

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council
Held Monday 8 February, 2021 (via MS TEAMS)****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. Ger Carthy, Cathaoirleach.**Councillors:**

BARDEN	PAT	FARRELL	MARY	MOORE	JIM
BELL	MAURA	FLEMING	JOHN	MURPHY	BARBARA- ANNE
BOLGER	ANDREW	FORDE	TOM	MURPHY	BRIDIN
BREEN	PIP	HEGARTY	JOHN	O'ROURKE	JOHN
BROWNE	AIDAN	HYNES	DAVID	O'SUILLEABHAIN	FIONNTAIN
BYRNE	CATHAL	KAVANAGH	WILLIE	OWENS	JACKSER
CODD	JIM	KELLY	LEONARD	SHEEHAN	MICHAEL
CODD-NOLAN	KATHLEEN	KENNY	DONAL	STAPLES	FRANK
CONNICK	ANTHONY	LAFFAN	GARY	SULLIVAN	JOE
DEVEREUX	DIARMUID	LAWLOR	GEORGE	WALSH	OLIVER
DONOHUE	ANTHONY	MCDONALD	LISA	WHELAN	MICHAEL

Officials:

Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive

Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services

Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services

Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance

Ms. A. Byrne, A/Director of Services

Ms. C. Godkin, A/Director of Services

Mr. D. Minogue, County Secretary

Votes of Sympathy:

The Council expressed sympathy to the families of the following recently deceased:

- Mr. Sean Sutton, New Ross
- Ms. Anne Gardiner, New Ross
- Mr. John Dunphy, New Ross
- Ms. Lily Murphy, New Ross
- Ms. Alice Sinnott, New Ross
- Mr. Anthony Sinnott, New Ross
- Mr. Hugo Boyle,
- Mr. PJ Doyle, Enniscorthy
- Mr. Nicky Stafford, Gorey
- Ms. Ann Lambert, Killinick
- Mr. Gerry Meyler, Tacumshane
- Mr. Kevin O’Leary, Kilmuckridge
- Mr. John Dodd, Wexford
- Mr. Jimmy Murphy, Wexford
- Ms. Bernie Sheehan, Wexford
- Mr. William Culleton, Ballycullane
- Mr. Christy O’Connell, Caim / Rathnure
- Ms. Nancy Hayden, New Ross
- Ms. Alice Fitzgerald, Kilmallock, Limerick / Killorglin, Kerry

The Council congratulated the following:

- Mr. James Kehoe, from the Boley Tug-of-War Club, runner-up as “one of the greatest athletes of all time”
- All involved in managing recent serious fire incident at Foggy Dew Wexford, including Wexford County Council Fire Services, Housing and Roads staff, an Garda Síochána and ESB Networks
- Wexford Library Services following launch of “On Home Ground” Volumes 2 and 3
- Good Counsel College New Ross, following their recent listing as the top secondary school in Ireland in terms of sporting achievement
- Mr. Mattie White, following publication of his book “Through a Farmer’s Eyes”
- All front line workers for their tireless efforts in the challenge of the “third wave” of Covid-19
- Mr. Joe Fortune, following his appointment to the Wexford U21 coaching Panel
- Wexford Environment Staff for their management of recent significant dumping incidents in Kiltaly area

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1. County Council Meeting – 11 January, 2021

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. J. Codd the Council resolved to adopt the above Minutes.

Matters Arising:

Test Centre:	Cllr. J. Owens and Cllr. C. Byrne, while acknowledging the views of the HSE on the matter, expressed their disappointments that a Covid-19 test center had not been established in Enniscorthy
Legal Fees:	A/DoS Ms. Carolyne Godkin undertook to update Cllr. J. Fleming in relation to his recent enquiry regarding conveyancing fees
Land Disposal	Cllr. Owens requested that the Council consider the disposal of land in Enniscorthy to the Ajax Soccer Club. Cllr. Owens was advised to make contact with the Enniscorthy District Manager to allow the matter to be considered further

2. Proposed disposal of land under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:

2.1 Proposed disposal of a plot of land at Mauldintown, Wexford. (Plot A)

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly, the Council resolved that the proposed disposal should be carried out in accordance with the Notice as circulated.

