

## WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the April Meeting of Wexford County Council held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April at 2.00pm**  
**This hybrid meeting held in the Council Chamber with some attendance via Microsoft Teams**

### **Attendance**

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

### **Councillors:**

<b>Barden</b>	Pat (online)	<b>Donohoe</b>	Anthony(online)	<b>McDonald</b>	Lisa
<b>Bell</b>	Maura (online)	<b>Farrell</b>	Mary	<b>Moore</b>	Jim
<b>Bolger</b>	Andrew	<b>Fleming</b>	John	<b>Murphy</b>	Brídín
<b>Breen</b>	Pip	<b>Forde</b>	Tom	<b>O'Rourke</b>	John
<b>Browne</b>	Aidan	<b>Hegarty</b>	John	<b>O'Súilleabháin</b>	Fionntáin
<b>Byrne</b>	Cathal	<b>Hynes</b>	David	<b>Owens</b>	Jackser
<b>Carthy</b>	Ger	<b>Kavanagh</b>	Willie	<b>Sheehan</b>	Michael
<b>Codd</b>	Jim	<b>Kenny</b>	Donal	<b>Staples</b>	Frank
<b>Codd-Nolan</b>	Kathleen	<b>Laffan</b>	Garry	<b>Sullivan</b>	Joe
<b>Connick</b>	Anthony	<b>Lawlor</b>	George	<b>Walsh</b>	Oliver
<b>Devereux</b>	Diarmuid			<b>Whelan</b>	Michael

### **Officials:**

Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive  
Mr. E. Hore, Director of Service  
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance  
Ms. C. Godkin, Director of Service  
Ms. L. Hore, Director of Service  
Mr. D. Minogue, County Secretary  
Ms. A. McLoughlin, Administrative Officer  
Ms. Lynda Lacey, Financial Accountant

#### **1. Presentation by Comhairle na nÓg**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Paula, Laura, and Daria from Comhairle na nÓg to the meeting. Mr. Michael Sweeney, SSO Community Section was also in attendance for the presentation. The group informed the members of the results of a recent survey they carried out amongst young people. The members and Cathaoirleach welcomed the group to the meeting and congratulated them on identifying the problem of Mental Health amongst young people and for trying to do something about it.

## **2. Confirmation of Minutes:**

### **1.1 County Council Meeting 28.03. 2022**

On the Proposal of Cllr. K Codd- Nolan seconded by Cllr. A Connick the Minutes of the County Council Meeting of 28.03. 2022 were adopted by the Council.

### **1.2 Matters Arising**

Cllr Forde asked for clarification on a matter previously raised regarding the Councillors allegedly receiving unsolicited documents before the Special Meeting in January 2022. Mr. Minogue agreed to come back to the May meeting on this matter.

At this point in the meeting the Cathaoirleach advised that a Statement would be issued by the County Secretary Mr. D Minogue under any other business to address recent articles published in the Irish Times.

## **3. Consideration of Annual Financial Statement 2021 and AFS Report**

Ms. O'Neill, Head of Finance presented the pre-audited 2021 accounts to the members. She noted that for the first time in over 10 years the accounts were in surplus in the amount of €36,684.

The Chief Executive Mr. Enright acknowledged the good work of the Head of Finance, staff, and members alike in getting to this surplus position, however he noted that the council was facing significant uncertainties in the current year with the rising costs of energy and inflation.

A number of councilors expressed their gratitude to the Head of Finance for reporting a surplus at year end 2021.

The Head of Finance and the Chief Executive responded to queries of the Members on financial matters relating to the accounts including:

- Recoupment of Cost of Works at Holmestown – Covid
- Continuation of Outdoor Developments – Response to Covid
- Challenge of Rate Revaluation - appeals
- Borrowing and the Economic and Community Development Plan
- Public Conveniences Overspend
- Supports for Private Owners impacted by Flooding
- Window and Door Replacement

At this point in the meeting the Cathaoirleach called on all those in attendance remotely to turn on their cameras.

On the proposal of Cllr Jim Moore and seconded by Cllr M Sheehan the overspend outlined in the table below for 2021 was agreed by all members.

