

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council  
held on Monday 29 June, 2020 – 11.30 a.m.  
in the “Street”, County Hall, Wexford.****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. M. Sheehan, 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-<br>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>CARTHY</b>     | GER      | <b>KAVANAGH</b> | WILLIE  | <b>OWENS</b>          | JACKSER          |
| <b>CODD</b>       | JIM      | <b>KELLY</b>    | LEONARD | <b>STAPLES</b>        | FRANK            |
| <b>CODD-NOLAN</b> | KATHLEEN | <b>KENNY</b>    | DONAL   | <b>SULLIVAN</b>       | JOE              |
| <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. Enright, Chief Executive       |
| Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services   |
| Ms. C. Godkin, A/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:** None

**1. PowerPoint Presentation – N11 / N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme–**

**Sean Dobbs, TII, Joe Shinkwin, Mott McDonald Consultants**

Mr. Dobbs and Mr. Shinkwin attended the meeting and provided a comprehensive overview of the proposed Scheme. Following the presentation, they responded to a number of matters raised by the members, including the following:

- Timeline for the proposed project – pace of implementation.
- Project funding.
- Planning implications for landowners in the vicinity.
- Economic benefits for towns / villages along the route.
- Communication with the public.

**2. Confirmation of Minutes:**

2.1 County Council Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Proposed by Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. J. O'Rourke and agreed.

**3. Votes of Sympathy and Congratulations**

**3.1 Votes of Sympathy**

The Council extended it's sympathy to the families of the following recently deceased:

See Appendix A attached.

**3.**

**3.2 Vóta Comhghairdeas**

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

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Wexford Ladies Football      | for their successful fundraiser for the Women's Refuge and to all the GAA clubs who took part in the fundraiser for Pieta House. |
| Community of Baginbun        | who won its first Greencoast award, with thanks to the locals, visitors and also the Council's Environment section.              |
| Gorey boxer Níall Kennedy    | recently nominated as "Hero of the World" by the World Boxing Council recently.  |
| Kilmore native Sam Kendrick, | recently honoured by the Dutch government for his role in the liberation of the Netherlands during the Second World War.         |

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Slaney Search & Rescue  | celebrating 25 years in operation.   |
| Marguerite Gore         | for her contribution to the sport of Handball  |
| Pat Collins             | former Wexford County Council County Secretary, on his recent retirement, following 42 years of service to the Council |
| Councillor Mary Farrell | for her social media contribution (Mary's lockdown hits) to the fight against Covid-19.                                |
| Lee Whelan              |  |

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

##### **4.1 Proposed lease of land at Maudlintown, Wexford.**

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

Tom Enright C.E. paid tribute to developer, Anthony Neville, philanthropist Fred Karlsson, Council officials Tony Larkin and Shay Howell and all who helped advance this project, which will see the development of a purpose-built building for the Wexford Rape and Sexual Support Services on a Council-owned site at Maudlintown, Wexford.

#### **5. Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2019**

Following consideration of the Report of Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance in relation to the 2019 AFS, and on the proposal of Cllr. Carthy, seconded by Councillor Bell, the Members resolved, in accordance with S.104 of the Local Government Act 2001, to authorise the additional expenditure incurred, as detailed in the Report.

#### **6. Borrowing Approval**

##### **6.1 Bank Overdraft Accommodation**

Following consideration of the Report of Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance dated 15 April 2020 and on the proposal of Cllr. Bell, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy, the Members resolved to approve an increase in the Council's overdraft facilities to €30 million, in accordance with S.106 of the Local Government Act 2001.

## **6.2 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans (RIHL) – Associated Borrowing Requirements**

Following consideration of the Report of Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance dated 7 June, 2020 and on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. McDonald, the Members resolved to approve borrowing by the Council of:

- €6,894,370 to fund the RIHL programme for the remainder of 2019, and
- €6,558,101 to fund 2020 approvals.

in accordance with S.106 of the Local Government Act 2001.

## **7. Q1 Finance Report 2020**

Noted.

