

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 11th May, 2026 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	Bridín (Online)
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 (Online)
Byrne	Patricia	Kelly	Leonard	Sheehan	Michael
Carthy	Ger	Kenny	Donal	Staples	Frank
Codd	Jim	Laffan	Garry	Staples	Robbie
Donohoe	Anthony	McDonald	Darragh (Online)	Walsh	Catherine
Doyle	Craig	McDonald	Lisa	Walsh	Oliver
Dwyer	John	Murphy	Barbara-Anne		

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. Raymond Shannon

Votes of sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Amy Heffernan, IT Section.
- The family of Eithne Murphy, mother of Kevin Murphy, SGSS, Machinery Yard and mother-in-law of Siobhan Murphy, Executive Scientist, Environment Department.
- The family of Mary Brennan, mother of Enda Brennan, Executive Engineer, Environment Section.
- The family of Jack Egan, Carrig-on-Bannow, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Margaret Kinsella, Garrycullen, Saltmills, Co. Wexford.
- The family of John Byrne, "Island Manor" Island Middle, Craanford, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Gary Lydon, formerly of Clonard, Wexford.
- The family of Louise Hennessy, Southknock, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
- The family of John Bradley, Knockavilla, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Jan Frederiks, Bannow, Co. Wexford.

Congratulations:

- Cllr. P. Breen congratulated Aoife Weafer on being awarded the player of the match against Wales.
- Cllr.'s G. Laffan and P. Byrne congratulated the Wexford Senior Camogie team on winning the 2026 Leinster Senior Camogie Championship and the Wexford Minor Camogie team on winning the All-Ireland Minor camogie shield.
- Cllr. V. Barron congratulated the Wexford Light Opera Society on their production of Jesus Christ Superstar.
- Cllr. V. Barron congratulated Bridge Drama Group, Ballycogley Players, Wexford Drama Group, and Bunclody/Kilmyshall Drama Group on reaching the All-Ireland Drama Finals and Bridge Drama Group on placing 2nd overall in the Open Section.
- Cllr.'s V. Barron and J. Fleming congratulated the organisers of the recent Darkness into Light events.
- Cllr. J. Codd congratulated Carrig on Bannow for their hosting of the Co. Wexford Fleadh (Fleadh Charman).
- Cllr. J. Codd congratulated the organisers of the Kilmore Quay Community Market.
- Cllr. J. Codd congratulated Sam Nunn on the launch of his new Saltee Sea Safaris business.

- Cllr.'s J. Dwyer and P. Barden congratulated Alan Fitzhenry and the staff of the New Ross Municipal District for the recent civic awards evening.
- Cllr. J. Fleming congratulated Jim Byrne on completing the London marathon.
- Cllr. O. Walsh congratulated Lt. Michaeli Byrne who represented Ireland in the Longines EEF Nations Cup in Mannheim on her mount MSH Claregalway.
- Cllr. A. Browne congratulated North End United on winning the FAI Junior Cup and the Under 19 LFA Cup.
- Cllr. A. Browne congratulated the Ferns United ladies on winning the FAI Junior Cup.
- Cllr. P. Barden congratulated the Wexford football team on their victory over Limerick. Cllr. J. Sullivan congratulated the Wexford football captain Eoghan Nolan who is a staff member of Wexford County Council.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan and Chief Executive Mr. E. Taaffe welcomed Cllr. P. Kavanagh back to the Chamber following his recent medical procedure. Cllr. P. Kavanagh thanked the staff of Wexford County Council and the elected members. Cllr. Kavanagh also expressed his gratitude to the staff of the Beacon hospital, noting the seventeen different nationalities who had provided care to him and the huge value they add to the health service.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 County Council Meeting 9th March, 2026

Matters Arising:

Cllr. V. Barron queried the wording of the adjournment as recorded in the minutes and requested an amendment. She clarified that she was addressing the matter of consent when the Cathaoirleach called for an adjournment and convened a meeting of the party whips and representatives of the independent members, at which she was also present. It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting will be amended and brought to the June meeting for consideration.