Additional Expenditure Over 2021 Budget				
Sub Prog	Description	Over Spend Not Funded	Over Spend Funded	Notes
A0101	Housing Maintenance	€504,051		Overspend on Budget
A0402	Tenancy Management	€20,522		Increased Activity
A0703	Payment & Availability Scheme		€1,989,109	Increased Activity - funded
A0704	Affordable Leases		€102,484	Increased Programme funded
A1201	HAP Operations	€72,163	€3,770	Increased Activity
B0103	National Roads Maintenance	€123,354		Overspend on Winter Maintenance Budget
B1101	Agency Services - Roads	€82,097	€261,710	Increased Activity CEP Scheme
C0401	Public Conveniences	€62,908		Overspend on Cleaning
D0501	Tourism Promotion		€66,251	Increased Allocation
D0502	Tourist Facilities Operations	€50,553		Increased Activity
D0905	Economic Development Programme		€560,438	OSAS Grant Programme
D0906	LEO Programme		€1,718,859	Increased Grant Activity - (Covid related)
D1001	Property Management Costs	€34,030		Legal Costs
E0101	Landfill Operations	€99,039		Increased Costs
E0502	Litter Control Initiatives		€51,771	Additional Grants
E0601	Street Cleaning	€312,631		Overspend on Budget
E0602	Provision & Imprv of Litter Bins		€148,883	Litter Infrastructure Grant Scheme
E0702	Enforcement of Waste Regulations		€186,088	Anti Dumping Project Grant Programme
E0901	Maintenance of Burial Grounds	€38,761		Overspend on Budget
E1001	Operation of Civil Defence		€85,917	Increased Activity (Covid Related) funded
E1004	Derelict Sites		€144,723	Increased Activity
E1005	Water Safety Operations	€54,111		Overspend on Budget
E1101	Operation of Fire Service		€63,854	Increased Activity - funded
E1301	Water Quality Management		€37,252	Increased Activity - funded
E1401	Agency Services - Environment		€19,731	Recoupable Costs
F0201	Library Services Operations	€37,519	€181,895	Increased Programme - partially funded
F0301	Parks & Open Spaces	€266,853		Overspend on Outdoor developments
F0404	Recreational Developments		€111,235	Sports Programme - funded
F0501	Arts Programme		€22,947	Increased Activity - funded
F0502	Cont to Other Bodies - Arts Prog		€237,888	Concerts Grants Programme
G0201	Operation of Piers	€196,804		NRP Pension fund costs (Historical)
G0203	Operation of Harbours	€82,947	€13,843	increased Activity
H0501	Coroners Fees & Expenses	€27,130		Activity Based
H0901	Representational Payments		€81,347	Moorehead Report
H0902	Chair/Vice Chair Allowance		€28,711	Moorehead Report
J0203	Communication Costs	€51,118		Increased Activity
J0701	Pension & Lump Sums	€408,519		Increased Costs
		<b>€2,525,110</b>	<b>€6,118,706</b>	

#### **4. 3 Year Capital Programme 2022 – 2024**

The Head of Finance presented the 3-year capital programme to the members which includes 164 individual projects with an estimated spend for each based on the best available information.

The Head of Finance, the Chief Executive and Directors of Service responded to queries of the Members on the 3 Year Capital Programme including:

- Rosslare Harbour to Wexford Greenway / Rail Review
- Public Lighting Ring Road New Ross
- Trinity Wharf
- N30 Clonroche Bypass
- Mount Elliott to St. Mullins Greenway
- Forth Mountain Development Carrigfoyle
- Gorey Town Park
- Housing Acquisitions
- Wexford Town to Curracloe Greenway
- Flood Scheme Bridgemeadows
- Public Amenity in Ferrybank including cycling park
- Bridges in Rosslare MD
- Skatepark in Enniscorthy

The 3 Year Capital Programme was approved on the proposal of Cllr. M Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Oliver Walsh.

#### **5. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:**

##### **5.1 Proposed intention to transfer an area of land at Pairc Charman, Wexford. (Statutory Notice Served 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022)**

Having considered the statutory S. 183 Notice in respect of the proposed intention to transfer an area of land at Pairc Charman, Wexford as circulated and on the proposal of Cllr. J Hegarty, seconded by Cllr. C Byrne the Council unanimously resolved that the transfer of the area of land proceed in accordance with the terms of the Notice.

