

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 10th October, 2022
in the Council Chamber at 2.30pm (with some remote attendance via Microsoft Teams)****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. George Lawlor, Cathaoirleach**Councillors:**

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

Officials:

Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive
 Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services
 Ms. Annette O'Neill, Head of Finance
 Ms. Carolyn Godkin, Director of Services
 Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services
 Mr. Sean Meyler, A/Director of Services
 Ms. Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services
 Mr. Michael Drea, County Secretary

Apologies:

There were no apologies.

Votes of Sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to the families of the following recently deceased:

- The family of Teresa O'Reilly (née Doyle) – mother of Jacqui Eydt, Fire Services and mother of former colleagues Mick O'Reilly and Anne O'Reilly.
- The family of Agatha Cooney (née O'Byrne) – mother of Brendan Cooney, Senior Executive Scientist.
- The family of Margaret Roice, mother of Debbie Stanley, Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District.
- The family of John Hayes, father of Aoife Hayes, Finance Department.
- The family of Pat Mulhall, father of Declan Mulhall, GSS Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District.
- The family of Ruth Hatton, sister-in-law of Cllr. Kathleen Codd Nolan.

Cathaoirleach G. Lawlor expressed sympathy to the families of the ten people who died in the tragic accident in Creeslough, Co. Donegal. Cllr. J. Moore and Cllr. M. Sheehan joined the Cathaoirleach in his vote of sympathy. The attendance stood for a minutes silence in memory of the deceased.

Votes of Congratulations

Cllr. M. Whelan congratulated John Whelan and Eamonn Tracey on their recent wins at the World Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska, Co. Laois.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 County Council Meeting 12th September, 2022

On the proposal of Cllr. Anthony Connick, seconded by Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy, the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the County Council Meeting on 12th September, 2022.

1.1.1 Matters Arising

Cllr. J. Moore enquired if there had been any follow up with the Wexford People in light of the issue raised by Cllr. M. Farrell at the September meeting. Mr. M. Drea confirmed that he had discussed the issue raised with the editor.

Cllr. L. Kelly enquired why the CCTV scheme for Wexford hadn't progressed previously and is only now in the initial stages of surveying and design.

Cllr. M. Whelan advised that he was recorded as having left before the end of the September meeting which was incorrect, he was present until the end.

Cllr. J. Codd encouraged Wexford County Council to use CCTV for prosecution of illegal dumping offences in light of the passing of the Circular Economy legislation.

Cllr. T. Forde thanked the County Secretary for circulating a copy of the invite issued to the Minister for Housing and enquired if a response had been received. Ms. C. Godkin advised that verbal confirmation had been received that the Minister for Housing will visit Wexford in late November but the itinerary for that visit is yet to be agreed.

Cllr. G. Carthy requested a timeline for progression of the social housing scheme in Tagoat. Mr. S. Meyler undertook to provide the information requested.

1.2 Corporate Policy Group / Budget Working Group 26th September, 2022

On the proposal of Cllr. Anthony Connick, seconded by Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy, the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group / Budget Working Group meeting on 26th September, 2022.

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

2.1 LAC2209 – Erection of 18 social housing units at Grahormack, Tagoat, 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 erection of 18 social housing units at Grahormack, Tagoat, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2209, as circulated.

2.2 LAC2208 - Proposed development to provide 22 no. social housing units at Creagh Demesne, Gorey, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the proposed development to provide 22 no. social housing units at Creagh Demesne, Gorey, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2208, as circulated.

2.3 LAC2207 - Installation of an all-weather playing pitch at Ross Road, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. A. Browne, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8

for the installation of an all-weather playing pitch at Ross Road, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2207, as circulated.

2.4 LAC2206 - Alterations to previously granted under Planning LAC2005 to include the following: Previously granted single storey gymnasium to be altered to include a partial second storey at Ferndale Park, Wexford Town

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the alterations to previously granted under Planning LAC2005 to include the following: Previously granted single storey gymnasium to be altered to include a partial second storey at Ferndale Park, Wexford Town in accordance with the terms of LAC2206, as circulated.

3. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:

3.1 Intention to lease the former Bank of Ireland premises at St. Martin's Road, Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Harbour/Kilrane Village Development Team

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. J. Moore, the Council resolved to lease the former Bank of Ireland premises at St. Martin's Road, Rosslare Harbour to Rosslare Harbour/Kilrane Village Development Team in accordance with the terms of the S. 183 Notice, as circulated.

