

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council held on Monday 14th September – 2.30 pm. in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy.

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. G. Carthy, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors:

BARDEN	PAT	DONOHUE	ANTHONY	MCDONALD	LISA
BOLGER	ANDREW	FARRELL	MARY	MOORE	JIM
BREEN	PIP	FLEMING	JOHN	MURPHY	BARBARA- ANNE
BROWNE	AIDAN	FORDE	TOM	MURPHY	BRIDIN
BYRNE	CATHAL	HEGARTY	JOHN	O'ROURKE	JOHN
CODD	JIM	HYNES	DAVID	O'SUILLEABHAIN	FIONNTAN
CODD- NOLAN	KATHLEEN	KAVANAGH	WILLIE	OWENS	JACKSER
CONNICK	ANTHONY	KELLY	LEONARD	SULLIVAN	JOE
DEVEREUX	DIARMUID	KENNY	DONAL	SHEEHAN	MICHAEL
		LAFFAN	GARRY	WALSH	OLIVER
		LAWLOR	GEORGE	WHELAN	MICHAEL

Officials:

Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive
Mr. T. Larkin, Director of Services
Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance
Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services
Ms. A. Byrne, A/Director of Services
Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services
Ms. A. McLoughlin, A/County Secretary
Ms. E. Morrissey, County Librarian
Mr. Noel O'Driscoll, Senior Engineer

Apologies: Cllr Frank Staples, Cllr Maura Bell

Expressions of Sympathy

The Members extended sympathy to the families of the following recently deceased:

- The family of Margaret (Gretta) Mythen, mother of Mary Prendergast, Finance Section and Katherine Mythen, Special Projects.

- The family of Victor Devereux, father of Pat Devereux (recently retired Corporate Services).
- The family of Caroline Power Murphy, sister of Ruth Power, Housing Section.
- The family of Jimmy Curtis, Former Cathaoirleach and former Member of Wexford County Council.
- The family of Martin Shalloe, Retired GSS, Wexford County Council.
- The family of Tomas Kelly, brother of Adrian Kelly, Driver in the Machinery Yard and Library Service
- The family of Kathleen Power, mother-in-law of Niall McCabe, A/SEO Housing Department
- The family of Mr. Joe Sinnott
- The family of Mr. Chris Hatchell of the Wexford London Association
- The family of Ms. Anne Staples
- The family of Mr. Jim Watkins
- The family of Mr. Jim Lee
- The Fortune Family
- The Keating Family

Expressions of Congratulations

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

- Kilmore GAA who won two county titles in lady's football and men's hurling.
- Castletown Junior GAA who won Gorey Minor match
- Deputy James Browne, TD on his appointment as Minister of State at the Department of Justice
- Wexford Shels on their recent win and the GAA for organizing matches in difficult times.
- North End United on winning the junior match.
- Ballyhogue GAA under 15's and Ballyhogue ladies football on their recent wins.
- Oulart / Ballagh GAA on wining the Senior Camogie Title
- Crossabeg / Ballymurn GAA on their recent win

1. Public Consultation Process

- a. Rosslare Harbour Access Road
- b. Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme

A presentation was given by Mr. Séan Dobbs, Project Manager with TII and Mr. Joe Shinkwin, Director, Mott McDonald Consultants regarding the public consultation phase of Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme. The details of the next phase of the project were also outlined.

Following a discussion on the deadline for the next phase to be complete which involves assessment and reduction of the route options, it was advised to the meeting that this would be ready in late February / March of 2021, a couple of weeks later than committed to at the June council meeting. This was due to the level of submissions and Covid 19 restrictions. Mr. E Hore, Director of Services reiterated that the impact of Covid with regard

to site inspections was a factor in this three week delay. An Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Dobbs, Mr. Shinkwin, Mr. N O' Driscoll and Mr. E Hore for their work in progressing this project.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

County Council Meeting – 27th July 2020

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

County Council Special Meeting – 27th July 2020

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

County Council Special Meeting – 5th August 2020

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

Matters Arising

In response to member's queries, regarding the filling of vacancies on the recently established Mental Health Committee, Ms. C Godkin, Director of Services advised all members interested would be catered for.

In response to a query regarding the progress of securing a University Campus for Wexford, the Chief Executive advised that there was ongoing dialogue on this matter.

In response to a query on the next stage of the Development Plan Process, Mr. Tony Larkin, Director of Services advised that the A/ County Secretary has agreed to issue the amendments to the Draft Development Plan agreed at this morning's County Council Special meeting to the members in the next day or two.

3. Proposal under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

- Proposed intention to transfer 0.1 acres at Newtown Road to John O'Connor

Statutory Notice having been served, and on the proposal of Councillor G Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke, the Members resolved to dispose of the lands in accordance with the Notice.

- Proposed intention to lease Enniscorthy Courthouse.

Statutory Notice having been served, and on the proposal of Councillor G Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke, the Members resolved to lease the Courthouse in accordance with the Notice.

- Proposed disposal of land at Ballyverneen, Co. Kilkenny.

