

**Minutes of the Rosslare Municipal District Monthly Meeting  
held on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 10:30hrs in  
Council Chamber, County Hall**

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**Presiding:** Cllr. Jim Codd

**Councillors:** Cllr. Aoife Rose O'Brien  
Cllr. Lisa McDonald  
Cllr. Ger Carthy  
Cllr. Frank Staples

**Officials:** Lynda Lacey – District Director  
Nóirín Cummins – District Manager  
Michael Brazzill – District Engineer  
Derek Cowman – District Technician  
Sandra Martin – District Staff Officer  
Johanna Somers – District Assistant Staff Officer  
Jodi Somers – District Clerical Officer  
Helen Meehan – Senior Staff Officer Housing  
Therese Nolan – Senior Architect Housing  
Abraham Dunne – Senior Engineer Environment  
Rory O'Mahony – Senior Executive Engineer Environment  
Tara Farrell – Senior Staff Officer Community  
Sonia Hunt – Executive Planner

**Apologies:**

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jim Codd welcomed all in attendance and invited Ger O'Mahoney, County Chair of the IFA to address the members. Mr. O'Mahoney began his address by thanking the members for their support with the Wexford Farmers' Charter following on from a meeting in March.

Mr. O'Mahoney continued his address by mentioning the difficulties facing farmers with the recent weather, the contribution made to the economy by farmers, the issue of Ash Dieback and a recent water mobility course taken by the farming community through the Sports Active section in Wexford Co. Co.

**Congratulations**

Cllr. O'Brien extended her congratulations to Kilmore Rackard League winners of the Roinn B football division.

Cllr. McDonald wished to acknowledge St Martins on being the County Senior Hurling Champions and wished them the best at the Leinster Semi-Final against Na Fianna of Dublin as well as Piercestown-Murrintown on winning the Roinn A of the boys Rackard League.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Codd offered the district's congratulations to May Buttimer of Taghmon on her recent award on behalf of the community for her tireless efforts over the decades helping the people of Taghmon. Cllr. Codd requested it be noted May's father served under Denny Allen, and her husband's father served on the West Cork Brigade under Tom Barry.

Cllr. Codd wished to acknowledge the great work of Joe Sydney, Robert Doyle and the committee in turning around the Taghmon Handball Alley.

Cllr. Staples and Cllr. Codd offered their congratulations to St. Fintan's Junior B Football Team on winning the district's final and to Emma Cave on receiving the Gold Papal Cross noting she has a bright future ahead of her.

### **Sympathies**

Cllr. Carthy, Cllr. Codd and Cllr. McDonald extended their sympathies to the family of Kevin Howlin on his recent passing. Cllr. Codd noted two generations of the Howlin Family served in Wexford County Council, Jo Howlin and her father.

Cllr. McDonald extended her sympathies to the Maguire family on the passing of Eddie McGuire.

Cllr. Codd extended his sympathies to the family of Johnny Devereux the president of the Castlebridge Handball Club.

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

### ***1.1 Monthly Meeting***

The minutes of the July Monthly Meeting were proposed by Cllr. Staples and seconded by Cllr. Carthy.

The minutes of the September Monthly Meeting were proposed by Cllr. Staples and seconded by Cllr. O'Brien.

The minutes of the October Monthly Meeting were proposed by Cllr. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. Carthy.

The minutes of the Special Meeting on Road Speed Signs were proposed by Cllr. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. Staples.

## **1.2 Matters Arising**

In response to Cllr. Staples' query regarding progress on Kilmannon Graveyard and his request for a meeting with the new Heritage Officer, the District Manager confirmed the larger section of the wall requires Ministerial Consent and sizeable grant funding and committed to updating the Elected Members once she has received an update from the new Heritage Officer.

The Senior Architect in Housing confirmed to Cllr. Carthy that the group of houses at Ballygillane is being tendered by the end of the month, Cllr. Carthy requested to be notified when the tender is opened.

In response to Cllr. Carthy's request for an update on Grange Road, the District Director confirmed the Director of Services for Water Services had been in contact with Uisce Eireann with a view to secure funding to support the 2025 works programme and committed to obtaining a further update on the amount. Cllr. Carthy raised issue with any cost of the reinstatement of Grange Road come out of the district's roads programme funding putting the question to the District Director "*Are we proposing Uisce Eireann are going to raid the piggy bank*". Cllr. Carthy then asked the District Engineer to put a price on reinstating Grange Road, to which the DE advised approximately €168 thousand for 1.5km. The District Director confirmed Wexford County Council would request €168 thousand from Uisce Eireann.

