

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Friday 26th June 2026
in the Council Chamber at 3.30pm (with some remote attendance)**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. Joe Sullivan, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors:

Barden	Pat	Farrell	Mary	Murphy	Bridín
Barron	Vicky	Fleming	John	Murphy	Marty
Boland	Nicky	Forde	Tom	O'Brien	Aoife Rose
Breen	Pip	Kavanagh	Paddy	O'Rourke	John
Browne	Aidan	Kehoe	Pat	Owens	Jackser (Online)
Byrne	Patricia	Kelly	Leonard	Shannon	Raymond (Online)
Carthy	Ger	Kenny	Donal	Sheehan	Michael
Codd	Jim	Laffan	Garry (Online)	Staples	Frank
Donohoe	Anthony	McDonald	Darragh	Staples	Robbie (Online)
Doyle	Craig	McDonald	Lisa	Walsh	Catherine
Dwyer	John (Online)	Murphy	Barbara-Anne	Walsh	Oliver

Officials:

Mr. Michael Drea, County Secretary
 Ms. Carolyn Godkin, Director of Services
 Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services
 Ms. Liz Hore, Director of Services
 Ms. Lynda Lacey, Director of Finance
 Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Chief Executive

Apologies: Mr. Alan Quirke, Director of Services

Cathaoirleach Opening Remarks

Outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan opened the Annual Meeting of Wexford County Council and welcomed the attendance. Cllr. Sullivan welcomed Deputies Malcolm Byrne, George Lawlor, and Brian Byrne, Senator Cathal Byrne, former Deputies and former Councillors Hugh Byrne and Tony Dempsey, and former Councillor Willie Kavanagh.

Cllr. J. Sullivan thanked Mr. E. Taaffe, the Management Team, and all the staff for their support. Cllr. Sullivan noted the following highlights during his term – the hosting of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, Wexford Festival Opera, acquisition of lands at Ballynagee for a third level campus and educational facilities, ongoing development of Rosslare Europort with progress being made on the Oylegate to Rosslare motorway, the Kennedy Summer School, and leading the Wexford delegation to Savannah, Georgia in March.

Cllr. Sullivan thanked his fellow Councillors whilst also acknowledging the challenges to his position and authority. Cllr. Sullivan advised that because of this he made the very hard decision to resign from Fianna Fáil and will serve out the remainder of his term as an independent Councillor. Cllr. Sullivan concluded by saying he was honoured to serve the people of Wexford as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr.'s T. Forde, J. Codd, P. Barden, M. Farrell, L. Kelly, G. Carthy, M. Sheehan, J. Owens, O. Walsh, P. Kavanagh, B.A. Murphy and J. Dwyer joined in congratulating the outgoing Cathaoirleach on his tenure.

Chief Executive Mr. E. Taaffe welcomed friends and family, Oireachtas members, and former Councillors to the public gallery. Mr. Taaffe thanked Cllr. Sullivan for his kind words and acknowledging the progress which has been made in many areas. He congratulated the outgoing Cathaoirleach on his year in office.

Cllr. J. Sullivan welcomed Minister James Browne to the Annual Meeting.

1. Election of Cathaoirleach

Cllr. L. McDonald was proposed by Cllr. B.A. Murphy and her nomination was seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy.

Cllr. P. Barden was proposed by Cllr. P. Kavanagh and his nomination was seconded by Cllr. T. Forde.

On foot of a roll call vote, Cllr. L. McDonald was elected Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council with twenty-two voting in her favour and twelve voting in favour of Cllr. P. Barden. The voting was as follows:

Barden, Pat	Pat Barden	Farrell, Mary	Lisa McDonald	Murphy, Bridín	Lisa McDonald
Barron, Vicky	Lisa McDonald	Fleming, John	Lisa McDonald	Murphy, Marty	Pat Barden

Boland, Nicky	Pat Barden	Forde, Tom	Pat Barden	O'Brien, Aoife Rose	Pat Barden
Breen, Pip	Lisa McDonald	Kavanagh, Paddy	Pat Barden	O'Rourke, John	Lisa McDonald
Browne, Aidan	Lisa McDonald	Kehoe, Pat	Lisa McDonald	Owens, Jackser	Pat Barden
Byrne, Patricia	Lisa McDonald	Kelly, Leonard	Lisa McDonald	Shannon, Raymond	Pat Barden
Carthy, Ger	Lisa McDonald	Kenny, Donal	Lisa McDonald	Sheehan, Michael	Lisa McDonald
Codd, Jim	Pat Barden	Laffan, Garry	Lisa McDonald	Staples, Frank	Lisa McDonald
Donohoe, Anthony	Lisa McDonald	McDonald, Darragh	Lisa McDonald	Staples, Robbie	Lisa McDonald
Doyle, Craig	Pat Barden	McDonald, Lisa	Lisa McDonald	Sullivan, Joe	Pat Barden
Dwyer, John	Pat Barden	Murphy, Barbara-Anne	Lisa McDonald	Walsh, Catherine	Lisa McDonald
				Walsh, Oliver	Lisa McDonald

Cllr. L. McDonald was presented with the Chain of Office by Cllr. J. Sullivan, following which Cllr. L. McDonald assumed the Chair.

