

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 10th November, 2025 in the Council Chamber at 2.30pm (with some remote attendance)

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. Joe Sullivan, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors:

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

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. Eddie Taaffe, Chief Executive

Apologies: Cllr. Vicky Barron

Votes of sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Patrick (Pat) Kerins, brother of Breege Cosgrave, Head of Enterprise / Economic Development.
- The family of John Burns, General Operative, Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District.
- The family of Betty Lawlor, Mother of George Lawlor, TD.
- The family of Claire O'Brien Cullen, niece of Denis Travers, General Operative, Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District.
- The family of John Brett, Gorey, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Betty Doran, High Hill, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Barry Ronan, Rosbercon, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
- The family of Daniel O'Connor, Crossabeg, Co. Wexford.

Congratulations:

- Cllr. B.A. Murphy congratulated Oliver Deacon on publishing his book Celebrating 250 Years; St. Mary's Church of Ireland, Bunclody, Co. Wexford.
- Cllr.'s G. Laffan, L. McDonald and A.R. O'Brien congratulated St. Martin's on winning the Senior Hurling County Final.
- Cllr.'s A. Browne, G. Laffan, and J. Fleming congratulated Ryan Butler and Oisín McDonagh on being part of the Irish U17 soccer squad taking part in the U17 World Cup.
- Cllr.'s A. Browne and P. Kehoe congratulated Marshalstown-Castledockrell on winning the Junior Hurling County Final.
- Cllr. A. Browne congratulated Davidstown-Courtnacuddy on winning the Intermediate 'A' Hurling County Final and Junior 'A' Football County Final.
- Cllr. O. Walsh congratulated Blackwater Tidy Towns who retained their crown as the tidiest town in the county for a sixth consecutive year in a row. Cllr. Walsh conveyed Blackwater Tidy Towns gratitude for Wexford County Council's support.
- Cllr. O. Walsh congratulated Courtown Tidy Towns and Courtown Tourism Promotions on winning the runner-up prize in the 300-1,000 population category at the 2025 IPB Pride of Place Awards.
- Cllr.'s O. Walsh and A.R. O'Brien congratulated Tomhaggard Clean Coasts on winning the runner-up prize in the Climate Action & Biodiversity category at the 2025 IPB Pride of Place Awards.

- Cllr. J. Fleming congratulated Cloughbawn on winning their Intermediate 'A' Football County Final and Leinster Junior Football Championship first round against St. Finian's of Swords.
- Cllr. J. Fleming congratulated Dean and Jesse O'Riordan who won two world titles and six medals in total at the ICO World Championships in Swansea recently.
- Cllr. J. Fleming congratulated all Tidy Towns groups who participated in the National Tidy Towns competition for their dedication and commitment.
- Cllr. C. Walsh congratulated Cian Martin who was awarded the prestigious European Young Ambassador of the Year title at the Lions Europa Forum 2025.
- Cllr. A.R. O'Brien congratulated the 350 volunteers who were nominated for the very first County Wexford Volunteer Awards. Cllr. O'Brien paid tribute to:
Barty Walshe – Bannow & Rathangan Agriculture Show who was awarded Committee Member of the Year.
Tony Murphy – Wexford Able Disabled Club who was awarded Healthcare & Wellbeing Volunteer of the Year.
Relay for Life Wexford who were awarded Community Event of the Year.
Niamh Lawton – Kilmore Area CFR who was awarded Volunteer Coordinator of the Year.
- Cllr.'s J. Sullivan and A.R. O'Brien congratulated Catherine Connolly on being elected President of Ireland.
- Cllr. M. Sheehan congratulated the outdoor staff of Wexford County Council for their support of local Tidy Town's groups.
- Cllr. M. Sheehan congratulated Fr. Billy Swan who is going to serve in the dicastery within the Roman Curia of the Catholic Church for a period of five years.
- Cllr. P. Byrne congratulated Enniscorthy Tidy Towns who were awarded a gold medal.
- Cllr. P. Byrne congratulated Bree Ballyhogue on winning the Junior 'A' Hurling County Final and reaching the Intermediate Football County Final.
- Cllr. J. Sullivan congratulated Castletown Liam Mellows on winning the Senior Football County Final, Junior 'B' Football County Final, and Minor Hurling County Final.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 County Council Meeting 13th October, 2025

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the County Council Meeting on 13th October, 2025.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. G. Carthy sought an update on the request for a traffic review in Wexford to encompass the ring road, the safety works on the Drinagh and Ashfield roundabouts, and if a filter lane will be created from the Whitford to New Ross Road roundabout.

