

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30P.M. ON MONDAY 16TH JANUARY 2023 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, CARRICKLAWN, WEXFORD.

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

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

In Attendance:

Ms. Sinead Casey, A/Director of Services

Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager

Ms. Eilis Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer

Ms. Fionnuala Callery, A/Senior Engineer, Water Services

Mr. Alan O'Shea, Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel Team

Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Engineer, Water Services

Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment

Ms. Yvonne Kelly, County Liaison Officer, Rural Water

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. Maura Bell, on behalf of Members, warmly welcomed Ms. Sinead Casey as Acting Director of Services and committed to working with her for the betterment of the District.

Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr M. Bell, paid tribute to the outgoing Acting Director of Service, Mr. Sean Meyler, for his work and support over the past number of months and wished him well for the future.

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. Michael Tierney, Belmont, Newtown, Wexford RIP
- Mrs. Jean Callaghan, Mulgannon, Wexford RIP
- Mr. Anthony Stone, "Ardeen", St. Johns Road, Wexford RIP
- Mrs. Maria Marini, Ard na Cuan, Whiterock Hill, Wexford RIP
- Mr. Liam Gaul, 1, Richmond Heights, Wexford RIP
- Mr. Jürgen Sassmannshausen, Pinewood, Wexford RIP
- Mr. Peter O'Leary, Marian Row, Wexford, RIP
- Mr. Eoin Crosbie, Keelogue, Barntown, Co. Wexford RIP

CONGRATULATIONS

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Ms. Michelle O'Neill on her selection to officiate at the FIFA Women's World Cup, to be co-hosted by New Zealand and Australia this summer.
- Mr. Dean Walsh on his recent semi-final win at the Irish Elite Boxing Championship, held at the National Stadium.

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 19th December, 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. G. Laffan requested that the line marking on the R730 be expedited, highlighting the increase in traffic volume, particularly at Carrigmannon, due to the closure of Killurin Bridge for repair works.

Cllr. G. Lawlor again stressed the urgency of repairs to the road surface on School Street.

Cllr. D. Hynes sought confirmation on the date for installation of the lights at the new Skateboard Park in Min Ryan Park.

In response to a query from Cllr. J. Hegarty on the issue of markings on curtesy crossings, Ms. E. Furlong replied that the matter is being looked at as part of the overall line marking programme for the District.

ACTIVE TRAVEL PRESENTATION

Mr. Alan O'Shea, Senior Executive Engineer, provided a brief update to Members on the 3 active travel schemes planned for the Wexford District as follows:

- The Newtown Road scheme, which involves segregated cycling and walking lanes from the Maldron Roundabout to the service Apple Green Service Station on Newtown Road, is currently at detailed design stage which will be submitted to the NTA for approval within 2 weeks with construction anticipated to commence Q2, 2023.
- The Beechlawn to Clonard Cycle Scheme, to provide segregation for cycling in either direction from the Hospital junction to Clonard/Whitemill Road, is at preliminary design stage and expected to go to Part 8 planning Q2 or Q3, 2023.
- The Roxborough scheme involves the installation of a cycling lane upgrade on the R370 from Drinagh to the Faythe junction, which is also anticipated to go to Part 8 Q2 or Q3, 2023.

Mr. O'Shea further advised that works are proposed on Newtown Road to tighten junctions at Glenbrook, Newtown Court and Brendan Corish Gardens to reduce vehicular speeds and improve pedestrian safety in line with National Policy. Mr. O'Shea also advised that it is intended to tighten traffic lanes on the approach roads into town.

In response to Cllr. Lawlor, Mr. O'Shea confirmed that these works will be subject to a consultation process under Section 38 of the Roads Act which will provide an opportunity for observations and submissions by members of the public.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. O'Shea.

- Review of plan to tighten junctions on the Newtown Road, as it would be fundamental change to a main artery into the town.
- Importance of Public Consultation and communication with residents and stakeholders prior to the commencement of any works.
- Delay in progressing an Active Travel Scheme to connect Wexford Town and Castlebridge due to lack of funding.
- Clarification on the use of electric scooters on new cycle lanes.

Ms. Sinead Casey, A/Director of Services informed Members that a Transport Plan is being devised for the town and will be presented to Members on completion. Ms. Casey cautioned that improving the walking and cycling offering within the town is challenging due to the constraints of the medieval narrow street infrastructure.

Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, on behalf of Members, thanked Mr. O'Shea for his informative update.

Fire Alarm

The meeting was interrupted at 3:15pm by a Fire Alarm, which required all attendees to exit the meeting to the designated assembly point.

The meeting reconvened at 3:30p.m. when it was safe to do so.