Cllr. L. McDonald acknowledged the presence of Minister James Browne, Deputies Malcolm Byrne, George Lawlor, and Brian Byrne, Senator Cathal Byrne, former Deputies and former Councillors Hugh Byrne and Tony Dempsey, former Councillor Willie Kavanagh, her family and friends. Cllr. McDonald thanked her proposer and seconder and all those who voted for her whilst also commending Cllr. Barden who contested the position.

Cllr. L. McDonald paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach for his service and commitment to the people of Wexford. Cllr. McDonald outlined her aspirations and said the theme for her year in office is "delivery".

Cllr.'s B.A. Murphy, C. Walsh, O. Walsh, L. Kelly, M. Farrell, P. Barden, P. Breen, V. Barron, J. Fleming, A.R. O'Brien, D. Kenny, J. Codd, B. Murphy, M. Sheehan, A. Browne, T. Forde, J. Owens, G. Carthy, F. Staples, and G. Laffan congratulated Cllr. McDonald on her election. Chief Executive Mr. E. Taaffe congratulated Cllr. McDonald and her family and said he is looking forward to working with her over the next twelve months. Ms. L. Lacey and Mr. E. Hore joined the Chief Executive in congratulating Cllr. McDonald.

2. Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Bridín Murphy was proposed by Cllr. P. Byrne and her nomination was seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming.

Cllr. A.R. O'Brien was proposed by Cllr. J. Codd and her nomination was seconded by Cllr. C. Doyle.

On foot of a roll call vote, Cllr. B. Murphy was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council with twenty voting in her favour and thirteen voting in favour of Cllr. A.R. O'Brien. The voting was as follows:

Barden, Pat	Aoife Rose O'Brien	Farrell, Mary	Bridín Murphy	Murphy, Bridín	Bridín Murphy
Barron, Vicky	Bridín Murphy	Fleming, John	Bridín Murphy	Murphy, Marty	Aoife Rose O'Brien
Boland, Nicky	Aoife Rose O'Brien	Forde, Tom	Aoife Rose O'Brien	O'Brien, Aoife Rose	Aoife Rose O'Brien
Breen, Pip	Bridín Murphy	Kavanagh, Paddy	Aoife Rose O'Brien	O'Rourke, John	Bridín Murphy
Browne, Aidan	Bridín Murphy	Kehoe, Pat	Bridín Murphy	Shannon, Raymond	Aoife Rose O'Brien
Byrne, Patricia	Bridín Murphy	Kelly, Leonard	Aoife Rose O'Brien	Sheehan, Michael	Bridín Murphy
Carthy, Ger	Bridín Murphy	Kenny, Donal	Bridín Murphy	Staples, Frank	Bridín Murphy
Codd, Jim	Aoife Rose O'Brien	Laffan, Garry	Bridín Murphy	Staples, Robbie	Bridín Murphy
Donohoe, Anthony	Bridín Murphy	McDonald, Darragh	Bridín Murphy	Sullivan, Joe	Aoife Rose O'Brien
Doyle, Craig	Aoife Rose O'Brien	McDonald, Lisa	Bridín Murphy	Walsh, Catherine	Aoife Rose O'Brien
Dwyer, John	Aoife Rose O'Brien	Murphy, Barbara-Anne	Bridín Murphy	Walsh, Oliver	Bridín Murphy

Cllr. B. Murphy was presented with the Chain of Office by Cllr. O. Walsh. Cllr. B. Murphy thanked her proposer and seconder and commended Cllr. A.R. O'Brien who contested the position. Cllr. Murphy acknowledged the historic significance of the first time there is a female Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach.

Cllr.'s L. McDonald, A.R. O'Brien, and M. Farrell congratulated Cllr. Murphy on her election.

3. Schedule of Council Meetings

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the schedule of Council meetings was adopted.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an lá de Iúil, 2026.

Cllr. Lisa McDonald
Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,
County Secretary