1.2 County Council Meeting 13th April, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the County Council Meeting on 13th April, 2026.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. J. Fleming enquired if there had been any correspondence with SETU re: the development of the Wexford campus. Mr. E. Taaffe confirmed that he had met with representatives of SETU and the WWETB recently and will provide an update on progress.

1.3 Special Planning County Council Meeting 20th April, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. O. Walsh the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the Special Planning County Council Meeting on 20th April, 2026.

2. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:

2.1 Intention to dispose of property at 1 South Main Street, Wexford Town.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. C. Walsh the Council resolved to dispose of property at 1 South Main Street, Wexford Town in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

2.2 Intention to transfer the freehold of property at Caislean an Dinigh, Carrig on Bannow, Wexford

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Codd, seconded by Cllr. A.R. O'Brien the Council resolved to transfer the freehold of property at Caislean an Dinigh, Carrig on Bannow, 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 LAC2601 - To connect 3 No. houses via a communal pumping station at Kyle Close, Oulart, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. O. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. P. Kavanagh, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 to connect 3 No. houses via a communal pumping station at Kyle Close, Oulart, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2601, as circulated.

4. Normandy 2027 - For Approval

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming, the Council resolved to send a delegation to participate in the Norman 2027 workshop on 2nd and 3rd July in Caen, Normandy.

5. Date of Annual Meeting of Wexford County Council

On the proposal of Cllr. O. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald, the Council resolved to fix the Annual Meeting for Friday 26th June, 2026 at 3.30pm.

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:

- Cllr. J. Codd commended Mr. E. Taaffe and Ms. C. Godkin for taking the site in Taghmon back under the Council's control and sought an update on the timeline for the development of the site.
- How many housing client's does Wexford County Council have in B&B accommodation? Would it not be better investing these funds in longer term accommodation?
- It was claimed that some contractors are not being paid for housing grants work by the homeowner after they claim the grant.
- Case of anti-social behaviour in a housing estate was raised and a request for intervention.
- Request that families with special needs children who are in B&B's be prioritised for housing.
- View expressed that Wexford County Council should not be serving exit notices on people who are abiding by all the terms of their emergency accommodation.
- Query if housing grants can be paid directly to the contractor rather than the homeowner?
- How many families are living on halting sites?
- What plans are there to upgrade the tigin's on the Mountain View site?
- Request that the Tenant Liaison Officers visit new housing estates on a more frequent basis.
- What engagement does Wexford County Council have with An Garda Síochána in relation to anti-social behaviour, particularly in relation to new housing estates?
- Query if the number of location preferences for social housing can be extended from three to six? It was claimed that the limit to three preferences is distorting the real housing demand in areas as applicants will only apply in areas where houses are being built.
- The coastal erosion issue at Kilmore was highlighted.
- Assurance sought that roadside signs for community events won't be removed this summer.
- View expressed that Wexford County Council will need to invest significant own funding into addressing the condition of the roads.
- Mr. Lar Lett was thanked for removing the bollards on John St.
- Request that the roads survey for each Municipal District be made available.
- Request for the results of the air and noise quality survey in Bunclody.
- View expressed that Bunclody needs to be bypassed.
- Request that figures be provided in the Chief Executive report for dumping incidents over a period of time to allow comparison and view trends.
- View expressed that Wexford County Council is not getting its fair share of roads funding.