Cllr. G. Carthy enquired if the Cathaoirleach would consider a civic reception for the Civil Defence to mark 75 years of service. This was seconded by Cllr. O. Walsh.

Cllr. G. Carthy outlined the importance of encouraging the HSE to construct a 12-bed acute mental health facility in Wexford. Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan advised that a joint motion of support will be brought before the December plenary meeting.

2. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 :

2.1 Intention to dispose of property at Effernage, Ferns, Gorey, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen the Council resolved to dispose of property at Effernage, Ferns, Gorey, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

2.2 Lease of Land at Whitemills to Menapia Medical T/A Blood Bikes

On the proposal of Cllr. R. Shannon, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan the Council resolved to lease land at Whitemills to Menapia Medical T/A Blood Bikes in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

2.3 Lease of Land at Kennedy Park to Wexford Albion FC

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. R. Shannon the Council resolved to lease land at Kennedy Park to Wexford Albion FC in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

2.4 Disposal of No. 6 King Street Upper, Wexford Town

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. R. Shannon the Council resolved to dispose of No. 6 King Street Upper, Wexford Town in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

2.5 Disposal of No. 7 Grotto Terrace, Gorey

On the proposal of Cllr. O. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. N. Boland the Council resolved to dispose of property at No. 7 Grotto Terrace, Gorey in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3. County Wexford Revised Housing Growth Targets and Variation Process to County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 Briefing

Ms. L. Hore gave the Council a presentation on the county Wexford revised housing growth targets and the variation process to the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028. Ms. Hore outlined that 6,429 new homes were allocated to the county for the period 2022 – 2028, with 2,202 new units completed in the first two years of the plan, and planning permission granted for 2,336 units.

Ms. Hore informed the Council that Wexford was the only County in the Southern Regional Assembly where the number of housing completions surpassed CDP targets and 3 out of the 12 settlements where a minimum of 100 houses were completed in 2024 were in County Wexford.

Ms. Hore advised that the revised housing growth requirement (HGR) is informed by ESRI 2024 and revised NPF 2025 and aims to accelerate housing delivery. There are 3 key objectives:

- Ensure that revised housing growth targets are reflected in the County Development Plan.
- Additional provision of up to 50%.
- Changes should be incorporated as soon as possible by variation of the current adopted development plan.

Ms. L. Hore set out how the guidelines will be implemented. There will be a review of the existing Core Strategy and adequacy of zoned land to cater for revised housing growth targets. The Chief Executive will prepare a report for the Council setting out:

- the development capacity of existing zoned lands,
- detailed information on the serviced status and planning status of lands.

The report shall demonstrate how it is proposed, in the form of a recommendation from the Chief Executive, to secure the objectives of these guidelines. A copy of this report will be submitted to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Office of the Planning Regulator.

Ms. Hore concluded by outlining the sequencing of the variations:

Variation Number 1 - Core Strategy, Enniscorthy and New Ross

Variation Number 2 - Rosslare Harbour and Bunclody

Variation Number 3 - Wexford Town in tandem Wexford Urban Area Plan

Variation Number 4 - Gorey Urban Area Plan

Ms. L. Hore and Mr. E. Taaffe responded to the following questions from the Council:

- What is the timeline for the variations?

