

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 8th December, 2025 in the Council Chamber at 2.30pm (with some remote attendance)

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. Joe Sullivan, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors:

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

Officials:

Mr. Michael Drea, County Secretary

Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services

Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services

Ms. Liz Hore, Director of Services

Ms. Lynda Lacey, Director of Finance

Mr. Alan Quirke, Director of Services

Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Chief Executive

Apologies: Cllr. Paddy Kavanagh

Votes of sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Peter Doyle, father of Kathy Frayne, Former Employee and grandfather of Aisling Frayne, Rosslare Municipal District.
- The family of Rosaleen O'Leary, mother of Helen Meehan, recently retired.
- The family of Jim Doyle, father of Pauline Doyle, Executive Planner, Planning Department.
- The family of Isla Furlong, niece of Eilish Furlong, Franchise Department.
- The family of William Astley, husband of Chole Astley, Canteen, Wexford County Council.
- The family of Andy Murphy, Terrerath, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Anne Foley, Rathduff, Rathnure, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Breda Kennedy, The Bungalows, Irishtown, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Carol Furlong, 35 Slí an Uisce, Clonroche, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Noel Cullen, Kilbraney, Newbawn, Co. Wexford.

Congratulations:

- Cllr. L. McDonald congratulated St. Martin's GAA Club on their fantastic Leinster Hurling Final win. As a proud St. Martin's woman, Cllr. McDonald thanked those from around the County who supported St. Martin's and hailed the quality of the hurling and the manner of the victory. Cllr.'s J. Fleming, J. Sullivan, G. Carthy, P. Kehoe, J. Codd, F. Staples, and M. Sheehan also congratulated St. Martin's.
- Cllr. P. Byrne congratulated Davidstown Courtnacuddy GAA Club on their Leinster Hurling Final win acknowledging it was a great achievement for a small rural club. Cllr.'s L. McDonald, J. Fleming, A. Browne, J. Sullivan, G. Carthy, P. Kehoe, J. Codd, F. Staples, and M. Sheehan also congratulated Davidstown Courtnacuddy GAA Club.
- Cllr.'s J. Fleming and M. Sheehan congratulated Evan Bailey on winning a bronze medal in the 200 meters freestyle at the European Short Course Swimming Championships.
- Cllr. M. Sheehan congratulated Cumas on their "See New Ross Through my Lens" photography exhibition in the Tholsel and the Cumas trad band who will play at the Leinster House Christmas lights switch-on.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan welcomed Mr. A. Quirke and wished him all the best in his new role as Director of Services.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 County Council Meeting 10th November, 2025

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. P. Byrne the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the County Council Meeting on 10th November, 2025.

1.2 Statutory Budget Meeting 24th November, 2025

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. C. Walsh the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the County Council Meeting on 24th November, 2025.

2. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 :

2.1 Intention to dispose of property at 67 Upper John Street, Wexford Town.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. C. Walsh the Council resolved to dispose of property at 67 Upper John Street, Wexford Town in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

2.2 Intention to lease lands at Spawell Road, Wexford Town (to It's Good to Talk)

On the proposal of Cllr. A.R. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan the Council resolved to lease lands at Spawell Road, Wexford Town to It's Good to Talk in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

2.3 Intention to transfer lands at Clonard Avenue, Wexford to St. Aidan's Diocesan Trust

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the Council resolved to transfer lands at Clonard Avenue, Wexford to St. Aidan's Diocesan Trust in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

2.4 Intention to transfer a portion of land at Tobinstown, Ramsgrange, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming the Council resolved to transfer a portion of land at Tobinstown, Ramsgrange, New Ross, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3. Part XI of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended)

3.1 LAC2507 - Proposed 50-unit housing development and associated site works at Rosbercon, New Ross, Co Wexford.

Cllr.'s M. Sheehan and J. Dwyer expressed concerns in relation to the inclusion of apartments in the proposed development, sharing the view that New Ross has a poor history in relation to apartment living. Cllr. Dwyer also expressed concerns in relation to the risk of flooding and the proximity of the nearest primary school. Cllr.'s J. Fleming and M. Murphy spoke in favour of the development.

