

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council
Held remotely on Monday 9 November, 2020****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. Ger Carthy, Cathaoirleach.**Councillors:**

BARDEN	PAT	FARRELL	MARY	MOORE	JIM
BELL	MAURA	FLEMING	JOHN	MURPHY	BARBARA-ANNE
BOLGER	ANDREW	FORDE	TOM	MURPHY	BRIDIN
BREEN	PIP	HEGARTY	JOHN	O'ROURKE	JOHN
BROWNE	AIDAN	HYNES	DAVID	O'SUILLEABHAIN	FIONNTAIN
BYRNE	CATHAL	KAVANAGH	WILLIE	OWENS	JACKSER
CODD	JIM	KELLY	LEONARD	SHEEHAN	MICHAEL
CODD-NOLAN	KATHLEEN	KENNY	DONAL		
CONNICK	ANTHONY	LAFFAN	GARY	SULLIVAN	JOE
DEVEREUX	DIARMUID	LAWLOR	GEORGE	WALSH	OLIVER
DONOHOE	ANTHONY	MCDONALD	LISA	WHELAN	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

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

- 1.1 County Council Meeting – 14th September, 2020
- 1.2 Special County Council Meeting - 14th September, 2020
- 1.3 Budget Working Group Meeting – 2nd November, 2020

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes and agreed unanimously the Council resolved to adopt each of the above Minutes.

2. Amendment to Standing Orders – Remote Meetings

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. J. Moore and agreed unanimously the Council resolved to amend its Standing Orders by insertion of Standing Orders (6)a to (6)h as circulated and considered.

The Members expressed their desire to hold physical meetings of the Council as a first choice and to limit remote meetings of the Council to essential circumstances only.

3. Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001:

3.1 Proposed disposal of property at Spawell Road and 1798 Street, Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty the Council resolved to dispose of the above property in accordance with the Section 183 Notice as circulated.

4. Part XI of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8, of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended):

4.1 LAC 2001 – 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.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes the Council resolved that the development should be carried out in accordance with the Report of the Chief Executive as circulated.

5. Proposal under Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001:

5.1 Approval sought for borrowing by way of temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year to 31st December, 2021.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny the Council resolved to approve the borrowing proposal as outlined above.

6. Section 55 Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended):

6.1 Proposal to add a Famine Wall on lands at Ballyhogue, Bree, to the Record of Protected Structures.

Before discussion commenced on this Agenda item, Cllr. C. Byrne declared that a connected person held a beneficial interest in the matter. Cllr. Byrne 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.

Following consideration of the Report of Mr. D Houston, Senior Planner on the matter, and on the proposal of Cllr. A. Browne, seconded by Cllr. J. O'Rourke, the Council resolved to amend the Record of Protected Structures to include Bellview Famine Wall on lands at Ballyhogue, Bree, Co. Wexford.

It was agreed that the Planning Authority would also examine the possibility of adding 2 local gate lodges in the Ballyhogue area to the Record of Protected Structures.

Following conclusion of this discussion, Cllr. Byrne rejoined the meeting.

7. Report Community Defibrillator Programme

The Members noted the Report as circulated. Ms. C. Godkin A/DoS advised that the Council was not in a position to carry out works of maintenance or repair to defibrillators across the county.

8. Social Housing - Update 2020

Ms. C. Godkin presented the Report as circulated and responded to queries from the Members on a range of housing issues including the following:

- Anti-social behavior
- Repairs to void properties
- Re-letting of vacant properties and associated costs
- Traveller accommodation programme
- Provision of affordable accommodation
- Private rented inspections
- Covid 19 - impact on repairs programme
- Housing targets for 2020
- Homeless services
- Re-letting obligations of Council following tenancy surrender
- Conducting repairs where property temporarily vacated
- Conduction of inspections for grant purposes
- Funding for Planned Maintenance
- Emergency housing arrangements during severe weather

It was agreed that the Council would convene a Special Meeting early in the New Year to discuss Housing issues.

9. Choice Based Letting Report

Ms. C. Godkin presented the Report as circulated. The Members welcomed the proposal and asked that efforts be made to make the properties in question viewable on-line.

