

**WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council  
Held in the Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 2.30pm**

**Attendance:**

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

**Councillors:**

<b>BARDEN</b>	PAT	<b>DONOHUE</b>	ANTHONY		
<b>BELL</b>	MAURA			<b>MOORE</b>	JIM
<b>BOLGER</b>	ANDREW	<b>FLEMING</b>	JOHN		
<b>BREEN</b>	PIP	<b>FORDE</b>	TOM	<b>O'ROURKE</b>	JOHN
<b>BROWNE</b>	AIDAN	<b>HEGARTY</b>	JOHN	<b>O'SUILLEABHAIN</b>	FIONNTAIN
<b>BYRNE</b>	CATHAL				
<b>CARTHY</b>	GER	<b>KAVANAGH</b>	WILLIE	<b>SHEEHAN</b>	MICHAEL
<b>CODD</b>	JIM	<b>KELLY</b>	LEONARD		
<b>CODD-NOLAN</b>	KATHLEEN	<b>KENNY</b>	DONAL	<b>SULLIVAN</b>	JOE
<b>CONNCIK</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

Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services

Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance

Ms. C. Godkin, A/Director of Services

Mr. D. Minogue, County Secretary

**Oireachtas:** Ms. V. Murphy, T.D.

**Apologies:** Cllrs: M. Farrell, D. Hynes, L. McDonald, J. Owens, F. Staples.

Officials: Ms. A. Byrne, A/Director of Services

At the outset of the meeting, the Chief Executive Mr. Enright addressed the meeting and advised the Members that on Friday 12 October 2021, he would attend a hearing of the Standards in Public Office Commission. The hearing was being convened to consider allegations against Mr. Enright that he had breached the Code of Conduct for Employees.

Mr. Enright advised the Members that he was unable to offer further comment, other than to say he would robustly defend himself in respect of the allegations and would at the earliest opportunity bring a full report to the Council on the matter.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

**1.1 County Council Meeting 11.10.202**

Proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming and agreed by all.

**1.2 Budget Working Group 01.11.2021**

Proposed by Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. J. Sullivan and agreed by all.

**1.3 Protocol Committee Meetings 13.01.2020 & 08.02.2021 & 04.10.2021**

Proposed by Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. A. Bolger and agreed by all.

**Matters Arising**

Cllr. M. Whelan asked that the Minutes of the Protocol Committee Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be amended to reflect that Cllr. Whelan had offered apologies for his inability to attend. It was agreed to so amend the Minutes.

**2. Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001:**

**2.1 Proposed intention to lease a plot of land – Upper Drumgoold, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford**

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Browne, seconded by Cllr. K. Codd Nolan, the Council unanimously resolved to lease the land in question in accordance with the terms of the Section 183 Notice as circulated.

**3. New Ross Port Pilotage Bye-Laws 2021 – For Approval of Draft Bye-laws**

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. P. Barden, the Council unanimously resolved to adopt the draft 2021 New Ross Port Pilotage Bye-Laws as circulated.

It was agreed that a report would be brought to the Council outlining details of the costs incurred and income received by the Council to date in its operation of the Port.

It was also agreed that the Executive would provide the Council with a timeline in respect of the making of the Pilotage Byelaws.

**4. Vacant Homes Report**

Ms. Carolyn Godkin, A/Director of Services presented the Report and responded to the Members' queries.

It was noted that the Council expects to appoint a full-time Vacant Homes Officer in Qtr. 1 2022, while it is possible that the issue of vacant homes will also be considered at regional level, with the possibility of funding being made available regionally to address this initiative.

**5. Section 85 Agreement - Kildare and Wexford County Council Agreement – O'Hanrahan Bridge, New Ross, Co. Wexford**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. A. Connick, the Council unanimously resolved to enter into an agreement with Kilkenny County Council under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 in respect of the repair and improvement of O'Hanrahan Bridge, New Ross.

Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services advised the Members that in the course of the proposed work, it may be possible to widen the existing footpath on one side of the bridge, thereby facilitating the linking of New Ross town to the Southeast Greenway, which is currently under construction.

Mr. Hore anticipated that the design of the proposed improvement works would take approximately two years to complete, and that a road closure may be required for a period of time to facilitate some of the construction works.

**6. Audited Annual Financial Statement 2020 and accompanying Auditor's Report**

The Members noted the Audited AFS 2020 and further noted that the audited AFS was not materially different to the pre-audit AFs as previously considered by the Members.

The Members noted the Auditor's Report on the Wexford County Council AFS 2020 and noted that this report would be considered by the Council's Audit Committee.

