

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council  
held on Monday 27 July, 2020 – 9.30 a.m.  
in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy.**

**Attendance:**

**In the Chair:** Cllr. G. Carthy, Cathaoirleach.

**Councillors:**

<b>BARDEN</b>	PAT	<b>DONOHOE</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>MURPHY</b>	BARBARA- ANNE
<b>BREEN</b>	PIP	<b>FORDE</b>	TOM	<b>MURPHY</b>	BRIDIN
<b>BROWNE</b>	AIDAN	<b>HEGARTY</b>	JOHN	<b>O'ROURKE</b>	JOHN
<b>BYRNE</b>	CATHAL	<b>HYNES</b>	DAVID	<b>O'SUILLEABHAIN</b>	FIONNTAIN
<b>SHEEHAN</b>	MICHAEL	<b>KAVANAGH</b>	WILLIE	<b>OWENS</b>	JACKSER
<b>CODD</b>	JIM	<b>KELLY</b>	LEONARD		
<b>CODD-NOLAN</b>	KATHLEEN	<b>KENNY</b>	DONAL		
<b>CONNICK</b>	ANTHONY	<b>LAFFAN</b>	GARY	<b>WALSH</b>	OLIVER
<b>DEVEREUX</b>	DIARMUID	<b>LAWLOR</b>	GEORGE	<b>WHELAN</b>	MICHAEL

**Officials:**

Mr. T. Larkin, Dep. Chief Executive / Director of Services  
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance  
Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services  
Ms A. Byrne, A/Director of Services  
Mr. D. Minogue, County Secretary

**Apologies:**

Councillors: Frank Staples  
Joe Sullivan

Officials: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive  
Ms. C. Godkin, A/Director of Services

## **Expressions of Sympathy / Congratulations**

The Members extended sympathy to the families of the following recently deceased:

- Mr. Tom Godkin
- Mr. Des Whelan
- Mr. Tom Forde
- Mr. Jack Charlton
- Ms. Deirdre Redmond
- Mr. Brian Murphy
- Mr. Myles Dunne
- Mr. James Connolly
- Mr. Liam Donegan

Dean na Comharleoirí comhghairdeas ar na ndhaoine as seo a leanas:

- Ms. Gaye Murphy and all those involved in organizing the recent and highly successful Relay for Life, Wexford.

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

#### **2.1 County Council Meeting – 29 June, 2020**

Proposed by Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Browne and agreed.

#### **2.2 Annual Meeting of Wexford County Council 29 June, 2020**

Proposed by Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Browne and agreed.

#### **2.3 Matters Arising**

In response to members queries, the Deputy CE advised that negotiations between Wexford County Council and Carlow IT in relation to the development of a Wexford Campus were progressing very well.

The Deputy CE advised that he proposed to invite representatives from Carlow IT to attend the October meeting of Wexford County Council to outline their plans for the development of the Wexford Campus. This was agreed.

### **2. Proposal under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

#### **2.1 Proposed long-term lease of lands at Enniscorthy Technology Park**

Statutory Notice having been served, and on the proposal of Councillor B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke, the Members resolved to dispose of the lands in accordance with the Notice.

**3. Part XI of the Local Government Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)**

3.1 LAC2001 Proposed development – Alterations to the Ballast Office to facilitate a change of use from office to shop/restaurant. The Ballast Building is a protected structure (RPS No. WBC0120) at Ballast Office, Crescent Quay, Wexford.

The Members agreed to defer consideration of the Manager's Report to a later date and asked that in the interim, the proposal be reviewed at a meeting of the Members of the Borough District of Wexford

**4. Notice under Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 - Borrowing Approval**

Following consideration of the Report of Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance dated 20 July 2020 and on the proposal of Cllr. Sheehan seconded by Cllr. Breen, the Members resolved to approve an increase of €8 million in borrowings for the Economic & Community Development Programme in accordance with S.106 of the Local Government Act 2001. Council approval of borrowing for this programme is now €48m

Details of national proposals to amend the Rates Waiver Scheme and the ReStart Grant Scheme were outlined by the Head of Finance and broadly welcomed by the Members.

