

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 9th February, 2026 in the Council Chamber at 2.00pm (with some remote attendance)

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. Joe Sullivan, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors:

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

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. Ger Carthy, Cllr. Paddy Kavanagh

Votes of sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of William N. Shortt, father of Margaret O'Donovan, Customer Service Unit and father-in-law of Liam O'Donovan, Community.
- The family of Ann Hickey, mother of Barry Hickey, General Operative, and wife of Martin Hickey (retired employee).
- The family of Paddy Rochford, Pondfields, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Peggy Foran (née Rowe), Pondfields, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Cian Curtin, Monaleen, Limerick (formerly Wexford), son of Don Curtin (retired employee).
- The family of Eugene Crosbie, Tomnalossett, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Fr. Richard Hayes, Cullenstown, Duncormick, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Myra Rawson (née O'Callaghan), Waterford City.

Congratulations:

- Cllr. J. Fleming congratulated the Wexford Senior Hurling team on winning their opening three Allianz League matches.
- Cllr. A. Browne congratulated Templeshannon Community and Childcare Centre in Enniscorthy on being designated as a family resource centre. Cllr. Browne also commended Ms. A.M. Laffan on all her hard work on this project.
- Cllr. V. Barron congratulated the HFC Concert Band who are celebrating their 100th anniversary.
- Cllr. V. Barron congratulated the Wexford girl guides group who are preparing to celebrate their 80th anniversary.
- Cllr. V. Barron congratulated Castle Vintage Club in Taghmon who presented cheques to a number of community groups recently.
- Cllr. J. Codd congratulated Rathangan Vintage Club who donated the funds from their Annual Light Up Run to Kilmore Quay RNLI.
- Cllr. J. Owens congratulated Rebecca Byrne, who set up a GoFundMe page to raise funds for the households who had their valuables and homes damaged by the flood water in Enniscorthy.

1. Oylegate to Rosslare Road, N11 / N25 and Rosslare Europort Access Road - Progress Update

Mr. E. Hore outlined Mr. Bratislav Dimitrijevic's role in co-ordinating the project. Mr. Hore praised the work of Mr. Dimitrijevic in delivering this critical infrastructure for Wexford.

Mr. B. Dimitrijevic gave an update on the Oylegate to Rosslare Road, N11/N25 outlining the:

1. Project Context
2. Design & Environmental Evaluation Process – Phase 3
3. Proposed Alignment
 - River Slaney Bridge
 - Rail Protection Structure
 - Online Service Area
 - Active Travel Provisions
4. Landowner Engagement
5. Current programme - timelines

Mr. B. Dimitrijevic then gave an update on the Rosslare Europort Access Road outlining the:

1. Overview of Existing & Planned Future Infrastructural Developments in Rosslare Harbour
2. Enabling and Procurement – Phase 5
3. Current programme - timelines

Mr. E. Hore and Mr. B. Dimitrijevic responded to a wide range of queries from the Elected Members regarding the following:

- Frustration expressed at the length of time the project is taking and some of the communication with landowners.
- Request that the route be finalised to give certainty to landowners.
- Update sought on timelines.
- When will construction commence?
- When will engagement with landowners be completed?
- Is the active travel piece fully segregated from the carriageway?
- Will the new bridge accommodate active travel?
- How many parcels of land still require agreement to be reached?
- How will access to property be maintained during construction?
- Can anything be done to expedite matters in relation to the properties being CPO'd?
- Do you envisage anything that could slow down the project in the future?

Mr. E. Hore thanked Mr. B. Dimitrijevic for his presentation and update.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Codd, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, the Council resolved to suspend standing orders to consider motions in accordance with standing order no. 20 which states:

“Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Standing Orders a motion may be proposed without notice for the purpose of dealing with urgent business related to a function of the local authority, subject to the requirement that not less than 18 members vote in favour.”

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan welcomed an IFA deputation to the Chamber and advised that there are motions to be considered in relation to the current impasse between the IFA and Bord Bia pertaining to Mr. Larry Murrin's position as Chair of Bord Bia.

