

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council
Held Monday 8 March, 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. 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
 Mr. Sean Dobbs, Project Manager, Roads Department

Apologies: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive

Votes of Sympathy:

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

- Ms. Leona Reville, Bannow
- Mr. Patsy Bennett, Clonroche
- Ms. Helen McGreevy, Clonroche
- Mr. James Doran, Tintern
- Ms. Brigid Murphy, Wellington Bridge
- Mrs. Betty Donovan, Wexford Town
- Mr. Ken O’Hara, Rosslare Harbour
- Ms. Dympna Donohoe, Curracloe
- Ms. Margaret Jackman, Killlurin
- Ms. Stacia Ryan, New Ross
- Mr. Martin O’Neill, New Ross
- Mr. Patrick (Nicko) Hamilton, New Ross
- Mr. John Doyle, New Ross
- Mr. Denis North, New Ross
- Mr. Thomas Kirby, New Ross

The Council congratulated the following:

- The Mahoney and Cullen Families, following their performances in “Ireland’s Fittest Family”
- Mr. Michael Brazil, Dr. Ronan O’Flaherty and all involved in the development of Forth Mountain Walking Trails
- DFDS Shipping Group, following launch of a fourth ship on the ferry line between Dunkerque and Rosslare.
- All Wexford selections on the Club Team of the Year
- All community litter picking groups
- Organisers of the 20k North Wexford fundraiser on behalf of Wexford Hospice
- Former Councillor Larry O’Brien, on the occasion of the 34th anniversary of the sinking of the Herald of Free Enterprise, for his heroism during that tragic event
- Bree Development Group, for their work in extending walking trail to Ballybrittas Dolmen
- All involved in making International Women’s Day a success
- Jockey Pat Dobbs, following his continued international success

1. Update on Oilgate-Rosslare Harbour Scheme

Mr. Sean Dobbs, Project Manager attended the meeting and presented a Newsletter which outlined many of the complexities and challenges surrounding the Scheme route option selection process. The Report identified that the preferred scheme option will be confirmed and announced by week ending 18th of June.

DoS Eamonn Hore pointed out that the preparatory work currently being carried out by the scheme consultants would help to fully inform the route selection process. While this work was complex and time consuming, these preparatory works will minimize the risk of delay to the project, following selection of the preferred route.

2. Confirmation of Minutes:

2.1. County Council Meeting – 8 February, 2021

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

Matters Arising:

Councilors Walsh, Sullivan and Bolger asked that Item 10. of the Minutes be amended to reflect the fact that they voted against hearing the Emergency Motion.

2.2. Special County Council Meeting – 22 February, 2021

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

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 LAC2005 – Upgrade the existing Ferndale Park with the following: Car park, single storey gymnasium, maintenance shed, MUGA areas, outdoor walking track through park with fitness equipment in 2 no. locations, various planting throughout and all associated site works at Ferndale Park, Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen the Council agreed to that the proposed development should be carried out as recommended in the report of the Chief Executive as circulated.

4. Bye-Laws for the Regulation of all Open Burial Grounds within the jurisdiction of Wexford County Council.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes the Council resolved to make the above Byelaws in accordance with the draft byelaws as circulated, in accordance with Part 19 of the Local Government Act as amended.

5. Bye-Laws for the regulation and control of the consumption of intoxicating liquor within the jurisdiction of Wexford County Council

On the proposal of Cllr. BA Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan, the Council resolved to make the above Byelaws in accordance with the draft byelaws as circulated, in accordance with Part 19 of the Local Government Act as amended.

6. Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Borrowing Requirement – Approval in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001

Having considered the report of the Head of Finance as circulated, and on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. J. Moore, the Council resolved to approve the borrowing of €7,430,000 to fund the 2021 Housing Mortgage Programme, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

7. 3-Year Capital Programme 2021 – 2023

Head of Finance Ms. Annette O'Neill presented the proposed 3-yr Capital Programme for the Council's consideration. The Programme outlined 172 capital projects at various stages of completion together with estimated costs and proposed sources of funding.

The Programme was prepared on the basis of a realistic and prudent assessment of the position regarding each project and on the basis of the information available at the time and having regard to the measures proposed to fund the Programme.

The Members considered the Programme and raised a number of points for clarification which were responded to by Ms. O'Neill, including the following:

- Refurbishment of Wexford Arts Centre
- Dredging of Wexford Quays
- Construction of Rosslare to Waterford Greenway
- Construction of New Ross Greenway and possible link to St. Mullins
- Extension of Gas Pipeline to New Ross
- Refurbishment of Castlebridge House
- WCC Submission to NDP Plan Review (to be circulated to all members)
- Bunclody Link Road
- New Ross Courthouse
- Heritage projects in Bannow area
- Gorey Town Park
- Courtown Coast Protection Works & proposed Marina
- Enniscorthy Flood Scheme
- Wexford to Curracloe Greenway
- Proposed renewal of Oyster Lane / Lowney's Mall/ Dun Mhuire area

8. Meeting of Protocol Committee 08.02.2021 – Consideration of Minutes and recommendations

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin, the Council noted and approved the Minutes of the Protocol Committee, including the recommendations therein.

