

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council held on Monday 11th March 2024 in the Council Chamber at 2.30pm (with some remote attendance via Microsoft Teams)****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. John Fleming, Cathaoirleach**Councillors:**

Barden	Pat (online)	Donohoe	Anthony	Moore	Jim
Bell	Maura	Farrell	Mary	Murphy	Barbara- Anne
Bolger	Andrew (online)	Forde	Tom	Murphy	Bridín
Breen	Pip	Hegarty	John	O'Rourke	John
Browne	Aidan (online)	Hynes	David	Ó'Súilleabháin	Fionntáin
Byrne	Cathal	Kavanagh	Willie	Owens	Jackser (online)
Carthy	Ger	Kelly	Leonard	Sheehan	Michael (online)
Codd	Jim	Kenny	Donal	Staples	Frank
Codd- Nolan	Kathleen	Laffan	Garry	Sullivan	Joe
Connick	Anthony (online)	Lawlor	George	Walsh	Oliver
Devereux	Diarmuid	McDonald	Lisa	Whelan	Michael

Officials:

Ms. Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services

Mr. Michael Drea, County Secretary

Ms Carolyn Godkin, Director of Services

Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services

Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services

Mr. Shay Howell, A/Director of Services

Ms. Lynda Lacey, A/Head of Finance

Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Chief Executive

Apologies: There were no apologies recorded.

Votes of sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Una Roban, mother of Paula Roban, FOI Department.
- The family of Tom Sullivan, father of Tomas Sullivan, Harbour Constable.
- The family of Sean Reilly, father of Caroline Creane, Community Section.
- The family of Catherine (Kathleen) Furness, mother of Derek Furness, General Operative, New Ross Municipal District.
- The family of Mary O' Neill, mother-in-law of Elaine Warren, Staff Officer, Credit Control.
- The family of Nick Sheridan, Dalmarnock, Glasgow, Scotland and formerly of Kilmuckridge and Kilcorral, Castlebridge, Co. Wexford.

Congratulations:

Cllr. M. Whelan offered congratulations to Cillian Murphy on being the first Irish born actor to win the Best Actor Award at the Oscars for his role in Oppenheimer.

Cllr. J. Codd congratulated the Irish people for their choice in the recent referenda.

Cllr. J. Owens congratulated Amy Redmond on winning the Ladies All-Ireland darts title.

Cllr. J. Owens congratulated the Wexford Ladies team on winning the All-Ireland darts team final.

Cllr. B. Murphy congratulated all those involved in securing Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann for Wexford for 2025.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. C. Byrne it was agreed to suspend standing orders to allow Ger O'Mahony and Jackie Whelan Fagan of Wexford IFA address the meeting.

Mr. O'Mahony thanked the Members for having them in the Chamber. He outlined the volume of paperwork required to be completed by farmers to access funds and the financial cost of making a mistake. Mr. O'Mahony acknowledged the work done locally to agree a protocol for inspections and he thanked Ms. C. Godkin and her team for their involvement. He emphasised the importance of adopting a collaborative, co-operative approach. Mr. O'Mahony offered to attend Municipal District meetings and /or Council meetings on a quarterly basis to discuss issues.

Ms. Whelan Fagan outlined the findings of a KPMG report which indicated that agriculture is worth €2.4bn to the Wexford economy. Mr. O'Mahony finished by asking the Members, the T.D.'s and MEP's for their support.

Cllr. A. Donohoe proposed that a cross party delegation meet the relevant Ministers, and this was seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 County Council Meeting 12th February, 2024

On the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald and seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the County Council Meeting on 12th February 2024.

Matters arising:

Cllr. T. Forde raised the issue of deferred motions prohibiting Members from bringing forward new motions and he enquired if the issue had been discussed at a protocol meeting, as requested. Cllr. D. Hynes echoed Cllr. Forde's sentiments.

2. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:

2.1 Intention to dispose of property at 84 Ard Alainn, Castlebridge, Co. Wexford

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde the Council resolved to dispose of property at 84 Ard Alainn, Castlebridge, Co. Wexford, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

2.2 Intention to lease the Community Centre at Bosheen, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming the Council resolved to lease the Community Centre at Bosheen, New Ross, Co. Wexford, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3. Part XI of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended):

3.1 LAC2314 – Proposed construction of 4 no. social housing units across 2 no. two storey buildings at Grogan's Road, Wexford

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the construction of 4 no. social housing units across 2 no. two storey buildings at Grogan's Road, Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2314, as circulated.

