

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council held on Monday 8th April, 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	Farrell	Mary	Ó'Súilleabháin	Fionntáin (online)
Bell	Maura	Forde	Tom	Owens	Jackser
Bolger	Andrew (online)	Hegarty	John	Sheehan	Michael
Breen	Pip	Hynes	David (online)	Staples	Frank
Browne	Aidan	Kavanagh	Willie	Sullivan	Joe
Byrne	Cathal	Kelly	Leonard	Walsh	Oliver
Carthy	Ger	Kenny	Donal	Whelan	Michael
Codd	Jim	Laffan	Garry		
Codd-Nolan	Kathleen	Lawlor	George		
Connick	Anthony (online)	McDonald	Lisa		
Donohoe	Anthony	Moore	Jim		

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: Cllr.'s Diarmuid Devereux, Barbara-Anne Murphy, Bridín Murphy, John O'Rourke

Votes of sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Catherine Lynn, mother of Siobhán Lynn, Roads Section.
- The family of Kevin Dowler, father of Geraldine Dowler, Machinery Yard.
- The family of Mary Kinsella, mother of former Councillor Michael Kinsella and sister in-law of Councillor Kathleen Codd-Nolan.
- The family of Betty Stanley, mother of Liz Stanley, Gorey Municipal District Office and mother-in-law of Debbie Stanley, Gorey Municipal District Office.
- The family of Senator Billy Fox on the anniversary of his death.
- The family of Sean Kavanagh, The Lyre, Milehouse Road, Enniscorthy.

Congratulations:

Cathaoirleach J. Fleming congratulated Cllr. Bridín Murphy on the birth of her baby girl.

Cllr. J. Moore acknowledged the 125th anniversary of the first County Council elections in Ireland on 6th April 1899.

Cllr. J. Owens congratulated all who took part in the Hope and Dream event.

Cllr. J. Owens congratulated Charlie Dixon on winning the 2024 National BG3 65kg boxing Championship.

Cllr. G. Laffan congratulated Wexford Bohemians who booked their place in the semi-finals of the LFA Junior Cup.

Cllr. G. Laffan congratulated the Wexford Men's Senior Footballers who beat Carlow in the Leinster Senior football championship first round tie.

Cllr. A. Browne congratulated all who took part in the Hope and Dream event and Enniscorthy Boxing Club who had five winning boxers at the National Championships.

Cllr. K.Codd Nolan congratulated J.J. Slevin who rode the Tom Gibney-trained Intense Raffles to victory in the Irish National at Fairyhouse.

Cllr. M. Sheehan congratulated Mick McCormack and his team on their town regeneration plan being selected as the exemplar to follow.

Cllr. O. Walsh congratulated Blackwater and Oulart the Ballagh camogie clubs on winning the Féile.

Cllr. G. Lawlor requested that a letter be sent to Garda Commissioner Drew Harris outlining the Members full support for Garda John Francis Ryan who is accused of endangerment of life and three counts of dangerous driving during the course of his duties.

Cllr. P. Breen sought an explanation as to why letters with erroneous information about amenity grants were issued by Cllr. F. Ó'Súilleabháin. Cllr.'s M. Farrell, O. Walsh, and W. Kavanagh all expressed their annoyance that incorrect information circulated in Cllr. Ó'Súilleabháin's letters turned what should be a positive story about the amenity grants into a negative story. Cllr.'s Farrell and Walsh highlighted a group who were told they were receiving €14,500 when they are actually due to receive €500.

In response, Cllr. F. Ó'Súilleabháin explained that he was working off two excel spreadsheets which led to the error. Cllr. Ó'Súilleabháin advised that he believed there may have been five groups who were given incorrect information and he has contacted them to apologise, and he offered a further apology at the Council meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. P. Barden it was agreed to suspend standing orders to allow NBI make a presentation.

1. Presentation - National Broadband Ireland on the rollout progress

T.J. Malone, CEO of National Broadband Ireland Deployment gave a presentation outlining NBI's network design and build process, progress made in delivering the national broadband plan, broadband services offered by NBI, County Wexford fibre to the home update, and broadband connection points and school's update. Mr. Malone and his team responded to a wide range of queries from the Elected Members. Cathaoirleach J. Fleming thanked Mr. Malone and his team for their presentation and addressing the Member's queries.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 County Council Meeting 11th March 2024

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan and seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the County Council Meeting on 11th March 2024.

Matters arising:

Cllr. T. Forde highlighted a suggestion at the last Council meeting that a clock should be installed in the Chamber to time speakers.

Cllr. C. Byrne requested that a letter issue to the Minister for Agriculture requesting a meeting with a cross party delegation as agreed as the March Council meeting.

3. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:

3.1 Intention to transfer a portion of land at 4 Hillview Close, Irishtown, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. P. Barden the Council resolved to transfer a portion of land at 4 Hillview Close, Irishtown, New Ross, Co. Wexford, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3.2 Intention to transfer a portion of land at Graiguemore, Bunclody, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. J. Owens the Council resolved to transfer a portion of land at Graiguemore, Bunclody, Co. Wexford, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3.3 Dispose of a portion of land at Ballylemin, Screen, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. O. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty the Council resolved to dispose of a portion of land at Ballylemin, Screen, Co. Wexford, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3.4 Intention to dispose of property at 10 Peter Street, Wexford Town.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell the Council resolved to dispose of property at 10 Peter Street, Wexford Town, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3.5 Intention to transfer lands at Carricklawn, Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor the Council resolved to transfer lands at Carricklawn, Wexford, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3.6 Intention to transfer a portion of land at Lambstown, Killurin, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell the Council resolved to transfer a portion of land at Lambstown, Killurin, Co. Wexford, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3.7 Intention to lease the property at 1 & 2 McDermott Street, Gorey, Co Wexford (Old Credit Union Building)

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen the Council resolved to lease the property at 1 & 2 McDermott Street, Gorey, Co Wexford (Old Credit Union Building), in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3.8 Intention to transfer a portion of land at Main Street, Gorey, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Kenny, seconded by Cllr. J. Sullivan the Council resolved to transfer a portion of land at Main Street, Gorey, Co. Wexford, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3.9 Intention to dispose of the property at Kyle, Bolaboy, Oulart, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. O. Walsh the Council resolved to dispose of the property at Kyle, Bolaboy, Oulart, Co. Wexford, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

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

4.1 LAC2401 - Alterations, Extensions & External Works to The Grain Store, John Street, New Ross, Wexford (A PROTECTED STRUCTURE - RPS No. NR0143 - NIAH No. 15605016).

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for alterations, extensions & external works to the Grain Store, John Street, New Ross, Wexford (A protected structure - RPS No. NR0143 - NIAH No. 15605016) in accordance with the terms of LAC2401, as circulated.

4.2 LAC2402 – This development involves the protection of approximately 300m of cliff frontage at Seaview, Co. Wexford, with integrated ramp access to the beach. This protection consists of rock armour revetment to the existing cliff face. The reinforced concrete ramp will be integrated into the rock revetment. This development also consists of a low earth mound on the cliff crest immediately behind the revetment works. A small vehicle turning area is included, adjacent to the existing access road at the top of the ramp at Seaview Beach, Seaview, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the protection of approximately 300m of cliff frontage at Seaview, Co. Wexford, with integrated ramp access to the beach. This protection consists of rock armour revetment to the existing cliff face. The reinforced concrete ramp will be integrated into the rock revetment. This development also consists of a low earth mound on the cliff crest immediately behind the revetment works. A small vehicle turning area is included, adjacent to the existing access road at the top of the ramp at Seaview Beach, Seaview, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2402, as circulated.

5. Adoption of the 2024 – 2029 Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), including the initial 2-year implementation plan including a statement stating that the LECP aligns with the County Development Plan.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, the Council resolved to adopt the 2024 – 2029 Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), including the initial 2-year implementation plan including a statement stating that the LECP aligns with the County Development Plan, as outlined in the circulated memo.

6. 3 Year Capital Programme 2024 – 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Farrell, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald, the Council resolved to adopt the 3 Year Capital Programme 2024 – 2026.

7. Wexford County Council Audit Committee Charter - For Adoption

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald, the Council resolved to adopt the Wexford County Council Audit Committee Charter, as circulated.

8. Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan - For Adoption

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. K. Codd Nolan, the Council resolved to adopt the Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan, as circulated.

9. Invitation for delegation to travel to Dunkerque 1st May, 2024 to 3rd May, 2024

On the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. J. Sullivan, the Council resolved to send a delegation to Dunkerque from 1st May, 2024 to 3rd May, 2024.

The meeting adjourned for a comfort break at this point.

10. 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:

- Update on works at the Ahare river and potential automation of warning signal lights.
- Update on proceedings in relation to the odour issue at Ballyminaun.
- Update sought on the defective block redress scheme.
- Issue of coastal erosion at Kilmichael North.
- Request that TII review road safety concerns at the Heritage Park.
- Update sought on N11/N25 road project.
- Update on hookless village leisure centre and its entry in the derelict sites register.
- Clarification sought on what the active travel requirements are for the N11/N25.
- Issue of local authority tenant evictions and perceived difficulties in executing same where there is serious damage caused and serious anti-social behaviour.
- Request that a letter be sent to the Minister asking that Wexford be reviewed in terms of its potential designation as a rent pressure zone.
- Update on security requirements and provisions for the Fleadh.
- Request that drinking water be provided on Vinegar Hill.
- Request that a shuttle bus service be provided to and from the primary care centre in Enniscorthy.
- Update sought on progress being made with contractors in relation to time taken to repair street lighting.

