

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council held on Monday 11th September, 2023
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	Murphy	Barbara-Anne (online)
Bell	Maura	Forde	Tom	Murphy	Bridin (online)
Bolger	Andrew	Hegarty	John	O'Rourke	John
Browne	Aidan	Hynes	David	O'Súilleabháin	Fionntáin
Byrne	Cathal	Kavanagh	Willie	Owens	Jackser (online)
Carthy	Ger	Kelly	Leonard	Sheehan	Michael
Codd	Jim	Kenny	Donal	Staples	Frank (online)
Codd-Nolan	Kathleen	Laffan	Garry (online)	Sullivan	Joe
Connick	Anthony (online)	Lawlor	George	Walsh	Oliver
Devereux	Diarmuid	McDonald	Lisa	Whelan	Michael
Donohoe	Anthony	Moore	Jim		

Officials:

Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive

Mr. E. Hore, Director of Service

Ms. L. Lacey, A/ Head of Finance

Mr. M. Drea, A/Director of Service

Ms. E. Hore, Director of Service

Ms. C. Godkin, Director of Service

Mr. S. Meyler, A/Director of Service

Ms. S. Doran, A/County Secretary

Apologies:

Cllr. Pip Breen

Votes of Sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Eleanor Kelly (née Fortune), sister of Gary Fortune, Water Services, New Ross District.
- The family of James (Jim) O'Mahony, father to Lindy Codd, Finance, grandfather to Jodie Codd, GP, and uncle to Rory O'Mahony, Environment.
- The family of Josephine Mullen (née Barron), Mother-in – Law of Cliona Connolly.
- The family of Jack Egan, son of Anna-Marie Colfer, Finance Department.
- The family of Nancy O'Connor, mother of Joan O'Connor, IT Department.
- The family of Very Reverend Canon Felix Byrne, Monaseed, Gorey, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Paul and Mary O'Reilly, Kilmore.
- The family of Tom Cantwell, former Garda.
- The family of Eileen Murphy, Corish Park, Wexford.
- The family of David O'Hara, John Street Flats, Wexford.
- The family of Mary Whelan Junior, Adamstown, Wexford.
- The family of John Doyle, Ballindinas, Barntown, Wexford.
- The Hennessey, Dunne, Dalton and Cashin families of New Ross.

Congratulations:

The Cathaoirleach offered the congratulations of the Council to:

- Tadhg Furlong and the Irish Rugby Team in the World Cup.
- Organiser's of the Kennedy Summer School
- Organiser's of the Guitar and Piano Festivals, New Ross.
- Organiser's of the Rockin' Food Festival, Enniscorthy.
- Organiser's of the the Wexford Rose of Tralee Tour and Wexford Rose Bronagh Hogan.
- Festy Ebosele on his International debut for the Republic of Ireland soccer team.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

1.1 County Council Meeting 10th July, 2023

On the Proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the County Council Meeting on 10th July, 2023.

1.2 Matters Arising

Cllr. G. Lawlor raised issue of progress on SETU Campus. Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive advised that he has sought a meeting with the President of the University regarding master planning and planning permission to proceed so the first phase of the campus can be in place as soon as possible with a full range of facilities.

Cllr. Ger Carthy sought an update on the Rosslare harbour access road. Mr. T. Enright gave an update in relation to the CPO and the planning application which is with An Bord Pleanála.

Cllr. L. Kelly queried the impact of the recent announcement on national reduced speed limits and how it will affect the review of speed limits locally by the Council. Mr. E. Hore advised that guidance is being sought from the Department but indicated that should the legislation be passed, it will have a huge impact in terms of work, resources, and cost.

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 LAC2301 - Demolition of derelict dwelling and proposed construction of 5 dwelling units at Ballygillane Big, St Helens, Rosslare, Co. Wexford.
- 2.2 LAC2302 - Provide a public realm space at Bellefield Road, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.
- 2.3 LAC2304 - Demolition of derelict property and construction of 2 no. social housing units at 20 Francis Street, Wexford.
- 2.4 LAC2306 - Refurbishment of existing building on the site and erection of two extended sections at Former Bank of Ireland, St. Martins Road, Rosslare Harbour, Co. Wexford

Having considered the reports of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald the Council resolved to confirm approval for the four planning applications, as outlined.

3. Budget 2024

- a. Local Property Tax - local adjustment factor 2024 (LAF)
- b. Local Property Tax - provisional allocation 2024
- c. Budget Meetings 2024 - Prescribed periods
- d. Proposed schedule of Dates

Ms. L. Lacey advised the Council on matters in relation to Budget 2024 preparation and prescribed periods for meetings in relation to same.

