

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 12th January, 2026 in the Council Chamber at 2.30pm (with some remote attendance)

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. Joe Sullivan, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors:

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

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:

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan acknowledged the passing of Larry Donohoe, father of Cllr. A. Donohoe, and extended the sympathy of the Council to the Donohoe family. Cllr. Sullivan said Mr. Donohoe was a farmer, and a businessman, but first and foremost, he was a family man, and a gentleman.

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Rose Wall, mother of David Wall, Executive Planner, Planning Section
- The family of Laurence (Larry) Colfer, father of Anna Marie Colfer, Finance Section
- The family of Nicholas (Nick) Moore, father of Liam Moore, Clerk of Works, Housing Construction.
- The family of Eamon Manning, father of Eamon Manning, Ganger, Enniscorthy Municipal District and Father-in Law of Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer, Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District.
- The family of James Kehoe, father-in-law of Josephine Kehoe, Bunclody Library.
- The family of Noel Byrne, St. John's Villas, Enniscorthy father of Noel Byrne, Holmestown.
- The family of Rory Shortall, Shroughmore, Ballindaggin, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Anne Doyle, Monamolin, Rathnure, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.
- The family of John (Pasty) Foley, Windswept, Duncannon, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Jason Roche, Caisleán Maol, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Joe Funge, Hollyfort Road, Gorey, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Aidan Kent, Woodland Grove, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Betty Cass, 80 Charleton Hill, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Michael Cooney, formerly Corrigeen, Rathnure, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

Congratulations:

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan welcomed Cllr. V. Barron back to the Chamber after her recent illness. Cllr. Sullivan also wished Cllr. P. Kavanagh a speedy recovery. Cllr. P. Barden extended his best wishes to Cllr. R. Shannon who is also recovering from illness.

- Cllr. J. Codd congratulated the farmers who attended the Mercosur protest.
- Cllr. J. Fleming congratulated Charlie Tector and Brian Deeny on their recent performances with the Leinster Senior Rugby team.
- Cllr. J. O'Rourke congratulated Eamonn Furlong who refereed the AIB All-Ireland Club Junior Hurling Championship final.
- Cllr. M. Sheehan congratulated all district staff on how well the towns were presented for Christmas.

- Cllr. M. Sheehan congratulated Ed Murphy on the work he is undertaking as President of the Chamber of Commerce.
- Cllr. C. Walsh congratulated Kalib Walshe who won a silver medal at the European U17 boxing championship.
- Cllr. V. Barron congratulated the Wexford Soroptimists who welcomed over 300 women to the Ferrycarrig Hotel to celebrate Nollaig na mBan raising awareness and funds for the Wexford Rape Crisis Centre.
- Cllr. P. Barden congratulated Sean Kelly who won gold in the 52kg category at the European U17 boxing championship.
- Cllr. M. Sheehan congratulated all those involved in achieving such positive results in the latest Irish Business Against Litter survey.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 County Council Meeting 8th December, 2025

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the County Council Meeting on 8th December, 2025.

Matters Arising:

Cllr.'s M. Murphy, J. Codd, G. Carthy, L. McDonald and M. Sheehan enquired if the Cathaoirleach had obtained legal opinion in relation to a material contravention of the County Development Plan to curb the extent of solar farms in County Wexford, as requested at the December Plenary meeting. Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan informed the Council that he hasn't obtained a legal opinion but committed to so doing.

Cllr. M. Sheehan asked that the legal opinion be circulated to all Councillors. Cllr. M. Sheehan also enquired if there is a planner dedicated to dealing with significant planning applications. There was a commitment given that the legal opinion will be shared and clarification that the distribution of planning files is a matter for the Executive.

Cllr. J. Codd raised the issue of ducting into an estate and the access companies have to that ducting. Cllr. Codd read an extract from a letter from Eir and enquired what Wexford County Council can do to ensure all companies have access to the ducting provided in estates, raising concerns that Wexford County Council could be indirectly contributing to the creation of a monopoly. Chief Executive Mr. E. Taaffe committed to ensuring services are provided in accordance with national best practice.

