

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 18TH MAY 2022 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BLOCK A, WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, CARRICKLAWN, WEXFORD.

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

In Attendance:

Mr. Brian Galvin, A/Director of Services
Ms. Angela Laffan, District Manager
Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Engineer
Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer,
Ms. Caroline Crowe, Assistant Staff Officer.
Ms. Anita McLoughlin, Administrative Officer, FOI
Ms. Rita Byrne, I.S. Project Leader
Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment
Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

MINUTES MATTERS ARISING

In response to Cllr. D. Hynes statement that he was not in agreement with a road closure on Henrietta Street to facilitate outdoor dining, Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager, clarified that the limited road closure had been agreed by Members at the April meeting. Ms. Laffan confirmed that the formal road closure process under Section 75 of the Roads Act 1993 had been advertised, and as no objections had been received, the closure will now proceed as planned with effect from 28th May.

MINUTES OF WEXFORD BOROUGH HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Wexford Borough Heritage Sub Committee Meeting, held on the 5th of May 2022, copies of which had been previously circulated, were noted.

In response to a query raised by Cllr. M. Bell on the timeline for the completion of works and reopening of the Westgate Heritage Centre, Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager, advised that she had no further update but would follow up on the matter and revert to Members.

Cllr. G. Lawlor enquired if the Comhaltas Committee could be accommodated with a meeting space at the Westgate Heritage Centre. Ms. Laffan advised that work on the centre is being carried out on a phased basis due to budgetary constraints and only

the ground floor reception area has been refurbished. The upper floors and remaining space will require capital funding to render them suitable for use.

PRESENTATION ON MEMBERS PORTAL SYSTEM

Ms. Anita McLoughlin gave a brief presentation to Members on the recent upgrades to the Members Portal System. Ms. McLoughlin stated that the upgrades were on foot of Members comments and observations and feedback received from the Sub Committee.

Ms. McLoughlin advised Members that additional one to one training is available, if required.

Members broadly welcomed the improvements to the system but did indicate that the system is geared towards non urgent requests. Members also commented that responses from Sections were generic rather than detailed responses.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Laffan, on behalf of Members, thanked Ms. Loughlin and Ms. Byrne for their presentation

UPDATE ON BOLLARD SYSTEM NORTH MAIN STREET

Mr. Sean Kavanagh, District Engineer circulated an update report to Members on the traffic management plan for North Main Street. Mr. Kavanagh outlined the background to the pedestrianisation of North Main Street for Members and advised that as the town has now fully reopened for business, the area has been fully restored to a pedestrianised zone from 11am each day.

While Mr. Kavanagh acknowledged that the installation of automatic bollards was the preferred solution at the end of Lovers Georges Street, site investigations had shown that such a system is not feasible due to the volume of underground services at this location. Mr. Kavanagh informed Members that a possible alternative solution, a hydraulic unit, has been identified and he is engaging with the Italian Manufacturer to obtain more detailed information on the product to establish if this unit would be suitable at this site location.

Mr. Kavanagh also advised Members that as part of the traffic management plan for the area additional loading bays and accompanying signage will be installed at Slaney Street, Selskar Street, Temperance Row and Common Quay Street, with an extended bay in The Bullring.

A lengthy discussion ensued, and the following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Kavanagh.

- Consultation with An Garda Siochana regarding bollard arrangements.
- Consultation with couriers and delivery drivers servicing businesses in the area.
- Strict enforcement of the parking bye laws to deter illegal parking and ensure loading bays are available for deliveries.

- Justification / requirement for the additional loading bays without creating further opportunity for illegal parking.
- Communication with traders and general public.
- Impact of new measures on Disabled Parking Bays.
- Update on The Bullring / Cornmarket Public Realm Improvement Scheme.

Mr. B. Galvin, A/Director of Services undertook to provided further information to Members on the new proposed hydraulic bollards, as soon as it is available.

FIX DATE FOR JUNE ORDINARY MEETING

On the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Laffan, it was unanimously agreed to reschedule the June meeting to 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 22nd June.

FIX DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

On the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Laffan, it was unanimously agreed to schedule the Annual Meeting to 3.00 p.m. on Monday, 27th June.

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.

- Update on the mediation process and allocation of vacant houses at Airhill, Belvedere Road.
- Commencement of the Choice Based Letting Scheme.
- Update on proposed new housing development at Bride Street and the Council's duty of care to properties adjoining the derelict houses at this location.
- Ongoing delay in allocating housing units at The Ballagh
- Policy where Council tenants carry out improvements or modifications to the dwelling without prior approval from the Housing Department.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Laffan, Ms. Meehan undertook to keep Members informed with regard to the date of commencement of the Choice Based Letting Scheme.

PLANNING

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

WATER SERVICES

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. Ken Jones.

- Ongoing supply issues at Airfield Road, Castlebridge.
- Investment in augmentation of Sow RWSS
- Introduction of borehole at Ballyfarnogue to supplement supply at Airfield Road.
- Installation of NRV at Killmallock.
- Details of proposed investment to upgrade the plant at Newtown Road.

Mr. B. Galvin, A/Director of Services reminded Members that Irish Water are the responsible authority for public water supply and any proposed works are subject to Irish Water approval and funding.

COMMUNITY

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

- Date for Mattress Amnesty and request to include sofas in 2022.
- Clean up of Horse River
- Update on the proposed installation of new public convenience on Wexford Quayfront.

FIRE SERVICES

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

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & ARTS

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

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE CASES

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

DISTRICT ENGINEERS 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 Mr. Sean Kavanagh.

- Installation of ramps at Summerhill
- Clean up of the Horse River
- Condition of road surface on Lower Rowe Street.
- Repairs to tactile paving crossings between John's Road and Menapia Avenue.
- Structural assessment of the wall at the Order of Malta property, St. John's Drive.
- Road markings on Glenville Road to aid reduction in speed of traffic.
- Installation of markings and signage at the 4 way cross at Clonard Road and Glenville Road.
- Update on Active Travel Measures.
- Excess speed and lack of parking for residents at Devereux Villas and St. Aidan's Crescent.
- Requirement for road markings on R738 from Larkins Cross to Taghmon.
- Removal of the bollards at Mulgannon and review of junction layout at Wexford Golf Club.
- Repainting of road markings throughout the town including the Maudlintown Junction and at Walnut Grove.
- Update on proposed improvement works at the Mechanics Institute
- No Entry sign at the bottom of Henrietta Street.
- Traffic survey at Distillery Road / junction with The Fairways, Mulgannon.
- Energisation of pedestrian crossings.
- Update on parking exemptions for Fire Services Staff and Carers.
- Drainage issues following works at Crosstown
- Requirement for road marking on Coolballow Road.
- Removal of Japanese Knotweed from Trinity Place and consultation with residents.
- Allocation for works at the Crooked Bridge.
- Improvement works at Ballindinas / Tree Road required due to increased traffic for the Forth Mountain trails.

Following a request from Cllr. T. Forde, Mr. S. Kavanagh agreed to circulate a copy of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets to Members.

In response to a query from Cllr. D. Hynes regarding the outdoor dining area at the Thomas Moore Tavern, Ms. A. Laffan, District Manager advised that legal advice is still awaited on the matter.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINEES OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 22ND JUNE 2022

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.