

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council  
Held Monday 12 April, 2021 (via MS TEAMS)****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. Ger Carthy, Cathaoirleach.**Councillors:**

|                   |          |                 |         |                       |                  |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------|---------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <b>BARDEN</b>     | PAT      | <b>FARRELL</b>  | MARY    | <b>MOORE</b>          | JIM              |
| <b>BELL</b>       | MAURA    | <b>FLEMING</b>  | JOHN    | <b>MURPHY</b>         | BARBARA-<br>ANNE |
| <b>BOLGER</b>     | ANDREW   | <b>FORDE</b>    | TOM     |                       |                  |
| <b>BREEN</b>      | PIP      | <b>HEGARTY</b>  | JOHN    | <b>O'ROURKE</b>       | JOHN             |
| <b>BROWNE</b>     | AIDAN    | <b>HYNES</b>    | DAVID   | <b>O'SUILLEABHAIN</b> | FIONNTAIN        |
| <b>BYRNE</b>      | CATHAL   | <b>KAVANAGH</b> | WILLIE  | <b>OWENS</b>          | JACKSER          |
| <b>CODD</b>       | JIM      | <b>KELLY</b>    | LEONARD | <b>SHEEHAN</b>        | MICHAEL          |
| <b>CODD-NOLAN</b> | KATHLEEN | <b>KENNY</b>    | DONAL   | <b>STAPLES</b>        | FRANK            |
| <b>CONNICK</b>    | ANTHONY  | <b>LAFFAN</b>   | GARY    | <b>SULLIVAN</b>       | JOE              |
| <b>DEVEREUX</b>   | DIARMUID | <b>LAWLOR</b>   | GEORGE  | <b>WALSH</b>          | OLIVER           |
| <b>DONOHUE</b>    | ANTHONY  | <b>MCDONALD</b> | LISA    | <b>WHELAN</b>         | 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  
 Ms. L. Lacey, Management Accountant  
 Mr. S. Begley, Financial Accountant

**Oireachtas Members:** Deputy Verona Murphy**Public:** A number of members of the public attended remotely**Apologies:** Cllr. Bridín Murphy

**1. Presentation from Institute of Technology, Carlow**

The following representatives of the Institute of Technology Carlow attended the meeting:

- Dr. Patricia Mulcahy, President,
- Mr. John Moore, Chairman of the Governing Body
- Mr. Cormac O'Toole, Vice-President for Corporate Affairs
- Mr. Keith Williams, Capital Project Manager
- Dr. Karen Hennessy, Head of Wexford Campus
- Ms. Janette Davies, Deputy Head of Wexford Campus

Dr. Mulcahy and her team outlined proposals by the Institute of Technology to develop a purpose-built Institute of Technology Carlow campus in Wexford Town, which will expand and solidify the existing IT facilities currently based in St. Peter's College, Wexford.

Almost 1000 students currently attend IT Carlow's Wexford campus – 70% of these students are studying a Level 8 Qualification. The Institute's ambitions to expand current educational services at the Wexford campus is constrained by the size and location of that campus.

It is hoped to achieve joint technological university status for Institute of Technology Carlow and Institute of Technology Carlow by January 2021. The new university will be one of five such Technological Universities recommended for development by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Education.

Phase 1 of the Wexford campus will develop over a number of years and will cater for approx. 2500 students. The required investment may be provided either directly or via a Public Private Partnership. It is hoped to complete site acquisition by end Q3 2021, followed by an estimated 2-year process of design, procurement and planning, and then construction phase is likely to begin.

The approval of the Minister for Education and that of the Higher Education Authority is required to allow the development of the proposed new Wexford Campus to proceed.

Dr. Mulcahy concluded her PowerPoint presentation by acknowledging the continuing support of Wexford County Council for Institute of Technology Carlow, both in terms of the current campus at St. Peter's College and the proposals for development of a proposed new Wexford campus.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked Dr Mulcahy and her team for their presentation and assured them of the Council's continued support for this ambitious and highly significant project in the months and years ahead.

