

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council held on Monday 11th December 2023 in the Council Chamber at 2.30pm (with some remote attendance via Microsoft Teams)

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr. John Fleming, Cathaoirleach

Councillors:

Barden	Pat	Donohoe	Anthony	Moore	Jim
Bell	Maura	Farrell	Mary	Murphy	Barbara-Anne
Bolger	Andrew (online)	Forde	Tom	Murphy	Bridín (online)
Breen	Pip	Hegarty	John	O'Rourke	John (online)
Browne	Aidan (online)	Hynes	David (online)	Ó'Súilleabháin	Fionntáin
Byrne	Cathal	Kavanagh	Willie	Sheehan	Michael
Carthy	Ger	Kelly	Leonard	Staples	Frank
Codd	Jim (online)	Kenny	Donal	Sullivan	Joe
Codd-Nolan	Kathleen	Laffan	Garry	Walsh	Oliver
Connick	Anthony (online)	Lawlor	George	Whelan	Michael
Devereux	Diarmuid (online)	McDonald	Lisa		

Officials:

Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive

Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services

Ms. Lynda Lacey, A/Head of Finance

Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Director of Services

Ms. Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services

Ms Carolyn Godkin, Director of Services

Ms. Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services

Mr. Michael Drea, County Secretary

Apologies: Cllr. Jackser Owens

Votes of sympathy:

The Cathaoirleach offered the sympathy of the Council to:

- The family of Anne Culleton, Finance Department, mother of Peter Culleton, Rosslare Municipal District.
- The family of Margaret (Maureen) Howlin (née Rossiter), Mother-in-Law of Lisa Howlin, Housing Section.
- The family of Maeve Collins (née Brennan), mother of Pat Collins, former County Secretary.

Congratulations:

There were no congratulations recorded.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 County Council Meeting 13th November, 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. W. Kavanagh the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of County Council Meeting on 13th November 2023.

1.2 Special Meeting of Wexford County Council 29th November, 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan and seconded by Cllr. P. Breen the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of Special Meeting of Wexford County Council on 29th November, 2023.

1.3 Statutory Budget Meeting of Wexford County Council 4th December, 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. K. Codd-Nolan and seconded by Cllr. O. Walsh the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of Statutory Budget Meeting of Wexford County Council on 4th December, 2023

Matters arising:

Cllr. G. Carthy sought an update in relation to a proposal for traffic calming works in Tagoat village and on Wexford County Council's Section 5 application.

Cllr. T. Forde sought clarification if all homeless presentations were able to access accommodation during the recent cold spell. Cllr. J. Codd objected to homeless persons being accommodated during cold spell, only to be put back onto the street.

Cllr. P. Barden stated that Cllr. G. Carthy had indicated in the Chamber at the November meeting that the motions submitted for the Special Meeting of Wexford County Council on 29th November, 2023 were submitted under Section 149 of the Local Government Act 2001, and this was not reflected in the Minutes.

Cllr. G. Lawlor said it was clear that the Members cannot direct that the actions be done as outlined in the motions on 29th November, 2023, therefore the motions were obviously directed to the Chief Executive.

Cllr. J. Hegarty asked for clarity if the motions on 29th November, 2023 were handled appropriately. Cathaoirleach J. Fleming indicated that he is satisfied that they were handled correctly and under the correct section of the legislation.

2. Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:

2.1. Intention to dispose of property at 10 Peter Street, Wexford Town

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan the Council resolved to dispose of property at 10 Peter Street, Wexford Town, 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 LAC2307 - Proposed 5 bedroom single storey fully wheelchair accessible social housing unit with associated secondary treatment tank, percolation area, well, roadside boundary re-alignment and new domestic entrance, with all ancillary works as necessary at Lacken, Whitemoor, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. M. Whelan, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the development of a 5 bedroom single storey fully wheelchair accessible social housing unit with associated secondary treatment tank, percolation area, well, roadside boundary re-alignment and new domestic entrance, with all ancillary works as necessary at Lacken, Whitemoor, New Ross, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2307, as circulated.