Statutory Notice having been served, and on the proposal of Councillor G Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. O'Rourke, the Members resolved to dispose of the lands in accordance with the Notice.

4. Local Property Tax (LPT) - local variation factor decision

Following consideration of the report of Ms. A. O'Neill, Head of Finance in respect of the Variation of the Local Property Tax for 2021 a discussion took place. The Chief Executive reiterated the importance of agreeing this increase in order to support the Economic and Community development programme that the council was pursuing.

On the proposal of Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy and seconded by Cllr M Sheehan it was agreed that the LPT tax would be increased by 10% of the 201 base figure which in effect results in no change from 2019. This involved a vote and it was agreed by the majority of the councilors present with 3 voting against this increase.

The councilors extended their thanks to the staff of Finance Section and also asked that an updated leaflet on the Capital Projects in the County would be issued to all households.

5. Budget 2021 - Proposed Meeting Dates

On the proposal of Cllr Michael Sheehan and seconded by Councillor Pip Breen the proposed dates as circulated by the Head of Finance were agreed.

2021 Budget Process – Proposed Schedule		2020 Dates
1	Public Consultation on LPT Variation	July/August
2	LPT Variation Decision of Council	Monday 14th September, 2020
3	Budget Strategy - Consultation Meeting with CPG/Cross Party	Monday 2nd November, 2020 at 11.30am
4	Adoption of Draft Budgetary Plan (GMA Allocations) – Municipal Districts Prescribed Period 14 th October 2020 to 15 th November 2020 Must be completed 10 days before the Statutory Budget meeting	October 2020 MD meetings
5	Statutory Budget Meeting Meeting to Consider and adopt Draft Local Authority Budget Prescribed period 1 st November 2020 to 30 th November 2020	Monday 30th November, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

6. Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 - Update to Members

Director of Services Ms. Carolyne Godkin brought a progress report on targets set out in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 -2024 to the members and advised that for the current year it was expected that 1 of the 20 proposals included in the programme would be delivered. She also agreed to a review of the plan before the end of next year which may cause some figures to change.

7. Adoption of Wexford County Council Library Development Plan 2020-2025

Director of Service Ms. Carolyne Godkin welcomed Eileen Morrissey, County Librarian to the meeting. She advised the members that this plan had been approved by the SPC in February and the delay bringing it to full council was a result of Covid restrictions.

A number of the members and the Chief Executive extended their thanks and praise to the library staff for the ongoing work that the library Services have been doing. In particular the continuation of their services during Covid using different service delivery methods was to be commended.

On the proposal of Cllr. M Sheehan and seconded by Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy this plan was adopted by the Council

8. Chief Executives Report

The Chief Executive Mr. T Enright presented the Report and together with the members of the Management Team responded to a number of queries from the Members, including the following:

- 8.1 Courtown Leisure Centre Liquidation and effect on local jobs.
- 8.2 Carrigfoyle Activity Centre – progress
- 8.3 Enniscorthy Technology Park – Builders
- 8.4. Delay Templeshannon Regeneration
- 8.5 Restart Grants Delay in paying – Large Volume of Grants
- 8.6 Progress New Fire Station in New Ross
- 8.7 Diary 1919-21 – Will it be made available to the Library
- 8.8 Number of School Traffic Wardens – Under Review
- 8.9 Update on Waterford to Rosslare Greenway
- 8.10 Use of CCTV for Litter Prosecutions – GDPR Test Case Kerry Co. Co.

Cllr M Sheehan, in relation to the Restart Grant and the subsequent Restart Grant Plus, which has resulted in a number of clients being unable to qualify for the original scheme due to deadlines, asked that Wexford County Council write to the Tánaiste to consider accepting applications now for the Restart One grants. The Head of Finance advised that the Department will pay people if they appeal this deadline.

9. List of Councillors' Conferences and Training

This list was agreed by the members.

- July /August – AILG 2020 Module 3 “Moorhead Report- A Briefing for Elected Members”
- 17th September 2020 – Training webinar for Local Authority Elected Members – Guidance for Councillors on the initial stages of Preparing the Development Plan and their Core Strategies.

10. Report of Corporate Policy

The report of the CPG meeting held on the 7th September 2020 was noted. On the proposal of Barbara Anne Murphy and seconded by Cllr G Lawlor this report was agreed.

11. Sealing of Documents

On the proposal of Cllr A Browne, seconded by Cllr P Barden these were agreed.

12. Correspondence and Communication

A number of items of correspondence were circulated to the members and were noted.