3.2 LAC2315 - Permission for a mixed residential development of 3 no. dwellings to comprise of the proposed erection of 1 no. two storey 3-bedroom semi-detached dwelling, 1 no. 2-bedroom apartment, 1 no. 1-bedroom apartment and associated parking spaces, vehicular access

with connection to existing local public mains services and all associated site works at Adamstown, Co Wexford

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. J. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. B. Murphy, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for a mixed residential development of 3 no. dwellings to comprise of the proposed erection of 1 no. two storey 3-bedroom semi-detached dwelling, 1 no. 2-bedroom apartment, 1 no. 1-bedroom apartment and associated parking spaces, vehicular access with connection to existing local public mains services and all associated site works at Adamstown, Co Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2315, as circulated.

3.3 LAC2316 - Development of proposed Community Activity Garden with associated site works at St. John's Community Hospital, Munster Hill, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. K.C. Nolan, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for a development of proposed Community Activity Garden with associated site works at St. John's Community Hospital, Munster Hill, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2316, as circulated.

4. Draft New Ross Port Pilotage Bye-Laws 2024 for approval, in line with the Harbours Acts of 1996 and 2015, as well as the Local Government Act of 2001.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Moore, seconded by Cllr. B. Murphy, the Council resolved to adopt the New Ross Port Pilotage Bye-Laws 2024, as outlined in the circulated memo.

5. Draft Wexford County Council, New Ross Port Explosive Bye-Laws 2024, for approval in line with Sections 83 of the Harbours Act 1996 in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 34-38 of the Explosives Act 1875. (Approval to proceed to Public Consultation).

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. J. Moore, the Council resolved to move to public consultation on the New Ross Port Explosive Bye-Laws 2024, as outlined in the circulated memo.

6. Proposed Estate Naming Policy for Part XI Housing Schemes

Mr. S. Howell circulated a proposed Estate Naming Policy for Wexford County Council own build housing estates which had been discussed at the Housing SPC. After a number of concerns were raised by the Members, Cathaoirleach J. Fleming decided to refer the policy back to the districts for their observations/comments.

7. 3 Year Capital Programme 2024 - 2026

Ms. L. Lacey circulated the 3-year capital programme 2024 – 2026 which set out at a high-level, projects which are due to progress subject to funding over that period. The Chief Executive and members of the Management Team responded to a wide range of queries from the Elected Members regarding the following:

- Concerns raised over the proportion of funding for the Rosslare Municipal District.
- Update on Ferndale gymnasium.
- Status of Crescent Quay dredging project.
- Status of Carrigfoyle project in light of tenders received.
- Update on Gorey Market House proposed works.
- Request that Curracloe greenway be added to the list of projects.
- Request for funding for footpaths in rural areas through active travel.
- Request that Gorey to Courtown footpath be added to the list of projects.
- The cost of demolition works at Oyster Lane?
- Disappointment expressed that Oyster Lane project is now a longer-term project.
- Has private investment been secured for Trinity Wharf?
- Is €50m funding for Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme still provided for?
- Investment in Gorey Market House, Esmonde St., and Gorey Town Park welcomed.
- Timeline for St. Waleran’s inner relief road?
- Disappointment expressed that there is only one project included for the Kilmuckridge LEA.
- Timeline for Fethard Harbour Slipway.
- Query why advance factory isn’t included.
- Query what funding for Tech Park is in respect of.
- Request for extension to Ryland Road graveyard.
- Request that N80 be resurfaced all the way to Bunclody.
- No movement on connectivity for Enniscorthy North Business Park.
- Request that initial timelines for St. Waleran’s works be maintained.
- Request that rural footpaths be funded and included in 3-year plan.
- Clarification sought on spend on new phone system.
- Request that money be provided for the Athenaeum in Enniscorthy.
- Clarification sought on Murphy Floods expenditure.
- Clarification sought as to when a project which is in doubt is removed from the list.

Cathaoirleach J. Fleming proposed that the views of the Municipal Districts be sought and referred the 3-year capital programme to the districts.

8. Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL)

Ms. L. Lacey sought the approval of the Members to borrowing for Local Authority Home Loans for 2024 and 2025, as outlined in the circulated memo. In accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001, on the proposal of Cllr. J. O’Rourke, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor, the Council resolved to approve borrowing of up to €8,870,000 for 2024 Local Authority Home Loans and €1,774,000 for 2025 Local Authority Home Loans.

9. Increase Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant

Ms. L. Lacey circulated a memo outlining the detail of the Increased Cost of Business Grant, which was noted by the Members.

10. Invitation to the London Wexford Association 70th Anniversary Dinner Dance on 20th April, 2024

On the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny, the Council resolved to approve to send a delegation to the London Wexford Association 70th Anniversary Dinner Dance on 20th April, 2024.