Cllr. L. McDonald thanked those from around the County who supported St. Martin's in their All-Ireland series run and called on the Cathaoirleach to host a civic reception in their honour. Cllr.'s P. Barden and J. Owens asked that Davidstown Courtnacuddy be included in any civic reception.

2. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:

2.1 Intention to dispose of property at 2A & 5 Mary Street, Wexford Town.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. V. Barron the Council resolved to dispose of property at 2A & 5 Mary Street, Wexford Town in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

2.2 Intention to issue a Deed of Easement to Wexford Football League over lands at Killagoley.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Browne, seconded by Cllr. J. O'Rourke the Council resolved to issue a Deed of Easement to Wexford Football League over lands at Killagoley in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3. Report on Public Consultation Submissions relating to the use of CCTV for Litter & Waste Enforcement Purposes – For Noting

The Councillors noted the report on public consultation submissions relating to the use of CCTV for litter & waste enforcement purposes, at the following locations:

Site 1. Tesco Bring Banks, Distillery Road, Wexford Town.

Site 2. Tesco Bring Banks, Gorey Corporation Lands, Gorey Town.

Site 3. Tesco Bring Banks, Hewittsland, New Ross Town.

Site 4. Bring Banks, Old Railway Depot, Wellingtonbridge Village.

Site 5. Priory Lane, New Ross.

Site 6. Turret Rocks, Esmonde Road, Enniscorthy Town.

The meeting adjourned at this point for a comfort break and to resolve sound issues impacting those attending remotely.

4. Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026

Mr. E. Taaffe informed the Elected Members that the Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2026 was reformatted and reduced in length to make it more accessible whilst still capturing all services.

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

- What is the timeline for housing repairs to be carried out?
- The reduction in length was welcomed but the view was expressed that additional information such as the Corporate Plan strategic themes were unnecessary.

- Observation that the agricultural sector didn't appear to be reflected in the Annual Service Delivery Plan.
- Query if there was any reference to the advance factory for New Ross.
- Query if essential housing repairs are carried out regardless of whether there are arrears on the rent account.
- Request for a commitment that DRCD staff will deliver projects such as T&V, and ORIS.
- Query if replacement of doors will be funded through the Housing Aid for Older People grant.
- Ms. C. Godkin, Mr. S. O'Connor and their staff in housing were thanked for their work over the Christmas period.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy, the Council resolved to adopt the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026.

5. Proposed Amendment to Standing Orders

Mr. M. Drea informed the Elected Representatives that having considered a motion which was referred to it, the Protocol Committee recommended that standing orders be amended to include the following paragraph:

"In the wording of any Notice of Motion, the name of any Minister shall not be included. Instead, the appropriate title of the Minister shall be used. This applies to all references within the motion, and where applicable, the full title, such as The Minister for [Department], or The Minister of State for [Department] must be used, ensuring consistency and formality in the motion's language."

On the proposal of Cllr. O. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy and following a show of hands, the Council resolved to amend standing orders to include the paragraph recommended by the Protocol Committee.

6. 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:

- Update sought on when the public information event for the RAS will be held?
- Wexford Women's Action Group were commended for distributing eighty hampers.
- Request for Wexford County Council to invite MABS in to advise families in relation to their finances.
- Query why a lady in emergency accommodation would be advised that she must vacate in two months.

- Query if rent arrears must be reduced to a certain amount before housing repairs will be undertaken.
- What maintenance works are tenants entitled to if their rent account is in arrears?
- Request that the operating procedure for the Tenant in Situ scheme be circulated to the Members.
- When will the construction of the four houses in Adamstown commence?
- Update sought on the timeline for the construction of the houses in the Lyre.
- Query if Part V units can be sold through the affordable housing scheme to those who fall outside the social housing income limits.
- Has the Department provided any update on when revised social housing income limits will be published?
- Timeline for delivery of social housing units in Carrig on Bannow?
- Timeline for delivery of social housing units in Taghmon?
- Housing staff commended for their work over the Christmas break.
- Collaboration between the Housing Department and Cornmarket Project was welcomed.
- The launch of the affordable housing units in Enniscorthy was welcomed.
- Request for an update to be provided to the Borough Municipal District on Trinity Wharf.
- Request that the list of applications for estates to be taken in charge be circulated to the Members.
- Request that roads be upgraded in advance of major housing developments to ensure they can cope with increased traffic.