Meeting	Proposed Date
Budget Strategy Meeting – Cross Council Group	Monday 2 nd October at 2.30pm
Decision on Local Adjustment Factor for LPT 2024	Not required for 2024 Budget as LAF set for 2 years during 2023 process.
Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting with Municipal Districts	October MD Meetings**
Statutory Budget Meeting	Monday 4 th December at 10.00am
<i>** As NRMD October meeting is outside the statutory period a change of date for the meeting will be proposed</i>	

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy the Council resolved to approve the schedule of dates, as outlined.

4. Invitation to Wexford County Council to attend KIMO AGM in Sweden

Ms. C. Godkin advised that KIMO's International AGM is being held in Falkenberg, Sweden on the 4th to 6th October 2023 and as a member of KIMO Wexford County Council has been invited to attend.

Cllr. Jim Moore is Wexford County Council's representative and his attendance along with an official was recommended by the SPC.

On the proposal of Cllr. O. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell the Council resolved to accept the invitation and send representation, as outlined.

5. Replacement of the Wexford Council of Trade Unions and appointment to the Local Community Development Committee (L.C.D.C.)

Ms. C. Godkin recommended Sean Joyce, Wexford Council of Trade Unions be appointed by the Elected Members of Wexford County Council to the L.C.D.C.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Hynes and seconded by Cllr. J. O'Rourke, the Council resolved to approve Mr. Joyce's appointment.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Cathaoirleach requested that Members be direct and ask questions rather than make general statements to ensure the business of the meeting would be dealt with in a timely, efficient manner. All Elected Members agreed.

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

- Oylegate to Rosslare Harbour Motorway Update
- Potential housing of International Protection applicants in Rosslare Harbour.
- RTB Inspections and enforcement.
- Fire Service Industrial Action.
- Fórsa Industrial Action.
- Fleadh Cheoil and provision of sites for motor homes.
- Communication around Fleadh Cheoil and delegations.
- Update on status of Waterford Airport.
- Update sought on services at Beachview, Cois Cuan, Glynn and Ramsgrange developments.
- Update sought on Ballycarney Junction on the N80.
- Request that TII examine Clohamon junction.
- Update sought on St. Theresa's B&B Gorey and its potential use for International Protection applicants.
- Update sought on proposal for schools on recently cpo'd site and request for provision of sports facilities.
- Query if performance space at Oyster Lane, Wexford will replace what was in the Dun Mhuire.
- Update sought on Mechanics' Institute, Wexford.
- Timeline for works on the Murphy Floods site.

- Timeline for completion of road works in Enniscorthy.
- Timeline for completion of works on Wilton bridge.
- Source of funding for development of Esmonde Street, Gorey.
- Appreciation for provision of lighting in Skate Park, Wexford.
- Concerns raised over lack of consultation in relation to sites for refugees.
- Concerns raised in relation to erratic use of electric bikes and scooters in urban areas.
- Request for training space for local band.
- Concerns raised in relation to road reinstatement after work on solar farms. Road at Forth Celtic needs to be addressed.
- Request for consultation in relation to line markings for bus stops following work in Taghmon.
- Issue of chronic shortage of school bus drivers raised.
- Query if emergency accommodation will be put in place for winter in addition to Ozanam House.
- Request that media and Members be mindful of language used when speaking about refugees.
- Request that additional resources be put in place for the Croí Conaithe Grants Scheme.

Cllr. J. Fleming, Cathaoirleach recused himself from the meeting before the next item was discussed after declaring a potential conflict of interest. Cllr. G. Carthy as Leas Cathaoirleach assumed the position.

- Clarity on planning permission requirements and zoning considering ABP refusal of large-scale residential development at Crosstown.

Cllr. Fleming resumed his position as Cathaoirleach.

- Oylegate to Rosslare Road and implications for people looking to get planning permission, certainty required.
- Request for update in relation to ongoing issue with smell in Ballyminaun, Gorey.
- Next steps for property affected by mica and homeowners ability to access redress scheme.
- Concerns raised in relation to the use of St. Theresa's B&B, Gorey as refugee accommodation.
- Need to cut overgrown hedging on country roads as signs are being obscured.
- Allocation of funding to acquire derelict properties.
- Update sought on Skate Park and John Street Enterprise Centre, New Ross
- Request for an affordable housing scheme for other districts similar to Gorey.
- Request for additional emergency accommodation in Gorey.
- Request for camper van site for Gorey District.
- Request that fly tipping around the county be tackled.
- Update sought on land swop on Milehouse Road, Enniscorthy.
- Request for funding for footpaths in villages to be provided in the budget.
- Request for update on Wexford to Rosslare greenway.
- Staff Resources in Special Projects

7. Minutes of CPG Meeting 4th September 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald, the Council resolved to adopt the Minutes of the meeting of the CPG of 4th September 2023.

8. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting):

- 8.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 14th June, 2023
- 8.2 New Ross Municipal District Annual Meeting 28th June 202
- 8.3 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting –21st June, 2023
- 8.4 Rosslare Municipal District Annual Meeting 30th June, 2023
- 8.5 Borough District of Wexford Meeting– 19th June, 2023
- 8.6 Borough District of Wexford Annual Meeting– 26th June, 2023
- 8.7 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 19th June, 2023
- 8.8 Enniscorthy Municipal District Annual Meeting 26th June, 2023
- 8.9 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 20th June, 2023
- 8.10 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Annual Meeting – 20th June, 2023
- 8.11 Transportation & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting 3rd November, 2022

The Members noted the above correspondence.

9. Correspondence and Communications

- 9.1 Letter from South Dublin County Council re motion dated 12th June, 2023
- 9.2 Letters from Cork County Council re resolution dated 5th July, 2023
- 9.3 Letter from Leitrim County Council re: resolution dated 7th July, 2023
- 9.4 Letter from Clare County Council re: resolution dated 11th July, 2023
- 9.5 Letter from Department of Social Protection re weather events November 2022 dated 19th July, 2023
- 9.6 Email from Office of the CEO, HSE re motion dated 25th July, 2023
- 9.7 Letter from Cork County Council re motion dated 25th July, 2023
- 9.8 Email from Private Secretary to the Minister for Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform re motion dated 14th July, 2023
- 9.9 Letter from Waterford City & County Council re motion dated 27th July, 2023
- 9.10 Email from Minister Darragh O'Brien's Office re motion dated 4th September, 2023

The Members noted the above correspondence.

10. Councillor's Conferences and Training

- 10.1 List of Conferences/Training – List Attached
- 10.2 Councillor's Conference Reports:
 - Cllr. F. O Súilleabháin - The Finance Act January 2023
 - Cllr. F. O Súilleabháin - The Suck Valley Way April 2023

The Members noted the reports above, as circulated.

11. Notices of Motion

11.1 Cllr. D. Hynes

"This council calls on the Minister for Justice for a reversal of the decision that the Gardai in Wexford are to introduce new rostering that will result in cutbacks to the Drugs Unit and to community gardai. The decision is completely at odds with the massive increase in illegal drugs use and anti-social behaviour in Wexford. This decision can only make a bad situation worse."

Executive Response:

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the Garda Commissioner, for consideration.

Cllr. M. Whelan proposed an amendment replacing "Minister for Justice" with "Garda Commissioner". The amendment was agreed by all.

The following amended motion was proposed by Cllr. D. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde and carried.

"This council calls on the Garda Commissioner for a reversal of the decision that the Gardai in Wexford are to introduce new rostering that will result in cutbacks to the Drugs Unit and to community gardai. The decision is completely at odds with the massive increase in illegal drugs use and anti-social behaviour in Wexford. This decision can only make a bad situation worse."

11.2 Cllr. T. Forde

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

Executive Response:

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

The motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde and seconded by Cllr. F.O' Súilleabháin and carried.

11.3 Cllr. L. Kelly

"Wexford County Council commit to working with SETU to build quality, affordable accommodation for students which will be available for students. A not-for-profit model, which will endeavour to keep costs for students at a minimum. Such accommodation could be used for profit (tourism) outside of student term times, e.g., Summer Season)"

Executive Response:

Wexford County Council is committed to working with SETU to deliver a high-quality campus and ancillary facilities.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell and carried.

Cllr. D. Hynes recused himself at this stage of the meeting after declaring a potential conflict of interest regarding the next motion.

11.4 Cllr. T. Forde

“This Council calls on the minister Mary Butler with responsibility for Mental Health etc to ensure that ‘Its Good 2 Talk, a vital counselling service in Wexford town (which serves many parts of the county) receives the promised funding of €130,000 promised in 2014. This service started in 2012 is struggling to continue to provide low-cost counselling for clients suffering from a range of mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, addiction issues.

Executive Response:

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the Minister of State at the Department of Health, for consideration.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. F.O’ Súilleabháin and carried.

After this motion was carried Cllr. D. Hynes rejoined the meeting.

12. Any Other Business.

Invitation to London Wexford Association Towns Reunion Buffet Dance on 21st October 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr. O. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. M. Bell the Council resolved to accept an invitation and send representation as outlined.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an

Iá de Deireadh Fomhair, 2023.

Cllr. John Fleming

Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea

County Secretary