WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 12th October, 2026 in the Council Chamber at 2.00pm (with some remote attendance)

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. Lisa McDonald, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors:

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

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. J. Owens

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Lisa McDonald enquired whether any Member had a conflict of interest in relation to any item on the agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Lisa McDonald noted those in attendance in the public gallery and extended a welcome to all present.

1. Presentation

1.1 Arts Department - Public Art Process

The Council received a presentation from Ms. Liz Burns, Arts Officer, on the operation and future development of the Per Cent for Art Scheme in County Wexford. The presentation outlined the national and local policy framework underpinning the scheme, the role of the Public Art Working Group, and the Council's proposed approach to the delivery of public art projects across the five Municipal Districts during the period 2026-2030. Examples of recent and ongoing public art commissions were highlighted, together with details of planned consultation and engagement with local communities.

Members thanked Ms. Burns for her informative presentation and welcomed the opportunities the scheme presents to enhance cultural and artistic expression throughout the county. Ms. C. Godkin thanked Cllr. D. McDonald for his work as Chair of the Public Art Working Group. Cathaoirleach Cllr. L. McDonald welcomed the scheme and the pooled approach to funding and thanked Ms. Liz Burns, Arts Officer and Ms. Úna Cahill, Assistant Arts Officer & Public Arts Co-Ordinator for their work and presentation.

Votes of sympathy:

The Chief Executive extended his sincere sympathy to the County Secretary, his father Jim, and family on the recent passing of his mother, Kitty.

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Anke Isler, retired Staff Member
- The family of Larry McHale, Former Resident Engineer for the Enniscorthy Defence Scheme
- The family of John McCormack, former employee and father of Mick McCormack, Regeneration Unit
- The family of Samuel Edward Nuzum, brother of Abigail Nuzum, Executive Planner, Planning Department
- The family of Michael Carroll, Community Employment Scheme participant with the Wexford County Archive
- The family of Tom Murphy, Ard Munna, Taghmon, Wexford.
- The family of Aidan Sinnott, Kilcaven, Wellington Bridge, Wexford.
- The family of Martin Jordan, Foulksmills, Camross, Wexford.

- The family of Derek Bailey, South Street, New Ross, Wexford.

Congratulations:

- Cllr.'s A. Browne and P. Kehoe congratulated Slaney Harriers on being crowned Under 16 Premier Football Champions.
- Cllr. R. Shannon commended the Minister for Health for providing in excess of €1.6 million in funding for new mental health services in County Wexford, including a Crisis Resolution Team, a Solace Café and a specialist mental health nursing team at Wexford General Hospital.
- Cllr. M. Sheehan commended Cllr. R. Shannon for his long-time advocacy in relation to mental health supports.
- Cllr. M. Sheehan congratulated Greg Bolger on a fantastic career and wished him all the best for his retirement from professional football at the end of the season.
- Cllr. D. Kenny congratulated Craanford Monaseed on winning the LGFA Junior 'B' Football County Final and their first-ever Wexford Intermediate Camogie Championship.
- Cllr. J. Codd congratulated David Stanners & Willie Murray Byrne on winning the All Ireland Junior Handball doubles title.
- Cllr. J. Codd congratulated Gracie Kelly on winning the National Young Riders title.
- Cllr. O. Walsh congratulated St. Brigid's Blackwater U12 hurlers who won the U12 Division 1A Hurling Final for the first time in their history.
- Cllr. P. Byrne congratulated Ballyhogue Ladies Football Club who won the 2026 Wexford LGFA Intermediate County Championship.
- Cllr. P. Byrne congratulated Ballyhogue GAA Club who secured a historic underage double by winning both the Wexford Coiste na nÓg Under-14 and Under-16 Division 1 County Football Championships. Cllr. Byrne acknowledged the minor team who lost out to Slaney Harriers.
- Cllr. G. Laffan congratulated Glynn Barntown GAA Club on winning the Minor Premier Hurling Championship and wished the U16's best of luck for next weekend.
- Cllr. V. Barron congratulated the Wexford Screen Writers Academy, which is a Screen Wexford and Wexford County Council initiative funded by Creative Ireland which supports eight Wexford-based screenwriters in professional script development for a new commercial Anthology Series, titled *Menapia.*
- Cllr. V. Barron congratulated all who took part in the variety concert in aid of the Friary Roof Restoration Fund.
- Cllr. V. Barron commended the Executive on the Invest Wexford launch in Croke Park.
- Cllr. P. Barden congratulated Denny Bookle on winning the U18 World Masters Eight-Ball Pool Championship in Marrakech, Morocco. He also helped Ireland win the U18 World Team Championship title alongside his national teammates.