Mr. E. Taaffe advised that where possible the concerns of the locals have been addressed and the density on the site is because of its town centre status. Mr. Taaffe outlined that the mix of units within the development is reflective of the housing need in the area. Mr. Taaffe also clarified that all units within the development are own door, and the flood risk has been addressed by the flood scheme.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive and the matters raised in the Chamber, on foot of a roll call vote the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for a proposed 50-unit housing development and associated site works at Rosbercon, New Ross, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2507, as circulated. The result of the vote was 26 in favour, 3 against, and 2 abstained. The voting was as follows:

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

4. Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2026 - 2029 - For Adoption

Ms. L. Hore circulated the draft Development Contribution Scheme 2026 – 2029. Ms. Hore advised that the rates in the current Development Contribution Scheme are unchanged since 2013 and are very low relative to other local authorities. Wexford County Council is therefore constrained in funding capital programmes and is limited as to what can be achieved in the delivery of projects for the County.

The proposed draft charges were brought before the Planning and Building Control SPC at its meeting on the 1st of September 2025. Ms. Hore outlined that the proposed scheme was advertised, and the online consultation portal opened for submissions, on the 24th of September 2025, with four submissions received.

Mr. E. Taaffe advised that development contributions haven't been increased since 2013, yet the cost of providing infrastructure has increased massively. Mr. Taaffe outlined that the current levy as a percentage of the average cost of construction is 0.34% and the new draft scheme will result in a modest increase to 0.77%.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy, on foot of a roll call vote the Council resolved to adopt the Development Contribution Scheme 2026-2029. The result of the vote was 29 in favour, and 1 against. The voting was as follows:

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

5. Q3 Progress Report on the 2025 Annual Service Delivery Plan - For Noting

The Council noted the content of the Q3 Progress Report on the 2025 Annual Service Delivery Plan, as circulated.

6. Draft Polling Scheme 2025 - For Adoption

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy, and agreed by all, the Council resolved to adopt the Draft Polling Scheme 2025 in accordance with Section 28 of the Electoral Act 1992, as amended, and the Electoral (Polling Schemes) Regulations 2021.

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:

- Concerns raised in relation to the Paddocks development in Coolcotts and the alleged failure of the developer to provide telecommunications ducting which may result in footpaths and roads having to be dug up.
- Frustration expressed at the length of time taken to carry out some housing repairs such as the replacement of doors.
- Request for figures on the number of successful appeals of housing decisions.
- Update sought on the group housing scheme for the families in Park.
- For those who are refused access to Ozanam House, where do they go for accommodation? Request that no-one be refused an emergency bed.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan informed the Councillors that an envelope is circulating through the chamber, and all are invited to make a voluntary contribution to the Cathaoirleach's chosen charity which is St. Aidan's Services.

- Wexford County Council was commended on the Cnoc na Greine affordable housing launch.
- What is the social housing retrofitting target for 2026?
- Explanation sought as to why there are 114 transfer applicants on the housing list for Rosslare Municipal District.
- Request for a breakdown of the number of tenant-in-situ houses purchased in the Rosslare Municipal District over the past five years.
- What is the value of rent arrears above which admission to Ozanam House will be refused?
- Is there a timeline for the announcement of new social housing eligibility income thresholds nationally?
- When will affordable housing projects be rolled out to all Municipal Districts?
- When will the information night for housing services/schemes be rolled out?
- How much funding is available for taking estates in charge and which estates will be taken in charge first?

- The issue of solar farms and the protest by Gusserane residents against a proposed solar farm prior to the Council meeting was raised. Cllr. M. Murphy outlined the economic impact of his 220-acre farm which sustains his family and employees who earn a living directly from the farm, but also the many related businesses that benefit from it, together supporting a total of 115 people directly and indirectly. Cllr. Murphy said there needs to be a reassessment of the approach to solar farms, outlining his view that it makes no sense to use prime agricultural land for solar farms. Cllr.'s M. Sheehan, J. Fleming, P. Barden, V. Barron, L. McDonald, P. Breen, J. Dwyer, A.R. O'Brien, J. Codd, and G. Carthy expressed support for the Gusserane resident's protest.

Cllr. G. Carthy expressed the view that the Councillor's should bring forward a material contravention to curtail solar farms. Cllr. Carthy requested legal advice in relation to this matter. Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan committed to seeking legal advice on behalf of the elected representatives.