3.2 Intention to transfer an area of land at the rear of 7 Hantoon Road, Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes, the Council resolved to transfer an area of land at the rear of 7 Hantoon Road, Wexford in accordance with the terms of the S. 183 Notice, as circulated.

4. Approval in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended)

4.1 Borrowing – Overdraft 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Connick, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen, the Council approved borrowing by way of temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m to 31st December, 2023, in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001.

5. Local Property Tax 2023 – Local Adjustment Factor (LAF) Decision

Ms. A. O'Neill gave a comprehensive presentation in relation to the Local Adjustment Factor decision, outlining the following:

- Revaluation Results & Outcomes for Property owners and for Wexford Co. Council
- Changes to Local Property Tax Allocation
- Changes to the Local Adjustment Factor process and local decisions by Members
- Information on the Impact of a decision to vary the LPT rate in the County
- A recommendation to increase the LAF by 5% over the 2022 rate i.e. raise to 15%

Mr. T. Enright thanked Ms. A. O'Neill for her presentation and outlined the challenges delivering a balanced budget having regard to cost increases. He indicated that the LPT hasn't delivered any buoyancy and has in fact resulted in a decrease of €900,000 income. He acknowledged that many projects would not have been possible without match funding and advised that the recommendation to increase by 5% over the 2022 rate would allow for funding of local public realm projects to be delivered over the coming 2 years.

The Cathaoirleach invited questions from the floor and the following Councillors made contributions: Cllr.'s P. Breen, G. Carthy, M. Sheehan, L. Kelly, F. Ó'Súilleabháin, T. Forde, D. Hynes, J. Owens, J. Sullivan, P. Barden, W. Kavanagh, G. Lawlor & J. Codd.

The meeting was adjourned at 15.55 to allow Members reflect on the information provided. The meeting resumed at 16.31.

Cllr. P. Breen proposed a 15% LAF for 2 years and this was seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy. Cllr. J. Sullivan proposed a 0% LAF for 1 year and this was seconded by Cllr. T. Forde.

The Cathaoirleach advised that he was going to take a vote on the proposals before the Council, starting with the 0% proposal. Cllr. D. Hynes then proposed a 10% LAF and this was seconded by Cllr. D. Devereux.

The meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes to consult Standing Orders. On resumption, the Cathaoirleach advised that there would be a roll call vote on Cllr. J. Sullivan's proposal. The outcome was the motion for 0% LAF for 1 year fell with 6 in favour and 28 against. The voting was as follows:

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

	WHELAN MICHAEL	A
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The Cathaoirleach advised that there would be a roll call vote on Cllr. P. Breen's proposal. The outcome was the motion for an LAF of 15% for 2 years was carried with 20 in favour and 14 against. The voting was as follows:

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

6. **Wexford County Council/WWETB Member Nominee to the High Performance Building Alliance Board**

Ms. L. Hore advised that a nominee to the HPBA Board was being sought from the Council. She outlined that the nomination is to fill the vacancy created by Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy who has stepped down and the nominee will be required to be an elected Member of Wexford County Council who also sits on the board of the WWETB.

Cllr. A. Browne proposed Cllr. G. Laffan and this was seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy. Cllr. C. Byrne proposed Cllr. K. Codd-Nolan and this was seconded by Cllr. O. Walsh. Cllr. M. Farrell proposed Cllr. L. Kelly and this was seconded by Cllr. F. Ó'Súilleabháin.

The Cathaoirleach advised that there would be a roll call vote to establish which of the 3 would be the nominee to the Board of the HPBA. The outcome was that Cllr. G. Laffan was nominated after receiving 16 votes, Cllr. K. Codd-Nolan received 10 votes and Cllr. L. Kelly received 8 votes. The voting was as follows:

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

7. Invitation to the London Wexford Association Wexford Towns Reunion Buffet Dance 22nd October, 2022, for approval

On the proposal of Cllr. W. Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy, the Council approved attendance at the London Wexford Association Wexford Towns Reunion Buffet Dance on 22nd October, 2022.

Cllr. D. Hynes left the meeting at this point.