- Cllr.'s J. Fleming and P. Kehoe congratulated Cloughbawn GAA Club on winning the 2026 Wexford Intermediate Football Championship and Wexford Intermediate Hurling Championships. Adamstown GAA Club were also congratulated for reaching the Intermediate A Hurling County Final.
- Cllr. J. Fleming congratulated Rathgarogue Cushinstown GAA, LGFA & Camogie Club who officially opened their new grounds development and clubhouse.
- Cllr. J. Fleming congratulated Rathnure GAA Club on reaching the Senior Hurling County Final.
- Cllr. A.R. O'Brien congratulated the Kilmore U12 hurling and football panels on their County Final wins.
- Cllr. A.R. O'Brien commended the Garvaghy Road residents for their conduct during the recent protest.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 County Council Meeting 14th September, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the County Council Meeting on 14th September, 2026.

2.2 Special Planning Meeting 21st September, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the County Council Meeting on 21st September, 2026.

2.3 Corporate Policy Group Meeting / Budget Working Group Meeting 5th October, 2026

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the County Council Meeting on 5th October, 2026.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

3. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:

3.1 Intention to dispose of property known as 5 North Street, New Ross, Co. Wexford (Y34AH24)

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. J. Fleming the Council resolved to dispose of property known as 5 North Street, New Ross, Co. Wexford Y34AH24 in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3.2 Intention to lease lands at Killagoley, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Kehoe, seconded by Cllr. P. Byrne the Council resolved to lease lands at Killagoley, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3.3 Intention to dispose of property known as Borrmount, Bree, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford (Y21N2C0)

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. A. Browne the Council resolved to dispose of property known as Borrmount, Bree, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford Y21N2C0 in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

3.4 Intention to dispose of property Church View, 41 Lower John Street, Co. Wexford Y35W9RK

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. C. Walsh the Council resolved to dispose of property Church View, 41 Lower John Street, Co. Wexford Y35W9RK in accordance with the terms set out in the S.183 Notice as circulated.

4. Draft Library Development Plan 2026 - 2030 - For Adoption

Ms. E. Morrissey, Senior Librarian, presented the draft Library Development Plan 2026-2030 to the Members. She outlined the extensive public consultation process undertaken in preparing the Plan, which involved over 1,100 participants, including library users, non-users, community organisations, young people and staff. The consultation identified libraries as trusted and inclusive community spaces supporting literacy, learning, social inclusion, wellbeing and cultural participation.

Members were advised of the scale and impact of the County Library Service, which includes five branch libraries and two mobile libraries, with more than 482,000 visits, 35,000 active members, 776,000 loans and over 3,400 events recorded during 2025.

Ms. E. Morrissey highlighted the key challenges and opportunities identified through the consultation process. She outlined the eight strategic themes that will guide library service delivery over the lifetime of the Plan.

The Members welcomed the draft Plan and acknowledged the important role played by the Library Service in supporting communities throughout County Wexford. The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. E. Morrissey for her comprehensive presentation. Ms. C. Godkin thanked Ms. E. Morrissey and her staff for their work and drafting the plan. Mr. E. Taaffe also thanked Mr. E. Morrissey and her team and outlined plans for the extension and refurbishment of New Ross and Enniscorthy libraries. Mr. Taaffe asked for the Member's support in lobbying for increased funds for the Library Capital Programme.

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. V. Barron, the Council resolved to adopt the Library Development Plan 2026 – 2030.

5. Proposed adoption of Traffic and Car Parking Bye-Laws 2026 for the Municipal Districts of Enniscorthy, Gorey-Kilmuckridge, New Ross and Wexford Borough District

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Dwyer, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen, the Council resolved to adopt the Traffic and Car Parking Bye-Laws 2026 for the Municipal Districts of Enniscorthy, Gorey-Kilmuckridge, New Ross and Wexford Borough District.

6. Wexford County Council Burial Grounds Report - For Information

The Members noted the Wexford County Council Burial Grounds Report, which had been circulated for information. A discussion took place regarding the variation in burial ground charges across the county. A number of Members expressed concern at the disparity in fees between burial grounds and noted that this could result in higher charges for families in some areas.

