

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in the Council Chamber at 2.30pm (with some remote attendance via Microsoft Teams)****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. John Fleming, Cathaoirleach**Councillors:**

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

**Officials:**

Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive

Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services

Ms. Lynda Lacey, A/Head of Finance

Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Director of Services

Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services

Ms Carolyn Godkin, Director of Services

Ms. Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services

Mr. Michael Drea, County Secretary

**Apologies:** Cllr. Lisa McDonald

**Votes of sympathy:**

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Martin Ryan, former employee and husband of Anita Ryan, former employee.
- The family of Michael Duffin, father of Michelle Duffin, New Ross Municipal District.
- The family of Catherine Ryan, mother of John Cunningham-Ryan, Library Services.
- The family of Patrick (Paddy) Doran, father of Damien Doran and Dermot Doran, Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District.
- The family of Fr. John P. Nolan, Parish Priest of Duncannon.
- The family of Marjorie Allen, Wexford Town.
- The family of Michael (Mike) Hennessy, Barntown.
- The family of John Furlong, Clonroche.

Cllr. J. Moore asked that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the Bruton family on the passing of former Taoiseach John Bruton. Cllr. Moore acknowledged what he achieved through his social policy and the vital part he played in developing the framework for the peace process. Cllr. Moore also noted that the government formed by John Bruton had three Ministers from the Wexford constituency.

**Congratulations:**

There were no congratulations recorded.

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

### **1.1 County Council Meeting 8th January, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the County Council Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**Matters arising:**

Cllr. G. Carthy enquired if there was any update from An Bord Pleanála on the Section 5 application submitted by Wexford County Council. Cllr. Carthy also sought clarity in relation to the retention application submitted by the developer and queried if the Council can validate a planning application for the site when there is no decision on the Section 5 application.

### **1.2 Special Meeting of Wexford County Council (Housing) 8th January, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. K. Codd Nolan the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the County Council (Housing) Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**Matters arising:**

Cllr. G. Carthy enquired what the delay is in producing an affordable housing strategy which he requested months earlier.

Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin noted that an affordable housing survey is being conducted and sought reassurance that this won't delay matters.

**2. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:**

**2.1 Consideration of the renewal of the lease of property at Coolcotts Community Centre to Clonard Area Development Association Ltd.**

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty the Council resolved to renew the lease of property at Coolcotts Community Centre to Clonard Area Development Association Ltd., in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

**2.2 Intention to dispose of property at 7 Old Garden City, Gorey, Co. Wexford**

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Kenny, seconded by Cllr. J. Sullivan the Council resolved to dispose of property at 7 Old Garden City, Gorey, 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 LAC2305 - Proposed residential development of 60 no. units in a mix of 1, 2 and 3 bed units, and all ancillary site and enabling works at Killeens, Wexford, Co. Wexford.**

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the construction of 60 no. units in a mix of 1, 2 and 3 bed units, and all ancillary site and enabling works at Killeens, Wexford, Co. Wexford. in accordance with the terms of LAC2305, as circulated.

**3.2 LAC2313 - Provide a public realm space which will incorporate a playground for younger children, seating, a pocket park, lighting and landscaping at Kilmuckridge, Co. Wexford.**

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. M. Farrell, seconded by Cllr. W. Kavanagh, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for a public realm space which will incorporate a playground for younger children, seating, a pocket park, lighting and landscaping at Kilmuckridge, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2313, as circulated.

**4. Wexford County Council Revised DRAFT Climate Action Plan 2024 -2029**

Pursuant to the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 as it amends the principle Act of 2015, on the proposal of Cllr. M. Farrell, seconded by Cllr. W. Kavanagh, Wexford County Council resolved to adopt the Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029, having considered the draft plan, the contents of the Chief Executive's report on

submissions received during the period of consultation and the SEA and AA reports and determinations, carried out in accordance with the requirements and regulatory provisions of the SEA Directive (DIR 2001/42/EC) and Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC).

Mr. T. Enright thanked Ms. C. Godkin and her team for the huge work which went into drafting the Plan.

**5. Wexford County Council DRAFT Litter Management Plan 2024 – 2027**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Farrell, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor, the Council resolved to move to public consultation on the Draft Litter Management Plan 2024 - 2027, as outlined in the circulated memo.