8. Chief Executive's Report

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

- Irish Water costs for community groups
- Quality of reinstatement works by utilities
- Progress update on Greenore greenway
- Progress update on proposed social housing scheme in Tagoat
- Japanese knotweed pilot project
- Current position in relation to proposed Enniscorthy flood relief scheme and bridge works
- Progress update on implementation of Choice Based Letting

- Inspection of a particular HAP property
- Prospect of income bands for social housing being adjusted
- NBI update for future meeting
- Tenant purchase scheme eligibility criteria
- Single stage approval for housing
- Active travel budget and projects
- Re-opening of public toilets in Bunclody
- Current position in relation to draft Socio Economic & Spatial Plan for Enniscorthy
- Position in relation to standby power for water services facilities
- Odour issue at Ballyminaun
- Update on possible extension of Pyrite Remediation Scheme
- Request to expedite public lighting for Gorey Town Park
- LAC2210 – Has report been completed?
- Special meeting for Housing
- Taking in charge of estates
- Ballycarney junction works
- Safety measures at Kyle Cross

The following left the meeting at this point, Cllr. J. Owens, Cllr. J. O'Rourke, Cllr. M. Farrell, Cllr. G. Carthy, Cllr. C. Byrne, Cllr. D. Devereux & Cllr. A. Browne

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. J. Codd and agreed by all, the Council agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue to 6pm.

When the meeting resumed, the following issues were discussed:

- Issues re: Irish Water impacting taking in charge
- Council houses where tenants aren't residing in them
- Re-opening of beaches after water testing
- Maintenance of roadside hedges and ditches
- Local authority home loan approval rates
- Homeless figures
- Vacant houses in Clongeen
- Flood protection barriers for Bridgetown
- Possibility of increasing emergency accommodation supply
- Speeding in Kilmore
- Wexford town transport plan
- Safe travel to school programme
- Make Way Day
- Purchase of HAP properties

The following left the meeting at this point, Cllr. J. Hegarty and Cllr. L. McDonald.

9. Minutes of CPG

9.1 Minutes of CPG Meeting 3rd October, 2022

On the proposal of Cllr. B. A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. W. Kavanagh, the Council resolved to adopt the Minutes of the meeting of the CPG of 3rd October, 2022.

10. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting):

- 10.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 13th July, 2022**
- 10.2 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 20th July, 2022**
- 10.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting– 18th July, 2022**
- 10.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting 27th July, 2022**
- 10.5 Special Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting 27th July, 2022**
- 10.6 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting 19th July, 2022**
- 10.7 Planning & Building Control SPC Meeting 1st June, 2022**
- 10.8 Economic Development & Enterprise SPC 19th May, 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell and seconded by Cllr. F. Staples, the Council resolved to adopt the Minutes of the above meetings.

11. Correspondence and Communications

- 11.1 Letter from Tipperary County Council re motion additional funding dated 16.09.2022**
- 11.2 Letter from Joint Committee on Health dated 16.09.2022**
- 11.3 Letter from Sligo County Council re motion windfall tax on energy companies dated 19.09.2022**
- 11.4 Letter from Sligo County Council re motion disabled parking places dated 19.09.2022**
- 11.5 Letter from Mayo County Council re motion Croí Cónaithe dated 16.09.2022**
- 11.6 Letter from Limerick City & County Council re motion global grain shortage dated 22.09.2022**

The Members noted the above correspondence items and expressed their appreciation for the responses received.

12. Councillor's Conference Report

- 12.1 Councillor Conference Report
Danville Delegation Report - September, 2022**

The Members noted the Report above, as circulated.

13. Notices of Motions

Motions 13.1 to 13.8 were deferred until the November Council Meeting.

13.1 Cllr. L. Kelly

"The Cycle to Work scheme is only applicable where the bicycle and safety equipment is provided by an employer to either a director or someone in its employment. Thus, where an employer-employee relationship does not exist, for example, in the case of self-

employed individuals, students, retired individuals, job seekers or those in unpaid work, such individuals can't qualify for the scheme. We ask the Minister of Finance to amend the current Cycle to Work scheme or create a new scheme which will include the above excluded individual/groups"

Response of the Executive:

If passed, this motion will be forwarded to the Minister for Finance for consideration.

13.2 Cllr. T. Forde

"This council asks that Minister Darragh O'Brien take stock of the current housing crisis in County Wexford and immediately declare the districts of the county a rent pressure zone."

Response of the Executive:

If passed, this motion will be forwarded to the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage for consideration.