## **8. Financial Overview**

Ms. A. O'Neill Head of Finance presented a Report to the members which detailed the possible financial impact of the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency on the Council's finances.

Following the presentation, Ms. O'Neill and members of the Management Team responded to a number of matters raised by the members, including the following:

- Extension of the 2020 commercial rates waiver scheme beyond three months.
- The likelihood of recovery of the significant loss of income incurred by the Council to date as a result of Covid-19.
- Estimates of the expected financial loss to the Council as a result of Covid-19.
- The seeking of Government financial support to offset anticipated loss of income.
- Council-arranged workshops to support local business seeking to tender for Council services.
- Leniency in respect of parking charges and commercial rates.
- The impact of the likely loss of income on the filling of vacant staff positions.

There followed a discussion regarding the 1798 Rebellion Centre in Enniscorthy. It was noted that in 2018, the Council had resolved to dispose of the property, but that the proposed purchaser had withdrawn from the purchase. The Council had subsequently been approached by a further interested purchaser, and while this was being examined, the final decision as to any sale of the property was a matter for the members in accordance with S.183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

It was now clear that many of the members of the Enniscorthy Municipal District were not in favour of a sale of the property, and as their consent to such a sale was required, a sale of the Centre is no longer under consideration at this time.

It was further noted that current proposals to develop a landmark Enniscorthy Tourism Project includes proposals to re-accommodate the 1798 Exhibition and Visitor Experience within that venue.

**At this point, the Meeting adjourned for lunch.**

**9. Section 55 Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) - Proposed addition to the record of protected structures - Famine Wall on lands at Ballyhogue, Bree, Co. Wexford.**

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. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Browne, the Council resolved to amend the Record of Protected Structures to include Famine Wall on lands at Ballyhogue, Bree, Co. Wexford.

Following the above discussion and resolution, Cllr. C. Byrne rejoined the meeting.

**10. County Wexford Road Traffic Special Speed Limit (Amendment) Bye Laws 2020.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Breen, seconded by Cllr. Ó Súilleabháin, the Council resolved to adopt the County Wexford Road Traffic Special Speed Limit (Amendment) Bye Laws 2020.

**11 Annual Service Delivery Plan - Quarter 1 Report**

The Members noted the Report and welcomed evidence of progress in achieving the objectives of the Plan.

**12 Chief Executive's Report**

C.E. Mr. Tom Enright presented the Report and together with the members of the Management Team responded to a range of related queries, including the following:

Provision of a technological University for the South East - It was noted that, Carlow IT has engaged with Wexford County Council on this issue and a meeting has been arranged between representatives of the college and Wexford County Council to progress matters.

Possible increase in grant aid for the improvement of septic tanks - It was noted this is the Minister announced a revision to the scheme in late May 2020, with 85% grant aid up to €5,000 now available to all eligible homeowners regardless of income levels. Any further alterations or amendments to the scheme would require Department approval.

Additional secondary schools for County Wexford with a view to increasing child places - It was noted that no approaches have been made to the Planning Department regarding the construction of additional schools.

Provision of capital projects in Enniscorthy - The CE outlined a range of measures recently completed in Enniscorthy and provided details of others currently in progress which will when completed significantly improve Enniscorthy's social and economic outlook.

Funding and Timeline for the redevelopment of Hook Tourism Project.

The restructuring of roads projects to incorporate improved cycling facilities.

Speeding up the delivery of the National Broadband Plan in County Wexford.

The provision of countywide Meals on Wheels service to address social isolation issues.

In the context of the County Development Plan, the need to protect rural way of life while meeting reasonable planning and environmental guidelines and requirements.

Recent incident of flash flooding in Market Square Enniscorthy.

The excellent services offered by Wexford's public libraries through the challenges of Covid-19.

### **13 List of Councillors' Conferences and Training**

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming, and in accordance with S. 142 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Council approved attendance at the following events:

- Online Training – Effective Social Media Sessions
- Online training beyond Coronavirus

The Council also noted Conference Report – Cllr. G. Laffan (Health & Safety in the Workplace) and AILG Plenary Members Activity Report for May 2020.

