

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 8th June, 2026 in the Council Chamber at 2.30pm (with some remote attendance)

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. Joe Sullivan, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors:

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

Officials:

Mr. Seamus Begley, A/Director of Finance

Mr. Michael Drea, County Secretary

Ms. Carolynne Godkin, Director of Services

Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services

Mr. Diarmuid Houston, A/Director of Services

Mr. Alan Quirke, Director of Services

Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Chief Executive

Apologies: Ms. Liz Hore, Director of Services, Ms. Lynda Lacey, Director of Finance

Votes of sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Amy Heffernan, IT Section.
- The family of Brigid Carton, mother of Alan Carton, Machinery Yard, Enniscorthy.
- The family of Patrick Francis (Fran) Breen, Former Employee, Enniscorthy Municipal District.
- The family of John Ralph, brother of Mairin Ralph, retired staff member and uncle of Rory O'Neill, Planning Department.
- The family of Bridget Moran, mother of Aishling Doyle, Credit Control, and sister-in-law of Catriona O'Sullivan, Arts Department.
- The family Fintan O'Neill, father of Alan O'Neill, Chief Fire Officer.
- The family of Eileen Chapman (née Moran), mother of Christine Hanlon, HR Section.
- The family of Vinnie O'Sullivan, The Shop, Weafer Street, Enniscorthy, Wexford.
- The family of Sean O'Rourke, 22 Ross Road, Enniscorthy, Wexford, uncle of Cllr. John O'Rourke.
- The family of Anne O'Rourke (née Lacey), 11 Fr. Murphy Park, Enniscorthy, Wexford, aunt in law of Cllr. John O'Rourke.
- The family of John Corish, Redshire Road, Murrintown, Wexford.
- The family of Pat Nolan, McMurragh Court, Bosheen, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Helen Deegan, Parkfield, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Geraldine Geoghegan, Ard-Na-Gréine, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

Congratulations:

- Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan congratulated Gorey Rangers on winning the Wexford Premier Division title and nine other adult titles this year.
- Cllr. V. Barron congratulated the Rape Crisis Centre on their Midsummer Ladies Lunch fundraiser.
- Cllr. J. Owens congratulated Paul Nolan on training three winners at the recent meeting at Wexford racecourse.
- Cllr. J. Owens congratulated Enniscorthy Utd. on their promotion to the Premier Division.

- Cllr. J. Owens congratulated the Irish Senior Ladies Football team on their recent World Cup qualifier defeat of the Netherlands.
- Cllr. J. Codd congratulated Rebecca Whitty, Kamila Demyter and Ana Nistor who are the founders of Rare Warriors Wexford on their recent fundraiser and the great work they do.
- Cllr. J. Codd congratulated the Wexford indie band The Wires who secured a slot to play Electric Picnic by winning a local Battle of the Bands competition.
- Cllr. J. Fleming congratulated Aidan O'Brien who trained Christmas Day to win his 12th Derby at Epsom.
- Cllr. J. Fleming congratulated all the recent County Wexford Business Award winners.
- Cllr. J. Fleming congratulated Ger Rochford who was an award winner at the Marks & Spencer's Farming for the Future event.
- Cllr.'s A. Browne, J. Owens, and P. Barden congratulated Cllr. N. Boland on his highly successful football refereeing career following his recent retirement.
- Cllr. P. Barden congratulated the Wexford footballers who claimed a Tailteann Cup quarter-final spot after defeating Leitrim.
- Cllr.'s M. Sheehan and J. Dwyer congratulated the organisers of the recent AIMS Choral Festival in New Ross.
- Cllr. M. Sheehan congratulated Mick McCormack, Eamonn Hore, and Eddie Taaffe on the recent national Town Regeneration Officer event held in New Ross.
- Cllr. G. Laffan congratulated the HFC Concert Band on their centenary celebrations in Wexford.
- Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan congratulated Tony Dempsey on being inducted into the Leinster GAA Hall of Fame for his outstanding service to the GAA as an administrator, team manager, trainer, and educator.
- Cllr. J. O'Rourke congratulated Eamon Furlong who refereed the Joe McDonagh Cup Final and James Owens who refereed the Munster Senior Hurling Final.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan welcomed Mr. Aidan Delaney who has recently taken up a role with South East Radio.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 County Council Meeting 11th May, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. J. O'Rourke the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the County Council Meeting on 11th May, 2026.

1.2 County Council Meeting 9th March, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. V. Barron, seconded by Cllr. J. O'Rourke the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the County Council Meeting on 9th March, 2026.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. V. Barron sought an update on the provision of training on Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV) for all elected members. This was on foot on a motion which was proposed by Cllr.'s V. Barron and B. Murphy and agreed by all at the July 2025 Plenary Meeting. Mr. E. Taaffe advised that the intention is to run the training, the challenge is securing a trainer with the requisite breadth of expertise.