#### **6. Chief Executive's Report**

**6.1** The Chief Executive and members of the Management team responded to queries of the Members on the following matters:

- Site for SE TU
- Water Issues Castlebridge
- Allocation of Houses in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District
- Economic and Community Development Plan
- RTB Inspections
- Choice Based Letting
- RTE Investigates – Buy and Renew Scheme - on this matter the County Secretary agreed to provide a written response to Cllr Forde.

- Affordable Housing Pilot Scheme
- Homelessness
- Monck Street Development
- Retrofit Plan
- Car Parks North Gorey – Summer Ready
- Rewetting of Land
- Shower for Bath Scheme
- Taking in Charge
- Ukrainian Refugees – Housing iPass
- Flood relief Scheme
- Meeting with OPW – Bridgetown Flooding

## **7. Minutes of CPG**

### 7.1 Minutes of CPG Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022

The Minutes of the CPG Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 were approved on the proposal of Cllr P Breen and seconded by Cllr M Whelan.

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

- 8.1 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 16.02.2022
- 8.2 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 21.02.2022
- 8.3 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 22.02.2022

These minutes were noted by the members.

## **9. Correspondence and Communications**

- 9.1 Letter from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council re motion dated 22.03.2022

The Members noted the above correspondence.

## **10. Councillors Conferences and Training**

10.1 The List of Councillors Conferences and training were proposed by Cllr J O'Rourke and seconded by Cllr O. Walsh:

### **Training**

- 17 February AILG Elected Members February 2022 (In-Person) Module 1 Training "Elected Member's Personal Safety and Risk Assessment" - Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
- 19 February AILG Elected Members February 2022 (In-Person) Module 1 Training "Elected Member's Personal Safety and Risk Assessment" – Cork (Designated training for WCC)

- 23/24 March ALLG Annual Training Conference 2022, Buncrana, Inishowen, Co. Donegal. Fee €155
- 11/12 April LAMA Spring Training Seminar, Hotel Kilkenny.
- Feb – Nov ALLG Elected Members Training Programme for 2022

## **Conferences**

- 4/5/6 March Tourism & Digital Marketing, Carlingford, Co. Louth. Conference Fee €10
- 7/8 April IPI Annual Planning Conference – Planning for Climate Change, Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny. Fee €360
- 27/28 April The Suck Valley Way, “Rural Regeneration Post Pandemic: The Challenges and Opportunities to Unlocking our Potential, Abbey Hotel, Co. Roscommon Fee €130

### **10.2** The Members noted the conference reports below:

- Cllr. Cathal Byrne, The Fair Deal Scheme, Carlingford, Co. Louth 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021.
- Cllr. Cathal Byrne, Mental Health Wellbeing, Carlingford, Co. Louth 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021.
- Cllr. Joe Sullivan, Tourism & Digital Marketing, Carlingford, Co. Louth 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- Savannah Delegation Report March 2022 – BA Murphy, Cathaoirleach, Cllrs. G. Laffan, G. Carthy, G. Lawlor, M. Sheehan.
- New York Delegation Report March 2022 –Cllrs. A. Connick, L. McDonald

## **11. Votes of Sympathy**

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to the families of the following recently deceased:

- Ms. Enid Knight, Mother of Philip Knight, Gorey – Kilmuckridge District Administrator
- Mr. Brian Flood, son of Noel Flood, General Operative, Wexford Municipal District
- Mr. Lee Colfer, brother of Anna Marie Colfer, Staff Officer, Finance Section

## **12. Votes of Congratulations**

- Min Ryan Park on winning the Best Public Playground at the All-Ireland Community and Council Awards
- New Ross Summer Sessions on winning a bronze award at the All-Ireland Community and Council Awards.
- Wexford Senior Camogie Team on winning the Division 2 league and are being promoted to Division 1.

## 13. Notices of Motions

### 13.1 Cllr. M. Whelan

“I’m calling on Wexford County Council to support the retaining of the rescue117 helicopter in Waterford to service the Southeast.”

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr M Whelan, seconded by Cllr Tom Forde, and approved by the Council.***

#### Response of the Executive:

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the relevant Minister for consideration.

### 13.2 Cllr. D. Hynes

“This council calls on the Minister for Health to urgently address the appalling lack of dentistry for medical card patients. Most of the Dentists in Wexford will no longer take medical card patients and the cost of having fillings and extractions are out of reach of many low paid and SW patients.”

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr D Hynes, seconded by Cllr J Owens, and approved by the Council.***

#### Response of the Executive:

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the relevant Minister for consideration.