Cllr. J. Codd proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan:

“Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and the Marine to intervene in The Board Bia dispute and ask that its Chairman Larry Murrin be removed.”

Cllr. P. Breen proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny:

“Wexford County Council calls on the Taoiseach, Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and the Marine, Bord Bia, the IFA, and other relevant farming organisations to meet immediately to resolve the ongoing dispute regarding the Chairmanship of Bord Bia.”

Mr. M. Drea informed the meeting that each motion would require a minimum of 18 votes to allow the motion to be put to the Council without notice for the purpose of dealing with urgent business. On a show of hands, 18 Councillors voted in favour of Cllr. J. Codd’s motion, thereby allowing the motion to be put to the Council. On a show of hands, Cllr. P. Breen’s motion did not receive the minimum requirement of 18 votes and was therefore not put to the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Codd, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, and on foot of a roll call vote, the Council resolved to pass the following motion:

“Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and the Marine to intervene in The Board Bia dispute and ask that its Chairman Larry Murrin be removed.”

The result of the vote was 21 in favour, 4 against, and 5 abstained. The voting was as follows:

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

The meeting adjourned for a comfort break at this point.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 County Council Meeting 12th January, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. C. Doyle the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the County Council Meeting on 12th January, 2026.

2.2 Special County Council Meeting (Planning) 26th January, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. V. Barron the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the Special County Council Meeting (Planning) on 26th January, 2026.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. M. Murphy expressed the view that he didn't believe the Cathaoirleach asked the correct question when seeking legal advice in relation to solar farms. Cllr. M. Sheehan and Cllr. A.R. O'Brien also expressed dissatisfaction.

Cllr. J. Dwyer and Cllr. L. McDonald advised that there may need to be a variation of the County Development Plan to deal with the issue of solar farms. Mr. E. Taaffe suggested that work could commence considering the variation required to the County Development Plan to deal with this matter. Mr. Taaffe advised that the SPC is the most appropriate forum to consider any such variation.

Cllr. T. Forde requested that the operating procedure for the Tenant in Situ scheme be circulated to the Members.

Cllr. T. Forde queried if reminders are sent when a response isn't received to a motion.

3. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:

3.1 Intention to dispose of property known as The Old Post Office, The Oil, Oylegate, Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming the Council resolved to dispose of property known as The Old Post Office, The Oil, Oylegate, Wexford in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3.2 Intention to dispose of property at 25 John Street, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. B. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. J. Dwyer the Council resolved to dispose of property at 25 John Street, New Ross, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3.3 Intention to enter into a lease in respect of property at Crescent Quay, Wexford Town.

On the proposal of Cllr. R. Shannon, seconded by Cllr. V. Barron the Council resolved to enter into a lease with the Maker's House in respect of a property at Crescent Quay, Wexford Town in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

4. Section 291 Planning and Development Act 2000 (amended) notification of proposed development of Rosslare Europort Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Hub, An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: OA26.323952

Ms. L. Hore informed the Council that in accordance with Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (amended) we have been notified of the proposed development of Rosslare Europort Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Hub by An Coimisiún Pleanála (Case reference: OA26.323952) as a statutory consultee.

Ms. Hore advised that the Council can approve the circulated report or resolve to add recommendations which will be attached to the report which is being sent to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Dwyer, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly, the Council resolved to approve the circulated report which is to be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

5. Audit Committee Annual Reports - For Noting

The Council noted the following Audit Committee Annual Reports:

1. Consideration by the Audit Committee of the Audited Financial Statement (AFS) for 2024 and the Local Government Auditor's Statutory Report on the accounts of Wexford County Council for 2024.
2. Wexford County Council Audit Committee Annual Report 2025
3. Audit Committee Work Programme 2026

6. Invitation to London Wexford Association Annual Dinner Dance 2026 - 11th April, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Dwyer, seconded by Cllr. J. Owens, the Council resolved to accept the invitation to send a delegation to the London Wexford Association Annual Dinner Dance on 11th April, 2026.