10. Section 199/200 of the Local Government Act 2001 - Consideration of the Wexford County Council Draft Burial Ground Byelaws 2020

On the proposal of Cllr. W. Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor, the Council resolved to approve the draft Burial Ground Byelaws 2020 for public consultation purposes.

11. Proposed nomination of Mary Browne Sinnott as Business Pillar representative to LCDC replacing Madeline Quirke.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. J. Owens, the Council resolved to approve the nomination of Ms. Mary Browne Sinnott as Business Pillar representative to LCDC

12. Proposed nomination of Michael Wall as representative to the Housing & Community SPC replacing Ms. Clair Walsh.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. J. Hegarty, the Council resolved to approve the nomination of Mr. Michael Wall as Trade Union Representative to the Housing and Community Strategic Policy Committee

13. Chief Executive's Report – November 2020

Mr. T. Enright CE presented the Report as circulated and together with the other members of the Management Team responded to queries from the Members on a range of issues including the following:

- Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme
- Wexford Town Allotments
- Septic Tank Inspections
- Heritage Officer appointment
- Development of St Waleran's lands, Gorey
- Removal of oil tanks from New Ross quayside
- Development of High Hill New Ross
- Assessment of Housing Needs
- Public lighting upgrades

- Development of New Ross Fire Station
- New Ross Advance Factory project
- Litter / Dumping – and associated surveys
- Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition
- Slipway charges
- Trading opportunities in public amenities and open spaces
- Public lighting at Ballycarney
- Duncannon Pontoon
- Slaney Search & Rescue – provision of pontoon
- Environment Rapid Response programme

The Cathaoirleach informed the Council that he had received the prescribed notification from the Chief Executive in accordance with Section 147 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) of Mr. Enright's decision to extend his tenure as Chief Executive of Wexford County Council for a period of 3 years. The Cathaoirleach added that he had notified the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Public Appointments Service in accordance with the prescribed legislation.

The members joined in welcoming Mr. Enright's decision and they congratulated the Chief Executive on his continuing ambition for and outstanding contribution to the county.

Mr. Enright thanked the Members for their kind comments and assured them of his continued efforts for County Wexford.

14. Report of Corporate Policy Group

14.1 CPG Meeting 5th October, 2020

14.2 CPG Meeting 2nd November, 2020

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes, the minutes of the above meetings were adopted by the Council.

Cllr. Hegarty requested that his attendance at the CPG meeting of 2 November 2020 be noted in the minutes of that meeting.

15. Minutes of Meetings

15.1 Borough District of Wexford Meeting 20.07.2020

15.2 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting 20.07.2020

15.3 Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting 21.07.2020

15.4 New Ross Municipal District Meeting 08.07.2020

15.5 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting 20.07.2020

The Members noted the Minutes of the above meetings

16. Correspondence and Communications

- 16.1 Letter from Kildare County Council dated 10th September, 2020
- 16.2 Letter from Sligo County Council dated 14th September, 2020
- 16.3 Letter from Meath County Council dated 7th October, 2020

The Members noted the above correspondence and on the proposal of Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. C. Byrne agreed that the Council would write to the relevant Ministers in support of the Motion from Sligo County Council.

17. Notices of Motion

17.1 Deferred Motion - Cllr. T. Forde

"I ask that Wexford County Council work to introduce a Choice Based Letting Scheme in 2020 which would allow housing applicants to express an interest in a property that matches their needs in any area.

The scheme is being successfully used by other Local Authorities at present and was included in the Government Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness (2016)".

Cllr. Forde introduced the Motion and declared that he was satisfied at the manner in which the Council had responded to this request.

17.2 Cllr. M. Sheehan

"While understanding the need for a rigid defence against Covid, there is a growing acceptance of the impact the restrictions have had on maternity services and in particular peoples' mental health. While accepting there is a need to rebalance Covid 19/ Public Health Safety Measures with expectant families accessing Health Services; this Council calls on the Government, the HSE and NPHE to review and amend the Maternity Service regulations to permit women accessing maternity medical services or appointments be accompanied by a family member or companion for their consultation/ service. "

Proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. C. Byrne and agreed.

17.3 Cllr. J. Owens

"That the Residents of Nos 1 to 11 New Range, Templeshannon, Enniscorthy be granted use of the grounds at the back of the properties for use as allotments".

Proposed by Cllr. J. Owens, seconded by Cllr. A. Browne and agreed.

