

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Wexford County Council  
held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – 9.30 a.m.  
in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford.**

**Attendance:**

**Councillors:** P. Barden; M. Bell; P. Breen; A. Browne;  
C. Byrne; M. 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; B.A. Murphy;  
B. Murphy; F. O' Súilleabháin; J. O'Rourke; J. Owens;  
M. Sheehan; F. Staples; J. Sullivan; O. Walsh;  
M. Whelan.

**Officials:** Messrs: T. Enright, Chief Executive,  
T. Larkin, E. Hore, E. Taaffe, Directors of Services;  
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance;  
Mr. P. O'Gorman, A/Director of Service;  
Mr. P. Collins, Meetings Administrator;  
Mr. David Minogue, Communications Officer.  
Ms A. McLaughlin, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services

**Apologies:** Apologies for inability to attend were received from Cllr. J. Moore

At the outset the outgoing Cathaoirleach Keith Doyle requested the County Secretary to read the list of Councillors elected to Wexford County Council following the Local Elections on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**Enniscorthy District** - Aidan Browne, Cathal Byrne, Kathleen Codd Nolan, Barbara Anne Murphy, John O'Rourke, Jackser Owens.

**Gorey-Kilmuckridge District** - Pip Breen, Malcolm Byrne, Diarmuid Devereux, Anthony Donohoe, Mary Farrell, Willie Kavanagh, Donal Kenny, Fionntán OSúilleabháin, Joe Sullivan, Oliver Walsh.

**New Ross District** – Pat Barden, Anthony Connick, John Fleming, Bridin Murphy, Michael Sheehan, Michael Whelan.

**Rosslare District** – Ger Carthy, Jim Codd, Lisa McDonald, Jim Moore, Frank Staples.

**Wexford District** – Maura Bell, Tom Forde, John Hegarty, David Hynes, Leonard Kelly, Garry Laffan, George Lawlor.

The outgoing Chair then addressed the Council. He thanked the outgoing members for their service to the previous Council and welcomed the new members. He also thanked the officials of Wexford County Council and referred to the strong relationship between members and officials in Wexford County Council.

He also stated that it was a great honour for him to have served the people of Wexford and Enniscorthy for 25 years, serving as Chairman of Enniscorthy on four occasions and then as Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council. He mentioned a number of highlights that took place during that period, including the Fleadh Ceol, the Tour de France, the 1798 Commemoration and the 1916 Centenary Commemoration.

Finally, he referred to the Council's Economic Programme and urged the new Council to make every effort to achieve what is laid out in the Programme.

Members from all parties and independents then congratulated the outgoing Cathaoirleach on his 25 year of service and wished him well in the future. They acknowledged the service he had given and thanked him as a colleague and for his help and political advice over the years. Members also praised his fairness as Cathaoirleach, his integrity and his courage in officiating at today's meeting.

The Chief Executive then associated himself with the remarks of the members, again highlighting the outgoing Cathaoirleach's 25 years year of service and his commitment to drive on with projects in Enniscorthy as set out in the Council's Economic Programme.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach then thanked all the speakers.

### **1. Election of Cathaoirleach:**

Cllr. M. Sheehan was proposed by Cllr. J. Fleming and seconded by Cllr. P. Breen.

Cllr. F. Staples was proposed by Cllr. O. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. A. Donohoe.

A poll was then taken.

#### ***In Favour of Councillor M. Sheehan:***

Councillors: P. Barden; M. Bell; P. Breen; A. Browne; M. Byrne; G. Carthy; A. Connick; M. Farrell; J. Fleming; W. Kavanagh; L. Kelly; D. Kenny; G. Laffan; G. Lawlor; L. McDonald; B.A. Murphy; M. Sheehan; J. Sullivan; M. Whelan.

#### ***In Favour of Councillor F. Staples:***

Councillors: C. Byrne; K. Codd Nolan; D. Devereux; A. Donohoe; J. Hegarty; B. Murphy; F. Staples; O. Walsh.

#### ***Abstentions:***

Councillors: J. Codd; T. Forde; D. Hynes; J. O'Rourke; F. Ó' Súilleabháin; J. Owens;

Following the vote of 19 votes to 8, with 6 Abstentions the outgoing Chairman Keith Doyle declared that Councillor Michael Sheehan was elected Cathaoirleach and he took the Chair.

The Cathaoirleach then addressed the Council, saying that it was a great honour and privilege to be elected Chairman of the new Council. He thanked his proposer and seconder and welcomed all the new members of the Council. He also thanked the families of all the elected members for their sacrifices, support and generosity.

He outlined the Council's priorities for the next five years, making particular reference to the opening of the two new by-passes in New Ross and Enniscorthy which will benefit County

Wexford, bringing both Dublin and Cork within a ninety minute journey from Wexford. He also referred to the completion of the Economic Plan, the Tourism Strategy, the Local Economic and Community Plan, a new Development Plan and the 2040 Strategy.