13.3 Cllr. J. Sullivan

"This council namely Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage to extend the Defective Concrete Blocks Redress Scheme nationwide with immediate effect to automatically include all Counties in Ireland as the 10% levy on concrete blocks, pouring concrete and other concrete products will apply nationwide and furthermore to include redress for houses whether complete or under the course of construction for concrete affected by Mica, Pyrite, Pyrrhotite, Alkali Silica Reaction or any other inappropriate aggregates or materials."

Response of the Executive:

If passed, this motion will be forwarded to the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage for consideration.

13.4 Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin

"We ask that Wexford County Council explore purchasing properties for sale that are currently occupied with HAP tenancies."

Response of the Executive:

The Council's homeless unit reviews household circumstances when any homeless presentation is made. In situations where the property is being placed for sale on the open market, the Council can seek approval from the Department to purchase the property where the housing needs of the household can be adequately met, the property is in good condition and the price is within purchase bands.

13.5 Cllr. D. Hynes

“This council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to address the issue that has arising in many instances since the ‘Vision for Change’ 2006 was enacted, where people suffering from addiction are not admitted into psychiatric care and this has led to tragedy on a number of occasions .”

For Information:

A Vision For Change is a Department of Health policy which detailed a model of mental health service provision for Ireland.

Response of the Executive:

If passed, this motion will be forwarded to the Minister for Health for consideration.

13.6 Cllr. T. Forde

"We ask that Wexford County Council implement a 60 day homeless prevention plan for all those at risk of losing their homes or tenancies and also ask that Minister Darragh O'Brien provide any necessary resources to assist with the implementation of such a plan."

Response of the Executive:

The South East Regional Strategic Management Group has adopted a Regional Homeless Prevention & Support Project (RHPSP) which is being operated in all 5 LA's in the region. The RHPSP prioritises homeless preventions by way of applying early interventions, mediation and prevention measures to those seeking homeless services/emergency accommodation. To ensure consistency in how the service is being provided across the region, the following steps are used by all staff that carry out homeless assessments and provide homeless supports.

Conduct a homeless assessment and identify client's immediate needs – “At Risk” following issue of NTQ - Provide support/advice to client re: validity of the notice and ensuring current social housing application information is up to date. Clients that are “At risk” of homelessness do not have an immediate need for alternative accommodation and all relevant supports are offered to them i.e. early intervention, mediation with other relevant third parties e.g. family, landlords other agencies.

Clients who present who are not social housing applicants receive immediate support with completing a social housing application. These applications are processed by the HSSU/Placefinder and are prioritised over all other social housing applications.

Clients will always be encouraged to try and source alternative private rented accommodation and are issued with up to date HAP forms. This does not mean that the HSSU are not also working to find a solution to meet the applicant's needs. The HSSU, utilise social housing allocations, Housing First tenancies, licenced properties and main stream HAP tenancies to provide social housing supports.

13.7 Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin

This council asks that Minister Darragh O'Brien reintroduce a temporary ban on evictions in the private market to protect vulnerable renters who abide by their tenancy agreements and to ensure they keep a roof over their head and to review this policy on a yearly basis."

Response of the Executive:

If passed, this motion will be forwarded to the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage for consideration.

13.8 Cllr. D. Hynes

"I ask the minister for local government to bring in. Legislation to rectify the situation where a whole section of society is excluded from running in council elections due to the fact that working class people who work in Factories, shops etc are unable to run for this council because employers won't allow. Employees the time off to. Attend. Meetings etc , "

Response of the Executive:

If passed, this motion will be forwarded to the Minister for Health for consideration.

If passed, this motion will be forwarded to the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage for consideration.

11. Any Other Business

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan and seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan, the following conference and training were approved:

LAMA Autumn/Winter Seminar 9th- 10th November, Four Seasons Hotel, Coolshannagh, Monaghan.

AILG Module 5 Training 22nd October, Brehon Hotel, Killarney (Southern Region)

AILG Module 5 Training 27th October, Radisson Hotel, Sligo (Northern & Western/Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly)

AILG Module 6 Training 17th November, Data Protection – What Councillors Need to Know, Waterford Tower Hotel (Southern Region)

AILG Module 6 Training 19th November, Data Protection – What Councillors Need to Know, Wicklow Hotel TBC (Northern & Western/Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly)

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Daingithe ar an

lá de Samhna, 2022.

Cllr. George Lawlor
Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,
County Secretary