- Frustration expressed that a pothole on the road from Glenbrien to Ballymurn was left unfilled for a long period of time due to the roads crew being intimidated.
- Request that the beach warden be reinstated on Morriscastle beach.
- Query if Wexford County Council has a copy of the environmental report for the sand blasting of the Ferry Mountgarrett bridge? View expressed that a new bridge is needed.
- Request that the Council clamp down on refuse bins being stored on footpaths permanently in New Ross.
- Is Wexford County Council doing enough to protect the sand dunes? Should there be an emergency phoneline?
- Update sought on progress being made on road and junction line marking and timeline for completion of renewal programme.
- Request that the R742 be added to the winter maintenance programme once the new gritters are acquired.
- Query if it is possible to provide free parking during festivals.
- Update sought on speed limit review of N80.
- Visibility issues raised in relation to the Scarawalsh roundabout with the view expressed that the left lane should be for exit to the N80 only.
- Can we remind the public about their responsibilities in relation to dangerous trees on their property?
- Can the works to the Ferry Mountgarrett bridge be carried out day and night to shorten the timeframe? Can pedestrian access be maintained?
- How many bus shelters is Wexford County Council applying for funding for?
- Is there any update on active travel for New Ross?
- The work done in Cullenstown was praised.
- Request that the bins in Wellingtonbridge be emptied coming into the weekends.
- It was stated that the Manager of Traynor's in Wexford expressed the view that the one-way system is putting them at risk of closure.
- The issue of rodents in Kilmore was raised.
- View expressed that the flood scheme is desperately needed in Enniscorthy and that compensation needs to be paid out to individuals and businesses who were flooded by storm Chandra.
- The view that Traynor's in Wexford may close down as a result of the one-way system was contested asserting that the owner dismissed such claims.
- Support for the one-way system in Wexford town was expressed with claims that the traffic is flowing better as a result.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. P. Barden, the Council resolved to adjourn the meeting for a comfort break.

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

- View expressed that the rates abatement scheme needs to be amended in 2027, reducing the abatement to incentivise rejuvenation.
- Is there a finite pot of funding for housing grants?
- Have we ever surveyed our ratepayers to try and establish what businesses may be viable on our main street?
- How much has been spent on the tech park in Enniscorthy?
- Is Wexford County Council proactively looking for new retail business for Wexford?
- Request for update at municipal district level on the status of the URDF scheme.
- Can we increase festival budgets which will lead to increased footfall?
- When will the report on the cost of graveyard plots be available?
- Can we get the number of Clár areas in county Wexford increased?
- Can we get clarification where there are services available around the county?
- Is there any update on the Curraclloe greenway?
- Is there any update on the sports capital projects?

7. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting)

- 7.1 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 24th March, 2026
- 7.2 New Ross Municipal District Meetings – 25th March, 2026, 11th February, 2026
- 7.3 New Ross Municipal District Meetings – Amended Minutes 14th January, 2026
- 7.4 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 23rd March, 2026
- 7.5 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 24th March, 2026
- 7.6 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 25th March, 2026
- 7.7 Community & Rural Affairs SPC – 20th November, 2025
- 7.8 Economic Development & Enterprise SPC – 15th December, 2025
- 7.9 Planning & Building Control SPC – 19.01.2026

The Members noted the minutes, as circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. J. Codd, the Council resolved to suspend standing orders.

8. Correspondence and Communications

- 8.1 Email from Private Secretary, Minister O'Brien TD re: motion funding of roads dated 8th April, 2026.
- 8.2 Email from Private Secretary, Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, Peter Burke TD re: motion payment of schemes dated 9th April, 2026.

- 8.3 Letter from Carlow County Council re: motion dated 20th April, 2026
- 8.4 Letter from South Dublin County Council re: motion dated 24th April, 2026
- 8.5 Email from Office of Minister for Defence re: motion dated 24th March, 2026
- 8.6 Email from Department of Transport re: motion dated 23rd April, 2026
- 8.7 Letter from An Taoiseach re: motion dated 29th April, 2026.
- 8.8 Letter from Monaghan County Council re: motion dated 21st April, 2026
- 8.9 Email Minister Education Youth Wexford Schools 1st May, 2026
- 8.10 Email from Minister Browne's Office re: motion tenancy dated 5th May, 2026
- 8.11 Email from Minister of State at the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief re: coastal erosion Rosslare Strand dated 28th April, 2026
- 8.12 Letter from Private Secretary to Minister of State John Cummins re: Task Force Local Government Reform dated 22nd April, 2026
- 8.13 Letter from Roscommon County Council dated 5th May, 2026

The Members noted the correspondence, as circulated. Cllr. T. Forde expressed his disappointment with the correspondence outlined in 8.5. Cllr. A.R. O'Brien welcomed the correspondence in relation to Jax's Law.

