

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30P.M. ON MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 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:**

Mr. Brian Galvin, A/Director of Services  
Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager  
Ms. Eilis Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. Seamus Begley, Management Accountant  
Ms. Elaine Warren, Assistant Staff Officer, Credit Control  
Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing  
Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment  
Mr. Enda Brennan, Executive Engineer, Environment  
Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer  
Ms. Caroline Crowe, Assistant Staff Officer

At the outset of the meeting, Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, on behalf of Members, warmly welcomed Ms. Eilis Furlong as the new District Engineer and committed to working with her in her new role for the betterment of the District.

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

**MINUTES MATTER ARISING**

Following a query from Cllr. J. Hegarty on the status of the bollard system for the junction of Lower George's Street / Selskar, Ms. Eilis Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer, confirmed that testing of the system was complete and concluded that the system is suitable for this location. A site meeting is to take place with Contractor to agree an installation date and Members will be updated as soon as the date is confirmed.

In response to Cllr. D. Hynes request for a report on the outdoor dining facility at the Thomas Moore Tavern, Mr. B. Galvin, A/Director of Services confirmed that the road safety concerns raised by Members had been reviewed by Ms. Eilis Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer, a new 'Stop Sign' has been installed in place of the 'Yield sign' and Ms. Furlong is satisfied there are no safety issues at this junction.

Mr. Galvin advised that a meeting had taken place with the Council's legal advisors and the planning report is awaited.

Following discussion, to which all Members contributed, Mr. Galvin acknowledged Member's frustrations on the matter but gave an undertaking that a full report, including the legal advice sought, would be presented at the October Meeting.

### **WATER SERVICES REPORT**

On the proposal of Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, Members unanimously agreed to take the Water Services Report at this point in the meeting to facilitate Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Engineer, who had to depart the meeting early.

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. K. Jones, Executive Engineer.

- Consistent supply issues in the Castlebridge Area, in particular Airfield Road.
- Update on introduction of Ballyfarnogue borehole supply.
- Need to ensure that Irish Water provide for future capacity on the Castlebridge supply to allow for further development in the area in the coming years.
- Low pressure issues in Glynn Village.

### **SECTION 183 TRANSFER OF LANDS AT BACK OF NO. 7 HANTOON ROAD**

On the recommendation of Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager, the attached report regarding the transfer of lands at the back of No. 7 Hantoon Road, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell.

### **TAKING IN CHARGE – COIS NA HABHANN**

The attached report and recommendation regarding the Taking in Charge of Cois Na hAbhainn (1-17), a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty.

### **PRESENTATION OF NEW XRS SELF SERVICE PAYMENT PORTAL**

Mr. Seamus Begley, Management Accountant, and Ms. Elaine Warren, Assistant Staff Officer, Credit Control, gave a brief presentation and demonstration to Members of the new online XRS Self Service Payment Portal which is to be rolled out shortly.

Mr. Begley explained that the system is a low-cost solution that allows for several different payment options to benefit customers. It also provides a mechanism for the Council to tackle non-compliant debt. Mr. Begley stressed to Members that this payment portal was additional to the current payment methods available to customers.

Mr. Begley also informed Members that the system was piloted with a number of housing tenants and that it was well received. The overall feedback was it was a simple system to use.

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

- Clarification on arrears figures
- Initial cost to register and use the facility
- Minimum payment that can be facilitated.
- Literacy/Older Persons and Accessibility Issues – need to ensure that traditional payment methods are preserved alongside the new online system.
- Interpretation and comparability to Manchester Credit Union survey.

Mr. Begley confirmed that the system will 'go live' on 27<sup>th</sup> September and a communication strategy is in place to promote the product and encourage customers to register to use the new facility.

Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, on behalf of Members, thanked Mr. Begley and Ms. Warren for their presentation and wished them every success with the portal.