9. Chief Executive's Report

The Members raised a number of matters which were responded to the Chief Executive and the respective Directors of Service, including the following:

- Seaview Kilmore – The Council awaits report of OPW in relation to the proposed works
- Carlow IT Wexford Campus – Representatives of Carlow IT to attend April meeting of the Council
- Applications for retention of log cabins – will be treated on merits of each application
- Notification of water outages – public encouraged to register for MapAlert
- Water bursts on Forth Road – rehabilitation scheme has been approved to move to design stage
- Enniscorthy Technology Park – building has commenced construction – works to resume following lifting of construction restrictions
- Impending closure of Ulster Bank – Council to investigate plans for re-letting in view of prominence of building
- Arthurstown/ Ballyhack/ Duncannon Sewerage Scheme – Design/Build/Operate contract has been awarded
- Adoption of new County Development Plan- comprehensive submission received from Office of the Planning Regulator – will require some amendment of the draft Plan
- Increase in Funding for local roads – €1.4m a welcome increase which will allow some small amount of additional works to be carried out
- Town Centre Enhancement Project – single town to be selected based on project criteria and capacity of selected open space area to deliver expected impacts
- High Hill Development – Tender return date 10 March, 2021
- Casual Trading licences – a countywide system to be developed to ensure consistency
- Old Dublin Road renewal project – a programme of road, footpath, landscaping and signage improvement with improved transport linkage to town – master plan to be developed and funding dependent
- Waste Presentation Byelaws – 388 letters issued on foot of enquiries with 100 cases of “no response” being followed up
- Boundary wall at Bunclody Graveyard – A/DoS to respond to Cllr. BA Murphy

10. Minutes of CPG

10.1 Minutes of CPG Meeting 01.03.2021

Proposed by Cllr. Barden, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen and agreed

11. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting):

- 11.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 13.01.2021
- 11.2 Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting 19.01.2020
- 11.3 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 18.01.2021
- 11.4 Borough District of Wexford Meeting - 18.01.2021
- 11.5 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 18.01.2021

The Member noted the above Minutes

12. Correspondence and Communications

- 12.1 Email from Dublin City Council re: Women’s Committee Letter to Minister O’Gorman and Minister O’Brien dated 4th February, 2021.
- 12.2 Letters from Clare County Council dated 9th February, 2021.
- 12.3 Letter from Kerry County Council dated 12th February, 2021.
- 12.4 Letters from Tipperary County Council dated 15th February, 2021.
- 12.5 Letter from South Dublin County Council dated 16th February, 2021.
- 12.6 Letters from Kerry County Council dated 16th February, 2021.
- 12.7 Letter from Tipperary County Council dated 23rd February, 2021
- 12.8 Letter from Aiden Kelly, Private Secretary to Minister Charlie McConalogue TD dated 23rd February, 2021.
- 12.9 Letter from Laois County Council re Land Development Agency Bill dated 1st March, 2021.

The Members noted the above correspondence

Suspension of Standing Orders

It now being 5.30pm, and on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. J. Owens, the Members agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the Meeting to continue.

13. Notices of Motion

- 13.1 Cllr. L. Kelly

"That Wexford County Council will write to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment that international trade agreements, such as CETA providing a right to multinational corporations to sue Ireland outside the democracy of the ordinary legal and democratic systems, should be fully and properly scrutinised by the Oireachtas before any Dáil vote on ratification. Also TDs should be allowed a vote of conscience on such an important and far reaching issue."

Cllr. Kelly proposed the Motion which was seconded by Cllr. Forde.

Following debate, and on the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the Motion was amended as follows:

"That Wexford County Council welcomes the decision of the Government to refer the proposed CETA trade agreement to an Oireachtas Joint Committee by the Government for further consideration. The Council recommends that in any subsequent Dáil vote TD's should be allowed a vote of conscience on such an important and far reaching issue."

The amended Motion was put to the meeting and at the request of the Cathaoirleach, the subsequent vote was taken by roll call, with the outcome of that vote as follows:

Monthly Meeting of WCC 8.3.21 - Motion 13.1 - Outcome Roll Call Vote								
BARDEN	PAT	F	FARRELL	MARY	F	MURPHY	BARBARA-ANNE	F
BELL	MAURA	F	FLEMING	JOHN	F	MURPHY	BRIDIN	F
BOLGER	ANDREW	F	FORDE	TOM	F	O'ROURKE	JOHN	F
BREEN	PIP	F	HEGARTY	JOHN	F	O'SUILLEABHAIN	FIONNTAIN	F
BROWNE	AIDAN	F	HYNES	DAVID	F	OWENS	JACKSER	F
BYRNE	CATHAL	F	KAVANAGH	WILLIE	F	SHEEHAN	MICHAEL	F
CARTHY	GER	F	KELLY	LEONARD	F	STAPLES	FRANK	F
CODD	JIM	F	KENNY	DONAL	F	SULLIVAN	JOE	F
CODD-NOLAN	KATHLEEN	AB	LAFFAN	GARY	F	WALSH	OLIVER	F
CONNICK	ANTHONY	F	LAWLOR	GEORGE	F	WHELAN	MICHAEL	F
DEVEREUX	DIARMUID	F	MCDONALD	LISA	F			
DONOHUE	ANTHONY	AB	MOORE	JIM	F			
F = For, A = Against, AB = Absent /Abstain								