### 13.3 Cllr. John Fleming

“That Wexford County Council Calls on the Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan to hugely increase funding for bus shelters in County Wexford.

At a time when bus transport is being encouraged, the lack of bus shelters is a massive deterrent to would- be users. “

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr J Fleming seconded by Cllr M Whelan and approved by the Council.***

#### Response of the Executive:

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the relevant Minister for consideration.

### 13.4 Cllr. George Lawlor

“Wexford County Council investigates the role and potential advantages of appointing or hiring an EU Affairs Coordinator. “

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr G Lawlor, seconded by Cllr M Sheehan, and approved by the Council.***

### **Response of the Executive:**

If passed, the Executive is happy to consider this Motion and to report it's findings on the matter to the Members.

#### **13.5 Cllr. C. Byrne & Cllr Codd Nolan**

"In view of the current serious difficulties faced by local community groups in obtaining annual insurance cover for community facilities such as playgrounds, we call on this Council to engage with Irish Public Bodies to provide adequate insurance cover for community facilities such as playgrounds as a matter of urgency."

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr C Byrne, seconded by Cllr K Codd- Nolan and approved by the Council.***

### **Response of the Executive:**

If passed, the Executive is happy to consider this Motion and to report it's findings on the matter to the Members.

#### **13.6 Cllrs M. Sheehan and G. Laffan.**

"That this Council calls on the Department of Education to allow funds allocated for Covid Prevention and Mitigation in Schools to be retained and reassigned by individual schools locally for the sole purposes of increasing resources targeting School Completion, Family Liaison, Career Guidance and Mental Health Programmes to bolster the return to a normal study environment in the school community."

***This proposal was withdrawn by Cllrs Sheehan and Laffan.***

### **Response of the Executive:**

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the relevant Minister for consideration.

#### **13.7 Cllr. Lisa McDonald, On behalf of the women's coalition**

"That Wexford County Council calls on the Government to confront the fear of that exists amongst women for their personal safety with a whole of society response. A multi departmental response is required to deal with the different factors that need to be tackled including –education, policing, criminal justice, domestic violence, coercive control, pornography, and safety on line. We call for violence towards women to be put to the forefront of the Government Agenda so that this threat to our society is tackled swiftly and effectively. "

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr L McDonald seconded by Cllr M Farrell and approved by the Council.***

### **Response of the Executive:**

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the relevant Minister for consideration.



### 13.8 Cllr. Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin

“In light of the recent flooding which caused so much damage across County Wexford, this Council recognises that deforestation and the widescale removal of hedgerows/ditches over recent years has had a large impact in terms of water movement across the country. We further recognise the benefits that would result from a programme of broadleaf afforestation as a mitigating measure to slow waterflow, as tried in other countries such as Wales.

This year the Council will identify parts of the county where such an approach could be beneficial and will also engage with the relevant agencies this year to adopt such an approach. This would also be in line with measures that are advocated to combat climate change.”

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr F O Súilleabháin, seconded by Cllr T Forde, and approved by the Council.***

#### Response of the Executive:

If passed, the Council would be happy to consider opportunities for part-afforestation of lands in Council ownership. In addition, the Motion (if passed) will be forwarded to the relevant Minister for consideration in the context of developing afforestation opportunities for private land owners.

### 13.9 Cllr. Cathal Byrne

“Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to introduce financial assistance to assist in the removal of asbestos from residential dwellings.

And if passed, that this motion be circulated to all local authorities in Ireland.”

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr C Byrne, seconded by Cllr K Codd-Nolan, and approved by the Council.***

#### Response of the Executive:

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the relevant Minister(s) for consideration and to all local authorities to seek their support of the Motion.

### 13.10 Cllr. Tom Forde

“This council recognises the important role of the various media outlets in Co. Wexford, both as local employers and as a means of keeping the public informed on local issues and events.

In the interest of ensuring that the council's deployment of its advertising expenditure is based on effectiveness and value for money, we ask that the council conduct a complete and transparent review of its expenditure in this area.

As part of this review, we request that this council write to Minister Catherine Martin and request her to take pro-active steps to ensure that the government plays its part in adequately resourcing local media outlets.

Furthermore, we call on the council to actively pursue the inclusion of smaller local-owned or independent news and media outlets, websites and advertising companies in its media strategy to ensure fairness and equality.”