The Cathaoirleach also intends to set up Town Teams for Enniscorthy and New Ross and to devise a Rural Regeneration Strategy. He would also like to continue with working groups established by the previous Council

He then set out the projects which will come on-stream in New Ross, Enniscorthy Wexford and Gorey over the next twelve months, including the following:

- Enterprise Centre, Barrack St., New Ross
- John St. Grain Store Development, New Ross
- Works on High Hill, New Ross
- Extension to the New Ross Library
- Replacement of the Fire Station in New Ross
- Greenway from New Ross to Waterford
- Removal of the oil tanks from the Quay in New Ross
- Opening of the Enniscorthy Business Park
- Progressing of the Trinity Wharf Development in Wexford
- Utilising the Hatch Lab in Gorey as a model of best practice.

Finally, the Cathaoirleach then asked the members to work together to improve the lives of the people of County Wexford and hoped to make Wexford an Age Friendly county, a disability accessible county, an autism friendly council and to engage meaningfully with Comhairle na nÓg.

The Cathaoirleach's first act in office was to present a certificate and a medal to the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Keith Doyle.

#### 1. **Election of Leas Cathaoirleach:**

Cllr. L. McDonald was proposed by Cllr. G. Lawlor and seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy.

Cllr. B. Murphy was proposed by Cllr. K. Codd Nolan and seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty.

A poll was then taken.

#### ***In Favour of Councillor L. McDonald:***

Councillors: P. Barden; M. Bell; P. Breen; A. Browne; M. Byrne; G. Carthy; A. Connick; M. Farrell; J. Fleming; W. Kavanagh; L. Kelly; D. Kenny; G. Laffan; G. Lawlor; L. McDonald; B.A. Murphy; M. Sheehan; J. Sullivan; M. Whelan.

#### ***In Favour of Councillor B. Murphy:***

Councillors: C. Byrne; K. Codd Nolan; D. Devereux; A. Donohoe; J. Hegarty; B. Murphy; F. Staples; O. Walsh.

#### ***Abstentions:***

Councillors: J. Codd; T. Forde; D. Hynes; J. O'Rourke; F. Ó' Súilleabháin; J. Owens;

Following the vote of 19 votes to 8, with 6 abstentions Cllr. L. McDonald was elected Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. L. McDonald addressed the Council following her election as Leas Cathaoirleach. She appealed to members of the Council to work together for the betterment of County Wexford. She highlighted a number of projects which are of importance to the development of the county over the next five years – the Oylegate to Rosslare Europort and the establishment of a third level institution in Wexford town and the need for better access to mental health services.

The Chief Executive, Tom Enright, then congratulated the new Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach. He also welcomed all of the councillors, in particular those newly elected members taking up office for the first time. He noted that their election was a great honour and privilege, both to themselves and their families.

The Chief Executive looked forward to working with the new Council over the next five years, which will be critical for County Wexford. He noted that the new bypasses will greatly enhance the Council's connectivity and allow New Ross and Enniscorthy the opportunity for further development.

He welcomed new investment in Rosslare Europort and Waterford Airport. He also highlighted the challenges facing County Wexford as a result of Brexit. He also stated that the delivery of Council's Economic and Commercial Development Plan will require strong leadership in the Council Chamber.

He urged the Council to work together for the benefit of the county, which has been a long-standing tradition in Wexford County Council. He also highlighted the good working relationship between the executive and members.

The Chief Executive concluded by announcing the new administrative arrangements for the five districts, together with staff changes required to administer the new districts.

Members representing the political parties and Independent members then congratulated the new Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach on their appointments and wished them well in their new roles.

## 2. **Appointments**

### **Chair-designate for SPCs:**

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy it was agreed that a fifth SPC would be set up to deal with Environment & Climate Change.

Following this change, the SPC structure is:

Housing & Community SPC  
Transport & Water Services  
Economic Development & Enterprise  
Planning & Building Control  
Environment & Climate Change

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. F. Staples the following were proposed as Chairs of the SPC's:

Councillors Joe Sullivan; Mary Farrell; Pip Breen; Malcolm Byrne; John Hegarty.

The Chairs of the SPCs are as follows:

Housing & Community SPC	Cllr. J. Sullivan
Transport & Water Services	Cllr. P. Breen
Economic Development & Enterprise	Cllr. M. Byrne
Planning & Building Control	Cllr. J. Hegarty
Environment & Climate Change	Cllr. M. Farrell

**Protocol Committee:**

Cllrs. M. Byrne; B.A. Murphy, G. Lawlor; A. Donohoe; J. Moore and T. Forde were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy and agreed by all.

**Local Traveller (Accommodation) Consultative Committee:**

Cllrs. W. Kavanagh; L. Kelly; K. Codd Nolan; T. Forde; J. Owens were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes and agreed by all.