- Update sought on the taking in charge of Pondfields and Parkfield estates.
- Request that the Council consider an economic plan for the County like the "Positioning Wexford for the Upturn" plan.
- Update sought on the three houses to be developed in Adamstown.
- Concern expressed that carbon offsets from solar farms are being taken out of the agricultural sector and being offset against businesses.
- Can Wexford's eligibility for Clár funding be reviewed?

The meeting adjourned for a comfort break at this point.

Cllr.'s G. Carthy, J. Dwyer, and A. Donohoe left the meeting at this point.

- Update sought on the industrial park in Kilmore.
- Are there many unpaid derelict site levies?
- Update sought on storm plan which is being developed.
- Update sought on ESB survey of trees and removal of dead trees.
- What works are planned to stop flooding on the road at Growtown Upper, Barntown?
- Query as to who is responsible for repairing a collapsed sewer under the public road?
- The importance of progressing the N11/N25 project was emphasised so that those impacted by the sterilisation corridor can have certainty.
- The funding announcement for the N11/N25 project was welcomed.
- Update sought on issues in relation to the Raven Wood estate in Glynn and if funding is available to address the issues.
- Work at Leeches bend was welcomed.

- Who will undertake the traffic review in Clonroche.
- Is it the Council's policy that speed ramps are not allowed for traffic calming in built up areas?
- Update sought on safety measures at Ballycarney and Clohamon junctions.
- Request that the winter road maintenance schedule be circulated.
- What will the route of the Bunclody inner relief road be?
- Any further information on developer led infrastructure?
- Update sought on ring road active travel scheme in New Ross.
- Request for a list of estates to be taken in charge in New Ross.
- Funding for Ramsgrange WWTP welcomed.
- Has there been any further correspondence with Uisce Éireann regarding works required to address issues on Whiterock Hill?

8. Minutes of CPG

9.1 Minutes of CPG Meeting 1st December, 2025

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald, the Council resolved to adopt the minutes of the CPG Meeting on 1st December, 2025.

9. Minutes of Meeting (For Noting)

- 9.1 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 21st October, 2025
- 9.2 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 15th October, 2025
- 9.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 20th October, 2025
- 9.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 21st October, 2025
- 9.5 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 15th October, 2025
- 9.6 Housing SPC Meeting– 3rd September, 2025
- 9.7 Roads and Transportation SPC Meeting – 30th April, 2025
- 9.8 Community and Rural Affairs SPC – 11th September, 2025
- 9.9 Planning and Building Control SPC – 1st September, 2025
- 9.10 Climate Change, Biodiversity & Environment SPC 4th July, 2025 & 26th September 2025

The Members noted the minutes, as circulated.

10. Correspondence and Communications

- 10.1 Letter from Kerry County Council dated 3rd November, 2025.
- 10.2 Letter from Tipperary County Council dated 15th October, 2025
- 10.3 Email from Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine dated 12th November, 2025
- 10.4 Letter from Clare County Council dated 13th November, 2025
- 10.5 Letter from Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity dated 13th November, 2025
- 10.6 Letter from Leitrim County Council dated 13th November, 2025
- 10.7 Letter from Limerick City & County Council dated 27th November, 2025
- 10.8 Letter from Longford County Council dated 2nd December, 2025 The Members noted the correspondence and communications as circulated.

Cllr. B.A. Murphy informed the Council that IPB are considering extending insurance cover to community halls.

11. Councillor's Conferences and Training

- 11.1 List of Conferences / Training - List Attached

Training

28th – 29th January LAMA Spring Seminar, The Connacht Hotel, Galway. Fee €245

Conference

9th – 11th January Celtic Conferences “The Finance Act”, Carlingford, Co. Louth. Fee €130

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

- 11.2 Delegation Reports

Report of Cllr. Mary Farrell who attended Celtic Conferences “The Evolving Role of AI in Public Relations” held on 7/8/9 November 2025 in Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

Report of Cllr. Craig Doyle who attended Celtic Conferences “The Evolving Role of AI in Public Relations” held on 7/8/9 November 2025 in Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

Report of Cllr. Frank Staples who attended Celtic Conferences “A Practical Guide to Budget 2026” held on 10/11/12 October 2025 in Carlingford, Co. Louth.