2.2 Proposed disposal of a plot of land at Mauldintown, Wexford. (Plot B)

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly, the Council resolved that the proposed disposal should be carried out in accordance with the Notice as circulated.

3 Draft Wexford County Council Beach Bye-Laws – For Approval in accordance with Section 199 of the Local Government Act 2001

On the proposal of Cllr. O. Walsh seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell, the Council resolved that the Draft Beach Byelaws be adopted as circulated. It was noted that the draft Beach Byelaws will now go forward to a public consultation process, before returning before the Council for further consideration.

4. Report of A/DoS, Housing, Community, Fire and Emergency Management

Ms. C. Godkin, A/DoS updated the meeting regarding arrangements for provision of emergency accommodation of Homeless persons. Members joined in acknowledging the continuing efforts of staff to support homeless persons. It was noted that the Council is actively seeking to identify homeless persons at the earliest opportunity to avoid the growing challenge of finding emergency accommodation late at night or at weekends.

It was agreed that the Members will be informed whenever the Cold Weather Initiative is activated.

5. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive presented the Report and together with the members of the Management Team responded to a range of queries from the Members, including the following:

Tech University for the South East - Two sites in Enniscorthy were brought to the attention of the consortium charged with the development of the University. However, a suitable site has been identified in Wexford town and a firm offer has been made to site owner. The project is included in the National Development Plan. A building of 10,000 m² is proposed in Phase 1 at estimated cost of €41m, with plans to accommodate more than 2500 students.

Inclusion of Working Family Supplement in calculation of local authority rents – to be considered by Housing staff

Progress on the remediation of the site of the oil tanks at New Ross – project to commence following lifting of Covid restrictions

Construction of New Ross Fire Station and use of existing fire station site – New Fire Station project to commence following lifting of Covid restrictions, while discussions ongoing with HSE regarding possible uses of the resulting vacant site

Future plans for Waterford Airport – Application currently before APB which will see Government invest €5m as part of an overall €12m investment to extend runway from 1450m to 2200m – thereby significantly increasing capacity

Templeshannon Enhancement Project – As no responses received to Council's recent tender invitation to appoint consultants, Council is following negotiated tender procedure and expects to appoint a consultant before end of March 2021.

Development of Rosslare Europort – WCC's submission to the National Development Plan under the "Review to Renew" initiative will include proposals in respect of Rosslare Harbour

Link Road Killeens to Clonard – While full road may not be built at this time, sufficient roadway will be constructed to provide access to site of proposed school. Council Planning & Roads Depts. have met to agree how they can support this proposed development. Technical teams from WCC and WWETB will meet as soon as Covid restrictions allow to further progress the matter.

Housing Adaption works – Priority 1 works will continue. Every effort will be made to reduce the need for tenants to vacate their properties while works are underway. Where vacant possession is need, it was noted that HSE may be able to offer respite to the tenants.

Courtown Leisure Centre - Progress is being made by the liquidator to find a suitable purchaser to acquire and operate the facility. The Council understands that the adjacent C. 57 acre woodland forms part of the current discussions regarding a possible sale of the leisure complex and the Council will as far as possible ensure that this amenity continues to be available to the local community.

Camper Van facilities – There is a need for these facilities across the county, particularly in the more visited areas and the Council will work with private sector in securing their development in appropriate locations.

Site for new secondary school in Gorey – The Department of Education, supported by WCC is actively examining a number of sites in the Gorey town area as a suitable location for this proposed development.

Carrigfoyle Adventure Centre – The Council, working in partnership with WWETB will shortly appoint architects to design the proposed Visitor Centre and is agreeable to engage with Healthy Wexford in relation to the project.