13.2 Cllr. T. Forde

"This Council insists that no local authority or public land should be sold, re-purposed or gifted to the LDA, or any other DAC, without the expressed consent of the elected members, by majority vote, on a site by site basis".

Cllr. Forde proposed the Motion. Following debate, and on the proposal of Cllr. J. Fleming, seconded by A. Bolger, the Motion was amended as follows:

"This Council insists that no local authority or public land located within a census town area with a population below 40,000 persons should be sold, re-purposed or gifted to the LDA, or any other DAC, without the expressed consent of the elected members, by majority vote, on a site by site basis".

The amended Motion was put to the meeting and agreed by all.

13.3 Cllr. J. Moore

“In response to the post-Brexit difficulties already experienced by our Fishing Fleet, Fish Processors and Export Businesses I propose that Wexford County Council formally applies for urgent assistance from the established Special Post-Brexit EU Fisheries Grants to upgrade a number of piers, harbours and related shore facilities”.

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Moore, seconded by Cllr. Staples and agreed by all.

13.4 Cllr. M. Sheehan

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing and Local Government to order a review of the income limits and eligibility criteria for the Housing Assistance Payment to more accurately reflect people’s circumstances and the current rental market.”

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Sheehan. Following debate, and on the proposal of Cllr. J. Sullivan, seconded by G. Laffan, the Motion was amended as follows:

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing and Local Government to order a review of the income limits and eligibility criteria for the Housing Assistance Payment in respect of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Local Electoral Area to more accurately reflect people’s circumstances and the current rental market.”

The amended Motion was put to the meeting and agreed by all.

13.5.1 Cllr. G. Lawlor

“that Wexford Co. Council formalises it’s policy regarding homeowners applying for social housing supports who are in possession of either a safety order, a protection order or a barring order against their spouse/partner or co-owner. This Housing SPC proposes that applicants in this situation be allowed access to social housing supports all else being in order.”

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Lawlor. Following debate, and on the proposal of Cllr. C. Byrne, seconded by L. McDonald, the Motion was amended as follows:

“that Wexford Co. Council formalises it’s policy regarding homeowners applying for social housing supports who are in possession of either a safety order or a protection order against their spouse/partner or co-owner. This Housing SPC proposes that applicants in this situation be allowed access to social housing supports all else being in order.”

The amended Motion was put to the meeting and agreed by all.

13.6 Cllrs T. Forde, J. Codd, D. Hynes, F. O' Suilleabhán, J. Owens

'Due to the extent and nature of the homelessness problem in County Wexford we request that a minimum of 6 unisex 'crash beds' (emergency placements open to receive people throughout the night) be made available by Wexford County Council, in different districts, to provide safe shelter for our homeless, 7 nights per week, and that this is implemented with near immediate effect, as soon as is operationally possible.'

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Codd, seconded by by Cllr. J. Owens and agreed by all.

13.7 Cllr. F. Staples, Cllr. G. Carthy, Cllr. L. McDonald, Cllr. J. Moore, Cllr. J. Codd

"That the Rosslare Municipal District call on Wexford County Council to enact an out of hours service for people who find themselves homeless including rough sleepers"

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Staples, seconded by the Cathaoirleach and agreed by all.

13.8 Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin

"That Wexford County Council acknowledges that despite higher rents in County Wexford to many parts of neighbouring counties, the HAP rates are far lower than those in neighbouring counties. That we will write to the Minister requesting that our HAP rates be updated, so as to be brought up to a more realistic level, and in line with that of Co. Wicklow and other counties".

Cllr. F. Súilleabháin withdrew the Motion

13.9 Cllr. D. Hynes

"This council should look at the staff of the supermarket and other workplaces who received parking fines, and look at the fact that in earlier lockdowns parking fines were suspended and workers were not prepared for the reintroduction of parking fines on the occasion. Therefore we should look in a compassionate way and waive these recent fines in this instance."

Cllr. Hynes proposed the Motion. However, following discussion, the Motion was not put.

Noting the sentiment behind the Motion, DoS E. Hore undertook to sympathetically review any appeals from "essential workers" in respect of the particular incident on a case by case basis.

It being 6.30pm, the Cathaoirleach thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting

Daingithe ar an lá de Aibreáin, 2021.

Cllr. Ger Carthy
Cathaoirleach

David Minogue
County Secretary