Cllr. O. Walsh left the meeting at this point.

9. Councillor's Conferences and Training

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9.1 List of Conferences / Training

Training:

29 April Women's Regional Caucus Network Meeting – Tipperary County Council Offices Nenagh (Online Option available also)

21 May AILG Module 3 Training "Supporting Councillors: Responding to Mental Health, Suicide, and Addiction Issues".

Out of region: Kilmore Hotel, Cavan. Fee €100

23 May AILG Module 3 Training "Supporting Councillors: Responding to Mental Health, Suicide, and Addiction Issues".

Southern region: Whites Hotel, Wexford. Fee €100

18 June AILG Module 4 Training “OPR-AILG Councillor Planning Training”.

Southern region: Tower Hotel, Waterford. Fee €100

20 June AILG Module 4 Training “OPR-AILG Councillor Planning Training”.

Out of region: Hodson Bay Hotel, Westmeath. Fee €100

30 September/1 October AILG Autumn Seminar

Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Fee: €190

08 October AILG Module 5 Training “Government Legislation Policy Programme 2026 – A Briefing for Elected Members”

Out of region: The Grace, Hotel, Mayo. Fee €100

10 October AILG Module 5 Training “Government Legislation Policy Programme 2026 – A Briefing for Elected Members”

Southern region: Horse & Jockey, Tipperary. Fee €100

12 November AILG Module 6 Training “County Archivist/Heritage Ireland – Local Authority Archives Services”.

Southern region: Radisson Blu Cork.

14 November AILG Module 6 Training “County Archivist/Heritage Ireland – Local Authority Archives Services”.

Out of region: Clayton Hotel, Galway.

Conferences:

23-25 July MacGill Summer School, Glenties, Donegal.

Further details at <https://www.macgillsummerschool.com/>

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. P. Kehoe, the Council resolved to approve the training and conferences as outlined.

9.2 Conference Reports

Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy, IPB AGM 1st May 2026

9.3 Delegation Reports

Hartford Delegation - March, 2026

Fleurus, Belgium - April, 2026

Wexford London Association - April, 2026

The Members noted the conference and delegation reports, as circulated.

10. Deferred Notices of Motion – County Council Meeting 13th April, 2026

10.1 Motion passed at the February meeting of the Housing SPC:

"That this SPC notes with concern the published figures indicating 356 notices of eviction were issued to tenants in 2025 in Wexford." We submit to the next meeting of WCC that the Minister be called upon to ban no fault evictions."

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

10.2 Cllrs. Garry Laffan, John Fleming, Barbara Anne Murphy, Pip Breen, Lisa McDonald, Donal Kenny, Aidan Browne, Joe Sullivan

"To ask the Minister for Health and the Minister for Justice if they will set out the current protocols in place where a patient presents at an emergency department and reports suspected drink spiking; the rationale for the absence of toxicology testing in such cases, even when specifically requested by patients or their families; the measures to ensure timely Garda statements and the preservation of evidence where a victim is incapacitated; and if they will commit to establishing a clear national pathway across hospitals and Garda stations to ensure suspected spiking incidents are treated as crimes, investigated promptly, and supported by appropriate clinical and policing protocols."

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

10.3 Cllr. Catherine Walsh

"In an effort to mitigate the negative effect of the number of shops selling vape Wexford, this Council demands the following;

- Call for a change to the 2023 Act where "retailers of tobacco products that are already registered with the HSE have 6 months to apply for a Licence" to "retailers, intending to sell tobacco products must first apply and hold a licence"
- That this council would see a Wexford specific campaign by the HSE on the dangers of vaping and the need to encourage people, particularly youths, away from those products
- That the next development plan will make specific references to the retail offering on specific streets where shops that sell items contrary to public health, vaping and nicotine products, be restricted to pharmacy only instead of general retail."