Ms. O'Neill reminded the Members that the Council will require to be put in funds by Government in order to make the payments under the Restart Grant Scheme.

**5. Audit Committee Reports**

**5.1 Audit Committee commentary on the contents of the 2018 Accounts and audit findings (as previously circulated)**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. W. Kavanagh, the Members noted the Report in accordance with Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

**5.2 Overview of Audit Committee work programme completed during 2019 (as previously circulated)**

The Members considered the Report in accordance with section 15 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014

**5.3 Audit Committee's proposed work programme for 2020 (as previously circulated)**

The Members noted the Report

## **6. Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 – Progress Report**

The Members agreed to defer this item to the next monthly meeting of the Council, due to the absence of the A/Director of Services, Ms. Carolyne Godkin

## **7. Chief Executive’s Report**

Deputy C.E. Mr. Tony Larkin presented the Report and together with the members of the Management Team responded to a range of queries from the Members, including the following:

- 7.1 Advance Factory New Ross – complex contract – to issue ASAP
- 7.2 Fire-damaged houses in Ballycullane – both to be completed
- 7.3 Evidence of Increased littering -
- 7.4 Appointment of Heritage Officer - welcomed
- 7.5 Septic Grant Improvement Grant – increase in grant amount recommended
- 7.6 Perceived changes to Housing allocation practices / policies
- 7.7 Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme - implications for mortgage applicants
- 7.8 GDPR issues regarding littering - clarified
- 7.9 Promotion of tourism in South Wexford – further plans in place
- 7.10 Housing Development in Wexford –method statement submitted
- 7.11 Invitation to Housing Minister to attend Council meeting - agreed
- 7.12 Road Repairs in South Wexford - noted
- 7.13 Carrigfoyle Activity Centre –negotiations continue with WWETB
- 7.14 Bunclody Swimming Pool – Council funding appreciated
- 7.15 Road Improvements on former N11 at Ferns – will be completed
- 7.16 Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme – Scheme approval awaited
- 7.17 Building Control practices – to be reviewed on case by case basis
- 7.18 Harbour Byelaws – under public consultation
- 7.19 Indiscriminate parking in coastal areas – to be reviewed
- 7.20 Local Improvement Schemes – GDPR issues to be clarified
- 7.21 Public water supply in Coolballow area – matter for IW
- 7.22 Proposed new bridge in Enniscorthy – assessment process continues
- 7.23 Help to Buy Scheme – possible use of funds as deposit to be considered
- 7.24 Oilgate to Rosslare Scheme – deadline extended to 10 August
- 7.25 Pontoon on River Slaney for Search and Rescue use – to be considered
- 7.26 New Ross Port – Improvements contract to issue – NRMD to be updated
- 7.27 Ireland’s Ancient East – Council supporting marketing campaigns
- 7.28 Courtown Parking in Public Places Byelaws – to proceed
- 7.29 Camper Van parking – options to be explored at District level
- 7.30 New Ross Greenway – Public to be updated on proposed access routes

## **8. Corporate Policy Group**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Farrell, seconded by Cllr. Breen, the Report of the CPG meeting of 17 July 2020 was noted by the Members

**9. Minutes of Meetings**

- 9.1 Borough District of Wexford Meeting 15.06.2020 & AGM 29.06.2020
- 9.2 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting 15.06.2020 & AGM 29.06.2020
- 9.3 Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting 16.06.2020 & AGM 29.06.2020
- 9.4 New Ross Municipal District Meeting 11.06.2020 & AGM 29.06.2020
- 9.5 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting 15th June, 2020 & AGM 29.06.2020

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. Fleming, the Members noted the Minutes of the above meetings

**10. Sealing of Documents**

Noted

**11. Correspondence and Communications**

- 11.1 Letter from Mr. John Kelpie, Chief Executive, Derry City & Strabane District Council dated 10th July, 2020.**

Noted

- 11.2 Letter of Invitation to Irish Water to attend Sept Meeting of the Council**

Noted

**12. Notices of Motion**

- 12.1** *“Recognising the contribution of CE Supervisors for their years of dedication to their communities and the findings of the Labour Court rulings, this Council calls on the Government to engage, consult and honour the commitment of a fair gratuity scheme and resolve the pension entitlements for all the Supervisors and Assistants who are have put in the years of service and deserve their due recognition”*

Before discussion commenced on this Motion, Cllr. B.A. Murphy declared a beneficial interest in the matter. Cllr. Murphy then temporarily withdrew from the meeting In accordance with S. 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 and remained absent for so long as the matter was under discussion.