Chief Executive Tom Enright pointed out that Wexford was the largest county in the South East and the county had a clear and proven need for such third-level facilities. He also pointed to the economic benefits that would accrue to the county as a result of linkages between business and the proposed third level facility.

The Chief Executive concluded by wishing the Institute of Technology Carlow continued success in their operation of third level education facilities in Wexford. He also paid tribute to Director of Services Tony Larkin for his on-going work in helping IT Carlow to locate and acquire a suitable site for its proposed new Wexford campus.

The representatives of Institute of Technology Carlow then withdrew.

## **2. Votes of Sympathy:**

The County Secretary reminded the members of their decision, when proposing a Vote of Sympathy, to forward full details of deceased persons, including contact details of the representatives of the deceased, to the County Secretary.

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

- Mr. Martin Wickham, former employee, Wexford County Council
- Mrs. Monica Keeling, Wexford Town
- Mrs. Marie Lynch, Enniscorthy
- Mrs. Christina Breen, Enniscorthy
- Mr. John Davis, former employee, Wexford County Council
- Ms. Liz Moloney, Wexford Town
- Mr. Terence (Terry) Moran, Wexford Town
- Mr. Eugene Byrne, Wexford (late of Portlaoise, Co. Laois),
- Ms. Grace O'Mahony, New Ross
- Ms. Helen O'Reilly, New Ross

The Council congratulated the following:

- Mr. Festy Ebosele, former Moyne Rangers player and Enniscorthy native, who recently made his debut for Derby County
- Dr Paddy Prendegast, as he approaches the end of his decade-long provostship at Trinity College
- Mr. Paul Nolan, Horse Trainer, following his recent Cheltenham success
- Wexford Jockey Mr. Tom O'Brien following winning Ryanair Stayers Hurdle at Aintree.
- Wexford jockey Sean O'Keeffe, following his 9<sup>th</sup> place in the 2021 Aintree Grand National
- Mr. Tadhg Furlong, Rugby Player and Wexford Ambassador, on being nominated for the prestigious 2021 EPCR European Player of the Year award
- Ms. Maria Nolan, Enniscorthy, following the launch of her book "Shadow of the Hill".
- All involved in the Council's recent very successful Active Travel funding application

- Jockey Ms. Rachel Blackmore, following her remarkable success at the recent Cheltenham Racing Festival
- Bridgetown College TY student Lauren Williams, on being placed first in the Senior Category of the Wexford Student Enterprise Awards.
- The three Wexford businesses who were recently awarded licences by the Borough District of Wexford to trade on Wexford Quays
- The HSE, for its excellent Covid-19 testing turnaround times

**2. Confirmation of Minutes:**

*2.1 County Council Meeting – 8th March, 2021*

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

*Matters Arising:*

The following amendments to the Minutes were agreed:

- Votes of Congratulations - Mahon Family should read Mahoney Family
- Item 13.1 - Cllr. Michael Whelan's name was noted twice.

**3. Proposed Disposal of land - Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001**

**3.1 Proposed disposal of a property at Portersgate, Fethard On Sea, Co. Wexford.**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. P. Barden and agreed by all, it was resolved to dispose of the above lands in accordance with the terms of the Section 183 Notice as circulated

**3.2 Proposed intention to lease a plot of land at Marshmeadows, New Ross, Co. Wexford.**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan and agreed by all, it was resolved to lease the above lands in accordance with the terms of the Section 183 Notice as circulated.

**4. Agreements between Wexford County Council and (a) Tipperary County Council and (b) Kilkenny County Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 for the supply of a web-based GPS Vehicle Tracking System**

On consideration of the report of Mr. N. O'Driscoll, SE, and following discussion with Mr. E. Hore, DoS, on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell and agreed by all, it was resolved to enter into Section 85 Agreements with Tipperary County Council and with Kilkenny County Council as set out above.

**5. Draft County Development Plan – Proposed Schedule of Meetings**

It was agreed to hold a Special Meeting of Wexford County Council on Monday 26 April to consider the Draft County Wexford Development Plan 2021-2027 and the Report of the Chief Executive on the submissions received.

