

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council  
Held (remotely) on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2020****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- ANNE
<b>BOLGER</b>	ANDREW	<b>FORDE</b>	TOM	<b>MURPHY</b>	BRIDIN
<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>CODD</b>	JIM	<b>KELLY</b>	LEONARD	<b>SHEEHAN</b>	MICHAEL
<b>CODD-NOLAN</b>	KATHLEEN	<b>KENNY</b>	DONAL		
<b>CONNICK</b>	ANTHONY	<b>LAFFAN</b>	GARY	<b>SULLIVAN</b>	JOE
<b>DEVEREUX</b>	DIARMUID	<b>LAWLOR</b>	GEORGE		
<b>DONOHUE</b>	ANTHONY	<b>MCDONALD</b>	LISA	<b>WHELAN</b>	MICHAEL

**Officials:**

Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive

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

**Apologies:** Cllr. O. Walsh

### **Votes of Sympathy:**

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

Mrs. Annie Walsh, Blackwater  
Mr. Paddy Doyle, Disability Activist and Author  
Mr. Michael (Mick) Murray, Inch  
Fr. Martin Murphy, Enniscorthy  
Mr. Sean Monaghan, Duncormick  
Mr. Niall Osborne, Annagh Gorey  
Ms. Paula Redmond, Bunclody  
Mr. Jim Laffan, Wexford  
Dr. Elizabeth Fowler, Wexford.  
Ms. May Swaine, formerly of UK

### **Votes of Congratulations**

The Council congratulated the following:

Mr. Michéal Martin – on being elected to Chairman of Wexford GAA  
Mr. Derek Kent – on being elected to the GAA Leinster Council  
Mr. Justin Heffernen, Referee  
Erigal Bay Fish Processors – on their further expansion into European sales markets  
The main towns within the County – for their efforts to support local shopping at this time  
Ms. O Connor of Charleton Hill New Ross on the occasion of her birthday  
All involved with the 2020 Wexford Environment Awards  
Staff of Water Services for their successful efforts to manage recent water quality issues in Wexford town  
The Ivy Sisters, Wexford on winning the ALDI Christmas FM Song Contest

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

- 1.1. County Council Meeting - 9th November, 2020
- 1.2. Statutory Budget Meeting - 30th November, 2020

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. J. Moore and agreed unanimously the Council resolved to adopt each of the above Minutes.

Matters Arising:

It was agreed that the Council would obtain legal advice to clarify if the Council's Standing Orders could be used to set the criteria under which remote meetings of the Council could be held, or under which an individual member could attend remotely.

In response to a query from Cllr. Hegarty, Mr. T. Larkin DoS agreed to bring the matter of fees for Taking in Charge Certificates before the next available relevant SPC.

Ms. C. Godkin A/DoS advised that following a notice of Motion to the November Meeting of the Council, the Council is agreeable to support the National Ambulance Community Responder Scheme and will advance this project in the coming months.

Cllr. M Sheehan reminded Ms. Godkin of his recent request for a breakdown of the 2021 Budget provision of €300,000 towards costs at Ozanam House.

Cllr. C. Byrne raised the issue of Council's slipway charges. In response, the CE advised that these charges have been set under the 2021 Schedule of Charges. He reminded the Members that these charges were very were modest and the associated income was reflected in the excellent range of amenities available at the locations in question.

Cllr. Sheehan asked that consideration be given to a mortgage scheme for fire-fighting personnel that recognises the fluctuations in their incomes.

**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 LAC2004 – Development of a Public Realm Improvement Scheme at Esmonde Street, Gorey, Co. Wexford

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Sullivan seconded by Cllr. P. Breen the Council resolved that the proposed development should be carried out in accordance with the Report of the Chief Executive as circulated.

**3. Wexford County Council Harbour & Pier Bye-Laws 2020**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny the Council resolved to adopt and make the *Wexford County Council Harbour & Pier Bye-Laws 2020* in accordance with Section 199 and Section 200 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

At this point, Cllr. Kenny made his apologies to the Cathaoirleach and left the meeting

**4. Approval of Draft Bye-laws for the regulation and control of the consumption of intoxicating liquor within the jurisdiction of Wexford County Council.**

The Members noted that the list of areas covered by the draft Byelaws can be amended by the Members as required.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. J. Sullivan the Council resolved to approve the draft *Bye-laws for the Regulation and Control of the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor within the Jurisdiction of Wexford County Council* in accordance with Section 199 and Section 200 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

**5. Wexford County Council (Prohibition of Overnight Camping on Roads and in Public Places in Courtown) Bye-Laws 2020**

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Devereux, seconded by Cllr. F. O'Suilleabháin, the Council resolved to adopt and make the *Wexford County Council (Prohibition of Overnight Camping on Roads and in Public Places in Courtown) Bye-Laws 2020* in accordance with Section 199 and Section 200 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

**6. Audited Accounts 2019 and Statutory Audit Report 2019**

The Audited Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2019 and the Statutory Audit Report 2019 submitted by the Local Government Audit Service were circulated to Members for consideration. The Members noted the contents and no matters were raised for discussion.