### **PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC CONVENIENCE ON WEXFORD QUAYFRONT**

Mr. Enda Brennan, Executive Engineer, Environment, gave a brief presentation on the proposed location for a public convenience on the quay front and demonstrated 4 options, 2 temporary and 2 permanent, together with associated costings for each types of unit, for consideration and discussion. Mr. Brennan advised Members that the location shown is dependent on access to a sewer connection.

During discussion, Members indicated their preference for a permanent structure but agreed that the proposed location was not suitable as it would sterilise a large portion of the area used for multiple festivals and events. Members asked Mr. Brennan to look at the possibility of locating the unit closer to the bridge.

Mr. B. Galvin, A/Director of Service stated, if it is the view of Members that a permanent solution is required, each of the two permanent options will be subject to Part 8 planning. He also advised that there will be significant additional costs in relocating close to the bridge and securing a sewerage connection at this location which would require a crossing of the railway line and civil works to move the manhole towards the bridge.

Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the lack of progress of this matter and asked if an alternative location close to the Tourist Office could be explored.

Cllr. T. Forde asked that the Environment Section look at providing a temporary facility pending the provision of the permanent solution.

Mr. B. Galvin, A/Director of Services undertook to request the Environment Section to investigate the feasibility of locating the public convenience at either end of the quay and the costs involved.

Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. M. Bell, on behalf of Members, thanked Mr. Brennan for his presentation.

### **UPDATE ON PROPOSED PAVILLION OF WEXFORD QUAYFRONT**

Mr. B. Galvin, A/Director of Services informed Members that grant aid of €250,000 had been approved under the Re-imagining Outdoor Spaces Scheme for the proposed provision of a performance pavilion on the quayfront. He advised that the tender process was completed in July and the current estimated cost of the project is €540,000.

Mr. Galvin confirmed that the tender report and a revised budget has been submitted to the Department of Tourism and Arts and Culture seeking approval to proceed, and seeking additional funding to meet the constructions costs. Mr. Galvin undertook to revert to Members once a response has been received from the Department.

### **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 water connection for Pairc an Aird, Coolcotts.
- Timeframe for the introduction of the Choice Based Letting Scheme.
- Lack of available HAP accommodation.
- Shortage of Emergency accommodation.
- Details on the number of houses within the District being retro fitted.
- Responsibility regarding repairs to septic tank of Council owned property.

Cllr. T. Forde requested that a detailed report on the delivery of the Housing for All Plan in the Wexford District, to include targets achieved, be presented to Members at the October meeting.

#### **PLANNING**

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

In the absence of a planner, Mr. B. Galvin A/Director of Services agreed to raise the following issues with the Planning Section and revert to Members.

- Non attendance of Planning Staff at the District Meeting.
- Filling of vacant Planner positions
- Clearing of vacant site and rodent problem at site at Browne's Hill
- Updated list of vacant and derelict site lists.
- Plans for car park site on Belvedere Road

In relation to the Belvedere Road car park site, Mr. Galvin advised that a proposal for housing units at the Belvedere Road car park is being examined by the Council's Architect and expected to be presented to the Members for consideration in Qtr. 4, 2022.

### **DISTRICT ENGINEER'S REPORT**

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.

- Restriction of HGVs in The Faythe area.
- Consideration to the installation of ramps in The Faythe
- Improvement to sightlines at the entrance to Cluain Dara.
- Energy Costs for Christmas Lighting.
- Recruitment of School Wardens and vacant position at The Faythe School
- List of infill public lighting needed for the District.
- Repairs to footpath at junction of Menapia Avenue and St. John's Road
- Road Safety at Kyle Cross to be examined.
- Update on the installation of speed ramps in Screen Village.
- Energisation of pedestrian crossings at Crossabeg NS and Ferndale.
- Requirement for advance warning signs for "No Right Turn" at Ferrycarrig.
- Fencing on boundary of green space at Cluain Beag, Clonard.
- Activation of new pedestrian crossing at Cluain Beag / Clonard Village
- Road Safety at Distillery Road junction.
- Ponding at Liam Mellows.
- Reinstatement of the historic fountain in The Bullring.
- Date for road reinstatement on Davitt Road North and South following GNI works
- New 4 way stop at junction of Clonard Road and Glenville Road.
- Update on funding for Town Transport Strategy
- Installation of bus shelters along public transport network
- Energisation of new public lighting on Mulgannon Hill

