

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 12th May 2025
in the Council Chamber at 2.30pm (with some remote attendance)****Attendance:****In the Chair:** Cllr. Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach.**Councillors:**

BARDEN	PAT	KEHOE	PAT	SHANNON	RAYMOND
BOLAND	NICKY	KELLY	LEONARD	SHEEHAN	MICHAEL
BROWNE	AIDAN	KENNY	DONAL	STAPLES	FRANK
CARTHY	GER	LAFFAN	GARRY	STAPLES	ROBBIE
CODD	JIM	MCDONALD	DARRAGH	SULLIVAN	JOE
DONOHUE	ANTHONY	MCDONALD	LISA (ONLINE)	WALSH	CATHERINE
DOYLE	CRAIG	MURPHY	BARBARA- ANNE	WALSH	OLIVER
DWYER	JOHN	MURPHY	BRIDÍN (ONLINE)		
FARRELL	MARY	MURPHY	MARTY		
FLEMING	JOHN	O'ROURKE	JOHN (ONLINE)		
KAVANAGH	PADDY	OWENS	JACKSER (ONLINE)		

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: Ms. Jacqueline Carroll, Director of Services, Cllr. Vicky Barron, Cllr. Aoife Rose O'Brien

Votes of sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Daniel Connolly, partner of Ann Marie Laffan, Community Department.
- The family of Josephine Doyle (née Howlin) Libgate, Kilmore Quay, Wexford, former County Councillor and aunt of Michelle Howlin, Library HQ.
- The family of Michael Nicholson Snr., father of partner of Ms. Jackie Carroll, Director of Services.
- The family of Jackie Stacey, Shanbogh, Rosbercon, Co. Kilkenny.
- The family of Seamus Joyce, Tomfarney, Clonroche, Co. Wexford.

Cllr. L. Kelly acknowledged the tragic loss of Garda Kevin Flatley who lost his life over the weekend in the course of his duty.

Cllr. B.A. Murphy acknowledged the recent passing of Pope Francis and remembered Jo Doyle, a well-respected and much-loved former Councillor who passed away recently. Cllr. J. Codd echoed Cllr. Murphy and Cllr. Kelly's comments.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. P. Breen called for a minute's silence to honour their passing. The attendance stood for a minute's silence in memory of the deceased.

Congratulations:

- Cllr. J. Codd congratulated the organisers of the arts and crafts fair in Kilmore.
- Cllr. M. Sheehan congratulated the Augustinian Order in New Ross on the election of Pope Leo, a member of the Augustinian order.
- Cllr.'s M. Sheehan and J. Sullivan congratulated Mr. Tom Enright, former Chief Executive on being appointed Ryder Cup Project Director 2027.
- Cllr.'s D. Kenny, J. Sullivan and D. McDonald congratulated Gorey Rugby Club on their excellent season winning the Provincial Towns Cup and the league.
- Cllr. D. McDonald congratulated Garda Eoin Walsh on being awarded player of the 4 Nations police tournament.
- Cllr. P. Kehoe congratulated Castledockrell Newpark United soccer club on winning the Gwyn Jones Cup.
- Cllr. B.A. Murphy congratulated Bunclody on winning the Under-19 Cup final.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 County Council Meeting 14th April, 2025

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the County Council Meeting on 14th April, 2025.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. M. Sheehan asked that Martina Queally, Regional Executive Officer, HSE Dublin and South East be invited to a meeting of Wexford County Council to discuss issues. Cllr. J.

Fleming stressed his willingness to bring any issues the Members may have to the Regional Health Forum.

1.2 Special Meeting of Wexford County Council focusing on Housing Delivery on 6th May, 2025

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the Special Meeting of Wexford County Council focusing on Housing Delivery on 6th May, 2025.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

2. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 :

2.1 Transfer of a portion of land to the rear of 8 Mount Leinster Park, Kilmyshall, Bunclody, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. P. Kehoe the Council resolved to dispose of a portion of land to the rear of 8 Mount Leinster Park, Kilmyshall, Bunclody, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

2.2 Intention to grant a deed of wayleave at Ballyprecas, Kilmyshall, Bunclody, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford (Mount Leinster Park)