It was also agreed to hold a series of meetings between smaller groups of members of the Council and relevant staff from the Planning Department after the meeting on 26 April, to enable a more robust discussion and allow detailed consideration of the Draft County Wexford Development Plan 2021-2027 and the accompanying Report of the Chief Executive.

The Members requested that the Council write to Mr. Darragh O’Brien, TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage to seek an extension of the time period available to Wexford County Council to complete the process of reviewing the Development Plan.

A number of Members expressed a desire to seek legal advice in relation to the review process. In response, the Chief Executive directed that any requests for legal advice should be forwarded to Mr. T. Larkin, DoS, outlining the exact nature of the particular issue in respect of which legal advice was to be sought.

The Chief Executive advised that he proposed to hold a series of meetings with the Council in political party / non-party / smaller party groupings to outline progress made by the Council to date in its delivery of significant capital projects. It was agreed to hold these meetings on the mornings of Thursday 22 and Friday 23 April, 2021.

**6. Consideration of Annual Financial Statement 2020 and AFS Report**

Ms. A. O’Neill Head of Finance presented the pre-audit Annual Financial Statement 2000 and accompanying Chief Executive’s report, which highlighted the main elements of the AFS and summarized the Council’s financial position at the end of 2020.

The Chief Executive’s report included details of additional expenditure incurred in the period to 31/12/20. On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan, and agreed by all, the Members resolved to approve this additional expenditure in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended)

Ms. O Neill responded to the Members queries on the AFS and accompanying Report.

**7. Ratification of Mr. James Brennan as Agriculture / Farming Representative to the Climate Change, Environment, and Biodiversity SPC replacing Mr. Ned Lyng**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen and agreed by all, the Council resolved to appoint Mr. Brennan to the Climate Change, Environment, and Biodiversity SPC as outlined above.

**8. Nomination of Elected Member to Wexford Comhairle na nÓg**

Following consideration of the report of A/DoS Ms. Carolyne Godkin, and on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. Farrell and agreed by all, the members resolved to nominate the Cathaoirleach of the day to Wexford Comhairle na nÓg.

**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:

- Provision of Motor Home facilities – Council broadly supportive of any private applications
- Appointment of Heritage Officer – to be complete in coming months
- Enterprise Centre John St New Ross – CPO under preparation

It being 5.30pm, and on the proposal of Cllr. J. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan and agreed by all, Standing Orders were suspended to allow the meeting to continue until 6.00pm.

- Financial support to Charter Boat Industry – Council waiving harbour fees for 2021
- Electric charging points in private estates – planning conditions to be applied
- Advancement of affordable housing scheme in Ramsfort Gorey – road access being developed to facilitate the proposed development – letters inviting applications to be submitted within one month
- Courtown Swimming Pool – expected to be open for coming summer season
- Support to Festivals and Events 2021 – budget provisions in place
- Re-development of High Hill New Ross – tenders currently under assessment
- Rosslare to Waterford Greenway – documents to be brought to Planning submission stage
- Litter Fines – fines may be struck out for variety of reasons
- Active Travel grants – award deciding criteria outlined
- Homeless statistics – to be included in future CE Reports

It being 6.00pm, and on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell and agreed by all, Standing Orders were suspended to allow the meeting to continue and the consideration of the Chief Executive's Report to be completed

- Murphy Floods Hotel Enniscorthy – engagement has taken place between Council and owners to improve site appearance and address dereliction
- Provision of affordable housing in each Municipal District
- Accessibility issues at Vinegar Hill – constrained by archaeological issues
- Appointment of Greenway Development Officer - imminent
- Casual Trading in Municipal Districts – review of Casual Trading Byelaws underway
- Commencement of construction on capital projects – all construction expected to re-commence within 2/3 weeks

The review and discussion of the Chief Executive's Report being complete, the Cathaoirleach thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting

**Daingithe ar an      lá de Bealtaine, 2021.**

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***Cllr. Ger Carthy***  
***Cathaoirleach***

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***David Minogue***  
***County Secretary***