Members highlighted examples of significant differences in the cost of grave plots and grave openings and suggested that consideration should be given to the equalisation of charges across all Council operated burial grounds. Members also sought clarification on the cost structure underpinning the charges and requested additional information on how current rates are determined.

In response, Mr. E. Taaffe advised that the current charging arrangements have evolved over time and differ between locations. Mr. Taaffe advised that the matter would be examined further, including the implications of any equalisation of fees and charges but stressed that given the challenges of balancing the budget, the Council cannot reduce the income.

7. Chief Executive's Report

Mr. E. Taaffe informed the Members that the offices will be closed to the public on Wednesday 14th October due to the planned day of industrial action. Mr. Taaffe advised that there will be an emergency only response, but a provision will be put in place to meet statutory planning requirements.

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

- Can we review the issues at the house in Rathurtin which used to flood but was resolved? Concern was expressed that the raised road level may result in a re-occurrence of the flooding.
- The issue of gaining access in two-storey apartment developments was raised. The case where a leak in an upstairs apartment led to the apartment below being flooded when the tenants were away was highlighted.
- What progress is being made in the delivery of affordable housing units in New Ross?
- How is the Housing Grants budget progressing?

- Will planning be submitted for the N11/N25 next year?
- What is the current status and anticipated timeline for the proposed works at Larkin's Cross?
- Will the recent intervention by MARA have any impact on the timeline for the Heritage Park Wexfordia project?
- What is the status of the works on the approach to the Little Sea in Bannow?
- Request that a road safety issue at a turn coming into Clearlestown be addressed.
- The case of Colm Connolly who died in the Midlands Prison was raised with the consent of his family. It was requested that the Council write to the Minister enquiring why a Coroner's Report hasn't issued yet.
- Has Wexford County Council received any regulations in relation to the control of vape shops in town centres?
- Request that Wexford County Council engage with developers to try and progress affordable housing in New Ross.
- What measures are in place to ensure Uisce Éireann reinstate roads to a proper standard?
- Has Wexford County Council received any planning applications for a data centre?
- When will Wexford Borough be given a presentation on Trinty Wharf?
- Has Wexford County Council contacted Iarnród Éireann regarding a request for a new train to service Wexford?
- Update sought on the public convenience for the Raven.
- When will new roads be added to the winter maintenance programme as a result of the acquisition of the new gritters?
- Update sought on road re-lining and road restoration programmes.
- Do we have full-time dog wardens, and if so, how many?
- Update sought on the wastewater in Oylegate. Query why there isn't more development in Oylegate village when all other services are there.
- Request that the Council follow up with TII on Cllr. P. Kavanagh's motion to install carpooling parking areas.
- Is the Crescent and Wexford Harbour an SAC?
- Can we request details of planned works in the County by Uisce Éireann?
- Update sought on timeline for provision of gender-based violence training.
- Do we have costings for the new park in Bunclody and does it include new toilets and changing places unit?
- Can we request that TII address the sunken manholes on the N80?
- Can we ask if TII will put a roundabout on the N80 at Ballycarney junction?
- Is Wexford County Council subject to the residential zoned land tax?
- How much rent are we paying on the Hatch Lab and Senan House?
- Update sought on the report on limited companies.

- The need for a roundabout or traffic calming at Ballycarney was highlighted due to the volume of traffic accessing the flour mill at times during the year.
- Can Wexford County Council do anything for a 103-year-old lady who is without her broadband for four weeks?
- Progress report sought on the rent to buy scheme in Wexford.
- Update sought on the number and location of crash beds.
- Query if training was provided to company who operate our out of hours service to assist with issues such as geographical knowledge.
- Update sought on Ballyloughan roundabout?
- The works on Esmonde Street were welcomed but a query was raised if there is any financial support for businesses affected by the ongoing works.
- What is Wexford County Council's position in relation to domestic violence. How are the victims supported?

The meeting adjourned for a comfort break at this point.

Cllr. C. Doyle left the meeting at this point.

8. Minutes of CPG Meeting 5th October, 2026

8.1 Minutes of CPG Meeting 5th October, 2026
On the proposal of Cllr. D. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. P. Kehoe, the Council resolved to confirm the minutes of the CPG Meeting on 5th October, 2026.