- Request that the Council engage with the EPA in relation to a funding call for research projects in relation to coastal erosion.

Cllr.'s A. Browne and J. Owens left the meeting at this point.

- Timeline for public space works at old Crazy Prices site.
- Are there any plans for a sensory space for the Fleadh?
- Any update on speed limit review process?
- Can funding be accessed to maintain the ballast bank?
- Can we review procurement of goods to identify what is acquired from Israel?
- Status of proposed new lifeboat station for Kilmore.
- Timeline for lights being repaired at Ballygillane roundabout.
- When will contractor commence on Rosslare Europort access road?
- When will work commence on Kilrane to Rosslare Harbour active travel scheme?
- Poor communication between contractor and Úisce Eireann highlighted in relation to water outage issue at Ballintlea.
- Issue of potholes at Cullenstown raised and insufficient national funding for road maintenance.
- Issue of clients being barred from hostel accommodation.

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

- Request that a letter be sent to the Minister outlining the Member's disapproval at the proposal for the Wexford to Dublin rail service.
- Request for road safety works at Starvehall Cross.
- Update on demolition of Murphy Floods building.
- Inclusion of feasibility study for Vinegar Hill in 3-year capital programme was welcomed.
- Clarification sought if Wexford County Council has suspended not essential farm inspections.
- Works on N80 welcomed and request for funding for safety works on Ballycarney junction.

Cllr.'s L. Kelly, K. Codd Nolan, and G. Lawlor left the meeting at this point.

- Update on progress in relation to the advance factory.
- What workshops will be run around the county for affordable housing?
- Update on hotel site for New Ross.
- Proposal that some Members travel to Government Buildings to protest against roads funding for Wexford.
- Request that a letter be sent to the Minister asking that HAP rates for Wexford be reviewed.
- Update sought on St. Waleran's and Ramsfort sites.
- Timeline for residents of Ballytegan to be provided with an update on road infrastructure.
- How many Croí Conaithe grants have been approved and how many have been paid?

- Council's position on farm inspections welcomed.
- Request for presentation on Courtown beach nourishment project.
- Request that TII review safety at Tominearly as well as Tomfarney.

11. Core Strategy Monitoring Report - For Noting

The Members noted the Core Strategy Monitoring Report, as circulated.

12. Minutes of CPG

12.1 Minutes of CPG Meeting 2nd April, 2024

12.2 Minutes of CPG Meeting 4th March, 2024

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny, the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the CPG meetings of 4th March and 2nd April.

13. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting)

13.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting –14th February, 2024 & 10th January, 2024

13.2 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 22nd February, 2024 & 17th January, 2024

13.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 19th February, 2024 & 15th January, 2024

13.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 19th February, 2024 & 15th January, 2024

13.5 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 19th March, 2024, 20th February, 2024 & 16th January, 2024

13.6 Climate Change, Biodiversity & Environment SPC Meeting 6th December, 2023

The Members noted the minutes, as circulated.

14. Correspondence and Communications

14.1 Letter from Sligo County Council re motion dated 6th February, 2024

14.2 Letter from Clare County Council re motion dated 13th March, 2024

14.3 Letter from Gorey CS Student Council dated 11th March, 2024

14.4 Letter from Westmeath County Council re motion dated 2nd April, 2024

The Members noted the correspondence and communications, as circulated.

15. Councillor's Conferences and Training

15.1 List of Conferences/Training – List Attached

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald, the Council approved attendance for the following conferences and training:

Training:

13/14 March 2024 Annual Suck Valley Way Training Conference “The Rise of Loneliness on the Emerald Isle” – Roscommon. Fee €130.

8/10 April Metrics of Success – Securing Real Progress Toward Sustainable Buildings – The Riverside Hotel, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

Conference:

18/19 April Local Government Tourism Conference – Killashee House Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare. Fee €220.

15.2 Councillor’s Conference Reports

China Delegation Report – February, 2024

New York Delegation Report – March 2024

Harteford Delegation Report – March 2024

Savannah Delegation Report – March 2024

The Members noted the delegation reports, as circulated.

16. Deferred Notices of Motion – County Council Meeting 12th February, 2024

This agenda item was not taken.

17. Deferred Notices of Motion County Council Meeting 11th March, 2024

This agenda item was not taken.

18. Notices of Motion

This agenda item was not taken.

19. Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an lá de Bealtaine, 2024.

Cllr. John Fleming

Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,

County Secretary