7. Approval sought for delegation to travel to KIMO Board Meeting Sweden - May, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. V. Barron, the Council resolved to send a delegation to the KIMO Board Meeting in Sweden on the 7th to 8th May, 2026.

8. Nomination to Education and Training Board following resignation of Councillor Darragh McDonald

Mr. M. Drea informed the Council that Mr. Darragh McDonald had indicated his intention to step down from the Education and Training Board. On the proposal of Cllr. O. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. F. Staples, and agreed by all, the Council resolved to nominate Cllr. P. Byrne to replace Cllr. D. McDonald on the Education and Training Board.

9. 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:

- Cllr. J. Owens congratulated Minister J. Browne on the 145 units which are to be delivered in Enniscorthy.
- Request that Housing accept a letter from a GP in relation to conditions such as autism rather than insisting on a consultant's report.
- How many people have been refused accommodation by the HSSU and what are the reasons for refusal?
- Request for increased housing delivery in the Rosslare MD.
- It was stated that no Sinn Féin Councillor in Wexford has objected to housing planning applications contrary to some recent comments in the local media.
- Has Wexford County Council considered flood barriers in flood affected areas?
- Query if a letter from a parent stating that their child cannot remain in the family home will be sufficient to allow the child to apply for social housing.
- Does the Council have regard to the delays in getting cases to Court during covid when considering the 5-year timeline for convictions when allocating properties?
- Is it Council policy that we do not sell bungalows or modified bungalows?
- Ms. C. Godkin was complimented for the Housing departments engagement with the Cornmarket project.
- Update sought in relation to the site in Taghmon which is currently under the control of an AHB.
- Can Cost Rental Housing be pushed more in Wexford?
- Update sought on Kilmore Business Park.
- Update sought on John St. Grain Store.
- Query if there is anything the Planning department can do to assist people who have short term lets as they must now register their properties and the registration is linked to having the correct planning in place.
- View expressed that short term lets contribute significantly to the local economy.
- Timeline for variation of County Development Plan for Wexford?
- Concern expressed in relation to new European legislation which will restrict the number of pollock which can be caught which will detrimentally impact marine tourism, particularly in Kilmore.

- It was welcomed that Lot 4 of the greenway project is now going to planning. If funding is secured for the MUGA and skatepark, can these progress at the same time as Lot 4?
- When will the list of estates to be taken in charge in 2026 be available?
- Request for an updated derelict sites list.
- Mr. E. Hore was thanked for improvements made to Maide Beg.
- Concern was raised in relation to letters which issued to electors asking them to update their personal details for the register of electors. Some people were worried that it was a scam and others were worried that they may be removed from the register.
- Request that the County Childcare Committee be brought in for a discussion with a focus on how Wexford can secure one of the eight national childcare facilities that are to be provided.
- When will the mental health first aid training be rolled out?
- Would Wexford County Council consider purchasing its own road marker? The view was expressed that the quality of some of the road marking is poor.
- Have the new road gritters been acquired yet?
- Update sought on the new speed limit signs which are to be erected at Clohamon and Ballycarney junctions.
- Is the Bunclody inner relief road currently being designed? Can bus shelters be included in the design?
- Frustration expressed at the lack of funding for roads.
- Update sought on the low-cost safety measures scheme.
- Request for the locations of the bus shelters to be provided through the bus stop enhancement scheme.
- Update sought on the Castlebridge active travel scheme.
- View expressed that a blanket speed limit reduction shouldn't be applied to the N80 to deal with two junctions (Ballycarney & Clohamon).
- Request for bus shelters to be provided outside Good Counsel College in New Ross and the Horse and Hound in Ballinaboola.
- View expressed that there needs to be an increase in the number of outdoor staff for roads.
- Update sought on issues at Harbour View, Maudlintown.

10. Minutes of CPG

10.1 Minutes of CPG Meeting 3rd February, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Barden, seconded by Cllr. R. Staples, the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the CPG Meeting on 3rd February, 2026.

11. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting)

- 11.1 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 16th December, 2025
- 11.2 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 10th December, 2025
- 11.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 15th December, 2025
- 11.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 16th December, 2025
- 11.5 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 17th December, 2025
- 11.6 Planning and Building Control SPC – 24th November, 2025
- 11.7 Climate Change, Biodiversity & Environment SPC Meeting - 28th November, 2025

The Members noted the minutes, as circulated.

12. Correspondence and Communications

- 12.1 Letter from Sligo County Council dated 15th January, 2026

The Members noted the correspondence, as circulated

13. Councillor's Conferences and Training

- 13.1 List of Conferences / Training

Training:

- | | |
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| 19 th February | AILG Module 1 Training "From Policy to Practice; What Local Authorities in Ireland can offer to support disabled people and an ageing population".

Out of region: Fairways Hotel, Dundalk. Fee €100 |
| 21 st February | AILG Module 1 Training "From Policy to Practice; What Local Authorities in Ireland can offer to support disabled people and an ageing population".

Southern region: Kilkenny. Fee €100 |
| 19 th March | AILG Module 2 Training "Briefing of new housing plan 'Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030'"

Southern region: The Radisson Blu, Limerick. Fee €100 |
| 21 st March | AILG Module 2 Training "Briefing of new housing plan 'Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030'"

Out of region: Radisson Blu, Sligo. Fee €100 |
| 22 nd /23 rd April | AILG Annual Training Conference |

Hotel Minella, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Fee: €190

Conferences:

6th – 8th March Celtic Conferences “The Evolving Role of AI in Public Relations”
Carlingford, Co. Louth. Fee €130

8th – 10th May Drogheda Civic Trust Summer School 2026.
St. Peter’s Church of Ireland Hall, Drogheda. Fee €160

On the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, the Council resolved to approve attendance at the above listed training and conferences.

13.2 Conference Reports

- Cllr. John O'Rourke - Celtic Conferences "The Finance Act 2025", Carlingford, Co. Louth

The Members noted the conference report as circulated.

14. Notices of Motion

14.1 Cllr. A.R. O'Brien

“Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Justice to ensure that Jennie’s Law:

1. Explicitly includes the following offences within its remit:
 - Harassment
 - Stalking
 - Financial abuse
 - Coercive control
 - Sexual assault
 - Intimate image abuse
2. Provides for the publication of offenders’ names for a period of up to ten (10) years, rather than the currently proposed three (3) years, in order to better protect victims, enhance public safety, and act as a meaningful deterrent.
3. Includes convictions for breaches of domestic violence orders, including but not limited to safety orders, barring orders, protection orders, and interim barring orders, as qualifying offences under the legislation.

Wexford County Council further affirms that domestic and sexual violence are serious violations of human rights and that legislation must reflect the lived reality of victims by recognising the full range of abusive behaviours and ensuring accountability for perpetrators and serial perpetrators.”

Cllr. V. Barron proposed the following amendment which was accepted by Cllr. A.R. O'Brien:

“Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Justice to ensure that Jennie’s Law:

1. Explicitly includes the following offences within its remit:
 - Harassment
 - Stalking
 - Financial abuse
 - Coercive control
 - Sexual assault
 - Intimate image abuse
2. Provides for the publication of the names of persons convicted of offences for a period of up to ten (10) years, rather than the currently proposed three (3) years, and further provides that such publication shall apply retrospectively to persons previously convicted of these offences, rather than being limited to future convictions only, in order to better protect victims, enhance public safety, and act as a meaningful deterrent.
3. Includes convictions for breaches of domestic violence orders, including but not limited to safety orders, barring orders, protection orders, and interim barring orders, as qualifying offences under the legislation.

Wexford County Council further affirms that domestic and sexual violence are serious violations of human rights and that legislation must reflect the lived reality of victims by recognising the full range of abusive behaviours and ensuring accountability for perpetrators and serial perpetrators.”