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

Following the above discussion and resolution, Cllr. B.A. Murphy rejoined the meeting.

- 12.2** *“Wexford County Council calls on the Irish Government Departments of Health, Justice and Equality and Children and Youth Affairs to recognize that Parental Alienation is “Substantial and sustained dissatisfaction within a caregiver-child relationship associated with significant disturbance in functioning” as coded by the World Health Organisation in the latest International Classification of Diseases version 11 and to implement recommendation 36 of the Report of the Reform of the Family Law System October 2019.”*

Proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin and agreed

- 12.3** *“Asking this council for the roll-out of a QR style code on every public bin in Co. Wexford.*

*This would allow people to report overflowing bins as well as illegal dumping in real time using their phone and thus ensure a quick and targeted response. The issue has become much more prominent over the lockdown period with people spending a lot more time outdoors. The Summer months and periods of good weather further exacerbate the problem. Despite the best efforts of the Council, overflowing bins are becoming a common feature near parks and playgrounds across the county.*

*If a bin is damaged or overflowing anyone with a smartphone can snap a picture of the QR code and report it to Wexford co Council. This generates a service request and the Council can then send someone to attend the issue asap.*

*It takes less than a minute to report and it means the Council can target problem areas rather than trying to cover everywhere all the time. It will also act as a deterrent to those illegally dumping household waste near public bins as they know the Council will be watching the areas where it is most prominent.”*

Proposed by Cllr. A. Browne, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan and agreed

- 12.4** *“We call on the Minister for Health to confirm that Ireland has already put in a bulk order for syringes in anticipation of a vaccine for the Covid 19 virus, similar to bulk orders that have already been placed by USA, Canada and other countries.*

Proposed by Cllr. John Hegarty. Cllr. Hegarty then amended the Motion to include the following sentence.

*In addition, we ask the Minister to immediately engage with vaccine providers to ensure that Ireland is included in any rollout of vaccine at the earliest possible opportunity.*

The Motion as amended was seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell and agreed.

**12.5 Cllr. M. Sheehan**

*“That this Council agrees to organise a cross-party group and seeks a deputation with the Minister for Local Government, Darragh O’Brien TD to outline our priorities and capital investment programme for County Wexford for his support and endorsement.”*

Proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. J. Codd and agreed

**12.6 Cllr. L. Kelly**

*“Wexford County Council Request that the new minister for education and skills immediately formulate a plan of action to directly address the growing educational inequality occurring in Wexford, and throughout the County resulting from the increased need for remote schooling.*

*Families of children who do not have access to sufficient broadband or who do not have the finances to purchase laptops or tablet are now at an immediate disadvantage educationally, especially with the potential for second waves of COVID-19 pandemic causing further disruption to in-class teaching”*

Proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes and agreed

**13. Any Other Business**

**13.1 Disability Inclusion Strategy for Services.**

The Members noted circulation of the above Council publication. They offered a range of comments, including more transport services for those living with a disability in rural areas, the trimming of hedges in urban areas to facilitate footpath use, the marking of all disability spaces in blue, dishing of footpaths to facilitate wheelchair access, provision of additional bus shelters in rural areas.

**13.2 Protocol Committee**

A meeting of the Protocol Committee is to be convened

**13.3 Additional Schools**

The Members congratulated Cllr. B.A. Murphy for her work as Chairperson of the WWETB in securing an agreement for the construction of an additional secondary school in Wexford

**13.4 Covid 19 – Travel abroad**

The Members expressed disappointment that members of the public are experiencing difficulty in receiving refund of travel costs for cancellation of proposed holidays following public health

**This concluded the Business of the Meeting.**

**Daingithe ar an      lá de Méan Fomhair, 2020.**

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Cathaoirleach

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County Secretary