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. P. Kehoe the Council resolved to grant a deed of wayleave at Ballyprecas, Kilmyshall, Bunclody, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford (Mount Leinster Park), in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

2.3 Intention to dispose of property at 111 North Main Street, Wexford Town.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. R. Staples the Council resolved to dispose of property at 111 North Main Street, Wexford Town, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

2.4 Intention to dispose of property at Crossroads Foodstore, Wygram Place, Wexford Town.

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. R. Staples the Council resolved to dispose of property at Crossroads Foodstore, Wygram Place, Wexford Town, in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3. Draft Wexford County Council Policy on Roadside Memorials – For Adoption

Cllr. J. Sullivan welcomed the Policy on Roadside Memorials but felt the timeframe of 24 months stipulated in Section 5 Subsection E isn't sufficient. Cllr. Sullivan proposed an amendment increasing the timeframe of 24 months to 60 months.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming the Council resolved to adopt the Policy on Roadside Memorials subject to the increase in the timeframe at Section 5 Subsection E to 60 months.

4. Draft County Wexford Road Safety Plan – 2025 – 2030 – For Adoption

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy the Council resolved to adopt the County Wexford Road Safety Plan 2025 – 2030.

Cllr. G. Carthy requested that the County Secretary write to the Chief Superintendent requesting the number of speeding detections by the Traffic Core and Go Safe Vans in the past 24 months in the villages of Killinick, Tagcoat, and Kilrane or on the approaches to these villages. Cllr. Carthy also sought specific detail in relation to the number of detections relating to HGV's and if possible, the speed all vehicles were detected travelling at.

5. Invitation to delegation to travel to Fishguard, Wales – 23rd to 26th May, 2025

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. J. Codd the Council resolved to send a delegation to Fishguard, Wales from 23rd to 26th May, 2025.

6. Date of Annual Meeting of Wexford County Council

On the proposal of Cathaoirleach Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. J. Sullivan the Council resolved to fix the date of the Annual Meeting for 23rd June, 2025 at 2.30pm.

7. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive and members of the Management Team responded to a wide range of queries from the Elected Members regarding the following:

- How many private housing units have been granted planning permission in County Wexford but have not commenced?
- Request for signage asking people not to enter the railed off area on Curracloe beach which has been planted with marram grass.
- Query as to how funding could be accessed to alleviate flooding on the road in Bunclody and Clohamon.
- Request that sensible rules and regulations be drafted to allow mobile saunas operate at beaches in County Wexford.
- The increase of €1m in the housing grants allocation was welcomed.
- Disappointment expressed at Wexford County Council's decision not to renew the lease on the Mill Park Road carpark. Request that no final decision be made until the matter is brought before an Enniscorthy Municipal District meeting for discussion.

- Query if there is an opportunity for the Wexford Borough Municipal District Office to be moved to the Ballast Office.
- Request for update on the Wexfordia project and any other new tourism initiatives in Wexford.
- Request that the plans for the grainstore and Castlebridge House be brought before a meeting of Wexford Borough Municipal District.
- Query if the plan for safety works at Larkins Cross on the N25 will be brought before a meeting of Wexford Borough Municipal District.
- Request that drains be cleared and the pavement power washed in Wexford town centre prior to the Fleadh.
- Given that Castlebridge is the birthplace of the Guinness Book of Records, can Wexford County Council reach out to Diageo to see if they are willing to get involved in the restoration of Castlebridge House.
- Request that Wexford County Council highlight the challenges faced by owners of thatched properties to get insurance with only one company in the market.
- Update sought on additional roads funding with the poor condition of roads in Carrick and Ballygow highlighted as needing investment.
- Request that a letter be sent to Comreg highlighting the poor broadband connectivity in Kilmore village.
- Who should someone speak to regarding offering land to Wexford County Council for sale?
- Will land be purchased in villages or just towns?
- Will Wexford County Council allow clusters of houses to use stand-alone treatment systems?
- Query when will Wexford County Council commence using cctv cameras to detect offenders?
- View expressed that the time taken to process housing grant applications has lengthened considerably and query if this is down to a lack of staff? The counter view that the length of time taken to approve grants hasn't extended was also expressed.
- Query in relation to road signage on the N25 with the view expressed that there should be additional signs erected on the left-hand side of the road travelling from Wexford to highlight junctions.
- Query if there is a list of public beaches and access rights to beaches.
- Erection of static speed camera on Arklow Road in Gorey welcomed.
- Excessive speed of HGV's at Ferrycarrig and Kyle Cross was highlighted.
- Update sought on the progress of Forth Mountain Activity Park.
- Update sought on plans for Old Dublin Road Business Park in Enniscorthy.
- Update sought on Safe Routes to School scheme.
- Request that Wexford County Council undertake an audit outlining zoned land which hasn't been developed and zoned land which is available.
- The organisers of the Fringe Fleadh were congratulated on the successful launch.
- Query why a Member of Wexford County Council wasn't invited to the Fleadh event in Sligo.
- Query if people operating a commercial premises on a road can partake in the Local Improvements Scheme.
- View expressed that the Planning and Environment departments should work together to allow smaller sites for units using a stand-alone treatment system.