Cllr. McDonald asked the DD if Uisce Eireann had accepted responsibility for reinstating Grange Road, the DD could not confirm the exact amount to be compensated by Uisce Eireann. Cllr. Codd concluded the matter by requesting further clarity on whether or not Uisce Eireann were accepting responsibility.

## **2. Business prescribed by statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members**

None

## **3. District Manager Report**

### **3.1 District Managers Report**

The District Manager delivered her previously circulated monthly report.

Cllr. McDonald congratulated all groups on their securing of sports capital grants paying special mention to DMP which will provide an athletics clubhouse for the district. Cllr. McDonald further acknowledged the community and sports groups in the district for the work they put into their applications to achieve such funding. Cllr. Staples and Cllr. Codd concurred.

In response to Cllr. Carthy's request for an update on the Kilmore Recreation Trail the District Manager confirmed it was still in the Planning Stage.

## **4. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations**

### **4.1 Roads Report**

The District Engineer delivered the previously circulated report before responding to questions raised by the Members.

- The Bridgetown Flood Scheme Review
- Pole in Mayglas
- Traffic lights at Ballylannan
- Smaller roads throughout the district
- Grotto in Kilmore

#### *Taking in Charge List*

The District Engineer confirmed he, along with the District Technician, would provide an update at the next meeting on this list.

#### *Drinagh Road to Slob*

The District Engineer confirmed to Cllr. McDonald he will look at filling potholes before year end while it awaits resurfacing through the roads programme.

#### *Lightwater Cross*

In response to Cllr. McDonald's request, the DE committed to completing the work before the Christmas.

#### *The Lane of Gurtains*

The District Engineer confirmed to Cllr. Codd that a formal application would need to be submitted by the residents for the road to be considered to be taken in charge of the Local Authority. Cllr. Carthy & Cllr. McDonald suggested they apply under the Local Improvement Scheme.

The DE confirmed that Roads Central Department have submitted a large grant application for safety upgrade works on the Newline Road.

### **4.2 Housing Report**

The Senior Staff Officer in Housing invited questions from the Elected Members on the previously circulated housing report.

Cllr. O' Brien queried the policy (Department/Local Authority) on housing applicants and independent living and requested an updated list on the proposed housing developments in the pipeline for the district, specifically any plans for Affordable Housing Schemes.

Cllr. Carthy agreed with Cllr. O' Brien and requested a concrete plan in relation to delivery of social and affordable schemes for RMD.

The Senior Staff Officer in Housing responded to Cllr O' Brien stating that Wexford County Council comply with National Regulation from 2011 guidelines on independent living and the requirements for applicants for Social and Affordable housing and the family home.

Cllr O' Brien requested Wexford County Council lead the way to change these guidelines.

The S.S.O responded to Cllr. Carthy with pipeline delivery of Carrig on Bannow 2025 & 2026, Murrin town final 17 about to delivered and nominations have been requested. 60 NHD units in the RMD and the ongoing request for expressions of interest for turnkey houses from developers.

Cllr. Carthy stated that Wexford County Council will have to think outside the box and need land and serviced land. Cllr. Carthy proposed a couple of cluster developments be built in the rural areas in the RMD in line with Environmental policy and take ownership of our own situation. Cllr Carthy raised issue with lack of attendance by the Director of Housing & Director of Capital & Special Projects at the RMD district meeting. Cllr Carthy requested a commitment to build some houses.

Cllr Staples concurred with Cllr Carthy rebuilding clusters & agreed we should be able to build clusters in rural areas

Cllr Carthy stated ÚE has no commitment to deliver services in rural Wexford.

Cllr Codd. We have 3012 people on the housing list in County, there was a huge flurry to open houses with upcoming election but there is nothing in the pipeline going forward. People are lining up in the main corridor of the Council every day, it's a shocking sight to see, there is no dignity in the system for people. We should be able to find a more dignified place for people to step in out the public eye and he objects to this in the highest possible way.

The length of time its taking the SPC's to get up and running is not acceptable. What's the situation with Wellingtonbridge with water and sewage and Taghmon?

The S.S.O. responded stating facilities within the Council building are currently being looked into as they are inadequate; people do have to wait but are brought into a meeting room to discuss their business.

The RMD Director stated that the issue of the Council Housing facilities is beyond the Housing staff and she will take it back to the Housing Director.

The D.D. stated that housing overall is going to exceed their 2025 targets and with regard to the Cluster developments, the D.D. will talk to the relevant directors about the feasibility and will revert back to the Councillors.