Mr. T. Larkin DoS advised the meeting that he has commenced the process of putting Mr. Owens' request into effect and would consider how best the lands in question

(some of which are unregistered) could be disposed of in partnership with the residents of the area.

17.4 Cllr. M. Farrell

"I propose that this Council write to Minister Roderic O’Gorman to call for his Department to implement and support the right to a Personal Assistance Service (PAS) for disabled people to have freedom, choice and control over all aspects of their lives to enable them to fully participate in an inclusive society as equals.

The Motion passed in Dáil Eireann on the 19th November 2019 affirms that PAS that supports disabled people to live independent lives should be legislated for as a right."

Proposed by Cllr. M. Farrell, seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan and agreed.

17.5 Cllr. T. Forde

"I ask that this Council write to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and request that he attend (physically or virtually) the next meeting of Wexford County Council to address the crisis in housing faced by our local authority."

Cllr. Forde proposed the Motion and spoke on it briefly.

Mr. Enright advised the meeting that that the Minister had very recently met with Ms. C. Godkin A/DoS and the Chief Executive to discuss housing issues in Wexford and he also noted the intention of the Council to hold a Special Meeting in the near future to discuss Housing matters.

Mr. Enright suggested that the proposed meeting with the Minister be postponed until the Special Housing Meeting had concluded and any items identified at that meeting for discussion could be raised with the Minister. This was agreed.

17.6 Cllr. J. Fleming

"I am calling on Wexford County Council to paint all disability car parking spaces blue for the purposes of clarity so that there cannot be any confusion as the space is clearly marked blue for disability parking only. "

Proposed by Cllr. J. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan and agreed.

17.7 Cllr. G. Carthy

"Cllr Ger Carthy calls on Wexford County Council to allow Wexford County Fire Service participate in the fire co responder scheme."

Proposed by Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. J. Owens and agreed.

17.8 Cllr. C. Byrne

"Wexford County Council write to the Minister for Transport to provide a road map to address the current wait times for Driving Tests."

Following discussion, it was agreed to amend the motion by inserting the words "as a matter of urgency" after the word "map".

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

17.9 Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin

"This council acknowledges the problem of homelessness in this county and those forced to sleep rough, especially during these winter months. That we will re-establish some form of emergency accommodation for those who may need it in North Wexford, as existed up until two years ago."

Proposed by Cllr. F. O'Súilleabháin, seconded by Cllr. J. Sullivan and agreed.

17.10 Cllr. D. Hynes

"Many applicants who received approval for the Rebuilding Ireland Home are now through no fault of their own finding a major problem drawing down the mortgage because they may be receiving PUP due to the Covid Lockdown. The Minister of the Dept of the Environment etc needs to address this urgently."

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

17.11 Cllr. D. Hynes & Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin

"In light of the number of recent deaths of people experiencing homelessness, we ask that Wexford County Council reinstate/create an out of hours council contact service to support those experiencing homelessness. This could assist homeless individuals, and councillors and local groups as their advocates, in dealing with emergency situations and in accessing emergency accommodation."

Proposed by Cllr. D. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. F. O'Súilleabháin and agreed

18. Any Other Business

The Cathaoirleach invited the Chief Executive to make some final comments. Mr. Enright thanked the elected members for their cooperation in facilitating the first fully remote meeting of the Council and paid tribute to the Council's IT staff for their work in arranging the meeting.

He added that a number of significant projects, supported by Wexford County Council were progressing across the county:

Opening of Wexford Rape Crisis Centre
Further funding announced for New Ross to Waterford Greenway
Announcement by CSC of 75 jobs in Gorey

The Cathaoirleach and elected Members recorded their congratulations to the following:

- Rosslare and Fethard RNLI, following a successful rescue off the South East coast
- American President elect Mr. Joe Biden and American Vice-President elect Ms. Kamela Harris
- The Starlights GAA team, following their recent County Final success
- Joseph O'Brien and his father Aidan, following a 1-2 success in the Melbourne Cup

The Cathaoirleach and elected Members also offered their sympathies to the Donoghue Family and Stafford Family, following the recent passing of Mr. Jim Donohoe of Ferns and Mr. Sean Stafford, Gorey

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an 14ú lá de Nollag, 2020.

Cathaoirleach

County Secretary