- Request for a policy on the standardised use of speed ramps across the County.
- Frustration expressed that the Safe Routes to School proposal for the Ballagh village which will have a major impact wasn't brought before the district Members in advance of it being made public.
- Request that the road signs between Baldwinstown and Kilmore which have been damaged be replaced.
- Request that the Members on the Regional Health Forum clarify what is required for a medical diagnosis of autism.
- Query if properties being acquired through Town Centre First are assessed by the Fire Service to ensure they comply with fire safety regulations.
- Request that Wexford County Council run a social media campaign highlighting how you identify Japanese Knotweed and the do's and don't's in relation to Japanese Knotweed.

The meeting adjourned for a comfort break at this point.

Cllr.'s G. Carthy, J. Dwyer, G. Laffan, J. Owens, and O. Walsh left the meeting at this point.

8. Minutes of CPG

8.1 Minutes of CPG Meeting 6th May, 2025

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. J. Codd the Council resolved to adopt the minutes of the CPG Meeting on 6th May, 2025.

9. Minutes of Meetings (for Noting):

9.1 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 25th March, 2025

9.2 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 26th March, 2025

9.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 24th March, 2025

9.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 25th March, 2025

9.5 Rosslare Municipal District – 31st March, 2025

9.6 Climate Change, Biodiversity & Environment SPC 25th April, 2024

9.7 Planning and Building Control SPC 25th April, 2024

9.8 Transportation & Water Services SPC – 16th May, 2024

The Members noted the minutes, as circulated.

10. Correspondence and Communications

10.1 Letter from Sligo County Council dated 9th April, 2025 re: motion.

10.2 Email from Deputy Malcolm Byrne re: motion dated 17th April, 2025

10.3 Letter from Kerry County Council re: motion dated 22nd April, 2025

10.4 Letter from Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade re motion dated 29th April, 2025

10.5 Email from Minister for Education re: motion dated 1st May, 2025

10.6 Letter from HSE re: motion dated 17th April, 2025

The Members noted the correspondence, as circulated.

11. Councillor's Conferences and Training

19.1 List of Conferences / Training

22 nd May 2025	AILG training "Emergency Response – Council's Supporting Communities in Weather Crisis". Radisson Blu Hotel Sligo (Out of Region).
24 th May 2025	Rose Hotel Tralee (Southern Region).
19 th June 2025	AILG training "A New Approach to Planning – the Revised National Planning Framework & Planning Act". Radisson Blu Cork (Southern Region).
21 st June 2025	Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan (Out of Region).

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy, the Council resolved to approve attendance at the above listed training.

11.2 Delegation Report:

Report of Cllr. Barbara-Anne Murphy - Irish Public Bodies Annual General Meeting held in Galway on 2nd May.

The Members noted the report, as circulated.

12. Any Other Business

Cllr. M. Sheehan enquired if it is compulsory for a landlord to accept HAP and if so, does the Housing Department highlight this fact to tenants and landlords.

Cllr. J. Codd enquired if Wexford County Council in conjunction with other bodies and/or agencies has taken any steps to deal with the increasing use of synthesised opiates.

Cllr. N. Boland enquired if Wexford County Council could roll out warning signs highlighting the use of CCTV cameras for the detection of fly tipping. Cllr. Boland noted that it may act as a deterrent.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an

lá de Meitheamh, 2025.

Cllr. Pip Breen
Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,
County Secretary