1.3 County Council Meeting 13th April, 2026

These minutes were adopted at the May Plenary meeting.

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

2.1 Intention to dispose of property known as Sawyers Pub, Shannon Quay, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Browne the Council resolved to dispose of a property known as Sawyers Pub, Shannon Quay, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

2.2 Intention to dispose of property known as The Old House Pub, 6 Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Browne the Council resolved to dispose of a property known as The Old House Pub, 6 Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3. **Part XVI of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended):**

3.1 EL 0039 - The Gorey Market House Festival is a 3-day event on Gorey's Main Street and other venues around Gorey. The music event on the Main Street is one event in a wider package of events forming the festival and that only the music event on the Main Street requires the event licence due to numbers – Main Street, Gorey, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny, the Council resolved to approve the Part XVI to grant an event licence for the music event on Main Street, Gorey, Co. Wexford as part of the Gorey Market House Festival.

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

4.1 LAC2603 - Development of a greenway trailhead and recreational facility at Rosbercon, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the

development of a greenway trailhead and recreational facility at Rosbercon, New Ross, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2603, as circulated.

4.2 LAC2604 - Proposed Beechlawn Road and Clonard Avenue Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the proposed Beechlawn Road and Clonard Avenue Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme in accordance with the terms of LAC2604, as circulated.

There was a lengthy discussion on this matter with safety concerns expressed in relation to contra flow cycle lanes and the crossing of traffic. Mr. E. Taaffe advised that the project will be subject to an independent safety audit before and after the works. Cllr. G. Carty proposed a presentation on current and proposed active travel plans for the county, which was seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald.

4.3 LAC2605 – Development of changing rooms facility with associated site works at Enniscorthy Astro Pitch, Ross Road, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. A. Browne, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the development of changing rooms facility with associated site works at Enniscorthy Astro Pitch, Ross Road, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2605, as circulated.

5. ACP-324230-26. Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Response to An Coimisiún Pleanála for development in the Maritime Area.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, the Council resolved to approve the response as circulated without additional comments to An Coimisiún Pleanála for development in the maritime area pertaining to the proposed installation of the Beaufort sub-sea fibre optic cable system from the terminus of works under the granted Foreshore Licence [FS007361] at the 12 nautical mile (nM) limit to the extent of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the coast of Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford.

6. PPN Sectoral Nomination to Strategic Policy Committee

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell, the Council resolved to appoint Mr. Seamus Murphy as the PPN Community/Voluntary sectoral interest to the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC.

7. Replacement of CIF Representative on Housing Strategic Policy Committee

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. J. Codd, the Council resolved to appoint Mr. Douglas Taylor as the CIF sectoral interest to the Housing SPC replacing Mr. Daniel Nichol, who has stepped down.

8. Letter of Invitation to "One Festival, Two Countries International Festival", Danville, California, 10th September - 15th September, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. B. Murphy, the Council resolved to send a delegation to the One Festival, Two Countries International Festival in Danville, California in September.

9. Q1 2026 Annual Service Delivery Plan Progress Report - For Noting

The members noted the Q1 2026 Annual Service Delivery Plan Progress Report.

10. 2025 Annual Report - For Adoption

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, the Council resolved to adopt the 2025 annual report.

11. Climate Action Charter - For Noting

The members noted the Climate Action Charter.

12. Chief Executive's Report

Mr. E. Taaffe advised that officials will not discuss personal details at Council meetings, particularly in relation to housing matters, and therefore councillors may, at times, have only partial information available to them. He further referenced a recent incident in which a staff member was subjected to unacceptable and offensive commentary on social media and reminded members of his duty of care to staff. Councillors were asked to be mindful of this in their contributions.

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

- Cllr. G. Carthy thanked the housing staff, acknowledging that they do their best for difficult cases.
- Does Wexford County Council's tenant handbook apply to Cluid and other AHB's? If so, can it be enforced to deal with issues in Roxborough?
- The increase in disability grant funding was welcomed and considering the increased funding how is the scheme progressing?