**7. Chief Executive's Report**

The Chief Executive and members of the Management Team responded to the queries of the members in relation to the following matters:

- Housing construction – staging process
- Housing Construction – Targets 2022 – possible special meeting to review same
- Housing construction in Tagoat and Ballygillane

- Japanese Knotweed in Tagoat
- Public meeting in Enniscorthy re future development of the Town
- Public convenience for Enniscorthy and Wexford towns
- Development of Enniscorthy as an Age Friendly town
- Water Services – Council’s efforts applauded in managing difficult situations across county
- An Bord Pleanala – disappointment of recent decisions
- Letting of vacant properties in Belvedere Road Wexford
- Further meetings of LTTAC – meeting likely before year end
- Technological University for the Southeast – considerable progress made – funding required if Council to acquire the site by CPO – Minister very supportive
- Energy retrofit programme – 44 units funded – tendered in 3 lots – works to commence New Year
- Civil Defence – need for HQ – Council is providing annual sum to fund same
- Proposals for development of Dun Mhuire site in Wexford – hope to complete by year end
- Re-development of grainstore at John Street New Ross – CPO complete – expect to serve statutory Notice to Treat / Notice of Entry by year end
- “Murphy Building” on New Ross Quays – now in Council ownership
- Housing development at St Joseph’s site in Gorey
- Streetscape grants – discretion to be exercised regarding completion deadlines
- Proposals for a new hotel in New Ross and possible hostel to be considered / supported
- Emergency accommodation arrangements to be reviewed in light of severe weather situations – new arrangements now in place at Ozanam House
- Curracloe Water Centre – timelines to be advised to members
- Decade of Centenaries - Memorials in public ownership to be appropriately maintained
- Redevelopment of New Ross town centre properties at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor level
- Planned improvements at Newtown water treatment plant
- Delays in completing social housing in the Ballagh village
- Proposals to incentivise renewal of derelict properties

## **8. Minutes of Corporate Policy Group**

The Members noted the Minutes of the meetings of the Corporate Policy Group of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

**9. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting):**

- 9.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting - 14th July, 2021 & 8th September, 2021
- 9.2 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 19th July, 2021 & 20th September, 2021
- 9.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 19th July, 2021 & 20th September, 2021
- 9.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 19th July, 2021 & 20th September, 2021
- 9.5 Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 20th July, 2021 & 21st September, 2021
- 9.6 Climate Change, Biodiversity & Environment SPC 25.02.2021 & 22.04.2021
- 9.7 Economic Development & Enterprise SPC 13.05.2021

The Members noted the Minutes above.

**10. Correspondence and Communications**

- 10.1 Email from Brendan Howlin, TD re motion dated 10th September, 2021
- 10.2 Letter from Meath County Council re: motion dated 16th September, 2021
- 10.3 Email from Verona Murphy, TD re: Motor Neuron Disease motion dated 11th October, 2021
- 10.4 Letter from South Dublin County Council re: motion dated 14th October, 2021
- 10.5 Email from Minister McGraths Office re: motion dated 15th October, 2021
- 10.6 Letter from Minister Ryan's Office re motion dated 15th October, 2021
- 10.7 Letter from Paul Kehoe, TD re motion Motor Neuron Disease dated 18th October, 2021
- 10.8 Letter from James Browne, TD re motion Motor Neuron Disease dated 18th October, 2021
- 10.9 Email from Minister Eamon Ryan re motion dated 21st October, 2021.
- 10.10 Letter from Kerry County Council re motion dated 19th October, 2021
- 10.11 Letter from Tipperary County Council re motion dated 20th October, 2021
- 10.12 Email from Minister Eamon Ryan's Office re motion N24 dated 26th October, 2021

10.13 Email from Transport Infrastructure Ireland re motion N24 dated 28th October, 2021

10.14 Letter from BAI re South East Radio's Website dated 28th October, 2021

10.15 Letter from Office of the Minister for Agriculture re motion received 28th October, 2021

10.16 Email from Senator Malcolm Byrne, re motor neuron disease dated 1st November, 2021

## **11. Councillors' Conferences and Training**

The Members noted the list of training events and conferences as circulated by the County Secretary dated November 2021 and approved these for attendance in accordance with Section 142 (5)(b) and Section 142 (5)(e) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended.

The Members further noted the following reports as submitted to the Cathaoirleach in accordance with Section 142 (5) (f) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended:

- 11.1 Report of Cllr. John Fleming - Health & Safety in the Workplace, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.
- 11.2 Report of Cllr. Garry Laffan – The Fair Deal Conference, Carlingford, Co. Lough.
- 11.3 Report of Cllr. Donal Kenny – Mental Health & Wellbeing, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

**It now being 4.00 pm, the Cathaoirleach declared the meeting closed. A break followed to allow the room to be appropriately ventilated in accordance with public health guidelines.**

**The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that a further meeting of the Council would follow at 4.30pm as scheduled and notified.**

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

**Daingithe ar an                      lá de Nollaig, 2021.**

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

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