The S.S.O. informed the Cllrs., that an AHB meeting was held and WCC informed them of the needs of WCC for housing going forward.

Cllr Codd queried the responsibility on AHB in WCC. WCC needs to be the landlord not AHB. The people look to the Council to provide houses.

Cllr. Carthy proposes all the senior decision makers in WCC at the December DM to discuss how we are going to get from where we are to where we need to be. The DD stated she will discuss with the relevant sections the proposed cluster developments.

Cllr Carthy requested a pilot programme for cluster houses in RMD. He requested a commitment from the Director for some news on the proposed pilot programme at the December meeting.

Therese Nolan, Senior Architect Housing responded to the Capital queries.

She agreed to take comments in relation to Taghmon and the cluster developments back to the Housing Capital team and responded to Cllr O' Brien that the window and doors are under Housing Maintenance and she will request an updated list from Housing maintenance.

Cllr Codd questioned if AHB tenants can buy out houses and the S.S.O informed him that AHB do not dispose of housing stock.

Cllr O' Brien queried when the SPC's are due to commence and Cllr. Codd stated he will take a serious look at AHB when he takes up Chair of Housing SPC.

The extending of Standing Orders was proposed by Cllr. Codd and seconded by Cllr. Carthy

Executive Engineer, Environment Section, George Colfer joined meeting remotely

#### ***4.3 Planning Report***

The contents of the report were noted. An update on the pig farm is due in February 2025.

Cllr Codd asked how long the waiting list is for pre planning meetings at present and the response given was at present there are only 3 meetings currently requested which will be dealt with within the week.

#### ***4.4 Environment Report***

Senior Executive Engineer, Rory O' Mahoney delivered updates on the report and invited queries re same.

Cllr. Carthy requested an update on Our Lady's Island lake due by the end of month. Who will be attending the meeting with the OPW, NPWS & Department of Housing?

S.E.E., responded saying the Director, Senior Engineer and Executive Engineer will be attending.

Cllr Carthy requested the Rosslare Coastal Flood protection project be split in two so as to proceed the project quickly.

The Executive Engineer, George Colfer stated there is a meeting with the NPWS next week in relation to Our Lady's Island. This is the first step within the process. He stated the meeting with OPW will follow on from meeting with NPWS.

In relation to the Rosslare Coastal Flood project he responded to say the intention was always to split the project in two as they are independent schemes.

Cllr Codd queried the rock armour in Sea View and asked that the Engineers take a look at it from an erosion point of view. He also questioned the canal door running through Woodstown being maintained.

Rosslare Coastal Flood project Public Participation Day is on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 4 o'clock to 8 o'clock and the E.E. would encourage everyone to attend.

Senior Engineer, Abraham Dunne gave an update on the Combined Assessment in Rosslare Strand. Its currently at scoping stage. A meeting was attended by planners and ÚE were to provide some information which as yet hasn't been received. Some sampling and modelling is going to be necessary. Cllr Carthy questioned when will we have this report?

Consultant appointed in September, but we are depending on information from ÚE.

Cllr Ger Carthy queried if ÚE are impeding WCC ability to complete the report.

#### ***4.5 Community Report***

The contents of the report were noted, and S.S.O. Tara Farrell delivered some updates & invited queries.

Final window for 2024 CRF is now open with a closing date of 13<sup>th</sup> December. The Department have announced the LEP for 2025 €253,000 has been allocated for Co. Wexford.

Cllr. Carthy left the meeting

Cllr. Codd raised access for the graveyard in Ambrosetown. The S.S.O. gave an update to say the Burial ground administrator and D.E. met at Ambrosetown with an engineer's report to follow, a discussion followed about the possible solutions. Cllr. Codd committed to support Handball Alleys in the District, specifically in Taghmon

Cllr. Carthy joined the meeting remotely.

#### ***4.7 Library Report***

The contents of the report were noted.

#### **5. Correspondence**

#### **6. Notice of Motion/s**

#### **AOB**

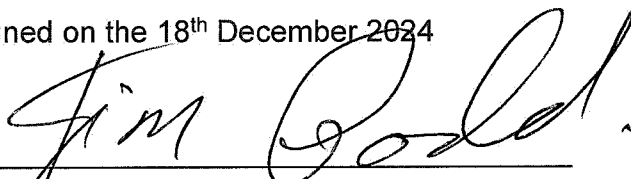
None.

#### **Resolutions**

Cllr. O' Brien raised the issue of period poverty across the RMD.

### **THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

Signed on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024



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**Cllr. Jim Codd  
An Cathaoirleach  
Rosslare Municipal District**