

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT
HELD AT 2.30P.M. ON MONDAY 17th APRIL 2023 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, CARRICKLAWN, WEXFORD.**

Presiding: - Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell

Councillors: - D. Hynes, G. Laffan, J. Hegarty, L. Kelly, G. Lawlor, T. Forde

In Attendance:

Ms. Sinead Casey, A/Director of Services
Mr. Anthony Bailey, District Manager
Ms. Eilis Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Engineer
Mr. Alan O'Shea, Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel
Mr. Tom Byrne, Executive Engineer, Active Travel
Ms Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer
Ms. Caroline Crowe, Assistant Staff Officer.

At the outset of the meeting Her Worship the Mayor Cllr. M. Bell and Members warmly welcomed Mr. A. Bailey as the new District Manager, and all looked forward to working with him for the betterment of the district.

Mr. Bailey thanked Her Worship the Mayor, and Members for their warm welcome and kind words.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

On the proposal of Her Worship the Mayor, a unanimous vote of sympathy was extended to the families of the following:

- Mr. Peter Shortall, The Square, Castlebridge, Co. Wexford RIP
- Mr. John Watson, The Reisk, Killurin, Co. Wexford RIP
- Mrs. Kathleen (Kitty) Hynes, Lower Mary Street, Wexford RIP
- Mrs. Eileen O'Gorman, Bishopswater, Wexford RIP

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 27th March, 2023 copies of which had previously been circulated were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan

MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. G. Lawlor raised the matter of the Active Travel measures at the junction to Glenbrook Estate, Newtown Road. Cllr. Lawlor indicated that while the residents broadly welcomed the proposed traffic calming measures on the Newtown Road to reduce speed, they had concerns regarding the junction tightening works impacting on vehicles accessing and egressing the estate.

Following a lengthy discussion on the matter, the following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. A. O'Shea, Senior Executive Engineer.

- Introduction of traffic calming measures prior to any works on junctions
- Public Consultation
- Pedestrian crossings
- Timeframe for works.

Mr. O'Shea agreed to circulate the link for the TII Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets to Members.

Cllr. J. Hegarty requested an update on a site for the Access 2000 women's project. Cllr. Hegarty clarified that while Min Ryan would be the ideal location for a basketball court, close to the MUGA if possible, single hoop facilities could be installed at various other locations within the district.

Cllr. Hegarty requested that discussions take place with Our Lady of Fatima School and residents in Carrigeen Street with a view to resolving the parking problems outside the school.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly, Members unanimously agreed to invite the Drugs Task Forces Committee to make a presentation on their work.

Cllr. G. Lawlor asked for an update on the meeting that was to be organised with the management of Ozanam House, to discuss the ongoing anti-social behaviour issues at Talbot Green.

DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING/MAYORAL ELECTION

On the proposal of Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, it was unanimously agreed to schedule the Annual Meeting to 7.00 p.m. on Monday, 26th June.

Mr. A. Bailey, District Manager was pleased to inform Members that the meeting will take place in Wexford Arts Centre.

REPORTS

HOUSING

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was discussed and noted.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer.

- Number of emergency accommodation places available.
- Clarification on housing applicants refused accommodation because they are residing with parents.
- Update on the number of homeless presentations as a result of the lifting of the eviction ban.
- Update on retro fitting targets for the district.
- Requirement to carry out certain works to existing dwelling in advance of approval to downsize to a more suitable property.
- Installation of water softeners on all new houses supplied by the Fardystown RWSS.
- Update on demolished houses in Bride Street.

In response to query raised by Members regarding the diversion of Wexford Town WSS to Ard Uisce housing estate, due to hard water issues, Ms. S. Casey, A/Director of Services undertook to follow up the matter with Irish Water.

PLANNING

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

Mr A. Bailey, District Manager advised he would refer the following matters raised by Members to the Planning Section.

- Clarification on timeframes for landscaping in new housing developments.
- Delay in presenting the Heritage Regeneration Plan.
- Concerns regarding ease of access to main roads from open spaces in new estates.

In response to a query from Cllr. L. Kelly regarding the new car park at Westgate, Ms. S. Casey, A/Director Services confirmed that the matter is being dealt with by Planning Enforcement but that she would provide an update to Members at the May meeting.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was discussed and noted.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Eilis Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer.

- Resurfacing works at the entrance and around The Grove estate and installation of ramps.
- Repairs to the paving and kerbing in High Street
- Safety concerns about the Mallin Street/Rowe Street junction
- Speed survey required on Whiterock Hill
- Update on dished footpath at Loreto school for access to cycle lane.
- Provision of pedestrian crossing at Ard Uisce.
- Clarification on powers to deal with dereliction on the main street.
- Schedule of street cleaning and cleaning of laneways
- Replacement of signs in rural parts of the district, particularly in Castlebridge.
- Climate Action Resilience update.
- Update on the Wexford to Curracloe Greenway.
- Requirement of cycle lane from Ferrycarrig to Barntown Roundabout.
- Reinstatement of the historic fountain in the Bullring
- Road condition of cul-de-sac at Whiterock Hill
- Patching required on roadway out to Carraig Graveyard.
- Eradication of Japanese Knotweed at Trinity Street.
- Road Safety concerns at junction at Ferrycarrig Bridge.
- Update on the installation of Monck Street canopy.
- Opening of overflow car park at Min Ryan at busy times.
- Active Travel investment for Castlebridge.
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Following a query from Cllr. G. Lawlor on the future development of the old Carcur landfill site, Ms. S. Casey, A/Director of Services confirmed that she would provide an update to Members at the May meeting.

Cllr. L. Kelly thanked Mr. K. Jones, Executive Engineer for the installation of the water fountain in Redmond Park.

In response to concerns raised by Members regarding Castlebridge, Ms. S. Casey/A/Director of Services confirmed that a village health check is required and will be completed later in the summer. This will include consultation with the local community.

Suspension of Standing Orders

It being 4.30pm on the proposal of Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, it was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow for the remaining business on the agenda to be concluded.

COMMUNITY

The attached report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

Cllr. G. Lawlor expressed his gratitude to Ms. AnnMarie Laffan, Sláintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officer for her assistance in securing funding for the universal carousel at Ferndale and the callinestics equipment at the Rocks, Maudlintown.

Cllr. L. Kelly requested that additional accessible equipment be installed in the playground at Min Ryan together with adult fitness equipment.

Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell congratulated Enniscorthy Community Allotments on winning the “Best Community Health” category at the LAMA awards 2023.

ENVIRONMENT

The attached report, a copy of which has previously been circulated was noted.

Cllr. T. Forde asked for an update on the progress on the installation of a public convenience on the quay front.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS

The attached report, a copy of which has previously been circulated was noted.

FIRE SERVICES REPORT

The attached report, a copy of which has previously been circulated was noted.

MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM

The attached report, a copy of which has previously been circulated was noted.

Members once again expressed their frustrations with the current system.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 15TH MAY, 2023

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.