**6. Audit Committee Annual Reports**

The Members noted the Audit Committee Annual Reports.

**7. Invitation from New Ross' Sister City of Hartford to attend the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Greater Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade – 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Connick, seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan, the Council resolved to approve to send a delegation of two Members to Hartford to attend the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Greater Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

**8. Chief Executive's Report**

On the occasion of Chief Executive Tom Enright's last Council meeting, Cathaoirleach J. Fleming advised the Members that Mr. Enright would make a presentation prior to taking questions on the Chief Executive's report.

Mr. T. Enright said he wished to acknowledge the work done in collaboration with the Members over his ten-year tenure as Chief Executive. Mr. Enright detailed the work done to establish the Municipal District offices, the Council's response to major emergencies whilst acknowledging Billy Kinsella's tragic passing, the Council's response to Covid, and Cllr. Fergie Kehoe's tragic passing.

Mr. Enright acknowledged some of the major social and economic infrastructural projects delivered and thanked the Members for their commitment in funding such projects and the Fleadh bid. Looking to the future, Mr. Enright said it is important to increase the numbers visiting tourist attractions in Wexford, and he emphasised the importance of progressing the advance factory in New Ross and the Kilmore Quay Business Park.

After a sustained round of applause, the Members spoke glowingly about Mr. Enright's contribution to Wexford and the legacy he leaves behind. Numerous contributors spoke of his vision, integrity, ambition, approachability, honesty, courtesy, empathy, and respect. The following Members paid

tribute to Mr. Enright's tenure: Pip Breen, George Lawlor, Davy Hynes, Michael Whelan, John Hegarty, Michael Sheehan, Willie Kavanagh, Ger Carthy, Fionntáin Ó'Súilleabháin, Barbara Anne Murphy, Joe Sullivan, Jackser Owens, Jim Codd, Mary Farrell, Oliver Walsh, Kathleen Codd Nolan, Anthony Connick, Garry Laffan, Andrew Bolger, Aidan Browne, Frank Staples, Cathal Byrne, Donal Kenny, Bridín Murphy, and John Fleming.

Mr. E. Hore spoke on behalf of the Management Team and acknowledged the huge contribution made by Mr. T. Enright to County Wexford during his tenure and spoke of the enduring legacy he leaves behind.

The meeting adjourned for a comfort break at this point.

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

- How is the Council going to deal with the disproportionate distribution of migrants in Wexford?  
Request that a letter be sent to the Minister addressing the disproportionate distribution.
- Congratulations to LEO on creating the second highest number of jobs in the Country.
- Are there many public lights left to be converted to LED?
- Request for update on master plan of Killeens land.
- Status of discussions with SETU, FAI, GAA and Department of Education in relation to master planning.
- Can a representative body for disabilities be added as a notifiable body for the purpose of planning applications?
- It was noted that rates bills have been altered to remove the notification that you can pay your bill at the post office. It was agreed that future bills will include the post office as a payment facility.
- Update on Trinity Wharf progress.
- Disbelief expressed that north Wexford is getting only €50,000 out of €3.75m active travel funding.
- What applications for active travel funding were made for north Wexford?
- Request that the unsuccessful applications for north Wexford be analysed to establish why they didn't receive funding.
- Does Wexford County Council have a role in identifying accommodation centres?
- Frustration expressed in relation to SETU's delay in providing information for master planning.
- Request for bus stops in Bunclody to be funded through active travel.
- When will the register of electors be available?

- What is the status of the 65-unit development in Bunclody?
- Who will house Ukrainians after 90-day period has elapsed?
- How many litter fines are paid in full, how many partially paid, and how many stopped?
- Number of vacancies in the Fire Service?
- Does the word of the Members get taken into consideration when it comes to housing allocations?
- When is a decision made to allocate on the basis of a special category?
- Is time back on the list assessed on a case-by-case basis?
- Request for realistic timeframe for completion of works on Fisher's Row.
- Concern expressed in relation to unofficial road closures into estates around Wexford Park on match days and Wexford County Council's role in relation to this.
- Has there been an update in relation to the Mica/Pyrite redress scheme?
- Timeline for Enniscorthy Town Plan?
- Commencement of works on the N80 welcomed but request for larger speed signs.
- Timeline for conclusion of advance factory negotiations and commencement of work?
- Request for upgrade of New Ross library.
- Request for Council to contact the owners of the albatross site to explore the possibility of acquiring land for sports campus use.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy the Council resolved to suspend standing orders to allow the meeting to continue past 5.30pm.

