

**Minutes of the New Ross Municipal District Monthly Meeting
held on Thursday 11th June 2020 at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber, County
Hall, Wexford**

Presiding: Councillor John Fleming

In Attendance: Councillor Anthony Connick
Councillor Michael Whelan
Councillor Michael Sheehan
Councillor Pat Barden
Councillor Bridin Murphy

Officials Present: Mick McCormack – District Administrator
Eamonn Hore - District Director
Dan McCartan – Senior Executive Engineer (via Teams)
Eilis Furlong – Executive Engineer (Via Teams)
Martina Donoghue – Administrative Officer, Housing
Liam Bowe – Executive Planner (Via Teams)
Eimear Kennedy – Staff Officer
Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer, Environment
Tony Larkin, Director of Services, Economic Development and
Planning

Fiona Lewis, Chief Executive, County Wexford Chamber of
Commerce
Jimmy Purcell, ESB Project Lead

Apologies: N/A

At the start of the meeting the District Manager read into the record Section 6 of the Standing Orders for New Ross Municipal District;

Place of Meeting and Address of Principal Offices

6. *In so far as practicable the place for holding meetings of the municipal district members shall be The Tholsel, Quay St, New Ross and meetings shall normally be held there, provided that the municipal district members may from time to time by resolution appoint an alternative location for a particular meeting.*

The change of venue to County Hall was proposed by Councillor Connick and seconded by Councillor Whelan. All members were in agreement.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow for four presentations. This was proposed by Councillor Barden and seconded by Councillor Murphy.

Presentation 1: Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer, Environment, gave an update on the New Ross Port Office.

Presentation 2: Tony Larkin Director of Services, Economic Development & Planning, on the New Ross Advance Factory.

Presentation 3: Fiona Lewis, CEO County Wexford Chamber of Commerce.

Presentation 4: Jimmy Purcell, ESB Project Lead, on the current upgrading to the system serving the New Ross Area.

Condolences

Sympathies were extended to the O'Neill family, the O'Connor family, the Kehoe Family, the Keating Family, the Reeves family, the Sweetman Family, the Cleary family, the Furlong Family and the Murphy family.

Congratulations

Congratulations were offered to Niall O'Neill, New Ross Town Gardener on his recent retirement, having served 38 years in the New Ross area. The Members and the District Manager wished Niall and Mairin and their family the very best in this new phase of their lives. Congratulations were also extended to Fr Odhran Furlong on his recent 25th Anniversary; all of the community and GAA groups participating in the Community Call effort, and to Wexford GAA and Wexford County Council for the installation of flood lighting at Wexford Park.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Monthly Meetings – March 11th 2020; May 7th 2020 (Non- Statutory Information Meeting)

The Minutes for both meetings were adopted as presented, proposed by Councillor Whelan and seconded by Councillor Sheehan.

1.2 Matters Arising

N/A

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

2.1. District Manager's Report

The District Manager delivered his report and responded to queries raised by the councillors.

The membership of the KickStart New Ross Committee was confirmed. Councillor Anthony Connick will Chair the Committee (proposed by Councillor Barden and Seconded by Councillor Murphy); Councillor Michael Whelan as Chairman of the Economic SPC will sit on the Committee along with Councillor Michael Sheehan. The remaining membership comprises the District Manager, the District Engineer, two members of the County Wexford Chamber, Fiona Lewis and Mary Browne, Tomas Kavanagh representing Cultural venues and Sean Connick representing the Tourism community.

At the request of Councillor Connick, the District Manager agreed to backdate the Shop front Grant Scheme by two months to aid local businesses who engaged in painting works on their premises during the lockdown. This was proposed by Councillor Connick and seconded by Councillor Sheehan.

The District Manager advised, for the record, that no pedestrianisation would take place in New Ross town without full consultation with the traders.

The Members agreed to the allocation of €30,000 to support an outdoor theatre and entertainment festival, to be located on South Street and Library Park among a number of other outdoor locations within the town. This will be led by St. Michael's Theatre. Councillor Sheehan wished to note for the record that he abstained from the vote. This matter was proposed by Councillor Connick and seconded by Councillor Murphy.

The District Manager will circulate the details for New Ross Walls to the Members.

2.2. Roads Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members. The Roads Engineer responded to queries and comments from the Members.

The Executive Engineer advised the Members that the crews are currently 6 weeks behind their regular schedule and that road strengthening and surface dressing is the current priority.

When questioned on the status of the works at Hospital Road, she advised that the footpaths works are being done in the next couple of weeks and that the road surface will be addressed when the paths are finished.

The District Director answered questions about street lighting in the District. All 14,000 street lights in the county are being replaced. They are prioritised on a needs basis with the oldest, least efficient lights being replaced first.

2.3. Water Services Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members. The Senior Executive Engineer responded to Members' queries.

2.4. Housing Report.

The content of the report was noted. The Administrative Officer, Housing was present to answer queries from the Councillors.

Responding to queries she advised that letters of offer will be going out next week, w/c 15th June. She advised that the allocation of keys would also take place from the 15th.

She also advised that only essential maintenance works are currently being carried out. She will report back to the Members when this situation changes.

2.5 Planning Report

The content of the report was noted and the Executive Planner responded to the Members' questions.

He advised the Members of the revised time lines on planning applications which were received around the lockdown period. The 'clock stopped' on March 29th and restarted again on May 24th and all applications are delayed by this time period.

The Members requested a copy of the September 2011 Public Realm plan for New Ross. The Executive Planner advised that he will send this on via the District Manager.

2.6 Libraries Archives & Arts Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.7 Community Development Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

2.8 Environment Report

Gerry Forde was in attendance to answer Members' queries.

2.9 Fire Services Report

The content of the report was noted by the Members. The District Director was asked for an update on the new Fire Station in New Ross. He advised that Wexford County Council is in regular contact looking for the date of release of the funding but that there still isn't a definitive answer. Councillor Sheehan requested the NRMD write to the Department seeking an update on the situation. This was seconded by Councillor Connick.

2.10 Members Query System - NRMD

The content of the report was noted by the Members.

3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members

3.1 Schedule of Municipal District Works was proposed as presented by Councillor Whelan and seconded by Councillor Murphy.

3.2 The District Director asked the Members to support the revised plans for the landing pontoon at New Ross Marina. This was proposed by Councillor Sheehan and seconded by Councillor Murphy.

4. Other Business (presentations taken at start of meeting)

4.1 Gerry Forde- New Ross Port

4.2 Tony Larkin, Director of Services, Economic Development & Planning, on the New Ross Advance factory

4.3 Fiona Lewis, CEO County Wexford Chamber of Commerce.

4.4 Jimmy Purcell, ESB Project Lead, on upgrade works in the New Ross area

5. Notices of Motion

N/A

6. Correspondence

6.1 Correspondence received back from Martin Collins, Pavee Point - unavailable for the June 2020 meeting but would be happy to attend at another date

6.2 Correspondence received back from Irish Traveller Movement - unavailable for the June 2020 meeting but would be happy to attend the July meeting

The Members requested that Pavee Point and the Irish Traveller Movement be invited again at their earliest convenience to a NRMD meeting.

7. AOB

The Members requested that the Superintendent be invited to the first possible meeting in the autumn to provide an update on the current situation in New Ross.

Responding to queries from the Members, the District Director advised that parking enforcement would be enforced to its fullest extent from 29th June.

THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Signed _____
Cathaoirleach

Date _____