3-month waiver of 2021 Commercial Rates – details of the Scheme have been recently received by the Council and are being reviewed – Council rates warrant for 2020 was approx. €40m – government grant of €15m received towards this. The expected collection level for 2020 is likely to be in order of 90% - similar to 2019.

Review of National Development Plan – Wexford County Council will make a submission

Kilmore Quay Sewerage Scheme – The Scheme is separate from the Arthurstown / Ballyhack proposed scheme – tenders are due for receipt within 2 weeks

Review of County Development Plan- Meeting of Wexford County Council is planned for March / April to consider the outcome of recent public consultation process

Ros Tapestry – Council will engage with the Board of Ros Tapestry to better understand the funding needs of the project in the context of the exhibition's current operational status and location.

Min Ryan Skatepark Project – works will commence when Covid restrictions allow

Litter and Dumping – Council to discourage repeat offences by examining waste disposal arrangements of prosecuted offenders

Site of former Murphy Floods Hotel – Council is engaging with owners to seek suitable redevelopment of site, while discouraging dumping incidence at this location

6. Minutes of CPG

6.1 Minutes of Expanded CPG Covid-19 Committee Meeting 25.01.2021

6.2 Minutes of CPG Meeting 01.02.2021

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. J. Sullivan Codd the Council resolved to adopt the above Minutes

7. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting):

7.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 09.12.2020

7.2 Borough District of Wexford Meeting - 21.12.2020

7.3 Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting 15.12.2020

7.4 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 14.12.2020

7.5 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting 16.11.2020 & 21.12.2020

The Council noted the Minutes of the meetings as outlined above

8. Correspondence and Communications

8.1 Email from Patrick McCabe Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice dated 12th January, 2021.

8.2 Email from Frances-Mary Long, Private Secretary to Minister Simon Harris T.D. dated 26th January, 2021.

8.3 Letter from Galway County Council dated 26th January, 2021.

8.4 Letter from Wicklow County Council dated 28th January, 2021.

8.5 Email from Patrick McCabe Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice dated 2nd February, 2021.

The Members noted the above correspondence. It was agreed that the County Secretary will review the response as set out in 7.1 above and to communicate with the Minister further in this regard.

9. Notices of Motion

9.1 Cllr. J. Sullivan

“I wish to call on Wexford County Council to make recycling services free of charge at their designated locations around the county. “ I make this call as I believe it would reduce the amount of litter currently been deposited in country areas which I see as getting progressively worse.

Cllr. J. Sullivan proposed the Motion which was seconded by Cllr. Kenny.

Following discussion, it was agreed to bring the Motion before the next meeting of the Environmental SPC for further consideration

9.2 Cllr. J. Hegarty

“To ensure that the main street of our four district towns remain vibrant, Wexford County Council will require that any vacant premises display graphics depicting a vibrant shop setting in it's windows. Furthermore, it will prohibit large "For Sale/Rent" signs attached to the building and instead have an A3 page displaying the relevant information on the shop window. “

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. Kenny and agreed unanimously.

9.3 Cllr. D. Hynes

“That this government prioritise these ' essential workers' and 'key care partners'. There are 355 thousand family carers in Ireland, over 6,000 living in Co Wexford providing 24/7 care to our most vulnerable citizens and saving the State an estimated €4 billion every year. Family Carers are irreplaceable in the lives of the people they care for and should they become ill or require to self isolate the cared-for person's lives will instantly arrive at a crisis situation. Due to lack of investment in disability and elderly services for decades both locally and nationally, the health system does not have available capacity to provide the care provided at home by the family carer should such crisis arrive. Family Carers need to be prioritised for vaccines as a matter of urgency as they have been in many other States within the EU where their value to our vulnerable citizens is recognised and valued as essential to them and to society at large.

National Carers Strategy 2012, Vision Statement:

“ Carers will be recognised and respected as key care partners. They will be supported to maintain their health and well being and to care with confidence. They will be empowered to participate as fully as possible in economic and social life “

A decade later, January 2021 and no social care support has been offered to carers who are caring for children with disabilities when special schools remain closed and adult Day services remain at much-reduced capacity followed by a blunt statement from the Minister for Health to say that he will not prioritise family carers in COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

Visions are wonderful but reality is where we live."