- Correspondence from IT Carlow re: acceptance of invitation 7th August, 2020 for noting.
- Acknowledgement email from Minister's Office Simon Coveney T.D., dated 10th August, 2020 and Correspondence from Nora Delaney, Private Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs dated 24th August, 2020.
- Acknowledgement email from Patrick McCabe, Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Equality dated 13th August, 2020.
- Correspondence from Padraig Corkery, Meetings Administrator, Kerry County Council dated 14th August, 2020.
- Letter from Irish Water dated 24th August, 2020.
- Acknowledgement letter from Karen Henry, Private Secretary to Minister Heather Humphreys dated 25th August, 2020.
- Email from Mr. Eamon Ryan, TD, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport dated 2nd September, 2020.
- Email from Derek Newcombe, Private Secretary to Ms. Norma Foley dated 2nd September, 2020 & 3rd September, 2020.
- Letter from Minister Heather Humphreys TD dated 2nd September, 2020.
- Email from Leo Quinlan (Commandant - retired) dated 2nd September, 2020
- London Wexford Association News Update

13. Notices of Motion

- Cllr. L. McDonald and the following Members (FF) Cllr. A. Browne, Cllr. B.A Murphy, Cllr. M. Sheehan, Cllr. J. Fleming, Cllr. M. Whelan, Cllr. A. Bolger, Cllr. D. Kenny, Cllr. J. Sullivan, Cllr. G. Laffan, Cllr. P. Breen, Cllr. W. Kavanagh

"That Wexford Co Council call on the government to amend the remit of Irish Water to fund County Councils to allow them to deal with, increase capacity in and manage rural waste water systems in our rural villages to protect the survival and growth of rural Ireland."

This proposal was amended by Cllr. L McDonald to state that this motion applied to villages with under 3,000 population. With this amendment the motion was passed on the proposal of Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr P Barden.

It was also agreed to send a copy of this motion to all councils.

- Cllr. L. McDonald

"That Wexford Co Council call for a variation of the national broadband plan to allow for the role out of high speed broadband in rural Ireland and areas which have poor broadband first and before the larger towns due to the challenges faced in working from home for those with poor connectivity to break down the digital divide. "

On the proposal of Cllr McDonald and seconded by Cllr C Byrne this motion was passed.

- Cllr. G. Lawlor

"It the context of the Covid 19 pandemic and its impact on workers and their working patterns this council commits to establishing a task force to examine the best ways for Co. Wexford to exploit the possibilities of remote working and working from the home to the benefit of workers and potential workers across the County".

On the proposal of Cllr G Lawlor and seconded by Cllr L Kelly this motion was passed.

- Cllr. M. Sheehan

"That this Council calls on the Government to immediately reverse its policy of discrimination against Older People by the refusal to include over sixty sixes in the pandemic unemployment payment and in the design of the Stay and Spend Scheme which will automatically rule out many pensioners whose income is below the tax net."

On the proposal of Cllr Sheehan seconded by Cllr A Bolger this motion was passed.

- Cllr. T. Forde

"I ask that Wexford County Council work to introduce a Choice Based Letting Scheme in 2020 which would allow housing applicants to express an interest in a property that matches their needs in any area. The scheme is being successfully used by other Local Authorities at present and was included in the Government Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness (2016)"

As Cllr Forde had to leave the meeting before this motion was discussed he had asked that this motion be withdrawn and resubmitted for the October meeting.

- Cllr. F.O'Suilleabhain

"This Council recognises the huge growth that has been seen this year in camper van / motorhome-related tourism. It further acknowledges the huge benefits that this form of tourism can bring to an area and that it is a central part of the tourism infrastructure in many countries as well as being a generator of revenue for local authorities".

This Council will resolve to identify sites in Co. Wexford on which we can develop motorhome/camper van parks".

Following a discussion regarding this motion and following advice from the Chief Executive that this was not a service that fell within the remit of Local Authorities in Ireland. Cllr. O'Suilleabhain agreed to change the motion.

The amended motion includes the support of the council for Camper Van tourism through a grant system to facilitate private developers and support of the council through the planning process and in the identification of sites.

This amended proposal of Cllr O'Suilleabhain was agreed and seconded by Cllr J Codd.

- Cllr G. Laffan

"That this council write to the Minister & Department of Defence and request that the veterans of Jadotville be awarded the medals recommended by their commander Commandant Pat Quinlan. In September 1961, 155 Irish Troops on a UN Mission and stationed at Jadotville were attacked by anywhere from 3,000 to 5,000 Katangese Troops supported by Foreign Mercenaries. They held out for five days and only lack of ammunition and water forced them to surrender. Commandant Pat Quinlan's Defensive battle at Jadotville is now studied at Military Academies all over the world. Commandant Quinlan recommended the following medals for his Soldiers -five men for the Irish Army's Highest award the Military Medal for Gallantry.- 27 men for the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

None of these medals were ever awarded. Only 7 of the 32 Men are still alive. A Jadotville Medal was awarded in 2017 but this was not the Bravery Awards as recommended by Comdt Quinlan. We would ask the Government to immediately award all medals to the Jadotville Men while they are still alive."

On the proposal of Cllr Laffan and seconded by Cllr M Sheehan this motion was carried.

14. Any Other Business

In response to a request from Cllr Connick regarding the status of defibrillators around the, Ms. Godkin agreed to bring a report to the next meeting.

This concluded the Business of the Meeting.

Daingithe ar an 12ú lá de Deireadh Fomhair, 2020.

Cathaoirleach

County Secretary