- Request that Wexford County Council consider innovative options for meeting the needs of villages which aren't serviced.
- It was noted that regulatory changes are due to be introduced that allow low-volume wastewater systems (serving up to 40 homes) to be authorised through a registration system.
- Will a developer be allowed to install their own infrastructure in Oylegate as there is no capacity? Who pays for this system?
- Does Wexford County Council have regulations in relation to the provision of log cabins in gardens?
- Is Wexford County Council satisfied that the baseline figures are correct?
- Is the public consultation only in relation to zoning?
- What additional infrastructural support do we need for future years?
- Increased housing target was welcomed and Wexford County Council's performance in exceeding its housing targets was commended.
- Request for the Ready to Build scheme to be rolled out in Wexford.
- Query if Wexford County Council can co-ordinate with all relevant bodies re: provision of infrastructure i.e. Department of Education, ESB Networks, Department of Health etc.
- Request that infill infrastructure (eg. paths linking estates to towns and villages) be provided.
- Query if SETU will provide student accommodation on their Wexford campus.

4. Audited AFS 2024 & Audit Report 2024

Having considered the report of Ms. L. Lacey, on the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen, the Council resolved to approve the Audited AFS 2024 and Statutory Audit Report to the Members of Wexford County Council for the year ended 31st December 2024, as circulated.

5. Interest on Unpaid Rates - For Noting

The Council noted the report circulated by Ms. L. Lacey advising that Section 12 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019 (as amended) covers interest charged on overdue rates. It was introduced to assist local authorities to improve their collection rates, ensuring the protection of a critical source of funding, while also ensuring fairness among all rate payers. The key points are summarised as follows:

- From 1st January, 2026 interest will begin to accrue on overdue 2025 rates charges.
- Interest is calculated on the amount of rates unpaid, the number of days in the local financial year and a daily interest rate of 0.0219% which equates to an annual interest rate of 8%.

- The calculation of interest is triggered by an event i.e. the receipt of a payment of outstanding rates, enforcement procedures, end of the financial year etc.
- Where a customer has an outstanding rates liability at year end, interest accrued will be posted to the customers account in order to be shown on the following year's rates bill.
- As per circular Fin 14/2024, local authorities should exercise common sense where the cost of applying or pursuing late payment interest would outweigh any potential reward.

6. St. Patrick's Day Delegations

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. R. Shannon, the Council resolved to send delegations to the following destinations for St. Patrick's Day 2026:

- Savannah, Georgia, USA
- New York, USA
- Hartford, Connecticut, USA

7. Annual Report 2024 - For Noting

The Council noted the final formatted version of the 2024 Annual Report, which was formally adopted at the April meeting.

8. 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:

- Query if it is possible for Wexford County Council to develop houses on the site of the proposed PPP in Bunclody, which has stalled, even if it is a smaller number of units.
- Do rent arrears impact on housing maintenance repairs being carried out? Are there many who are simply refusing to pay?
- Is Wexford County Council accepting applications for the tenant in situ scheme from those who have received notices to quit?
- Request for clarity in relation to the number of properties allocated as there is some confusion in relation to the figures in the CE Report.
- Update sought in relation to proposed public information event for landlords in relation to the RAS.
- How many Council mortgages provided each year?

- Has Wexford County Council reviewed its allocation policy regarding domestic violence to safeguard victims.
- Update sought on detail of 2026 housing retrofit programme.
- Observation made that €1.5m in housing rent arrears demonstrates the need for revenue collectors.
- Concern raised that repairs in the Ard na Bhile housing estate are not being carried out quickly enough.
- Request that information evening be run in New Ross in relation to housing and affordable housing.
- Update sought on Ozanam House re: situation where beds were available, but people were sleeping rough.
- View expressed that tenant in situ is not fit for purpose as there are too many caveats re: accessing the system.
- View expressed that 3D printing of housing units is the way forward.
- Query if Wexford County Council will consider taking in charge roads and footpaths in estates whilst a decision is awaited on the developer provided wastewater infrastructure.

Cllr. P. Kavanagh left the meeting at this point.

