

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Wexford County Council Held on Monday 9th February, 2026
in the Council Chamber at 11.30am (with some remote attendance)**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. Joe Sullivan, Cathaoirleach.

Councillors:

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

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. G. Carthy, Cllr. Paddy Kavanagh, Darragh McDonald

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Sullivan expressed his appreciation and thanks to Wexford County Council, An Garda Síochána, the Fire Service, the National Ambulance Service, Slaney Search and Rescue, the Office of Public Works, the Civil Defence, and all the communities who helped during the recent flooding events following Storm Chandra.

Mr. E. Taaffe advised that the effects aren't over yet as there is significant damage done to roads which need to be repaired. Mr. E. Taaffe gave a presentation outlining the:

- Major Emergency Planning context
- Emergency Response
- Weather overview & Flooding Impact
- Roads impact
- Actions / Ongoing Work

Mr. E. Taaffe proposed the following interim measures:

Enniscorthy

- 1 Tonne sandbag wall to rear of Island Road houses (Complete)
- Aqua Dam on Shannon Quay
- Earth Bank around Swimming Pool
- Raise wall c300mm on Abbey Quay and Install demountable barriers on pedestrian gaps
- Install pump sumps on Abbey Quay and Shannon Quay
- Protect Promenade with Aqua dams and earth bank
- Electronic information signs on Quay front showing current flood risk
- Full survey of drainage systems to prevent back flows

Bunclody & Bridgetown

- Interim defence measures (incl. temporary earth bund) being assessed for Ryland Road
- Further bunds and pumps sumps in Bridgetown

Wexford Town

- Aqua dam along entire Quay-front to prevent future wave overtopping

Mr. E. Taaffe concluded his presentation by thanking the following:

- Council staff & Elected Members
- Civil Defence Volunteers
- Patricia Langton, DSP & her team
- Sharon Commins, Red Cross & her team

- St. Aidans Hall, Templeshannon and Belfield GAA complex
- Numerous private contractors, plumbers and electricians as well as waste removal teams
- Colleagues in Westmeath County Council

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

- Cllr. M. Sheehan thanked the Cathaoirleach for convening the meeting and welcomed the proposed interim measures but stressed the need for a permanent flood scheme. Cllr. Sheehan called on the Government to have all roads surveyed and provide the funding required to address the issues.
- Cllr. J. Owens emphasised the need for a permanent flood relief scheme in Enniscorthy. Cllr. Owens congratulated Slaney Search and Rescue for their work and said whoever complained about them to the Gardaí was wrong. He asked that Wexford County Council provide them with a building and issue an apology to them.
- Cllr. J. Codd thanked staff and welcomed the proposed interim measures. Cllr. Codd said the banks in Bridgetown need to be raised and the drainage surveyed. Cllr. Codd also queried when the plan for Rosslare will be available and criticised the approach taken by insurance companies when dealing with people in areas of flood risk. He also stressed the importance of working with farmers to slow down watering entering the rivers.
- Cllr. B.A. Murphy said the people of Bunclody feel abandoned as there was no plan to deal with flooding. Cllr. Murphy said there is a need for an emergency plan for Bunclody and Enniscorthy. She welcomed the standing up of the community hub and emphasised the need for significant investment in roads and flood measures.
- Cllr. A. Browne thanked the people of Enniscorthy and Bunclody for how they supported each other. Cllr. Browne welcomed the interim flood measures but advised that a permanent solution is needed. It was agreed that a monthly meeting will be held between Wexford County Council and the Office of Public Works senior staff. Cllr. Browne thanked Mr. N. Dempsey and his staff for all their efforts.
- Cllr. A.R. O'Brien thanked the staff for their work and requested increased funding for roads. Cllr. O'Brien asked that the funding request submitted to the Department be broken down by Municipal District and a copy provided to her.
- Cllr. L. Kelly enquired if Wexford County Council is looking at a full catchment study and if nature-based solutions form part of the plans. Cllr. Kelly suggested that a conversation may need to be had with people in certain areas of high flood risk to establish if they need to live there.
- Cllr. R. Staples asked that Curracloe and Castlebridge be added to the areas being submitted for flood measures.

- Cllr. B. Murphy outlined her concerns in relation to funding for road repairs noting that there is no direct ringfencing between what is paid in motor tax in rural areas and funding provided for roads in those areas.
- Cllr. L. McDonald said Wexford County Council should provide flood barriers to people in affected areas. Cllr. McDonald stressed the need to react to climate change urgently and work with other local authorities in the south east. She thanked Ms. L. Lacey, Mr. M. Brazzil and his staff for their efforts.
- Cllr. P. Kehoe requested a warning system for Enniscorthy and said there needs to be a focus on land saturation as well as rainfall. Cllr. Kehoe said land which can be flooded needs to be identified.
- Cllr. P. Barden enquired how many roads have been affected, how much will the repairs cost, when will the funds be sanctioned, and when will the works be undertaken?
- Cllr. G. Laffan thanked staff for their work and said Wexford County Council needs to apply for emergency funding and staff to address the affected areas.
- Cllr. V. Barron enquired if funding is to patch up roads or reinstate them to their best condition? Cllr. Barron said the issue of deforestation and removal of hedgerows must be considered.
- Cllr. J. Fleming asked that roads be made passable as soon as possible.
- Cllr. J. O'Rourke requested flood barriers for Templeshannon and noted that there are six houses in Carleysbridge and twelve houses in the still pond area of Enniscorthy that need flood measures.
- Cllr. M. Farrell asked that Old Bawn be included in the flood plan.
- Cllr. P. Breen noted that climate change is here to stay and advised that a flood defence was put in Killenagh but it still flooded. Cllr. Breen also advised that Old Bawn is an area that floods and he thanked staff for their efforts.
- Cllr. P. Byrne noted that there are three houses which also flood in Edermine and said people need to be prioritised when it comes to considering flood schemes.
- Cllr. C. Walsh stressed the need for permanent flood schemes.
- Cllr. F. Staples thanked Mr. M. Brazzil and his staff and said more staff are needed to address the issues.

On the proposal of Cllr. B. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, and agreed by all the following motion was carried:

“This Council resolves to call on the Departments of Housing and Local Government, Transport and Climate, Energy and Environment to recognise the urgency of the situation and release funding to repair, restore and to mitigate against further degradation of the road network in Co. Wexford.”

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. J. Codd, and agreed by all the following motion was carried:

"This Council directs the SPC to review the models of collaboration with the farming community and local organisations to bring forward recommendations and measures to mitigate against future flooding in Co. Wexford."

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Rourke, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, and agreed by all the following motion was carried:

"This Council acknowledges the work of all the officials involved & calls for the speedy payment of the schemes to assist people and businesses affected by the floods in Enniscorthy, Bridgetown, Bunclody and other affected areas."

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

"This Council will provide flood gates and non-return valves to all business premises and individual homes which have been affected by flooding events, and those who potentially may be affected in future flooding events, in order to provide individuals with the tools to protect their premises from major flooding events."

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an

lá de Márta, 2026.

Cllr. Joe Sullivan

Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,

County Secretary