

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council  
Held Monday 13 September 2021 at 2.30pm**

**Attendance:**

**In the Chair:** Cllr. B. A. Murphy Cathaoirleach.

**Councillors:**

<b>BARDEN</b>	PAT	<b>DONOHUE</b>	ANTHONY	<b>MCDONALD</b>	LISA
<b>BELL</b>	MAURA	<b>FARRELL</b>	MARY	<b>MOORE</b>	JIM
<b>BOLGER</b>	ANDREW	<b>FLEMING</b>	JOHN	<b>O'ROURKE</b>	JOHN
<b>BREEN</b>	PIP	<b>FORDE</b>	TOM	<b>O'SUILLEABHAIN</b>	FIONNTAIN
<b>BROWNE</b>	AIDAN	<b>HEGARTY</b>	JOHN	<b>OWENS</b>	JACKSER
<b>BYRNE</b>	CATHAL	<b>HYNES</b>	DAVID	<b>SHEEHAN</b>	MICHAEL
<b>CARTHY</b>	GER	<b>KAVANAGH</b>	WILLIE		
		<b>KELLY</b>	LEONARD	<b>SULLIVAN</b>	JOE
<b>CODD-NOLAN</b>	KATHLEEN	<b>KENNY</b>	DONAL		
		<b>LAFFAN</b>	GARY	<b>WHELAN</b>	MICHAEL

**Officials:**

Mr. E. Hore, A/Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Services

Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance

Ms. A. Byrne, A/Director of Services

Mr. D. Minogue, County Secretary

**Oireachtas:** Ms. V. Murphy, T.D.

**Apologies:** Cllrs: J. Codd, A. Connick, D. Devereux, G. Lawlor, F. Staples, O. Walsh  
 Officials: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive, Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services, Ms. C. Godkin, A/Director of Services

**Votes of Sympathy:**

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

- Mrs. Lena Turner of 14, St. John's Villas on the death of her daughter Ann,
- The Behan family c/o Ms. Margaret Behan, 15, Sliabh Ros, Bunclody on the death of their mother Maureen.
- The Larriskey family, c/o Ms. Grainne Larriskey, Church Road, Bunclody on the death of their mother Bridie.
- The family John Cronin, former employee, Wexford County Council.
- The family of Michael Furlong, father of Martina Furlong, Economic Development
- The family of Mollie St. Ledger (née Blanche), Mother of Sue Kent, CSU
- The family of Tommie Thorpe, father of Adrienne Larkin, General Purposes & father-in-law of Tony Larkin, Director of Services
- The family of Margaret(Maggie) Doyle (née Leacy), Mother of Ger Doyle (Housing) and Eamonn Doyle (Water Services)
- The family of Ann Donovan mother of Clinton Donovan, Environment Warden

**Votes of Congratulations:**

The Council expressed their congratulations to:

- Wexford Junior Camogie Team, following their recent All-Ireland success
- Wexford-based Garda Michael Lee and Garda Barry Hennessy, on being recently awarded Scott medals for bravery
- Rapparees GAA Club on reaching the 2021 Wexford Senior Hurling club final
- The organisers of the 2021 Kennedy Summer School
- Ireland's Paralympic and Olympic teams
- Josh O'Connor following his soccer success
- Adamstown Rounders Team following All-Ireland success

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

1.1 Minutes Council Meeting Monday 12 July 2021

On the proposal of Cllr. K. Codd Nolan, seconded by Cllr. G Carthy and agreed by all the Council resolved to adopt the above Minutes.

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

2.1 Disposal of the freehold in a property at Marshmeadows, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan and agreed by all the Council resolved to dispose of the above property in accordance with the terms of the Section 183 Notice as circulated.

**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 LAC2104 – Proposed Development of 7 Houses and Associated Site Works at Ballyhine, Barntown, Co. Wexford.**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy and agreed by all the Council resolved that the proposed development should proceed in accordance with the Chief Executive's Report on the matter.

**3.2 LAC2105 – Proposed Construction of Outdoor Performance Pavilion at Wexford Quay Front**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell, seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty and agreed by all the Council resolved that the proposed development should proceed in accordance with the Chief Executive's Report on the matter.

**3.3 LAC2106 – Proposed Construction of Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Infrastructure at Monck Street, Wexford.**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly and agreed by all the Council resolved that the proposed development should proceed in accordance with the Chief Executive's Report on the matter

**4. Budget 2022 – Proposed Meeting Dates**

Ms. A. O'Neill Head of Finance presented a report to the meeting which outlined for the Members consideration a number of proposed meeting dates surrounding the Budget 2022 process.

On the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell, the Members agreed the meeting dates as set out in the Report.