3.2 LAC2309 - Proposed Little Cullenstown Bridge Replacement Scheme on the L4025 Road at Little Cullenstown Bridge, Cullenstown Little, Foulksmills, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. P. Barden, seconded by Cllr. M. Sheehan, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the proposed Little Cullenstown bridge replacement scheme on the L4025 road at Little Cullenstown Bridge, Cullenstown Little, Foulksmills, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2309, as circulated.

3.3 LAC2310 - Proposed Aughnaglaur Bridge Replacement Scheme on the R735 Road at Aughnaglaur Bridge, Chapel, Adamstown, Co. Wexford.

Having considered the report of the Chief Executive, on the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. P. Barden, the Council resolved to approve the Part 8 for the proposed Aughnaglaur Bridge replacement scheme on the R735 Road at Aughnaglaur Bridge, Chapel, Adamstown, Co. Wexford in accordance with the terms of LAC2310, as circulated.

4. Replacement of Councillor Leonard Kelly on the Following Committees/Boards

4.1 Board of Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB)

Cllr. F. Staples was appointed to the Board of Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) on the proposal of Cllr. C. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. K. Codd-Nolan.

4.2 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)

There were no nominations forthcoming for the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC).

4.3 Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Cllr. M. Farrell was proposed by Cllr. M. Bell and seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy.

Cllr. F. Ó'Súilleabháin was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde and seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes.

On a show of hands, Cllr. M. Farrell was deemed to be appointed to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

5. Nomination of Construction Industry Federation Representative to Climate Change, Biodiversity & Environment SPC

5.1 Anne Marie Neville, Liam Neville Developments Ltd replacing John Somers (CIF)

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell, Anne Marie Neville of Liam Neville Developments Ltd. was appointed as the Construction Industry Federation representative to the Climate Change, Biodiversity & Environment SPC, replacing John Somers.

6. Draft Annual Report 2021 / 2022 - For Adoption

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy, the Council resolved to adopt the Draft Annual Report 2021 / 2022.

7. Delegation to travel to New York for St. Patrick's Day

Mr. E. Hore advised that it is proposed to send a delegation of one Member to New York to participate in various engagements for St. Patrick's Day, on foot of an invitation from the New York County Wexford Association.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. D. Kenny, the Council resolved to approve the New York delegation.

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:

- Road safety concerns raised in relation to vehicles coming from Ferrycarrig bridge direction doing U-turns at the Heritage Park or in the environs of the park.
- Request for date for Special Housing Meeting.
- Query if public lighting has been removed in Wexford by TII.
- Query as to when the proposed masterplan for the Milehouse Road site will go before the Enniscorthy Members and if affordable housing will be included on the site.
- Timeline for demolition of Murphy Floods building.
- Request for update on Croí Conaithe Scheme uptake.
- Request that derelict building in Hookless Village be placed on the derelict sites register.
- Request that the Members be informed who the staff on the Local Authority Integration Team are.
- Request for report outlining the number of refugees in each parish relative to the number of indigenous people, and the services in those areas.
- The funding announcement for Ramsgrange Sewerage Scheme was welcomed and a request for a timeline for the project.
- Query as to who is responsible for the integration of refugees, the Department of Children or Wexford County Council?
- Concerns raised in relation to placement of traffic management cones at Rathaspeck.
- Request that swing seat be replaced in Coolgreany.

- Query if an affordable housing scheme for properties county wide has been drafted.
- Timeline for commencement of acquisition of derelict sites within town centres.
- Request that a scheme be put in place for sale of derelict sites acquired within town centres.
- Request for list of estates taken in charge by Wexford County Council.
- Request that a nighttime economy strategy be put in place and the potential for a nighttime economy officer be explored.
- Assurances sought that units in Castlelands, Ferns will be delivered in Q1 2024.
- Issue of poor communications by Department of Children raised in relation to the locating of refugees around the country.
- Water pressure issues at Tara Hill and Castletown raised.

9. Minutes of CPG

9.1 Minutes of CPG meeting 4th December, 2023

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Hegarty and seconded by Cllr. P. Breen the Council resolved to confirm the Minutes of the CPG Meeting on 4th December 2023.