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr T Forde, seconded by Cllr D Hynes, and approved by the Council.***

#### **Response of the Executive:**

The Council will provide the Members with details of advertising expenditure incurred in recent years.

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the relevant Minister for consideration.

It is the policy of the Council to pursue advertising options that result in the Council’s underlying messages and information reaching our target audiences in the most effective, economically efficient and timely manner. This includes, but is not limited to local newspapers, local radio, other periodicals and publications, websites, social media, cinema advertising, and other advertising mechanisms.

#### **13.11 Councillor Barbara-Anne Murphy**

“This Council calls on the Minister for Transport to continue funding for the N24 and N25 - vitally necessary major road infrastructure in the South-east region. It is imperative that both projects are funded in 2022.

Similar motions are being put before all 5 counties in the South East Region on this matter.”

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr B A Murphy, seconded by Cllr G Carthy, and approved by the Council.***

#### **Response of the Executive:**

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the relevant Minister for consideration.

#### **13.12 Cllr. Jim Moore**

“Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to facilitate a meeting with the Council and the National Coastal Management Strategy Steering Group to highlight the immediate concerns of Wexford County Council and secure the responses required to address the coastal erosion issues in Wexford”

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr J Moore, seconded by Cllr L McDonald, and approved by the Council.***

#### **Response of the Executive:**

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the relevant Minister to facilitate such meeting.

### **13.13 Cllr. George Lawlor**

“Wexford County calls on the Minister for Health to immediately prioritise the crisis in children’s services in the CHO5 area which covers Wexford, Waterford, Carlow/Kilkenny and South Tipperary.

Currently there are 15,960 children awaiting first time intervention in all areas of early intervention in the CHO5 area”

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr G Lawlor, seconded by Cllr G Carthy, and approved by the Council.***

#### **Response of the Executive:**

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the relevant Minister for consideration.

### **13.14 Cllr. Barbara-Anne Murphy**

Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to demand that the IDA fill the position of Regional Director for the South East as a matter of urgency.”

(Similar motions are being submitted to Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary & Waterford Councils).

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr B A Murphy seconded by Cllr G Carthy and approved by the Council.***

#### **Response of the Executive:**

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the Minister for consideration

### **13.15 Cllr. Tom Forde**

“I ask that Wexford County Council write to Minister Darragh Ó Brien and ask him to review and adjust the spending limits imposed on councils when attempting to purchase available and suitable properties for the purpose of social housing so that councils may be able to offer realistic bids and acquire more properties, while also being respectful to potential homeowners.”

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr T Forde seconded by Cllr B Murphy and approved by the Council.***

#### **Response of the Executive:**

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the Minister for consideration

### **13.16 Cllr. Leonard Kelly**

“Wexford County Council call on the relevant minister to fund a Local Coordination Group to support the Ukrainian refugee fleeing the invasion of their homeland,

Like the interagency model which was successfully used for the arrival of Syrian refugees a number of years ago, this Local Coordination group would look at areas of health, education, housing and general integration.”

***As Cllr Kelly was not on the meeting and there was no proposer for it this motion was postponed.***

#### **Response of the Executive:**

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the relevant Minister for consideration

#### **13.17 Cllr. Tom Forde**

“As window/door replacements have been absorbed into the Energy Retrofit Programme, I ask that this council work quickly to establish a comprehensive plan on how to proceed with the programme and in recognition of those that are in urgent need of replacements, and our obligation to upgrade all stock by 2030, create a list of priority estates/houses to be addressed along with a specified time frame for these units.”

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr T Forde seconded by Cllr J Codd and approved by the Council.***

#### **13.18 Cllr. Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin**

“The County Council will support the facilitation of Irish language classes, free at the point of entry, through the Local Authority/local group for both adult beginners and intermediates in conversational Irish to ensure our native language remains a significant part of our heritage and culture for future generations.

Also, that we support Conradh na Gaeilge Loch Garmans initiative 'Gaelú Lich Garman' which was launched recently, and which promotes the use of Irish in businesses throughout Co. Wexford”

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr F Ó Súilleabháin seconded by Cllr T Forde and approved by the Council.***

#### **Response of the Executive:**

The provision of Irish Language classes as described above will require funding to be provided by Wexford County Council to support same.

This Motion will therefore be considered in the context of Budget 2023 and a specific line item for this purpose can be provided in that Budget, subject to Members’ approval.