**7. Chief Executive's Report**

The Chief Executive presented the Report and together with the members of the Management Team responded to a range of queries from the Members, including the following:

- Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme – Timelines for implementation
- Special Projects – Update to Members in New Year
- New Ross Courthouse and adjacent properties – Proposals for re-development
- Homeless Persons – request for statistics
- Traveller Accommodation Programme – Implementation plans and related spending
- LTACC – request to convene meeting
- Enniscorthy Technology Park – commencement of building construction
- Oil tanks at New Ross – redevelopment proposals
- High Hill New Ross – re-tendering process
- Homeless Services – review of arrangements
- Ports Past & Present Project – request to extend brief

- St Waleran's Lands Gorey – update on development of master plan
- Gorey Market House – update
- Brexit – encouragement to local business to be prepared
- Kilbranish Wind Farm – engagement with Carlow County Council
- Litter management - CCTV restrictions – circulation of correspondence from DPC
- Housing Services – directory of staff and respective areas of responsibility
- Emergency Accommodation provision
- Proposed housing development at Ferns
- Rosslare Harbour Access Road – next steps
- Maritime-related businesses – limitations on Covid funding support
- Extension of Rapid Response Programme to all MD's
- Courtown Swimming Pool – Update
- New Ross Greenway – expressions of interest for concession-type facilities
- Whiterock Housing Development – update
- Housing Officer Enniscorthy – appointment
- Camolin Health Centre – possible use for housing accommodation
- Covid-related funding – related expenditure proposals

**8. Filling of vacancy on AILG and Regional Health Forum (South) (following resignation of Cllr. W. Kavanagh from these bodies)**

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. J. Sullivan, Cllr. A. Bolger was nominated to fill the vacancy on the AILG caused by Cllr. Kavanagh's resignation from that Association

On the proposal of Cllr. W. Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald, Cllr. G. Laffan was nominated to fill the vacancy on the Regional Health Forum (South) caused by Cllr. Kavanagh's resignation from that Forum

**9. High Performance Building Alliance - Nomination of Chairperson**

The Report of the Director of Services and recommendation of the CPG therein was noted.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by M. Farrell, the Council resolved to nominate Cllr. B.A. Murphy to fill the position of Chairperson of the High Performance Building Alliance

**10. Report of Corporate Policy Group**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by P. Breen, the Members noted the Report of the Corporate Policy Group

**11. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting):**

- 11.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting 09.09.2020
- 11.2 Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting 15.09.2020
- 11.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting 21.09.2020
- 11.4 Special Borough District of Wexford Meeting 28.09.2020
- 11.5 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting 21.09.2020
- 11.6 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting 21.09.2020
- 11.7 Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment SPC Meeting 13.02.2020
- 11.8 Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment SPC Meeting 23.06.2020

The Members noted the Minutes of the above meetings

**12. Correspondence and Communications**

- 12.1 Letter from Kerry County Council dated 16th October, 2020
- 12.2 Letter from Sligo County Council dated 6th November, 2020
- 12.3 Letter of acknowledgement from office of Minister O'Brien dated 9th November, 2020
- 12.4 Letter from Carlow County Council dated 12th November, 2020
- 12.5 Letter from Galway County Council dated 30th November, 2020.
- 12.6 Acknowledgement email from office of Anne Rabbitte, TD, Minister for Disabilities dated 3rd December, 2020.

The Members noted the above correspondence

**13. Notices of Motion**

**13.1 Cllr. L. Kelly**

“Requesting that Wexford County Council write to the Ministers for Justice, Finance and Public Expenditure to make provisions where drug and drug trafficking monies confiscated under the Proceeds of Crime Legislation be redirected from central coffers back into local addiction services, youth organisations, and community initiatives to combat the effect of addiction on our communities, and that the necessary legislation is changed as a matter of urgency to allow this vital funding support to happen”.

Proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde and agreed.

**13.2 Cllr. T. Forde**

“I ask that Wexford County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O Brien, and ask that the local authorities allocation for disability adaption works be increased to match the need of our demand. In the very least we ask that funding be reinstated to the previous level before it was reduced by 16% on 2019 levels to €481,053.

This council is mindful that reductions to these funds has and is preventing many vulnerable people from living with dignity and with the basic necessities required for a comfortable standard of living.”

Proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. J. Codd and agreed.

**13.3 Cllr. M. Sheehan**

“That this Council calls on the Department of Education and the Higher Education Institutions/ Bodies to offer a rebate scheme to third level students who are charged full rate for on-campus accommodation but are afforded limited access due to Covid restrictions for the Academic Year 2020/2021. Upon passage, this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities.

Proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. A. Bolger and agreed.

**13.4 Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin & Cllr. T. Forde**

"This Council notes the centenary of the passing by the British Parliament at Westminster of the Government of Ireland Act in December 1920, the Act which provided for the Partition of Ireland. We recall the deep injustices, divisions and conflict caused by this Act. We reiterate our support for the Good Friday Agreement and the political process arising from it, including the revoking of the Government of Ireland Act. We reaffirm our support for the self-determination of the people of Ireland as expressed in Article 3.1 of Bunreacht na hÉireann and for the bringing about of a United Ireland "by peaceful means with the consent of a majority of the people, democratically expressed, in both jurisdictions".

Accordingly we call on both the Irish and British governments to fully implement the Good Friday Agreement and all their obligations with regard to the rights of citizens; we call on the British government to agree to set a date for the Irish Unity referendum as provided in the Agreement; we call on the Irish government to work for this outcome.

We stand ready as a Council to work with all statutory bodies and with civic society to plan and prepare for the referendum on Irish Unity and for a positive outcome to the referendum."

Proposed by Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin and seconded by Cllr. J. Codd.

The following amendment to the Motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan and seconded by Cllr. P. Breen, being the amendment of Paragraph 2 of the Motion as follows:

Accordingly we call on both the Irish and British governments to fully implement the Good Friday Agreement and all their obligations with regard to the rights of citizens; we call on the British government to agree to set a date for the Irish Unity referendum as provided in the Agreement when circumstances permit. We call on the Irish government to work for this outcome.

The amended Motion was duly put by roll call and the results of that roll call vote were as follows:



		For / Against / Abstain
<b>BARDEN</b>	PAT	Abstain
<b>BELL</b>	MAURA	F
<b>BOLGER</b>	ANDREW	F
<b>BREEN</b>	PIP	F
<b>BROWNE</b>	AIDAN	F
<b>BYRNE</b>	CATHAL	F
<b>CODD</b>	JIM	F
<b>CODD-NOLAN</b>	KATHLEEN	A
<b>CONNICK</b>	ANTHONY	F
<b>DEVEREUX</b>	DIARMUID	F
<b>DONOHUE</b>	ANTHONY	F
<b>FARRELL</b>	MARY	F
<b>FLEMING</b>	JOHN	F
<b>FORDE</b>	TOM	A
<b>HEGARTY</b>	JOHN	F
<b>HYNES</b>	DAVID	Absent
<b>KAVANAGH</b>	WILLIE	F
<b>KELLY</b>	LEONARD	Abstain
<b>KENNY</b>	DONAL	Absent
<b>LAFFAN</b>	GARY	F
<b>LAWLOR</b>	GEORGE	F
<b>MCDONALD</b>	LISA	F
<b>MOORE</b>	JIM	F
<b>MURPHY</b>	BARBARA-ANNE	F
<b>MURPHY</b>	BRIDIN	F
<b>O'ROURKE</b>	JOHN	F
<b>O'SUILLEABHAIN</b>	FIONNTAIN	A
<b>SHEEHAN</b>	MICHAEL	F
<b>SULLIVAN</b>	JOE	F
<b>WHELAN</b>	MICHAEL	F

### 13.5 Cllr. L. Kelly

“In the Program for Government a commitment to an allocation of 10% of the total transport capital budget for cycling projects and an allocation of 10% of the total capital budget for pedestrian infrastructure was made. The commitment to cycling and pedestrian projects is set at 20% of the 2020 capital budget (€360 million) per year for the lifetime of the Government.

In order to place Co. Wexford front and centre of securing our share of this funding, I propose that Wexford county council prioritise the development and adoption of a

high-quality cycling policy and that the department of Transport are approached by the Council to have Wexford, New Ross, Enniscorthy and Gorey included under the remit of the NTA from where the expertise of the newly created cycle design office can be sought.

As part of this I propose that Wexford County Council carries out a full assessment of our roads network and develops cycle network plans paying particular attention to the development and renewal of walking and cycling strategies for urban settings (for travel to education, work and for recreation), which will be implemented with the help of a suitably qualified Cycling Officer with clear powers and role.”

Proposed by Cllr. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald and agreed.

In agreeing the Motion, the Members asked that rural villages and towns in County Wexford would also be considered for similar investment.

**13.6 Cllr. M. Sheehan & Cllr. P. Breen**

“That this Council backs the Government support for the Greyhound and Horse Industry and calls on the Minister to ensure continued support and funding on a multi-annual basis.

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

**18. Any Other Business**

The Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive thanked the elected members and staff of the Council for their excellent work throughout the year and wished everybody a Safe and a Happy Christmas.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**

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

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***Cathaoirleach***

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***County Secretary***