10. Minutes for Noting

Minutes of Meetings (For Noting):

10.1 New Ross Municipal District Meeting – 18th October, 2023

10.2 Rosslare Municipal District Meeting – 25th October, 2023

10.3 Borough District of Wexford Meeting – 16th October, 2023

10.4 Enniscorthy Municipal District Meeting – 16th October, 2023

10.5 Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Meeting – 17th October, 2023

The members noted the above minutes.

11. Correspondence and Communications

11.1 Letter from Clare County Council re motion dated 14th November, 2023

11.2 Email from Cavan County Council re resolution dated 29th November, 2023

The members noted the above correspondence.

12. Councillor's Conferences and Training

12.1 List of Conferences / Training - List Attached

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan, the Council approved attendance for the following conference and training:

Training

6th – 8th February 2024 Association of Irish Regions Annual training “Building capacity to address the challenges of a changing Ireland” – Fitzgerald’s Woodlands Hotel, Limerick.

Conference

12th – 14th January 2024 Celtic Conferences – The Finance Act 2023 – Carlingford, Co. Louth €130.

12.2 Councillor's Conference Reports:

- Cllr. M. Sheehan - Irish Social Welfare Scheme, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.
- Fishguard and Goodwick Council Memorial Service 11th November, 2023

The members noted the above reports, as circulated.

13. Deferred Notices of Motion - County Council Meeting 13th November, 2023

13.1 Cllr. M. Sheehan

"Recognising the invaluable service and support that Carers deliver in our County, and welcoming the recent announcement by the Minister for Social Protection of a pathway to a State Pension for Carers; this Council calls on the Minister to realign the required contributions from the current 1040 Contributions (20 years service) for Carers to the standard rate of 520 (10 years) as recognition of their service to the State."

The motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. B.A. Murphy and carried.

13.2 Members of Municipal District of Rosslare

"Wexford County Council formally requests the Minister to review upwards the qualifying criteria for the awarding of funding to local authorities for coastal protection works. These measures are essential and require inclusion in the National Coastal Management Strategy currently being developed".

The motion was proposed by Cllr. L. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. F. Staples and carried.

13.3 Cllr. T. Forde

"This council recognises the housing crisis in County Wexford and the inadequate resources we have to deliver for our housing need. We believe that the Housing For All plan does not have the ability to deliver for the housing need in our county. We ask that Minister Darragh O' Brien review this plan, and to provide additional resources to deliver affordable and secure housing across county Wexford."

The motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde and seconded by Cllr. F. Ó'Súilleabháin. The Cathaoirleach advised that there would be a roll call vote on Cllr. T. Forde's motion. The outcome was the motion was defeated with 11 in favour and 21 against. The voting was as follows:

BARDEN PAT	F	FARRELL MARY	F	MOORE JIM	A
BELL MAURA	F	FLEMING JOHN	A	MURPHY BARBARA ANNE	A
BOLGER ANDREW	A	FORDE TOM	F	MURPHY BRIDIN	A
BREEN PIP	A	HEGARTY JOHN	A	O'ROURKE JOHN	F
BROWNE AIDAN	A	HYNES DAVID	F	Ó'SÚILLEABHÁIN FIONNTÁN	F
BYRNE CATHAL	F	KAVANAGH WILLIE	A	SHEEHAN MICHAEL	A
CODD JIM	F	KELLY LEONARD	F	STAPLES FRANK	A
CODD-NOLAN KATHLEEN	A	KENNY DONAL	A	SULLIVAN JOE	A
CONNICK ANTHONY	A	LAFFAN GARRY	A	WALSH OLIVER	A
DEVEREUX DIARMUID	A	LAWLOR GEORGE	F	WHELAN MICHAEL	A
DONOHOE ANTHONY	A	MCDONALD LISA	A		

13.4 Cllr. M. Sheehan

"Acknowledging the right of tenants to own their home as a cornerstone of social housing policy, this Council calls on the Minister for Housing and Local Government to amend Statutory Instrument Housing Circular 09/2022 and reduce the time tenants are required to hold a tenancy from the current 10 years to 5 giving tenants time to save for a mortgage and the opportunity to own their own home".

The motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. P. Breen and carried.

13.5 Cllr. T. Forde

"This council calls on the Irish Government and Fianna Fáil Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheál Martin to give urgent international leadership within the EU and UN to the plight of the Palestinian

people and to fulfil the agreed mandate of the Dáil in 2014 by declaring official recognition for the State of Palestine."

The motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde, seconded by Cllr. F. Ó'Súilleabháin and carried.

13.6 Cllr. D. Hynes

"That this Council, supports the call for an immediate ceasefire. and for the Irish Government to further increase it's humanitarian aid to the civilians under siege in Gaza, and Palatine.

The ongoing onslaught on civilians in Gaza, with 9000 people reported dead, a third of them children and over 17,000 wounded, as we witness on a daily basis hospitals, places of worship, densely civilian populated areas and refugee camps being obliterated by Israeli missiles, rockets and the Israeli Defence Army which is a violation of International law, and is one of the stipulations that constitutes a war crime.

We ask that this motion be accepted by all Councillors. "

This motion was not taken as events had overtaken the deferred motion.

13.7 Cllrs. F. Ó Súilleabháin & D. Hynes

This council deplores the ferocious and genocidal military offensive being waged by Israel against the civilian population of Gaza; the breaking of international law by targeting civilians, the destruction of civilian infrastructure, the forced mass population displacement and the cutting off of vital supplies of water, food, medicines and fuel.

We believe that the collective punishment and the devastating loss of life is horrifying with more than 9,000 civilians killed and tens of thousands injured.

We believe that unconditional ceasefires are urgently required. However, Israel defies these calls for a ceasefire. This cannot stand.

We further believe that the International Community and the Irish government must now take action to enforce international law. We believe that all available diplomatic, legislative and political options must be deployed by the Irish government to press the case for an end to all military actions and to achieve ceasefires, the immediate release of all hostages and humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people. The position of the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland is now untenable, the Ambassador should no longer enjoy diplomatic status in Ireland while Israel refuses the imperative for ceasefires and as the ambassador continues to seek to justify the ongoing bombardment of the civilian population of Gaza.

The Irish position of upholding international humanitarian law must guide the actions of our government. It is 25 years since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. In Ireland, we know the cost of conflict and the value of peace. We know that political dialogue between all sides with the support of partners in the region, and the international community is the only way forward. There is no military solution to the rapidly deteriorating political and humanitarian situation in Palestine. This council therefore believes that Ireland should lead the way in the development of an international peace and conflict resolution initiative for Palestine. We believe this should be an issue of national consensus based on the implementation of International Law."

The motion was proposed by Cllr. D. Hynes and seconded by Cllr. F. Ó'Súilleabháin.

Cllr. M. Sheehan proposed the following amended motion which was seconded by Cllr. P. Breen:

"This Council believes that Ireland should lead the way in the development of an international peace and conflict resolution initiative for Palestine. We believe this should be an issue of national consensus based on the implementation of International Law."

On a show of hands, the amended motion was carried.

14. Notices of Motion

14.1 Cllr. F. Ó Súilleabháin

"This council acknowledges that we have a serious crisis in terms of the maintenance and need for reconstruction of many of our rural roads (with an estimated 194 million euro needed in funding).

That we will write to the Department this month, once again expressing our serious disappointment and anger at the lack of funding to maintain and develop our rural roads network to a satisfactory standard.

We call on the government to urgently address this crisis situation as outlined in previous correspondence and provide the necessary funding".

The motion was proposed by Cllr. F. Ó'Súilleabháin, seconded by Cllr. T. Forde and carried.

15. Any Other Business.

Cllr. J. Moore raised the issue of serial planning objectors and a case he is aware of where an objection was made in the name of a fictitious person. Cllr. Moore enquired if Wexford County Council liaises with An Bord Pleanála to establish if complaints are from a legitimate source. Cllr.'s M. Whelan and D. Hynes supported Cllr. Moore's view that something should be done to tackle spurious complaints.

Cllr. P. Barden asked the Chief Executive to elaborate on his use of the phrase "quite bizarre" to describe the exchange with Alan Corcoran which had recently come to light in the media. Cllr. Barden stated that he wished to be disassociated with these comments. Mr. T. Enright addressed the matter at length and reiterated his position as outlined in his statement.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingithe ar an

lá de Eanáir, 2024.

Cllr. John Fleming

Cathaoirleach

Michael Drea,

County Secretary