- Query if there is funding available for tenant in situ for no fault evictions where properties are being sold.
- Frustration expressed that housing applicants are not getting any feedback unless they are successful when they apply for properties through the CBL system.
- Request that a letter be sent to Ministers Dara Calleary and Peter Burke seeking support for those families (approx. 40) impacted by Fastway Couriers going into receivership.
- When will the members be provided with a report on Council owned companies – financial report and upcoming projects?
- Wexford County Council was commended for its very successful WEEE recycling initiatives. Request that similar events should be organised for sofas, mattresses, trampolines etc.
- Update sought on signage for Clohamon and Ballycarney junctions with recent accidents noted.
- Will a section of the N80 be resurfaced in 2026?
- Request for responsive traffic management lights in Bunclody rather than a roundabout.
- Will additional roads be added to the winter road maintenance programme when the new gritter is acquired?
- Query if the Council is looking at the right turn at Ballymackessy.

- View expressed that the speed limit at the mill in Clonroche should be 60kmph rather than 80kmph.
- Update sought on works at Larkin's Cross.
- Update sought on works at Glenville Road.
- Request that significant pothole at the old Loretto school be addressed.
- Request for funding to maintain Carrickmannon bridge.
- Query if there has been any contact with Uisce Éireann re: water issues at Whiterock Hill.
- Request that Wexford County Council work with An Garda Síochána to tackle the issue of illegal fireworks.
- Query if Wexford County Council can join the Native Oyster Reef Restoration Ireland (NORRI) project, which is working to restore native oyster populations and their habitats along Ireland's east coast, including in Wicklow and Dublin.
- Work on Leeches bend welcomed.
- Concern expressed that TII need to consent to a reduction in the speed limit in Clonroche. Request for a full safety audit.
- Query raised how a company operating illegally in Kilrane is being allowed to operate. Issues with noise and out of hours work were noted.
- View expressed that signage won't address the issues at Clohamon and Ballycarney junctions.
- Request for the list of bus shelters which have been submitted to the NTA for funding. Query if Wexford County Council will consider working with a 3rd party to provide bus shelters.
- Request that the area around Bridgetown school and surrounding areas be included in the winter maintenance programme when the new gritter arrives.
- Safe routes to school in Ballycanew was welcomed.
- Update sought on active travel plans for New Ross.
- Request for a pedestrian crossing at St. Senan's school in Enniscorthy.
- Request that gullies be cleared of leaves.
- Request that the road from Kilmuckridge, through Curracloe, to Wexford be included in the winter maintenance programme once the new gritter arrives.
- Timeline sought for the powering up of lights at Clonattin and Carnew Road in Gorey.

9. Minutes of CPG

9.1 Minutes of CPG Meeting 3rd November, 2025

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A.R. O'Brien, the Council resolved to adopt the minutes of the CPG Meeting on 3rd November, 2025.

10. Minutes of Meeting (For Noting)

10.1 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 16th September, 2025

10.2 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 10th September, 2025

10.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 15th September, 2025

10.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 16th September, 2025

10.5 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 17th September, 2025

10.6 Economic Development & Enterprise SPC Meeting - 26th May, 2025

The Members noted the minutes, as circulated.

11. Correspondence and Communications

11.1 Letter from Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine re: motion Ash Dieback dated 13th October, 2025

11.2 Letter from Galway City Council re: motion dated 16th October, 2025

11.3 Email from Department of Transport re: motion dated 22nd October, 2025

The Members noted the correspondence and communications as circulated.

Cllr. P. Breen requested that the information (A Guide for Landowners to Managing Roadside Trees) contained in the correspondence from Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine re: Ash Dieback be shared with the public.

12. Councillor's Conferences and Training

12.1 List of Conferences/Training

Conference:

5/6/7 December Celtic Conferences "Irish Health Services Entitlements",

Carlingford, Co. Louth. Fee €130

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Breen, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming, the Council resolved to approve attendance at the above listed conference.

12.2 Delegation Reports

Report of Cllr. J. O'Rourke who attended Celtic Conferences "A Practical Guide to Budget 2026" held on 10/11/12 October 2025 in Carlingford, Co. Louth.