#### **13.19 Cllr P. Barden**

“That Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Environment, Climate & Communications and the Office of the Planning Regulator to set as minimum, a setback for wind turbines of six times the turbine height between a wind turbine and the nearest residential property”.

***It was agreed that this motion would be deferred to the next Council meeting.***

### Response of the Executive:

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the Minister and to the OPR for consideration

#### **13.20 Cllr. Jim Moore on behalf of the Municipal District of Rosslare and all members.**

“Members of Rosslare Municipal District request that urgent communication be issued to the OPW to seek confirmation on the status of the review and report following the flooding events in the Bridgetown/Kilmore and surrounding areas in December 2021 and a timeframe for, when possible, solutions, plans and timelines will be clarified and formally notified to Wexford County Council. The communication should also include a formal request from Wexford County Council to the OPW seeking a commitment that they will attend a meeting of the Council to present their findings and recommended solutions.

In addition, Rosslare MD are calling on the OPW to immediately implement a grant scheme for affected residents and businesses to allow them to secure short-term solutions to deal with flood events e.g., flood barriers”.

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr J Moore seconded by Cllr F Staples and approved by the Council.***

#### **13.21 Cllr. Michael Sheehan**

“In the interests of fairness, competition and value for money, this Council calls on the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications and the Commissioner for Energy Regulation to ensure a transparent, robust and thorough procurement process be applied to next Supervisory Body of Electrical Contractors agreement to ensure that all contractor’s views are considered and that consideration for two bodies be considered to avoid monopolistic dominance of the market. Upon passage this motion is circulated to all local authorities.”

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr M Sheehan seconded by Cllr P Breen and approved by the Council.***

### Response of the Executive:

If passed, this Motion will be forwarded to the Minister and to the Commissioner for consideration and will be circulated to all local authorities.”

#### **13.22 Cllr. John Hegarty**

“The current system of school wardens across County Wexford plays a very important role in ensuring the safety of primary school children daily. I propose that the current vacancies be filled in consultation with the relevant primary schools before any change of policy to get rid of wardens be discussed or implemented.”

***The motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr J Hegarty seconded by Cllr B Murphy and approved by the Council.***

## Response of the Executive:

The School Warden process requires an examination of a range of factors before deciding to provide a school warden at any particular school. The most important factor is the number of unaccompanied children that cross the road in the vicinity of the school. These factors also include the availability of a pedestrian crossing at the school. If the numbers of unaccompanied children are not high enough to warrant the provision of an adult school warden service then a controlled pedestrian crossing will be considered.

Where a warden and a crossing are both currently in place at a school, surveys will be undertaken to assess the numbers of unaccompanied children crossing the road at that school. If the numbers of unaccompanied children are below the minimum number required then that warden will not be replaced upon their retirement / resignation. This is to ensure consistency of application of the School warden service at all school locations.

An important factor to note is that an ASW service is only in operation on school days and for a limited time in the morning and afternoon whereas the controlled pedestrian crossing will be in use 24/7 365 days a year. This controlled pedestrian crossing will be available for the entire community throughout the entire year and not just for the school year.

We have given an undertaking to audit the pedestrian crossings at both the Faythe and the CBS national schools over the Summer holidays with a view to making any improvements that are deemed appropriate.

At this point of the meeting, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr M Sheehan and seconded by Cllr P Breen to suspend standing orders until 17.45.

## 14. Any Other Business

### 14.1 Section 14 of the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act, 1999 - Details of statements, etc. to be furnished to members of local authority.

The County Secretary advised that a copy of Disclosures of Donations had been circulated to the members.

### 14.2 Irish Times Article

At this point in the meeting the County Secretary read out a statement in relation to an Article in the Irish Times on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022 which related to emails to South East Radio which he sent as head of Communications, Wexford County Council. In this statement he noted that the sole purpose of these emails was to renew the excellent relationship the council have with South East Radio following on from the recent SIPO decision.

A number of the Councillors spoke of their disappointment that this had been raised again and that a line should now be drawn under the matter. The council agreed on the proposal of Cllr J Hegarty, seconded by Cllr G Lawlor that the County Secretary should meet with South East Radio to resolve this matter as soon as possible.

**THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

**Daingithe ar an**

**lá de Bealtaine, 2022.**

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

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