LEAD REMEDIATION GRANT SCHEME

Ms. Fionnuala Callery, A/Senior Engineer, and Ms. Yvonne Kelly, Senior Staff Officer, gave a brief presentation to Members, on the revised Lead Remediation Grant Scheme available to assist households with the cost of replacing lead pipes within their properties.

Ms. Kelly informed Members that the grant had been increased to cover 100% of the approved costs up to a maximum of €5,000, but that it was no longer means tested. Ms. Kelly outlined the eligibility criteria for Members, stating that applicants must provide either certification that the lead in the drinking water is above 10mg/l or

notification from a registered building professional (not a plumber) that there is lead pipes present with the curtilage of the property.

Ms. Callery explained that lead pipes on the public water supply, in a number of areas around the town, had been replaced under various Irish Water upgrade schemes. These schemes included the elimination of backyard services in certain areas.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Kelly and Ms. Callery.

- Effective communication to target householders affected by lead pipes.
- Clarification regarding the engagement of building professionals to certify the existence of lead piping.
- Inclusion of indirect and direct costs for grant purposes.
- Cost of initial surveys.
- Availability of test kits for householders to test for lead.

Members broadly welcomed the revised grant scheme. Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, on behalf of Members, thanked Ms. Callery and Ms. Kelly for their comprehensive presentation.

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.

- Update on correspondence with the Church Authorities regarding their assistance in the provision of temporary accommodation for the homeless.
- Clarification on WCC policy where a tenant is required to carry out certain works to their existing dwelling in advance of approval to downsize to a more suitable property.
- Update on the CPO of vacant units at corner of St. John's Road/John Street
- Target figures for the 2023 Energy Retro-fit programme for the Wexford District.
- Clarification on the proposed link road from Clonard Road to Clonard Village to facilitate future housing developments.
- Identification of the number vacant properties within the District.
- Progress on the redevelopment of site in Bride Street for social housing.
- Clarification on the BER ratings assigned to properties on the Retro-Fit Scheme

PLANNING

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

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.

- Condition of road surface at Harbour View, Maudlintown.
- Urgent need to proceed with road resurfacing on School Street on completion of planned water scheme at this location in February
- Update on the energisation of public lights at Hillcrest, Mulgannon.
- Installation of an additional pedestrian crossing between Clonard Village and Wexford Retail Park, Clonard.
- Standard of reinstatements following works carried out by utility companies.
- Access to private car parking spaces in Wellington Place car park.
- Walls identified in the event of a second phase of 'The Wexford Walls' Street Art Project.
- Timeframe for the energisation of the pedestrian crossing at Ferndale
- Roads to be included for strengthening in the Roads Programme in 2023.
- Update on the closure of the alleyway at Talbot Green.
- Reinstatement of the historic fountain in the Bullring.
- Progress on remedying ponding at Liam Mellows.
- Improvements to traffic flow approaching Wexford Bridge from Redmond Square.
- Road safety issues on left turn lane at Heritage Park junction of N11 impacting curtain sided vehicles since the installation of bollards at junction.
- Safety concerns at the Kyle Cross Junction on N11 following a further accident at this location.
- Flooding at Hunters Court, Coolcots due to adjacent development works.

Following a request by Cllr. G. Lawlor for an overall plan for the development of Castlebridge Village, a lengthy discussion ensued whereby Members expressed their concerns that the village had been neglected under the various improvement schemes rolled out in recent years across the county.

Suspension of Standing Orders

It being 4.30p.m, 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.

Cllr. L. Kelly gave his apologies and departed the meeting.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ENVIRONMENT

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer.

- Dune restoration works at White Gap.
- Repairs to the beach boardwalks, Curraclloe.
- Progress on the installation of public toilets at White Gap.
- Update on the installation of public toilets on Wexford Quayfront.

Cllr. G. Lawlor and Cllr. J. Hegarty both gave their apologies and departed the meeting at 4:50p.m.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS

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

FIRE SERVICES REPORT

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

MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM

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

Date for March Ordinary Meeting

Prior to closing the meeting, on the proposal of Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell it was unanimously agreed to reschedule the March meeting to 2.30pm, Monday, 27th March, 2023.

Wexford Local Area Plan

Ms. Sinead Casey, A/Director of Services, advised Members that work has commenced on the Wexford Local Area Plan and the Planning Department have proposed a Workshop for Members to take place on the morning of Monday, 20th February, 2023 in advance of the Borough Monthly Meeting on the same date. Formal notice will issue in advance of the workshop.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 20TH FEBRUARY, 2023

MAYOR OF WEXFORD