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

Cllr. G. Laffan left the meeting at this point.

10.4 Cllr. Aoife Rose O'Brien

"Wexford County Council calls on the HSE and CAHMS Wexford to ensure that a full and equitable range of services, including assessment and treatment for ADHD and eating disorders, is made available locally in line with their stated scope of care and that all appointments are on a 1:1 basis and not online with a practitioner.

We further call on the Minister for Health to allocate the necessary resources, staffing, and funding to address service gaps and waiting lists in the region and to provide a clear timeline for the restoration and full delivery of these services in South Wexford.

We further note that CAMHS publicly state that they provide care for a range of moderate to severe mental health conditions, including but not limited to depression, anxiety, eating disorders, ADHD, and psychosis; though in practice, children and young people in South Wexford diagnosed with ADHD and those presenting with eating disorders are currently unable to access appropriate assessment, intervention, and ongoing care through local CAMHS services.

Lastly, we recognise the significant impact that delays or absence of early intervention can have on the long-term mental health, educational outcomes, and overall wellbeing of children and their families. We acknowledge the distress and inequality experienced by families in South Wexford who must seek services outside their area or go without appropriate support."

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

10.5 Cllr. Michael Sheehan

"Recognising the need for safety on our roads and to ensure greater awareness of speed zone changes, this Council writes to Kilkenny County Council seeking a review and improvements in the speed limit signs on the section of the N25 approaching the speed camera."

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell the motion was carried on a show of hands.

10.6 Cllr. Aoife Rose O'Brien

"Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Justice to immediately enact the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person (Amendment) (Spiking) Bill 2023.

This council recognises the seriousness and importance of providing appropriate legal safeguards. The delay in progressing this important legislation has left a gap in legal protections and enforcement powers needed to properly address and deter such harmful behaviour.

Accordingly, the Council further calls on the Minister to provide a clear explanation as to why this legislation has not yet been passed, and to outline a definitive timeline for its enactment.”

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

11. Notices of Motion

11.1 Cllr. Jim Codd

“Wexford County Council calls on the Government for an immediate reduction on carbon tax on fuel and cost of home heating oil”.

This motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Codd and seconded by Cllr. M. Murphy.

Cllr. L. Kelly proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald and carried on a show of hands:

“Wexford County Council calls on the Government for an immediate reduction on carbon tax on fuel and cost of home heating oil, while ensuring that ringfenced funding for climate action initiatives and just transition measures is maintained and not reduced.”

11.2 Cllr. Michael Sheehan & Cllr. Marty Murphy

“In supporting the delivery of renewable energy in line with national and EU policy, this Council recognises that Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) represent a distinct form of industrial infrastructure with specific safety, siting and operational considerations.

For the avoidance of doubt, this motion relates to utility-scale or grid-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and not to small-scale or domestic battery storage associated with individual homes, farms or businesses.

This Council notes the current absence of national planning, safety and emergency response standards governing the development of large-scale BESS, including guidance on appropriate siting, separation distances, fire safety, emergency response planning and water protection measures.

The Council further recognises that this absence of standards creates uncertainty in the ability of the planning system to fully and consistently assess developments of this nature, scale and risk profile, particularly in rural areas with constrained infrastructure, limited emergency response capacity and sensitive environmental and water receptors.

The Council acknowledges that in the absence of such standards, the assessment of large-scale BESS proposals requires careful consideration of site suitability, infrastructure capacity, environmental protection, public safety and cumulative impact, including the interaction of multiple developments within a given area.

Pending the establishment of appropriate national standards, this Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to urgently provide a clear and comprehensive regulatory framework for BESS, including planning, safety and emergency response guidance.