Cllr. J. Owens left the meeting at this point.

- Query if anything can be done to facilitate local tradespeople to work on heritage projects such as the Cathedral in the Field which could result in better value for money. It was claimed the protection requirements are resulting in projects not being worked on.
- Request for clarity in relation to planning for log cabins/modular units.
- Request that the pages of the Chief Executive report be numbered.
- Planning staff complimented for reducing the wait times for pre-planning meetings.
- Request for updated list of derelict sites by district.
- What department will be responsible for mapping the inner relief road in Bunclody and what is the timeline?
- Is Parkfield estate in New Ross is to be taken in charge?
- Can Wexford County Council force Respond to carry out works to the Mercy Convent building through the derelict sites legislation?

- What obligations do planners have to have regard to submissions made on a planning application?
- Can the Council acquire derelict houses in rural areas?
- Update sought on the regulations regarding the use of saunas in beach areas.
- The Council was congratulated on the successful town and village projects which were approved.
- Timeline sought for taking in charge of estates in New Ross.
- Request that the increase in the Croí Conaithe grant be publicised.
- Query if Wexford County Council is still utilising the original URDF funding for acquiring derelict properties or are we accessing the revolving fund at present.
- Who is responsible for cutting hedges?
- Who enforces it, if hedges aren't cut?
- Timeline for audit report on Larkin's Cross.
- Request for an update on the N11/N25 project at the February Plenary meeting.
- When will the low-cost measures scheme be available and what works will Wexford County Council be applying for under it.
- Query why the speed would be reduced on 15km of road when the issues at Ballycarney and Clohamon are confined to 800 metres.
- Request that Wexford County Council consider improving lighting or provide cats eyes on the road at the Ferns Centre of Excellence.
- Request for reports on low smoke fuel areas.
- Wexford County Council staff commended for gritting of roads.
- When will new gritter be delivered?
- Request for cycle lane from Bunclody to Clohamon.
- Timeline for works at Clohamon and Ballycarney junctions.
- Request that manholes be raised and collapsed culvert be repaired on the N80.
- Request for a bus stop in Bunclody.
- Proposed works at Larkin's Cross welcomed.
- When will there be an outcome from the Bridgetown flood plan?
- View expressed that Ardinagh Lane will have to be closed if repair works aren't undertaken.
- Is the Wexford to Waterford rail line not going to be returned to use, and if so, what plans do we have for it?
- Do we have any sense of the resilience of the ESB network?
- View expressed that there is a lot of frustration with the length of time road repairs such as filling potholes last and if these works represent value for money.
- Update sought on active travel plans for New Ross.

Cllr. M. Murphy left the meeting at this point.

- Request that the broadband officer review the network coverage in the industrial estate in New Ross.

7. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting)

- 7.1 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 18th November, 2025
- 7.2 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 12th November, 2025
- 7.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 17th November, 2025
- 7.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 18th November, 2025
- 7.5 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 19th November, 2025
- 7.6 Protocol Committee Meeting – 10th February, 2025
- 7.7 Economic Development & Enterprise SPC – 8th October, 2025

The Members noted the minutes, as circulated.

8. Correspondence and Communications

- 8.1 Letters from Clare County Council re: motions dated 9th December, 2025
- 8.2 Letter from Carlow County Council re: motion dated 10th December, 2025

The Members noted the correspondence, as circulated

9. Councillor's Conferences and Training

9.1 List of Conferences / Training

Training:

25/26 February Association of Irish Regions (AIR), Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal. Fee €245

Conferences:

16/17/18 January Celtic Conferences "The Finance Act 2025", Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth. Fee €130

6/7/8 February Celtic Conferences "Misinformation, Disinformation and Fake News – Finding the Truth". O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork – Fee €130

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

9.2 Delegation Reports

Report of Cllr. Jim Codd who attended the LTACC Conference on 13th November, 2025 in the Ashling Hotel, Dublin.