**Audit Committee:**

Cllrs. J. Sullivan and A. Connick were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. A. Connick and agreed by all.

**Environmental Monitoring Committee:**

Cllrs. W. Kavanagh and D. Kenny were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. M. Bell and agreed by all.

**Local Community Development Committee:**

Cllrs. L. McDonald; A. Browne; L. Kelly and A. Donohoe were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell and agreed by all.

**Joint Policing Committee:**

Cllrs. M. Whelan; G. Laffan; B.A. Murphy; P. Breen; J. Sullivan, A. Browne; F. Staples; B. Murphy; J. Hegarty, G. Lawlor; G. Carthy; P. Barden; J. O'Rourke; F. OSúilleabháin; J. Codd were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy and agreed by all.

**Rural Water Monitoring Committee:**

Cllrs. D. Kenny; M. Whelan; M. Farrell; D. Devereux; were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. M. Bell and agreed by all.

**Sports Active Wexford:**

Cllr. G. Laffan was proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan and agreed by all.

**Regional Assembly:**

Cllrs. P. Breen, M. Bell and O. Walsh were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor and agreed by all.

**Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances:**

Cllr. G. Lawlor was proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy and agreed by all.

**Education and Training Boards:**

Cllr. F. O' Súilleabháin was proposed by a group comprising 5 members as follows – Cllrs T. Forde; D. Hynes; F. O' Súilleabháin; J. O'Rourke; J. Owens and was deemed elected.

Cllrs. A. Browne, B.A. Murphy; G. Laffan; M. Farrell; L. Kelly and K. Codd Nolan were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy and agreed by all.

**LAMA:**

Cllr. M. Whelan was proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. M. Bell and agreed by all.

**South East River Basin District Advisory Council:**

Cllr. M. Farrell was proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. A. Connick and agreed by all.

**Regional Health Forum (South):**

Cllrs. W. Kavanagh; D. Kenny; P. Barden; F. Staples were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor and agreed by all.

**Association Irish Local Government:**

Cllrs. M. Byrne; W. Kavanagh and A. Connick were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan and agreed by all.

**County Wexford Drugs and Alcohol Task Force:**

Cllr. D. Hynes was proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. J. Owens and agreed by all.

**South Eastern Drugs and Alcohol Task Force:**

Cllr. P. Barden was proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy and agreed by all.

**3 Counties Energy Agency:**

Cllr. G. Carthy was proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor and agreed by all.

**Age Friendly Alliance:**

It was agreed that The Cathaoirleach would be nominated.

**Wexford Heritage Trust Ltd:**

Cllrs. B. A. Murphy and G. Laffan were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. A. Browne and agreed by all.

**Hook Heritage Ltd:**

Cllrs. M. Whelan and P. Barden were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. A. Connick and agreed by all.

**Courtown Waterworld:**

Cllrs. J. Sullivan and M. Farrell were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. M. Bell and agreed by all.

**Wexford Monument Trust Ltd:**

Cllr. P. Barden was proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne seconded by Cllr. A. Connick.

**Ferrybank Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre:**

Cllrs. D. Hynes and M. Bell were proposed by Cllr. M. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy.

The Cathaoirleach then welcomed Minister Paul Kehoe to the meeting.

3. **Municipal Districts:**

The appointments to be made by the Municipal Districts were noted by the meeting.

4. **Schedule of County Council Meetings:**

The Schedule of Meetings, as circulated was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell.

5. **Fixing Dates for First Meetings of Municipal Districts:**

The following were proposed by Cllr. G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. A. Connick and agreed by all.

- Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District – 18<sup>th</sup> June @ 2.30 p.m.
- New Ross Municipal District – 14<sup>th</sup> June @ 3.30 p.m.
- Enniscorthy Municipal District – 14<sup>th</sup> June @ 4p.m.
- Wexford Borough District – 17<sup>th</sup> June @ 7.00 p.m.
- Rosslare Municipal District – 19<sup>th</sup> June @ 2.30 p.m.

6. **Standing Orders**

- Amend Section 63 to include the 5<sup>th</sup> District of Rosslare
- Amend Section 63 to change Gorey District to Gorey-Kilmuckridge District
- Amend Section 55 to take account of the new Strategic Policy Committee and changes to existing Strategic Policy Committees.

The above amendments were proposed by Cllr. M. Farrell seconded by Cllr. A. Connick.

7. **Induction Training for Elected Members:**

The Cathaoirleach advised Members that AILG Training for Elected Members will take place at Horse & Jockey Hotel, Co. Tipperary on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019,

The same training course will also take place at Mullingar Park Hotel, Co. Westmeath on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Discussion then took place on the need for certainty for the new Rosslare District with regard to staffing, location and funding.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Members for their help in dealing with the appointments and the other business of the Annual Meeting.

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**

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County Secretary

**Daingithe ar an 8ú la de Iúil, 2019.**

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Cathaoirleach