- Timeline for demolition of Murphy Floods.
- Is there an option to look at one footpath project per district under active travel funding?
- Can an e-mail notification be incorporated into the CBL system notifying applicants if they have been unsuccessful?

Cllr.'s G. Carthy and K.C. Nolan left the meeting at this point.

- Issues raised in relation to Ballytegan road.
- Dissatisfaction raised over delays in payment of Acres scheme, the importation of white thorn for the Acres scheme rather than local supply, and the change in the VAT rate for farm equipment.
- Six streetlights in Ballymitty need to be illuminated.
- Timeline for development of housing site in Taghmon?
- Concerns raised over removal of barrier at St. Aidan's school.
- Request that pedestrian crossings be provided at schools.

- Request that National Broadband Plan Co-ordinator attend a Council meeting.
- Timeline for N11/N25 road project?
- Request that polling stations be accessible.
- Request for updated contact details for staff and their departments.
- Request for dates and times for vacant homes roadshow.
- Concern over length of time taken to draw down Croí Conaithe grants.
- What is the average time between final inspection and Croí Conaithe grant being paid?
- Date for appointment of Heritage Officer?

## **9. Minutes of CPG Meeting 6th February, 2024**

### **9.1 Minutes of CPG Meeting 6th February, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy the Council resolved to adopt the minutes of the CPG meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.

## **10. Minutes for Noting**

### **Minutes of Meetings (For Noting):**

- 10.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2023
- 10.2 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2023
- 10.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2023
- 10.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2023
- 10.5 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2023
- 10.6 Protocol Committee Meeting - 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023
- 10.7 Planning & Building Control SPC 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

The members noted the above minutes.

## **11. Correspondence and Communications**

- 11.1 Letters from Offaly County Council re: motions 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 & 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2024
- 11.2 Letter from Carlow County Council re: motion dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2024
- 11.3 Letter from Department of Social Protection re motion dated 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2024
- 11.4 Letter from Sligo County Council re motion dated 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

The members noted the above correspondence.

## **12. Councillor's Conferences and Training**

### **12.1 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**

25<sup>th</sup> January – Local Authority Energy and Climate Action Information Seminar – Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow.

25<sup>th</sup> January – AILG Module 1 Training “Elected Members Briefing: Annual Declarations, Donations, Code of Conduct, and Local Representation Allowance update” – The Fairways Hotel, Dundalk (out of region).

27<sup>th</sup> January – AILG Module 1 Training “Elected Members Briefing: Annual Declarations, Donations, Code of Conduct, and Local Representation Allowance update” – Greenhills Conference & Leisure Centre, Limerick (Southern region).

7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> February – Association of Irish Regional Annual Training Seminar 2024 “Building capacity to address the challenges of a changing Ireland – Fitzgerald’s Woodlands Hotel, Limerick. €160

**Conferences**

23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February – Celtic Conferences – “The First Home Scheme – Helping Home Owners Get Onto The Property Ladder” – Carlingford, Co. Louth. €130

1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Celtic Conferences – “A Practical Guide to Personal taxation in Ireland” – Clonakilty, Co. Cork. €130.

**12.2 Councillor’s Conference Reports:**

- **Cllr. J. Sullivan – The Finance Act 2023, Carlingford, Co. Louth.**

The members noted the above report, as circulated.

**13. Notices of Motion**

The notices of motion were deferred until the March meeting.

**14. Any Other Business.**

Mr. M. Drea informed the meeting that Cllr. G. Lawlor had expressed an interest in filling the vacancy on the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) created by Cllr. L. Kelly’s resignation. On the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy, Cllr. G. Lawlor was appointed to the LTACC.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**



**Daingithe ar an                      lá de Márta, 2024.**

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***Cllr. John Fleming***

***Cathaoirleach***

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***Michael Drea,***

***County Secretary***