9. Minutes of Meetings (For Noting)

9.1 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting - 21st July, 2026

9.2 New Ross Municipal District Meeting - 8th July, 2026

9.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting - 20th July, 2026

9.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting 21st July, 2026

9.5 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting - 15th July, 2026

9.6 Community & Rural Affairs SPC - 4th June, 2026

9.7 Protocol Committee Meeting - 8th December, 2026

9.8 Climate Change, Biodiversity & Environmental SPC - 30th July, 2026

The Members noted the minutes, as circulated.

10. Correspondence and Communications

10.1 Letter from Carlow County Council re: motion dated 17th September, 2026

10.2 Letter from Mid Ulster District Council dated 28th September, 2026

10.3 Letter from Roscommon County Council re: motions dated 5th September, 2026

10.4 Email from Ciaran Mullooly, MEP re: motion dated 2nd October, 2026

The Members noted the correspondence, as circulated.

11. Councillor's Conferences and Training

Training:

21/22 October	LAMA Autumn Seminar, The Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. Fee €245
16 October	AILG National SPC Development Series 2026 -2027 Module 1 "Developing and Delivering Effective SPC Work Programmes" – Online Webinar
3 November	AILG National SPC Development Series 2026 -2027 Module 2 "Better Policy Development" – Hotel Kilkenny – Southern Region
10 November	AILG National SPC Development Series 2026 -2027 Module 3 "Stakeholder Engagement and Collaborative Policy Development" – Online Webinar
28 January 2027	AILG National SPC Development Series 2026 -2027 Module 4 "Innovation and Sharing Good Practice" – venue TBC

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, the Council resolved to approve attendance at the training as outlined.

11.1 Delegation Report

Danville California - September, 2026

The Members noted the delegation report, as circulated.

12. Notices of Motion

12.1 Cllr. L. McDonald and Cllr. G. Carthy

"That this Council directs the roads department of Wexford County Council in conjunction Transport Infrastructure Ireland to initiate an urgent road safety review of the N25 from Ashfield roundabout to Drinagh with a view to mitigating the very serious road safety issues pertaining to that stretch of the N25."

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

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

"Wexford County Council expresses solidarity with the residents of Garvaghy Road and supports their wishes to live in peace and free from sectarian discrimination and harassment. We affirm that communities must not be dragged back to the division and conflict of the past. We ask An Taoiseach to contact the Orange Order, Chief Constable of the PSNI and the British Secretary of State requesting that they agree to reroute this contentious march this year and in future years."

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

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

12.3 Cllr. O. Walsh, Cllr. M. Farrell, Cllr. P. Kavanagh and Cllr. P. Breen.

“Wexford County Council calls on the Minister with responsibility for school transport at the department of education to convene a review of the school transport routes and stops in County Wexford with particular emphasis on safety around stops. There are particular concerns around stops in The Unyoke and Blackwater village and the Ballagh which could possibly be alleviated by extending some routes to other villages for instance Oulart village. The review needs to be carried out in consultation with Wexford County Council.”

On the proposal of Cllr. O. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen, and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

12.4 Cllr. M. Murphy

“Wexford County Council calls on the minister for agriculture food and the marine to immediately develop and implement ISRS, WSAP and IPGSS schemes that will help deliver a framework for Inshore fishers to stabilise their incomes and help them to adapt to climate challenges”.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. N. Boland, and agreed by all, the motion was carried.

12.5 Cllr. O. Walsh and Cllr. R. Staples

“That Wexford County Council calls on the Minister with responsibility for the Office of Public Works to prioritise and expedite the completion of refurbishment works at Blackwater Garda Station and facilitate its reopening without further delay.

Following the malicious fire that caused significant damage to the station, the Blackwater area has been without a functioning Garda station for almost six months. This prolonged closure is causing considerable concern among local residents and undermines confidence in the availability of local policing services.
The Council believes that the people of Blackwater and the surrounding areas are entitled to the restoration of this important public service and urges that all necessary measures be taken to ensure the station is returned to operational use as a matter of urgency."

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

13. A.O.B.

On the proposal of Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy, and agreed by all, the Council resolved to afford Civic Receptions to the Wexford Minor Camogie panel and management who won the Electric Ireland Minor A Shield and Festival Opera to mark their 75th anniversary.

Cllr. M. Sheehan asked if the Wexford Ambassador Scheme can be reviewed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUISINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an lá de Samhain, 2026.

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Cllr. Lisa McDonald ***Michael Drea,***

Cathaoirleach ***County Secretary***