- The issue of dampness in a Tuath house and the delay in carrying out repairs to a Cluid house was raised. It was queried if Wexford County Council can intervene to assist.
- The housing staff were complimented.
- How many 4 beds in the Lyre housing scheme units that Wexford County Council is acquiring?
- What is the status of the Turret Rocks housing development?
- Query if a housing applicant can have dual housing need for homelessness and medical needs? Observation that housing applicants with complex needs must be treated differently.
- The timeline for the allocation of a property to an 80-year-old woman was queried.
- Query if housing grants forms can be certified by someone other than a doctor as there is often a delay in getting them completed and there is a cost. It was suggested if this isn't permitted, a letter should be sent to the Minister requesting a change.
- Has there been any engagement from Respond in relation to the Mercy convent?
- The Director of Services and housing staff were thanked for their response to anti-social behaviour reports in an estate in New Ross.
- Stephen O'Connor and Michele Bridges Carley were thanked for their quick response in providing accommodation for an elderly man whose property burnt down.
- Does Wexford County Council have many derelict properties? The Council was urged to decide what to do with these properties.
- There was a request to step up proceedings against a tenant who is engaging in anti-social behaviour and has ignored warnings from the Council.
- There was a request that Wexford County Council facilitate tenants seeking to downsize.
- Housing staff involved in affordable housing were congratulated.
- Confirmation sought that Wexford County Council won't send tenancy warning letters to those in homeless accommodation who aren't doing anything wrong.
- The Director of Services for Housing was complimented for Wexford County Council's increased engagement with the Cornmarket Project.
- Request for greater involvement of social work staff with tenants who are impacted by drug use.
- Request that the Council move quicker in dealing with derelict properties.

The meeting adjourned for a comfort break at this point.

- Update sought on works at Clohamon and Ballycarney junctions.
- Update sought on when the filter lane will be created on the road leading from the Whitford roundabout to the Newtown roundabout. The filter lane will be for vehicles exiting towards New Ross.
- Request that the road beside the Memorial garden in Kilmore be repaired.

- Request that road junctions be cut back for safety reasons considering the significant growth.
- Update sought on the relining of the Whitford, Rosslare, and Newtown roundabouts.
- Can the trees which are hanging down on the R730 road be dealt with?
- Can another lane be added on the left-hand side as you exit of the Heritage Park junction?
- Can the inside lane on the Scarawalsh roundabout be designated as a filter lane for the N80?
- Request that bus stops be installed in Bunclody.
- Frustration expressed at road being closed for 7 hours in Bunclody by Uisce Éireann without the Council's knowledge.
- The impending safety audit at Glenbrook and the proposed meeting of consultants and residents was welcomed.
- Update sought on safety audit in Wexford Borough MD.
- Query if public health nurses using their own cars can be exempted from parking charges when carrying out their duties.
- The Director of Services was thanked for the installation of a bus shelter in Campile and one was requested for Newbawn.
- Request that the junction at JCE Tyres in New Ross be reviewed.
- Update sought on New Ross active travel proposals.
- Reduction in speed limit on Camblin Hill was requested.
- Request that the junction at Kilgarvan graveyard be upgraded.
- Request that TII hardcore areas where commuters are parking their cars at entry points to the motorway. Finchogue was given as one such example.
- Query if the site for 65 social and 45 affordable units in Bunclody is back under the Council's control? Will the 65 units be phased? Can any of the 45 units be affordable sites? What will the composition of the housing be?
- Update sought on Trinity Wharf?
- Update sought on the Wexford Flood Relief scheme.
- Query why there isn't a beach warden for Morriscastle beach and request that one be provided.
- Why weren't overflow car parks at beaches open for the last bank holiday weekend?
- Can a hoist be provided at beach locations where there is a beach wheelchair in use?
- View expressed that the Eir exchange buildings need to be maintained better.
- Why is the old Loretto school not on the derelict sites register?
- Update sought on future plans for site at Clonard Little.
- Request for action on four derelict properties in Cluain Dara for the past 20 years.
- When will variation for increased housing supply for Bunclody go on public display?
- The urgent need for the upgrade of the bridge at the Signa Care residential facility in Bunclody was raised.

- How does Wexford County Council deal with planning site notices which are located outside of the site boundary?

13. Minutes of CPG Meeting 2nd June, 2026

13.1 Minutes of CPG Meeting 2nd June, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. D. McDonald, the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the CPG Meeting on 2nd June, 2026.

14. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting)

14.1 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 21st April, 2026

14.2 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 8th April, 2026

14.3 New Ross Municipal District Meeting Special – 20th April, 2026

14.4 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 20th April, 2026

14.5 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 21st April, 2026

14.6 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting Special– 16th April, 2026

14.7 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 15th April, 2026The Members noted the minutes, as circulated.

The Members noted the minutes, as circulated.

15. Correspondence and Communications

15.1 Letter from Clare County Council re: motion dated 12th May, 2026

15.2 Letter from Cavan County Council re: motion dated 14th May, 2026

15.3 Letter from Longford County Council re: motion dated 18th May, 2026

15.4 Letter from Galway County Council re: motion dated 28th May, 2026

The Members noted the correspondence, as circulated.

16. Councillor's Conferences and Training

16.1 Delegation Report

KIMO - May 2026

The Members noted the delegation report, as circulated.

17. Notices of Motion

17.1 Cllr. J. Sullivan

"This council namely Wexford County Council calls on Regnum Renewables to withdraw their proposal for "Kilmichael Windfarm" in the townlands of Mount Nebo, Craan Upper, Slievebawn, Monaseed Demense and Kilmichael Gorey due to the overwhelming opposition to the project by the residents of the aforementioned areas."

The motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Sullivan and seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny.

Cllr. J. Sullivan introduced the motion calling on Regnum Renewables to withdraw their proposal for the "Kilmichael Windfarm" due to what he described as overwhelming local opposition. He outlined the scale of the proposed turbines and their proximity to approximately 360 houses within a 2km radius. He emphasised that there is no opposition to renewable energy in principle, but significant concern regarding the location and scale of this development.

Cllr. O. Walsh advised that he had voted against a similar motion at the Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District and stated that it was important for Councillors to recognise their role within the planning process. He noted that the County Development Plan, approved by 33 of 34 Councillors, sets out the areas suitable for wind energy development and that the lands referenced in the motion are not included. He further stated that, as a Planning Authority, he could not support issuing a letter requesting a developer not to submit a planning application and noted that a letter may already have issued from the Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District.

Cllr.'s T. Forde and A.R. O'Brien stated that the matter was one for the Municipal District members to determine, while acknowledging the importance of renewable energy.

Cllrs. G. Laffan, L. McDonald, and B.A. Murphy indicated that they were not in a position to support the motion. Cllr. P. Breen indicated that he would abstain.

Cllrs. M. Murphy, J. Codd, N. Boland, D. Kenny, and P. Barden indicated their support for the motion.

Cllr. P. Kehoe emphasised that the matter falls to the planning process and An Coimisiún Pleanála.

In response, Cllr. J. Sullivan reiterated that the intent of the motion was not to influence the planning process but to request that Regnum Renewables not proceed with a planning application.

Chief Executive, Mr. E. Taaffe, advised that he had previously met with representatives of Regnum Renewables and had directed them to the County Development Plan. He also confirmed that he had met with local residents and that, should a planning application be submitted, it would likely be made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála as a Strategic Infrastructure Development. He outlined that, in such circumstances, the Chief Executive would prepare a report on behalf of the Council, to which members could append comments but could not amend his report. He emphasised that any party with a legal interest in land has the right to submit a planning application and that requesting otherwise would set an unwise precedent.

Following the discussion, Cllr. J. Sullivan proposed to withdraw the motion, which was agreed on a show of hands.

17.2 Cllr. R. Staples

“Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Transport to implement the road maintenance catch-up fund for local authorities as committed to in the Programme for Government. We note that we are now 18 months into the Programme, yet Wexford County Council has not received any catch-up funding to date, despite allocating significant local resources to maintain and repair our road network. This lack of national support has left the Council unable to address the scale of deterioration on many regional and local roads. The catch-up fund must be delivered as part of Budget 2027 to ensure that counties like Wexford are not left behind.

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

17.3 Cllr. J. Fleming

“I am calling on the minister for housing as to when they fund Approved housing bodies to add a caveat that when the Approved housing bodies purchase a property for rental purposes that there is a time limit of (2 years attached for the following reason (2 years to allow time for renovations etc) if occupation has not started during those 2 years the Approved Housing body is compelled to return the Government funding in full.”

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

17.4 Cllr. B.A. Murphy & Cllr. D. Kenny

“Wexford Co. Council calls on the telecommunications company Eir to clarify that their maintenance responsibility regarding public infrastructure includes all the telegraph poles and lines in the country.

I ask Wexford Co. Council to write to the Minister for Communications and to the Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Communications to convene a meeting to discuss the regulation of this area of critical communications infrastructure with Eir and to get a commitment that broken telegraph poles will be replaced within 48 hours."

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

17.5 Cllr. A.R. O'Brien

"Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Education and Youth and the Department of Education to fully resource and provide a qualified school therapist in every primary and secondary school, ensuring that children and young people experiencing mental health difficulties have timely access to professional support within their school community.

This council further calls for increased investment in school-based mental health services to ensure that all children have access to essential supports during periods of emotional or psychological distress."

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

17.6 Cllr. T. Forde

"I ask that Wexford County Council establish a "Made of Wexford" Award Scheme, modelled on successful place-based recognition initiatives such as "Made of Athy", to celebrate and promote individuals, businesses, organisations, products, cultural contributions and achievements that embody the spirit, talent, innovation and identity of County Wexford.

The award scheme would aim to recognise excellence and strengthen pride in Wexford's communities, heritage, enterprise and creativity, while also supporting tourism, local enterprise and civic identity. The Council is requested to examine the structure, criteria and implementation of such a programme and report back on its feasibility."

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

18. A.O.B.

On the proposal of Cllr. V. Barron, seconded by Cllr. C. Doyle, the Council resolved to approve the Women in Politics and Wellbeing Conference on 17th & 18th June in the Radisson Red Hotel, Galway.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUISINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an lá de Iúil, 2026.

Cllr. Lisa McDonald

Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,

County Secretary