**5. Chief Executive's Report**

The Deputy Chief Executive and Members of the Management Team responded to a range of queries from the elected members, including the following:

- Enniscorthy Sports Hub
- Affordable Housing in Enniscorthy
- The provision of Natural Gas in New Ross
- Streetscape Grant 2021
- Vacant local authority houses
- Wexford Town traffic issues
- Wexford Tourist Office
- Mechanics Institute Wexford
- CCTV at Min Ryan Park

- Request to Minister Darragh Ryan to visit Wexford
- Provision of public toilet facilities on Wexford Quays
- Delay in replying to members correspondence
- Updated position regarding Motions passed by Council
- Proposed Technological University for the South East
- Ministerial visits to County and related protocols
- Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme
- Murphy Flood's Hotel
- Dredging of Crescent Quay
- Water Contamination incident in Gorey:

Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services provided a detailed summary report on this incident to the Council which outlined the nature and cause of the incident, including dates, status of the Council's investigations into the matter, contact with Irish Water, HSE and EPA.

Mr. Hore advised that the Council's investigations were continuing but it was clear that the main cause of the poor water quality was attributed to the power failure which impacted on the chlorine dosing system.

Mr. Hore further outlined the extensive testing that has been carried out throughout the system in Gorey town and the improvement works that have taken place to date.

## **6. Broadband Connection Points Report**

The County Secretary /Broadband Officer advised the Members of the recent award to the Council of grant aid in the sum of €217,350 for the improvement of facilities in each of the nine Broadband Connection Points (BCP's).

## **7. Minutes of CPG**

### **7.1 Minutes of CPG of 7 September, 2021**

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, and agreed by all, the Council resolved to adopt the above Minutes

## **8. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting):**

The Council noted the following Minutes:

- 8.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting 09.06.2021 & AGM 25.06.2021
- 8.2 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 21.06.2021 & AGM 25.06.2021
- 8.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 21.06.2021 & AGM 28.06.2021
- 8.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 21.06.2021 & AGM 28.06.2021

8.5 Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting 15.06.2021 & AGM 15.06.2021

**9. Correspondence & Communications**

9.1 Letter from Wicklow County Council re motion dated 6th July, 2021

9.2 Letter from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council re motion dated 6th July, 2021

9.3 Letter from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council re motion dated 7th July, 2021

9.4 Letter from Senator Robbie Gallagher re: Debate in the Seanad dated 7th July, 2021

9.5 Letter from Catherine Martin TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media dated 8th July, 2021

9.6 Letter from Clare County Council re 2 motions dated 13th July, 2021.

9.7 Letter from Limerick County Council re motion dated 13th July, 2021.

9.8 Email from Alex Costello Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance re CRSS dated 21st July, 2021

9.9 Letter from Minister Heather Humphreys TD re CE Supervisors Pension dated 21st July, 2021

9.10 Letter from Wicklow County Council re New National Maternity Hospital dated 28th July, 2021

9.11 Letter from James Browne TD re County Wexford's secondary roads dated 13th August, 2021

9.12 Email from Brendan Howlin, TD re: motion County Wexford Roads dated 2nd September, 2021

**10. Training and Conferences**

**10.1 Conferences:**

10.1.1 24/25/26 September  
Health & Safety in the Workplace  
Clonakilty, Co. Cork.  
Celtic Conferences Fee €100

10.1.2 1/2/3 October  
The Fair Deal Scheme  
Carlingford, Co. Louth.  
Celtic Conferences Fee €100

10.1.3 8/9/10 October  
Mental Health & Wellbeing  
Clonakilty, Co. Cork.  
Celtic Conferences Fee €100

10.1.4 15/16/17 October  
A Practical Guide to Budget 2022  
Carlingford, Co. Louth  
Celtic Conferences Fee €100

## **10.2 Training:**

10.2.1 September 2021 AILG Training Programme Module 1  
“Government Decision on the Reform on Remuneration Payable to  
Local Authority Elected Members and Update on Planning and Development  
Bill 2021 and other Planning Related Matters”.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes the Members approved for attendance the conferences and training events listed above in accordance with Section 142 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

## **11. Deferred Notices of Motion from Council Meeting 10th May 2021**

### **11.1 Cllr. G. Carthy**

***“That we the Members of Wexford County Council request that the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and Transport, Mr. Eamonn Ryan TD prioritises the planning, design and construction of the N24 Waterford to Limerick Corridor Road project within the Review of the National Development Plan. This project is critical to the development of the South East region and to the achievement of national targets on addressing regional imbalance by connecting the cities of Waterford and Limerick, the South East, South West and Mid-West Regions, Rosslare Europort, the Port of Waterford, and existing strategic transport corridors including the M7(Dublin – Limerick), M8 (Dublin- Cork) and M9 (Dublin-Carlow-Kilkenny-Waterford) motorways.***

***It is further requested that this Notion of Motion be sent to the Minister for Finance, Mr Paschal Donoghue TD and Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Michael McGrath TD”.***

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan and approved by the Council.

