

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD
AT 2.30P.M. ON MONDAY 21ST NOVEMBER, 2022 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, CARRICKLAWN, WEXFORD.**

Presiding: - Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell
Councillors: - G. Lawlor, J. Hegarty, D. Hynes, G. Laffan, L. Kelly, T. Forde

In Attendance:

Mr. Sean Meyler, A/Director of Services
Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager
Mr. Fintan Ryan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Special Projects
Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Engineer, Water Services
Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment
Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer.
Ms. Caroline Crowe, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies from Ms. Eilis Furlong, District Engineer for her inability to attend the meeting were noted.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

- Mrs. Eleanor Sugrue, Collenswood, Tralee, Co. Kerry RIP
- Mr. Dick Kelly, Pembrokestown, Whiterock Hill, Wexford RIP
- Mrs. Angela Whitty, Bride Street, Wexford RIP
- Mr. James "The Bull" O'Dowd, Forth Mountain, Wexford RIP
- Mrs. Lena Power, Davitt Road North, Wexford RIP
- Ms. Sheila Reck, School Street, Wexford RIP
- Mrs. Ann Fagan, Slaney Woods, Park, Wexford RIP

CONGRATULATIONS

A vote of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Glynn Minor U17 Premier Footballer team on winning the County Final.
- Kaylem Hartnett on his recent performance with the Ireland U16 team in the Victory Shield Tournament.
- Oisín McDonagh, Shamrock Rovers on winning three caps with the U15 team.
- Jodie Keeling, St. Josephs Handball Club, on winning the All-Ireland Minor, One Wall Handball Championship, and the All-Ireland Secondary School Senior Soft Ball Championship.

- The Organisers and all involved with Wexford Festival Opera and the Spiegeltent Festival, both of which were a resounding success for the town, and in particular all those involved in the Pop-Up Events run in conjunction with the Age Friendly Programme.

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 17th October 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan.

MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. J. Hegarty expressed his disappointment that the ice rink would not be available for the Christmas festivities on the quay front. Ms. Angela Laffan informed Members that the promotor has been unable to secure the necessary insurances at a reasonable cost so it was unlikely to proceed at this late stage.

Cllr. Hegarty also mentioned the increase budget for the Districts in 2023, on foot of the increase in the Property Tax adopted by Members, and suggested that this be placed on the agenda for discussion in the near future.

TAKING IN CHARGE – ÁRD NA SLÁINE (1-10, INCL 17-28)

The attached report and recommendation regarding the Taking in Charge of Ard na Slaine, Newtown Road (No.s 1-10 and 17-28), a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

Noting the speedy response from Irish Water (taking in charge documentation referred to IW on 19th July and response received on the same date) Cllr. J. Hegarty sought clarification to confirm that both dates were accurate in the report. The District Manager agreed to check the date with the Planning Department and revert to Members.

PART 8 PROPOSAL – BOATHOUSE AT CARRAIGFOYLE

Mr. Fintan Ryan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Special Projects, presented an overview to Members on the proposed boathouse, toilet block and bicycle storage area to be installed at Carraigfoyle. Mr. Ryan outlined that realignment of the existing trails would be required for access to the boathouse. The proposed toilet block and bicycle storage area would be installed at the car park. Mr. Ryan advised that the project is currently in the Part 8 process which was submitted to the Planning Department on the 3rd November, 2022.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Ryan.

- Requirement for accessible toilets and 'changing place' facility.
- Material used to clad the container buildings.
- Additional volume of traffic on surrounding roads to trails.
- Impact of construction on trail users.
- Improvement of signage on the trails.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which Members cited the absolute need to install CCTV to protect the assets, following recent anti-social behaviour and damage to the toilet block and car park area. On the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan, Members agreed to approve the proposal in principal but were unanimous in their request that no construction should commence on site until CCTV is installed to protect the investment.

Mr. Ryan advised Members that a DPIA would need to be carried out with regard to CCTV cameras and agreed to update Members on this at the December meeting.

WEXFORD TOWN CCTV SCHEME

The attached report from the County Secretary/Data Protection Officer in relation to the Wexford Town CCTV Scheme, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was presented by the District Manager, Ms. Angela Laffan.

Ms. Laffan advised that, following consultation with An Garda Siochana, it is proposed to add a further 16 cameras at 12 locations, including Min Ryan Park and Redmond Park, to the system which combined with the existing cameras will provide a total of 49 cameras on the network.

Ms. Laffan advised that the proposal will be presented to the next Joint Policing Meeting and County Council meeting for approval in December following which the public consultation process will be commenced in advance of formal application being submitted to the Garda Commissioner for approval under Section 38 of the Garda Siochana Act, 2005.

Following discussion, the proposal was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. George Lawlor seconded by Cllr. Garry Laffan.

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.

- Proposed upcoming visit by Mr. Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Housing.
- Need for an increase in Income Thresholds
- Clarification on Section responsible for issuing Corporate Estate bills.

- Budget allocation for maintenance for next 3 -year period.
- information on Housing Allocations is not being made available to Members.

Ms. H. Meehan asked that Members submit any specific questions, by email to her, that they would like raised at the Special Housing Meeting scheduled to take place on Monday 5th December.

PLANNING

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

At the request of Members, Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager agreed to contact the Senior Planner again regarding the attendance of a Planner at the District meetings.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

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

Mr. S. Meyler A/Director Services agreed to discuss the following matters, raised by Members, with the District Engineer and revert to Members with updates.

- Update on plans for School Street and urgent need for repairs to road surface on this busy stretch of road.
- Refresh paint on Disabled Bays around the town centre some of which also need to be painted blue
- Reinstatement of line markings at “courtesy crossings”
- Advance warning signs Entrance onto Davitt Road North should be marked/painted to define the kerbside etc. following the narrowing of the junction layout at this location.
- Line marking at various locations on resurfaced stretches of the R730.
- Flooding on road at the Grotto in Rocklands following heavy rain events.
- Talbot Green junction layout impeding traffic flow.
- Energisation of lights in Mulgannon
- Condition of road surface at Coolcots Lane due to housing construction works.

Mr. Meyler, A/Director of Services addressed the following issues raised by Members.

- Progress on Public Realm Improvement Works at Monck Street.
- Update on the Curracloe Activity Centre.
- Update on proposed dredging works at Crescent Quay.
- Update on Knotweed Treatment at Trinity Street.
- Installation of lighting at the new Skateboard Park in Min Ryan Park
- Cleaning regime for Skate Park following periods of heavy rain.

- Lighting at Hillcrest, Mulgannon.
- Possible installation of a full height basketball ring at the MUGA play area in Min Ryan Park - Mr. Meyler advised that the MUGA pitch is designed as a multi use area to accommodate a wide range of sport not one sport in particular. However, Mr. Meyler undertook to refer the matter to the Community Section, to determine if funding was available to install a net in the vicinity of the pitch.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

Cllr. J. Hegarty congratulated all involved in the recent pilot park & ride service to take older people from County Hall to Wexford Park for the semi-final GAA matches on Sunday 9th October. Cllr. Hegarty requested that the Age Friendly Programme Coordinator examine the possibility of extending the scheme for the upcoming National League games scheduled for late January, early February.

ENVIRONMENT

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

Cllr. J. Hegarty extended congratulations to Cliona Connolly, Environment Awareness Officer, and staff involved in recent Environment Awards Ceremony and to all the winners and participants on the night.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS

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

FIRE SERVICES

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.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 19TH DECEMBER 2022

MAYOR OF WEXFORD