Report of Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy who attended Irish Public Bodies Extraordinary General Meeting in Athlone on 21st November.

The Members noted the delegation reports as circulated.

12. Notices of Motion

12.1 Cllr. AR. O’Brien

“Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the Minister for Justice, to develop and implement a clear national policy and legislative mechanism enabling local authorities to remove perpetrators of domestic violence from joint tenancies where a tenant has been found, through appropriate legal or protective processes, to have perpetrated domestic abuse against another tenant or occupant, in order to protect victims and other household members.

Further, that this policy should prioritise the safety and housing security of victims, ensuring that survivors of domestic violence are not placed at risk of homelessness or forced to leave their homes because of the abusive behaviour of another joint tenant.

This policy will also provide local authorities with explicit statutory authority to amend or sever joint tenancies in circumstances where a tenant has been found, through appropriate legal or protective processes, to have perpetrated domestic abuse against another tenant or occupant.

Wexford County Council further requests that these measures be progressed as a matter of urgency in order to strengthen protections for victims of domestic violence and to support local authorities in maintaining safe and stable social housing environments.”

This motion was proposed by Cllr. A.R. O’Brien, seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell and agreed by all.

12.2 Cllr. J. Fleming

“That Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to give the power to Dog Wardens to force dog and horse owners to microchip their animals and if not compliant to issue a large fine and to confiscate the animal concerned, if necessary.”

This motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. P. Kehoe.

Cllr. G. Laffan proposed the following amendment which was accepted by Cllr. J. Fleming and agreed by all:

“That Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to give the power to Dog Wardens to enter private property and to force dog and horse owners to microchip their animals and if not compliant to issue a large fine and to confiscate the animal concerned, if necessary.”

12.3 Cllr. M. Sheehan

“That this Council calls for the appointment of a dedicated Minister of State with responsibility for animal welfare and pet control to oversee the overhaul of legislation, regulation and protection of animal welfare including empowering wardens to impound and punish those in breach of the recognised regulations.

Furthermore, we call on the government to engage and consult with registered dog breeders on the optimum suite of effective reforms and regulations and punishments for those found to be neglecting or abusing animals.”

This motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. A.R. O’Brien and agreed by all.

12.4 Cllr. AR. O’Brien

“Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to ensure that Tusla is adequately staffed, fully resourced, and subject to strengthened monitoring mechanisms so that it can meet its statutory responsibilities in a timely, effective and child-centred manner.

Further, that the Minister ensure sufficient staffing levels across all Tusla service areas, including child protection, social work, family support, early intervention, and foster care in a timely manner.

Lastly, we call on the Minister to prioritise enhanced oversight and performance monitoring, ensuring that service delivery standards are maintained, cases are managed promptly, and children and families receive the support they require.”

This motion was proposed by Cllr. A.R. O’Brien, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan and agreed by all.

13. A.O.B.

Cllr. B.A. Murphy reminded the members to recycle their Christmas trees.

Cllr. G. Laffan gave his apologies as he is unable to make the Cathaoirleach’s Christmas dinner.

Cllr. L. McDonald offered Mr. Liam Bates, and his choir best wishes as they are due to perform at the switching on of the Christmas lights at Leinster House.

Ms. L. Hore informed the Council that a special meeting to discuss the County Development Plan variations is scheduled for 26th January at 11.30am.

Cllr. J. Fleming encouraged all to shop local this Christmas.

Cllr.'s M. Sheehan and J. Sullivan complimented the Municipal District staff for their work on the Christmas lights switch on's across the county.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan wished all a happy Christmas and commended the executive for the great work completed and ongoing across the county, such as:

- Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.
- Progress being made on the N11/N25 project.
- Progress being made on the Ramsgrange WWTP.
- Affordable housing delivery in Gorey and Enniscorthy.
- SETU lands acquired and tertiary campus announced.

Cllr. O. Walsh wished Cllr. P. Kavanagh a speedy recovery following a surgical procedure.

Cllr. M. Sheehan congratulated all those involved in the announcement of a tertiary campus for Wexford.

Cllr. A.R. O'Brien thanked all those who contributed to the Cathaoirleach's collection to support St. Aidan's Services.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUISINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an lá de Eanáir, 2026.

Cllr. Joe Sullivan

Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,

County Secretary