**11.2 Cllr. G. Carthy**

***“That this Council calls on the Government in the light of Brexit and other market influences to recognise the strategic value of the South-East Ports in Rosslare and Belview, Waterford through:***

- ***Strategic investment in the Ports, in particular through the purchase of additional land for the expansion of Rosslare Europort and the advance construction of Rosslare Europort Harbour Access Road.***
- ***Amalgamation of the ports structure and governance to create a Tier 1 port as a combined entity.***
- ***Designation of the combined entity as the service port for offshore renewables in The Irish and Celtic Seas.***

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan and approved by the Council.

**12. Notices of Motion**

**12.1 Cllr. J. O’Rourke**

***“I write to ask in light of the inability of new community operated playgrounds and those whose policies may have lapsed to get insurance cover and increased burden of individual costs on existing community operated playgrounds I call on Wexford County Council to take all these playgrounds in under the councils policy.”***

Cllr. O’Rourke asked that the Motion be withdrawn, and this was agreed.

**12.2 Cllr. M. Whelan**

***“I call on this council to support the call from the I.F.A. to extend the deadline date on registration of rights of way and easement for at least 2 years from the 30th November 2021. And to send the bill to the law reform commission to look at the structure as it stands”.***

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Whelan.

Following discussion, it was agreed to amend the Motion by deleting the phrase “for at least 2 years” and to replace it with the phrase “for at least 4 years”.

The amended Motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. C. Byrne and agreed by all.

**12.3 Cllr. K. Codd Nolan & Cllr. C. Byrne**

***“In view of the inability of Community Groups to access reasonable Insurance on both new projects and renewal of existing policies on play-grounds or Community Parks that are not in the ownership of a Local Authority we propose that Wexford County Council immediately write to Minister Sean Fleming T.D. Minister of State for Dept of Finance with responsibility for Insurance, requesting that he urgently examine the area of Leisure Insurance in Ireland and bring forward an immediate solution to enable Community groups acquire reasonable insurance to cover these very important facilities. “***

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

It was agreed that the feasibility of extending the Council’s public liability insurance policy to cover these community playgrounds would be examined. It was further agreed that on receipt of the Minister’s reply to the Motion, the matter would be brought before the Council for further consideration,

**12.4 Cllrs. D. Hynes, T. Forde,**

***“In the interest of local democracy, this Council calls for an urgent review of local authorities protocol regarding executive making decisions that disregard elected members, for instance in the area of GDPR where this council’s heavy-handed approach is leading to serious concerns on the part of members. In view of the fact that it would seem that executive functions are superseding reserve functions, we move that the Chief Executive take immediate action to ensure fair play, and to avoid a breakdown in the relationship between the Executive and the Elected Members. In the interest of those who are elected to represent the people of Wexford”***

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Hynes and seconded by Cllr. Forde,.

Many members contributed to the ensuing debate. Concerns identified included delayed response to telephone calls, lack of information flow between staff and the Members, and in some cases perceived poor quality of responses provided to the Members queries.

The Deputy Chief Executive and County Secretary expressed their disappointment to learn of the Members concerns and undertook to address the issues raised.

It was also agreed to convene a meeting of the Members Portal Working Group to consider the concerns identified in relation to the Portal and to report to the Council with proposals to resolve those concerns.



**12.5 Cllr. M. Whelan**

***That this council calls on our six Oireachtas members to bring the case for the provision of adequate funding for research into Motor Neuron disease.***

The Motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald and agreed by all.

As the Council had now sat for one hour and fifty-five minutes, the Cathaoirleach declared the meeting closed, with the remaining items deferred to the next meeting of the Council

**12.6 Cllr. Leonard Kelly,**

***"I am calling on Wexford County Council, working with each municipal district to carry out a complete road safety audit on all estates that are taken in charge by Wexford County Council, with particular emphasis on the condition of existing speed ramps (and assessment of need for new ramp) and the erection of signage (Slow Down, Children at Play, etc.) as appropriate.***

***I have received many representations relating to reckless behaviour of some drivers within residential areas. The safety of residents and their children should not be dependent on makeshift signage or on discretionary funds being spent by individual councillors for things like speed ramps. Any and all safety upgrades need to be costed, budgeted and planned to give clarity to local residents.***

***We should not be found wanting in this regard."***

Deferred to the next meeting of the Council

**12.7 Cllr. Tom Forde**

***We ask for the Wexford County Council tenant handbook to be reviewed with a view to ensuring that the council is held to the same standards and responsibilities that are expected of private landlords regarding repairs and other essential maintenance works.***

Deferred to the next meeting of the Council

**13. Any Other Business**

Deferred to the next meeting of the Council

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

**Daingithe ar an                      lá de Deireadh Fómhair, 2021.**

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***Cllr Barbara-Anne Murphy***  
***Cathaoirleach***

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