- Clarification on the Active Schools Initiative
- Relining of “courtesy crossings” at Belvedere Road and other locations
- Repainting of road markings across the District.
- Sight lines exiting Tesco car park onto The Folly
- Timeframe for completion of surfacing works and the installation of the retractable roof on Monck Street.

In relation to the Monck Street works, Mr. B. Galvin, A/Director of Service, advised that the surfacing works were delayed by the ESB but are scheduled for completion before 21<sup>st</sup> October.

Mr. Galvin advised that tenders for the installation of the roof structure have been received and assessed and the current costings have increased above the original cost estimate. The tender report and recommendation are being submitted to Failte Ireland for approval and their reply is awaited.

### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

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

Cllr. J. Hegarty 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.

- Number of mattresses collected during the recent Mattress Amnesty Day.
- Impact of businesses using generators for electricity supply
- Safety issues regarding railing installed on arm of quay front as part of ‘Linte na Farraige / Lines of the Sea’ climate awareness project.
- Opening hours of the public conveniences at beaches over the winter months.

In response to a query from Cllr T. Forde whether Members could be furnished with the details on each of the murals being installed as part of the ‘Walls of Wexford’ street art project, Cllr. G. Lawlor confirmed that QR codes will be available on each mural, once the project is completed.

Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager, further advised of plans to develop a promotional leaflet to include detailed information on each mural / artist in conjunction with a proposed Arts Trail along the Cultural Spine and to engage with local schools to develop an educational programme to further the appreciation of art among local school students.

### **LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS REPORT**

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

### **FIRE SERVICE REPORT**

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

### **PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES' CASES**

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

Members once again expressed their frustration with the current system, highlighting notable discrepancies in response times and that the system is not fit for purpose.

### **PROVISION OF "WALL OF KINDNESS"**

The following motion proposed by Cllr. T. Forde seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor and unanimously adopted.

"I ask that this council install a "Wall of Kindness" in the district to support rough sleepers".

Members agreed that the proposed "Wall" should be aligned to a charity shop or other service who could oversee the wall.

### **PROVISION OF RAMPS ON ST. JOHN'S ROAD**

The following motion proposed by Cllr. D. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde was unanimously adopted.

"I call on Wexford Borough Council to seriously consider the installation of ramps on St. John's Road to address the issue of speeding in the area in the interest of safety of the residents and students at the local primary school on St. John's Road."

Following a discussion, Ms. Eilis Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer, agreed to carry out a survey and assess the need for ramps at St. John's Road but advised Members that any such works would be subject to budgetary constraints.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Votes of congratulations were extended to the following:

- Cllr. John Hegarty on his appointment as Manager of the Wexford Senior Football Team.
- Ms. Teresa Grant O.B.E, former Wexford County Council employee, on her appointment as C.E.O. of Liverpool City Council.
- Glynn Barntown Community Games Quiz Team on winning the All-Ireland title at the National Community Games competition.
- Glynn Barntown Juvenile Rounders Team on reaching the Community Games All Ireland Final.

## **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. Kevin (Kiwi) Walsh, Evergreen Way, Whitebrook, Wexford RIP
- Mrs. Gay Murphy, Chairperson of Relay for Life Wexford RIP
- Mrs. Noirin Colfer, Priory Hall, Wexford RIP
- Ms. Carol McCann, formerly Liam Mellows & Ard Allain, Castlebridge RIP

## **THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

**SIGNED THIS DAY 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

**MAYOR OF WEXFORD**