### **14. Report of Corporate Policy Group**

14.1 CPG Meeting 22.06.20

Proposed by Cllr. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. McDonald and agreed.

### **15. Minutes of Meetings:**

- 15.1 Borough District of Wexford Meeting 17.02.2020
- 15.2 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting 17.02.2020
- 15.3 Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting 18.02.2020
- 15.4 New Ross Municipal District Meeting 12.02.2020 & 11.03.2020
- 15.5 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting 17.02.2020
- 15.6 Transportation and Water Services SPC Minutes 14.11.2019

Proposed by Cllr. A. Connick, seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy and agreed.

## **16. Sealing of Documents**

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

## **17. Correspondence and Communications**

The Council noted receipt of the following items of correspondence:

- Letter from Foreign Affairs Office of the people's Government of Yingtian City dated 2nd March, 2020.
- Letter from Ying Yong, Secretary of the CPC Hubei Provincial Committee dated 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.
- Letter from Wu Zhongqiong, Vice Governor of the People's Government of Jiangxi Province China dated 16th March, 2020.
- Letter from Wang Xiaodong, Governor of Hubei Province dated 17th March, 2020.
- Letter from Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government dated 19th March, 2020.
- Email from Lucia Butler, London Wexford Association Chairperson dated 20th March, 2020.
- Email from Gerard Dollard, Chief Executive Officer, Irish Greyhound Board dated 6th May, 2020.
- Email from Jenny Lawlor, Irish Water dated 8th May, 2020.

**18. Deferred Notices of Motion**

**18.1 Cllr. T. Forde**

*“Wexford County Council calls on the Office of Public Works to carry out the necessary excavation works to recover the remains of Joe Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Tim Kelly, in what is commonly known as the Invincibles Yard at Kilmainham jail.*

*The bodies of these five members of the Irish National Invincibles lie beneath the paving slabs of the yard where they were executed in 1883 for their part in the Phoenix Park assassinations.*

*The families of the five men are represented by the National Graves Association and the wish of the families is for their relatives to be exhumed from Kilmainham jail and reinterred in consecrated ground at Glasnevin Cemetery.”*

Proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. F. Ó’Súilleabháin and agreed.

**19. Notices of Motion**

**19.1 Cllr. B.A. Murphy**

*“That Wexford County Council formally recognise the local Women's Caucus. This organisation is a group of female Elected Councillors, whose membership is committed to ensuring that female members are supported in the Local Government system, to ensure Members get the support required in political life.”*

Proposed by Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald and agreed.

**19.2 Cllr. M. Whelan**

*“That Wexford County Council supports the “The National Small Business Plan “ in order to protect the thousands of jobs in Wexford County the SMEs provide to our citizens. That Wexford County Council request the Government to fund and urgently implement the actions of the “Plan” using EU funding recovery streams.*

*The “Covid-19 Regional Economic Analysis “ report independently carried out and published by the three Regional Assemblies of Ireland, who play a leadership role in regional development, has identified the extent of the severe economic exposure to the impact of Covid-19 to commercial businesses in County Wexford”*

Proposed by Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald and agreed.



**19.3 Cllr. Tom Forde**

*'This Council sends condolences to the family of the late George Floyd and condemns the appalling murder of him in Minneapolis at the hands of a police officer and, by extension, all inappropriate and disproportionate force used by police departments across the USA.*

*Furthermore this Council wishes to convey to the US Ambassador in Ireland its deep concern about the murder and subsequent heavy handed police response to peaceful protestors who reacted to Mr Floyds death with revulsion.*

*This Council, as a result of the murder and response to protests, calls on the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Ireland to contact the US Ambassador and, in turn, to convey to the President and government of the USA our condemnation of these actions.'*

Proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes and agreed.

**20. Any Other Business**

It was noted that any Councillor who wished to be considered for membership of the Wexford County Council Committee on Mental Health & Well-Being should make their interest known to the County Secretary.

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**

**Daingithe ar an 27ú la de Iúil, 2020.**

---

Cathaoirleach

---

County Secretary