11. Amendment of Standing Orders

Mr. M. Drea circulated a memo seeking the approval of the Members to alter the Standing Orders pertaining to the attendance of the public at Council meetings. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen, the Members resolved to adopt the following wording for Standing Order No. 51:

51. Members of the public and representatives of the media will occupy the parts of the Meeting Room allotted to their use.

The public shall be admitted subject to the following arrangements:

A request to attend remotely or in person must be submitted to the Meetings Administrator by 12 noon on the working day prior to the date of the meeting (Saturday and Sunday are excluded days) as seating facilities are limited in the Chamber. In-person attendees must be present in the Chamber 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting and must register their attendance at the Customer Service desk on arrival. The same requirements apply to groups seeking to attend, and where the group consists of juveniles under the age of eighteen, there must be adult supervision. Visitors are expected to comply with Health and Safety requirements.

The meeting adjourned for a comfort break at this point.

Cllr.'s D. Devereux, J. O'Rourke, B. Murphy, O. Walsh and G. Carthy left the meeting at this point.

12. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive and members of the Management Team responded to a wide range of queries from the Elected Members regarding the following:

- Timeline for Enniscorthy Local Area Plan.
- Number of vacancies in the Fire Service and where those vacancies are.
- How many litter fines are paid in full, how many partially paid, and how many stopped?
- Level of interest from businesses in Senan House.

- Request that if funding is secured for safety works at Larkin's Cross, funding to be sought for Kyle Cross.
- Request that boardwalks at Curracloe be repaired.
- Will funding application for Glynn be resubmitted to Uisce Éireann?
- Do we have sufficient resources to carry out work on the register of electors?
- Can change of address forms for the register of electors be included in new tenant's packs?
- Request that Veronica Cambell and Paddy Prendergast be invited to address the next Council meeting.
- Request that the Planning and Housing Departments improve communication following a recent misunderstanding.
- How many mechanical patchers in the County?
- Request for speed ramps in Bridgetown due to volume of traffic at the school.
- Query if the Council should now take the land in Taghmon back from the AHB.
- Issue of availability of cold weather beds and having to vacate them during the day.
- How many are using cold weather beds?
- Has the Council advertised for emergency accommodation B&B providers across the county?
- When does the category of special priority kick in for housing allocations?
- Request that deferred motions from previous meetings be brought forward on the next agenda.
- Can a limit on the number of axels or weight of vehicles using certain roads be implemented?

Cllr.'s G. Laffan and J. Hegarty left the meeting at this point.

- Do we know how many people haven't accessed the CBL system? Can this be added to the CE report?
- Can breakdown of rent be included when sending out details of new HAP rates.
- Reassurance sought that farmers in Enniscorthy will be able to make submissions on the Zoned Land Tax once a Local Area Plan is adopted, as the current deadline for submissions is 1st April, 2024.
- Request that larger speed limit signs be provided.

On the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan the Council resolved to suspend standing orders to allow the meeting to continue past 5.30pm.

- Update sought on wastewater services in the Camolin area.
- Director of Services Eamonn Hore was complimented for his submission on roads funding to the Minister.
- Funding of €1.4m for Enniscorthy roads described as insufficient.
- Unacceptable that path at St. Aidan's school was closed last week.
- Request that funding be sought from the Minister for safety works on the Newline Road.
- Update sought on the M11 project.

- Frustration expressed at damage being caused to roads in Murrintown and Piercestown by HGV's.
- Request for pilot pedestrian crossing at Whiterock Hill utilising signage rather than lights.
- Timeline for development of schools on Killeens land.
- Request that cold weather beds policy be reviewed.

Agenda items 13, 14, 15, 17 and 18 were not taken.

16. Councillor's Conferences and Training

16.1 List of Conferences/Training – List Attached

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan, the Council approved attendance for the following conferences and training:

Training:

- 21.03.24 ALLG Module 2 Training "Local Election 2024 Preparation – A Briefing from the Electoral Commission" – Hotel Kilkenny (Southern Region)
- 23.03.24 ALLG Module 2 Training "Local Election 2024 Preparation – A Briefing from the Electoral Commission" – Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone (Out of Region)

Conference:

- 8th March Online Conference - Offshore Renewable Energy Ireland 2024
The Future for the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Sector in Ireland.
Fee €305 plus VAT
- 18/19 April Irish Planning Institute – 2024 National Planning Conference
Theatre Royal and Tower Hotel, Waterford City. Fee €505

19. Any Other Business.

Cllr. M. Bell sought the approval of the Council to accept an invitation for a delegation to travel to Fleurs from 29th March to 1st April. On the proposal of Cllr. J. Moore, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor, the Council resolved to approve to send a delegation from the Wexford Borough Municipal District to Fleurs on 29th March, 2024.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an lá de Aibreán, 2024.

Cllr. John Fleming

Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,

County Secretary