extension of the ban on the marketing, sale, distribution and burning of bituminous coal (“the smoky coal ban”) to 13 additional towns, effective from September, 2020
- Letter from Conaire Fitzpatrick, Private Secretary to Minister Catherine Byrne's Office regarding National Drugs Strategy.

The correspondence outlined above was noted by the members

18 Notices of Motion

18.1 Cllr. Jim Moore

“As part of Wexford County Council's campaign to tackle litter and waste dumping I propose the Council, through its Environment and Arts departments, develop a series of short films. These can be made available to our schools and cinemas, etc to urge people to act responsibly when dealing with litter and waste disposal”.

The above motion was proposed by Cllr. Jim Moore seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly and agreed by all.

Cllr. D. Hynes left the meeting at 5.15pm.

18.2 Cllr. Tom Forde

“That this council write to Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine, Michael Creed, expressing dissatisfaction with the recent EU fishing agreement which has failed to safeguard fishing into the future.”

“This Council asks that our government do everything in its power to push for an effective ban of super trawlers from Irish waters and, while they do operate in these wagers, to implement relentless monitoring of their fishing activities.”

As Cllr. Tom Forde had left the meeting it was agreed to defer his motion to the February 2020 meeting.

18.3 Cllr. Jim Moore

“Request Wexford County Council, through its Environment section, to immediately investigate the use of smart technology as part of its campaign to reduce the number of damaged and stolen lifebuoys. New technology will offer low cost, low power systems with alarms in managing this essential lifesaving equipment.”

The above motion was proposed by Cllr. Jim Moore seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell and agreed by all.

18.4 Cllr. Tom Forde

“This council calls for a complete reform of the Direct Provision system and recognises that this system is inhumane and that people in this system lack access to basic necessities such as cooking, movement, and social requirements.

We also ask that the Department of Justice closely liaise with Wexford County Council with regard to any form of direct provision or overflow facility in the county so that the local population can have an accurate information and understanding of what this entails.”

As Cllr. Tom Forde had left the meeting it was agreed to defer his motion to the February 2020 meeting.

19. Any other Business

Cllr. L. Kelly raised the issue of broadcasting of Council meetings. Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Services advised that he had submitted a Report to the Protocol Committee for consideration earlier in the day.

The cost of the system would be €20,000 per annum on a 5 year contract. It would also be necessary to amend standing orders and do an impact assessment regarding GDPR. He further advised there was no revenue provision in the budget and the matter could be reviewed at Budget 2021.

Cllr. A. Donohoe advised that experience of other local authorities was that only 10 – 12 people watched the meeting live.

The Cathaoirleach advised that he intended to write to Care Doc to give presentation at a meeting of County Council in March or April 2020 with regard to the provision of health services over the Christmas period.

The Cathaoirleach then wished all the Members of the Council who will be candidates in the forthcoming General Election the best of luck.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Daingithe ar an 14ú la de Feabhra, 2020.

Cathaoirleach

County Secretary