Furthermore, this Council requests the Executive to examine, as a matter of urgency, the preparation of a Variation to the County Development Plan to provide clear policy guidance on the siting and assessment of large-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), having regard to the absence of national standards, and including consideration of appropriate locations, separation distances from residential areas and sensitive receptors, protection of water resources, emergency response capacity, access and infrastructure constraints, and cumulative impact.”

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. M. Murphy, and on foot of a roll call vote, the Council resolved to carry the motion with twenty-one voting in favour, one voting against, and one abstention. The voting was as follows:

Barden, Pat	F	Kehoe, Pat	F	Walsh, Catherine	F
Barron, Vicky	F	Kelly, Leonard	AB		
Boland, Nicky	F	Kenny, Donal	F		
Breen, Pip	F	McDonald, Lisa	F		
Byrne, Patricia	F	Murphy, Barbara-Anne	F		
Codd, Jim	F	Murphy, Marty	F		
Donohoe, Anthony	A	O’Brien, Aoife Rose	F		
Farrell, Mary	F	Sheehan, Michael	F		
Fleming, John	F	Staples, Frank	F		
Forde, Tom	F	Staples, Robbie	F		
Kavanagh, Paddy	F	Sullivan, Joe	F		

11.3 Cllr. Aoife Rose O’Brien

“Wexford County Council notes with concern the unacceptable delays in Ireland’s justice system, where victims of sexual, domestic, and gender-based violence can wait up to four years for cases to be heard.

This council recognises the serious harm and prolonged trauma these delays cause, and the need for a timelier, victim-centred approach.

Further notes that other cases have been fast-tracked, demonstrating that expedited processes are achievable;

Calls on the Department of Justice to prioritise cases involving sexual, domestic, and gender-based violence;
Demands the introduction of a fast-track system to ensure cases are progressed efficiently, with a target of cases being brought to hearing within 12 months of the incident or report;
Emphasises the need to minimise retraumatisation through reduced delays, improved case management, and adequate support for victims;
And calls for increased resources to ensure timely access to justice and accountability for perpetrators.”

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

11.4 Cllr. Tom Forde

“We ask this council to call on this government to recognise and vindicate the right of all persons to adequate housing and to aim to enshrine this right in our constitution through a referendum on the right to housing. We also ask that this council write to each of Wexford’s Oireachtas members seeking their support on this issue.”

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. A.R. O’Brien and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

11.5 Cllr. Robbie Staples

“Wexford County Council is urging the Minister for Climate, Energy, and the Environment to significantly strengthen national supports for domestic solar PV. The Council highlights ESB’s recent presentation showing Ireland’s continued dependence on imported electricity, rising energy costs, and growing public concern about blackouts. While offshore wind will be essential in the long term, rooftop solar offers an immediate and scalable way for households to generate their own power. The Council is calling on the Government to increase the domestic solar PV grant to include batteries, ensure broad eligibility to include all households, to encourage installer competition and consider redirecting existing energy support funding to deliver stronger incentives. Expanding support for rooftop solar, the Council argues, would cut household bills, reduce reliance on imports, create local jobs, and strengthen Ireland’s energy resilience.”

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

11.6 Cllr. Vicky Barron

“Wexford County Council recognises the seriousness of, and huge implications for Women and Children who are victims of Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

Wexford County Council commits to ensuring pathways out of DSGBV, and supports for victims, are included in the county development plan for all districts.”

On the proposal of Cllr. V. Barron, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

11.7 Cllr. Michael Sheehan, Cllr. Mary Farrell, Cllr. Leonard Kelly

“In recognition of the cost-of-living crisis and that workers are suffering the most and rewarded the least in our economy, and while being overtaxed and not getting any assistance from the government, this Council calls for the unwinding and abolition of the Universal Social Charge in Budget 2027. Upon adoption, we circulate to all Local Authorities.”

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

11.8 Cllr. Aoife Rose O’Brien

“That Wexford County Council calls on the Government to urgently review and expand the provision of school transport services in County Wexford, ensuring that adequate bus spaces are available for all eligible students and that no child is left without access to a school place due to a lack of transport.