The Members noted the delegation reports as circulated.

10. Notices of Motion

10.1 Cllr. T. Forde, Cllr. A.R. O'Brien and Cllr. C. Doyle

"This council recognises the plight of the Irish Fisheries and the injustice at the heart of the Common Fisheries Policy.

We ask the Irish government and all representatives to adopt a wholly different approach in Brussels and to move from a soft touch diplomatic stance to hardball negotiations and request;

Efforts to make access to EU waters and markets conditional on respecting shared stock management and to penalise non-EU states like Norway and Iceland that overfish shared stocks.

The full application of the Hague Preferences to allow Ireland a higher proportional quota for certain species when stocks fall below critical levels, and the condemnation of other states who have blocked this.

A substantial emergency financial rescue package from the Irish government and the EU to mitigate the immediate impact of severe quota cuts and job losses, including the utilisation of the remaining Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR) funds and using available EU fuel subsidies.

A fair allocation of quotas that reflects Ireland's significant marine territory (12% of EU waters, but less than 6% of the quotas), rather than historical catch levels (relative stability) which disadvantage the country."

This motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. J. Codd and agreed by all.

10.2 Cllr. M. Sheehan

"That this Councils calls on the Government to fast-track and publish the Legislation outlawing the use of anonymous social media accounts, profiles and user/chat groups on all social media platforms.

Upon adoption, the motion is forwarded to all local authorities for consideration."

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

10.3 Cllr. B.A. Murphy

"I call on Wexford Co. Council to introduce Irish sign language at Council events such as civic receptions and so on. This could start initially in a pilot basis and rolled out when sufficient numbers of staff are trained to meeting demand".

This motion wasn't moved.

10.4 Cllr. A. Browne

"Calls on the council to change its policy of disallowing tenants from purchasing bungalows in town areas under the tenant purchase scheme."

This motion was proposed by Cllr. A. Browne, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny and carried on a show of hands.

10.5 Cllr. A.R. O'Brien

"Wexford County Council calls on the Government to honour the long-standing policy of Irish military neutrality by committing to hold a national referendum on Irish neutrality, thereby allowing the people of Ireland to democratically determine the future status, meaning, and scope of neutrality in Irish foreign and defence policy.

Wexford County Council further calls on the Government to refrain from any further actions that would fundamentally alter Ireland's policy of neutrality without the explicit consent of the people through such a referendum."

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

10.6 Cllr. T. Forde

"This Council recognises that:

- the reunification of Ireland is an objective of Bunreacht na hÉireann; and
- there is a growing national discussion around constitutional change with people from diverse backgrounds now exploring the possibility of Irish unity;

notes that:

- the Good Friday Agreement 1998 provides the democratic and peaceful means to achieve reunification through the provision of unity referendums;
- the significant Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement report "Perspectives on Constitutional Change: Finance and Economics", recommends the establishment of Citizen Assemblies and other relevant forums, a designated Joint Oireachtas Committee and a Government Department to take responsibility for planning and preparing for constitutional change, received cross-party support;

And will write to the Office of An Taoiseach, seeking the Irish Government to plan and prepare for Irish unity, through the following actions:

- establish an all-island representative Citizens' Assembly or Assemblies, to allow for informed debate, and a Joint Oireachtas Committee on Irish Unity to enable careful planning;
- produce and publish a plan towards Irish unity in conjunction with civic society and key stakeholders;
- engage with northern protestant and unionist opinion about the future of Ireland; and
- work to secure a date for the referendums on unity provided for in the Good Friday Agreement."

This motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. C. Doyle and agreed by all.

10.7 Cllr. M. Sheehan

That this Council calls on the Government and the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities to review the criteria and assistance available to families who are registered and accepted onto the Vulnerable Customer Priority list.

This motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. R. Staples and agreed by all.

11. A.O.B.

There was no other business.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an

lá de Feabhra, 2026.

Cllr. Joe Sullivan

Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,

County Secretary