On the proposal of Cllr. A.R. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. V. Barron, and agreed by all, the amended motion was carried.

14.2 Cllr. P. Kehoe & Cllr. P. Byrne

“That this Council calls on the Government to task Irish Public Bodies (IPB) with the provision of insurance cover for residential and commercial properties that are unable to obtain insurance from commercial insurers due to previous flooding events or because they are located within designated flood risk zones.

This Council acknowledges that the risk profile of such properties makes it uneconomic for the private insurance market to provide cover on a commercial basis. In that context, the Council further calls on the Minister for Finance to introduce a modest, ring-fenced insurance levy to establish and support a national flood insurance claims fund, which would underpin the provision of such cover and ensure long term sustainability.

This Council believes that access to insurance is essential for the protection of homeowners, businesses, community viability, and local economic resilience, and that a state supported mechanism is required to address this market failure.”

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Kehoe, seconded by Cllr. P. Byrne, and agreed by all, the motion was carried. It was further agreed that this motion will be circulated to all local authorities.

14.3 Cllr. B.A. Murphy & Cllr. A. Browne

"We call on Wexford Co Council to immediately begin to install temporary / interim flood defence measures in Enniscorthy and Bunclody and secure the necessary funding."

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Browne, and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

14.4 Cllr. T. Forde and Cllr. AR O' Brien.

"That this Council, acknowledging the severe flooding experienced in Enniscorthy and Bridgetown and the significant financial hardship now faced by affected residents and businesses, agrees to provide an amnesty on commercial rates and local authority rent for tenants whose homes or premises have been impacted by the recent flooding, for an appropriate and defined period."

This motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde and seconded by Cllr. A.R. O'Brien.

Cllr. M. Sheehan proposed the following amendment which was accepted by Cllr. T. Forde.

"That this Council, acknowledging the severe flooding experienced in Enniscorthy and Bridgetown and the significant financial hardship now faced by affected residents and businesses, agrees to provide flexibility on commercial rates and local authority rent for tenants whose homes or premises have been impacted by the recent flooding, for an appropriate and defined period."

The amended motion was agreed by all and carried.

14.5 Cllr. J. Fleming & Cllr. B. Murphy

"That this Council has no confidence in the Road Safety Authority (RSA) in its current form.

This Council notes that 185 people lost their lives on Irish roads in 2025, with further fatalities already recorded in 2026.

This Council further notes that County Wexford has 12,456 learner permit holders as of September 2025, representing an increase of 547 learner permit holders in the six-month period between March and September 2025, highlighting ongoing failures in the driver testing system that are placing particular pressure on young people and rural communities.

This Council notes that the Government accepted the findings of the Indecon Report into the Road Safety Authority, but that these recommendations have not been implemented.

Accordingly, this Council calls on the Minister for Transport to urgently re-evaluate the role, structure, and accountability of the Road Safety Authority, to implement the Indecon

recommendations in full, and to refocus national road safety policy on practical, evidence-based measures, including engineering, infrastructure, and enforcement.”

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. B. Murphy, and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

14.6 Cllr. B.A. Murphy, Cllr. A. Browne, Cllr. G. Laffan, Cllr. L. McDonald Cllr. J. Fleming, Cllr. P. Breen and Cllr. D. Kenny

“We call on the minister for transport to immediately provide vital funds to repair and restore the road network in Co. Wexford following Storm Chandra.”

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen, and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

14.7 Cllr. T. Forde

"That this council/local authority call upon Government to enact legislation to systematically, sustainably and steadily increase the provision of Irish-medium education so that future generations of Irish children will have the opportunity to be educated through their national language, if they so desire."

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. C. Doyle, and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

15. A.O.B.

Cllr. T. Forde informed the Council that there are two ladies staging weekly silent fasts inside County Hall in an act of solidarity with the people of Gaza. Cllr. Forde advised that they are available to meet any of the Councillors at any stage.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUISINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an

lá de Márta, 2026.

Cllr. Joe Sullivan

Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,

County Secretary