Delegation Report Wexford Towns Reunion Buffet Dinner Dance – London Wexford Association – 11th October 2025

Delegation Report - Normandy 2027 October 2025

Delegation Report - Mayor of Wexford Borough District & District Manager - Reception onboard the USS New Jersey in Camden, New Jersey USA – 3rd October 2025

The Members noted the delegation reports as circulated.

13. Notices of Motion

13.1 Cllr. A.R. O'Brien

"We, The Rosslare Municipal District, call on Wexford County Council to provide a fair share of housing developments, committing to increase the supply allocated for the RMD; noting the shortfall received to date compared to other districts".

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

Chief Executive Mr. E. Taaffe noted that it must be proportionate to demand.

13.2 Cllr. R. Staples

"I call on Wexford County Council (WCC) to commit to completing road relining on all regional and local roads and junctions before the end of 2026. "

This motion was proposed by Cllr. R. Staples, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly and agreed by all.

Mr. E. Hore, Director of Services advised that the programme of road relining works will be subject to the national criteria outlined in the executive response.

13.3 Cllr. T. Forde

"This council expresses solidarity with Mary Dunlevy Greene, Mary Donovan, Maurice Patton O Connell and Miriam Moriarty Owens, who are on hunger strike outside of Dáil Éireann, and the thousands of survivors of Ireland's Industrial and Reformatory Schools. We recognise the injustices that many survivors continue to face and we call on the Irish Government to immediately address this issue and to provide for the requests of these survivors including access to a full state contributory pension and H.A.A. medical cards."

This motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. A.R. O'Brien and agreed by all. Cllr. T. Forde asked that the motion be circulated to all local authorities.

13.4 Cllr. J. Fleming

"I am calling on the minister for Children, Disability and equality to change the notices on the doors of WC Disability toilets to include senior citizens for clarity purposes as Most senior citizens are not aware they are allowed to access these services".

This motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Fleming, seconded by Cllr. C. Walsh and agreed by all.

13.5 Cllr. A.R. O'Brien

"That Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Justice and the Irish Government to immediately reform Ireland's asylum and deportation system to ensure it is fair, efficient, and enforceable.

This council notes with concern:

- That individuals refused asylum are frequently remaining in the State with no effective follow-up or enforcement of deportation orders.
- That the Government has admitted to being unaware of the whereabouts of many persons issued with deportation notices.
- That people refused asylum in other EU countries are currently permitted to reapply in Ireland, placing unnecessary pressure on our system.

Wexford County Council therefore calls for:

- The creation of a clear and enforceable policy preventing anyone refused asylum in another EU Member State from applying for asylum in Ireland.
- That all persons issued with deportation orders be promptly and humanely returned to their home country or a safe third country.
- That the Department of Justice establish proper monitoring and enforcement to ensure deportation orders are fully implemented."

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

13.6 Cllr. T. Forde

"That Wexford County Council formulate and adopt an Anti-Racism Charter similar to the recently developed North West Anti-Racism Charter (Cross border initiative), as a matter of urgency; that copies of said charter should be made available and displayed in workspaces, social spaces and anywhere where people gather throughout the County; and that the Council invite businesses, community-groups and organisations across the region to avail of the charter and to display it publicly so as to send a clear message that hate-speech and divisive actions are not welcome and will not be tolerated in schools, offices, homes, community halls or any other place."

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

14. A.O.B.

Cllr. M. Sheehan requested that Wexford County Council arrange a meeting with the Minister for Education, Higher Education Authority, and President of SETU to discuss the development of the Wexford campus and dispel any insinuation that Wexford County Council is responsible for any delay. Mr. E. Taaffe advised that the delay pertained to a challenge to the CPO. Mr. Taaffe indicated that a Notice to Enter has been served and progress is being made with the appointment of a consulting engineer for the access road.

Cllr. C. Walsh asked fellow councillors to be mindful when using social media not to discredit areas and stigmatise people.

Cllr. B.A. Murphy expressed frustration that approval for the Bunclody Community CCTV scheme is still awaited from An Garda Síochána.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUISINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an

lá de Nollaig, 2025.

Cllr. Joe Sullivan

Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,

County Secretary