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. D. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell and agreed unanimously.

9.4 Cllr. G. Lawlor

"Wexford Co. Council supports the provision of Free Travel for People with Epilepsy and for Reasonable Accommodations for students with epilepsy who may have a seizure during state examinations."

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes and agreed unanimously.

9.5 Cllr. C. Byrne

"Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for the Environment Eamon Ryan T.D. to amend the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and the Waste Management Act 1996 to provide a clear statutory framework for the use of CCTV by Local Authorities to deter and prosecute litter offences within their administrative areas."

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. C. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. K. Codd Nolan and agreed unanimously.

9.6 Cllr. T. Forde & Cllr. F. O'Suilleabhán

"This council recognises that the income limits for social housing support applicants prevent many families, who are not in a position to obtain a mortgage or to pay high rents, from securing a home. This council calls on Fianna Fáil Minister Darragh O'Brien to review and amend these income limits/thresholds without delay".

The question of determining an appropriate income limit was considered briefly by the Members but not decided upon

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes and agreed unanimously.

9.7 Cllr. G. Lawlor

“Wexford Co. Council calls on the Government to alter legislation transposing the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) into Irish law amending it to ensure that;

- (a) Communities and councils have ease of access to CCTV to protect them against crime and anti social behaviour including illegal dumping and fly tipping*
- (b) to ensure that councillors are given access to housing allocation information to enable the fair and transparent allocation of housing resources.*

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan and agreed unanimously.

10. Any Other Business

Cllr. L. Kelly sought to introduce a Notice of Motion, notice of which had not been given to the Meeting. A number of members expressed the view that as the matter was not listed on the Agenda, they had insufficient opportunity to familiarize themselves with the content of the issue.

As required under Standing Order No. 20, the decision to hear the Motion or not was put to a vote for the necessary approval of not less than 18 Members. The vote was taken by roll call and the outcome of that vote was as follows:

BARDEN	PAT	F	FARRELL	MARY	F	MURPHY	BARBARA-ANNE	A
BELL	MAURA	F	FLEMING	JOHN	A	MURPHY	BRIDIN	AB
BOLGER	ANDREW	A	FORDE	TOM	F	O’ROURKE	JOHN	F
BREEN	PIP	A	HEGARTY	JOHN	A	O’SUILLEABHAIN	FIONNTAIN	F
BROWNE	AIDAN	A	HYNES	DAVID	F	OWENS	JACKSER	F
BYRNE	CATHAL	A	KAVANAGH	WILLIE	A	SHEEHAN	MICHAEL	AB
CARTHY	GER	F	KELLY	LEONARD	F	STAPLES	FRANK	AB
CODD	JIM	F	KENNY	DONAL	A	SULLIVAN	JOE	A
CODD-NOLAN	KATHLEEN	F	LAFFAN	GARY	A	WALSH	OLIVER	A
CONNICK	ANTHONY	F	LAWLOR	GEORGE	F	WHELAN	MICHAEL	A
DEVEREUX	DIARMUID	A	MCDONALD	LISA	A	WHELAN	MICHAEL	
DONOHUE	ANTHONY	A	MOORE	JIM	A			
F = For, A = Against, AB = Absent /Abstain								

As the proposal failed to get the necessary 18 votes, the Motion could not be considered. It was agreed that the Motion would be placed on the Agenda for the March 2021 of the Council for consideration.

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. J. Moore it was agreed that the membership of the Council's Protocol Committee be expanded to include the Council's representatives to LAMA and the AILG

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. J. Sullivan it was agreed that a number of Notices of Motion recently submitted to the Housing SPC would be added to Agenda of the March 2021 monthly meeting of Wexford County Council for consideration.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an lá de Márta, 2021.

Cathaoirleach

County Secretary