This Council notes with concern that in previous years a significant number of families in County Wexford were refused access to school bus services, with some only receiving confirmation of refusal as late as three weeks before the commencement of the school term. This has caused considerable stress for families and has, in some cases, jeopardised students’ ability to attend school.

Accordingly, the Council further calls on the Government to provide additional and sustained funding to meet the full school transport needs of County Wexford;
Ensure timely allocation and communication of school bus places well in advance of the academic year;

Expand capacity within the school transport system to reflect population growth and increased demand;

Review eligibility criteria where necessary and this year’s price increase to ensure fair and equitable access for all students.

The Council requests that this matter be treated as a priority to guarantee that every child in County Wexford has reliable access to education through an adequately resourced school transport system.”

On the proposal of Cllr. A.R. O’Brien, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

11.9 Cllr. Tom Forde

"Recognising that it has become extremely difficult for many people across our County to source an affordable and sustainable tenancy, I ask that Wexford County Council desist from issuing exit notices to people that are in emergency accommodation and who have been abiding by all other terms of the agreement between the service user and Wexford County Council."

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

11.10 Cllr. Vicky Barron

"That this Council:

- Aware of its first duty to represent fairly and without fear or favour all the people of County Wexford
- Conscious of our democratic values long cherished and defended in this Chamber
- Resolves to ensure that all debates in this council will be conducted with respect for all elected members and for all views expressed
- Acknowledges that those standards have not always been upheld in recent times and calls on the Cathaoirleach, and all members and officials to commit to restoring the highest standards of democratic debate and freedom of expression for every member."

A lengthy discussion took place during which Cllr. V. Barron raised concerns regarding the way recent meetings had been chaired by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Sullivan. Reference was made to the handling of the March meeting, where the meeting was adjourned while Cllr. Barron was addressing the issue of consent, and the party whips and representatives of the independent members, together with Cllr. Barron and members of the executive were called to a meeting. Concerns were also expressed in relation to the conduct of the April meeting, including issues arising from a delegation connected to the fuel protest and instances of intimidation from the public gallery.

Cllrs. P. Barden, T. Forde, M. Sheehan, P. Kavanagh, N. Boland, M. Murphy, J. Codd, and A.R. O'Brien spoke in support of Cllr. Sullivan and acknowledged the fairness with which he has chaired meetings. Cllrs. V. Barron, C. Walsh, L. McDonald, D. Kenny, B.A. Murphy, and P. Breen expressed concerns regarding aspects of the management of recent meetings.

Cllr. J. Sullivan responded to the matters raised outlining that he had adjourned the meeting in March out of caution as there is no privilege in the Chamber and he was unaware of the incidents of intimidation at the April meeting.

Following the discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. V. Barron, seconded by Cllr. C. Walsh and on foot of a roll call vote, the Council resolved to carry the motion with nineteen voting in favour and four voting against. The voting was as follows:

Barden, Pat	A	Kehoe, Pat	F	Walsh, Catherine	F
Barron, Vicky	F	Kelly, Leonard	F		
Boland, Nicky	F	Kenny, Donal	F		
Breen, Pip	F	McDonald, Lisa	F		
Byrne, Patricia	F	Murphy, Barbara-Anne	F		
Codd, Jim	A	Murphy, Marty	A		
Donohoe, Anthony	F	O'Brien, Aoife Rose	F		
Farrell, Mary	F	Sheehan, Michael	F		
Fleming, John	F	Staples, Frank	F		
Forde, Tom	F	Staples, Robbie	F		
Kavanagh, Paddy	F	Sullivan, Joe	A		

12. A.O.B.

The Council resolved to adopt the minutes of the CPG meeting of 5th May, 2026 on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan and agreed by all.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. L. McDonald and agreed by all the Council resolved to write to the NTA and Bus Éireann asking that they invoke their public sector obligation to retain bus service no. 40 from Rosslare to Waterford.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an

lá de Meitheamh, 2026.

Cllr. Joe Sullivan

Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,

County Secretary