

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Wexford County Council  
held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2019 – 2.30 p.m.  
in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford.**

**Attendance:**

**In the Chair:** Cllr. K. Doyle, Cathaoirleach.

**Councillors:**

P. Breen;	G. Carthy;	K. Codd Nolan;	A. Connick;
T. Dempsey;	A. Donohoe;	M. Farrell;	J. Fleming;
J. Hegarty;	D. Hynes;	P. Kavanagh;	W. Kavanagh;
G. Lawlor;	L. McDonald;	B.A. Murphy;	M. Murphy;
J. Mythen;	L. O'Brien;	J. O'Rourke;	F. Ó Súilleabháin;
M. Roche;	M. Sheehan;	J. Sullivan;	O. Walsh;
T. Walsh;	M. Whelan.		

**Officials:** Mr. T. Larkin, D/Chief Executive;  
Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services;  
Mr. E. Taaffe, Director of Services;  
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance;  
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Senior Executive Officer;  
Mr. P. Collins, County Secretary.

Mr. Glenn Carr, General Manager, Rosslare Port

**Apologies:** Councillors J. Moore, W. Fitzharris, M. Byrne; F. Staples.  
Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive  
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach advised that he had requested that a meeting of the full County Council take place to discuss issues with regard to the withdrawal of Irish Ferries from Rosslare Port. He then asked the General Manager of Rosslare Port Glenn Carr to give an overview of the current situation.

Glenn Carr advised the Council that he had been notified on the same day as the official withdrawal announcement was made by Irish Ferries. He also noted that the decision to bring the new Irish Ferries W.B. Yeats ship into Rosslare Port was an important step to show that the Port could accommodate the large ship without restriction.

Mr. Carr also advised that the Port fees had not been raised by Irish Ferries at any stage in discussions and he also advised that the costs to Irish Ferries of bringing ships further on to Dublin would increase fuel costs for the shipping company.

Mr. Carr advised that the Port is in negotiations with other shipping lines at present. He advised the Council that the Port Authority will be selling the slots vacated by Irish Ferries aggressively. He also advised that discussions will take place with the Trade Unions.

Following his overview the Cathaoirleach then invited questions and comments from Members of the Council.

A wide ranging discussion took place and many issues were raised by Members of the Council in attendance including the following:

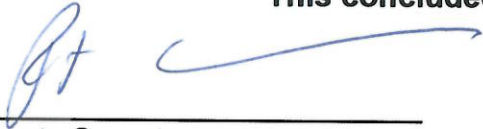
- A call on Irish Ferries to clarify their position
- The designation of Rosslare Port as a Tier II Port
- The need for Tier I status of the Port
- The planning application for a Customs Post at Rosslare Harbour
- The need for a full Port Authority not a Rail Service to be running the Port
- Call for Iarnród Éireann to remove themselves from the Port
- The question as to where the Board of Iarnród Éireann stand on the issue of the pull out of Irish Ferries
- The need for a task force by Members of the Council and the Executive, the Port Authority and the Chambers of Commerce and others to discuss the future of Rosslare Harbour Port
- The takeover of the Port as a stand-alone Port
- The failure of the Department to improve the Port over the years
- The need to show the economic effect of the withdrawal of Irish Ferries on the south east
- A direct sailing link to Spain
- Neglect of Rosslare Port over a long number of years
- It was noted that Irish Rail did not make any submissions to national plans in respect of Rosslare Port
- The publication of the Ernst and Young Report on Rosslare Port
- The effect of Brexit and the hard border and the need for border inspection posts at Rosslare Harbour
- The need to develop facilities around Rosslare including the access road into Rosslare
- The need for infrastructure improvement including the new bypasses which are almost ready to improve the access to Rosslare Port
- Working with Belview Port in Waterford
- Meeting with Commissioner Hogan
- The frequency of sailings is the most important issue for Hauliers
- What can WCC do to help to get more frequency of sailings?
- How can WCC support the Port?
- The need for further investment in the port.

Many of the issues raised were then responded to and clarified by Glenn Carr.

The Cathaoirleach then proposed that a group be brought together similar to the model used for the Council's Budget Meeting to deal with the issue of Rosslare Port on an ongoing basis.

It was agreed that the Acting Chief Executive would bring a formula for such a grouping to the next meeting of the County Council. This group would have a close connection with local TD's, Irish Rail, and the Hauliers to give a strong united voice to promote Rosslare Port and take the opportunity to put Rosslare at the heart of the region and make the issue of the Port a national issue. This was proposed formally by Cllr. M. Sheehan seconded by Cllr. J. Mythen and agreed by all.

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



County Secretary

Daingithe ar an 14<sup>ú</sup> lá de Eanáir, 2019.



Cathaoirleach

