

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT
HELD AT 2.30P.M. ON MONDAY 15TH APRIL, 2024 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, COUNTY HALL, WEXFORD.**

Presiding: - His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty

Councillors: - L. Kelly, G. Lawlor, M. Bell, G. Laffan, T. Forde, D. Hynes

In Attendance:

Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Interim Chief Executive
Mr. Shay Howell, A/Director of Services
Mr. Anthony Bailey, District Manager
Ms. Eilís Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment
Mr. Graham Hunt, Executive Planner,
Ms. Eimear Kennedy, Volunteer Coordinator, Fleadh Cheoil
Ms. Sharon Ryan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer
Ms. Caroline Crowe, Assistant Staff Officer.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

On the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. John Hegarty, a unanimous vote of sympathy was extended to the families of the following:

- Mr. Michael Furlong, Maudlintown, Wexford, former Alderman of Wexford Borough Council. RIP.
- Mrs Mary Quinn, Ballyharran, Crossabeg, Co. Wexford. RIP

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 20th March, 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated were confirmed, and signed on the proposal of Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

UPDATE ON FLEADH CHEOIL 2024

Ms. E. Kennedy, Volunteer Coordinator, Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann gave a brief presentation to Members on volunteering for the Fleadh. Ms. Kennedy outlined to Members the number of volunteers required for the various roles. Ms. Kennedy indicated that it is anticipated that volunteers will work 2 no. 4 hour shifts, with mandatory training to be undertaken by all volunteers.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Kennedy.

- Tourism promotion by volunteers.

- Volunteers from disability sector
- Access to the RNLI Station
- Restrictions to Wexford Bridge for the duration of the Fleadh

Ms. Kennedy informed Members that a public meeting is to take place for residents and businesses in the next month at which traffic management and access to the town centre will be discussed.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty, thanked Ms. Kennedy on behalf of Members for her detailed presentation.

Mr. E. Taaffe, Interim Chief Executive provided a brief update to Members on The Fleadh, stating that the event licence application had been lodged with the Planning Section.

Mr. Taaffe anticipates that the Fleadh Programme will be available in the coming months and thanked all those involved to date in the Fleadh.

Mr. Taaffe did stress that accommodation is still required, and urged all to register their interest in providing and or need for accommodation, on the Fleadh website at www.fleadhcheoil.ie

AMENITY, ARTS, RESIDENTS ASSOICATION GRANT SCHEME 2024

The attached grant listing of funding allocated to applicants under the Amenity/Arts and Residents Association Grant Scheme 2024, a copy of which had previously been circulated, was unanimously agreed by Members on the recommendation of Cllr. G. Laffan, seconded by Cllr. M. Bell.

REPORTS

HOUSING

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated was discussed.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. S. Ryan, Senior Staff Officer.

- Update on alternative emergency accommodation.
- Policy on anti-social behaviour

In response to a query from Cllr. T. Forde regarding the disposal of the laneway at Talbot Green, Mr. A. Bailey, District Manager clarified that an initial survey has indicated two utility services traversing the laneway and both companies are to be contacted to assess if these services can be removed/relocated and any associated costs involved. Mr. Bailey added that a valuation of the laneway will also be required.

Mr. S. Howell, Acting Director of Services provided an update to Members on the proposed development at Bride Street, that the funding request was submitted to the Department of Housing. Mr. Howell also pleased to inform Members that approval has been granted to the construction of 56 units at Clonard.

PLANNING

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated was noted.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated was discussed.

Ms. E. Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer advised Members that a presentation on the Active Travel Scheme and Town Transportation Plan will be made to Members at the May meeting.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Furlong.

- Condition of roads adjacent to and off the Newtown Road.
- Trip hazard on footpath on Newtown Road from waste area.
- Repairs at Codds Lane
- Clarification on the risk assessment for roads for inclusion in the programme of works.
- GDPR and gathering of road safety information.
- Safety measures at various junctions including Clonard/Glenville Road, Whiterock Hill/Sinnottstown Lane, Ferrycarrig.
- Ponding at Crosstown.
- Update on the automated bollard at the junction of Main Street/Georges Street.
- Agreed procedure with businesses regarding the closure of the Monck Street canopy.
- Ponding at The Deeps, Killurin
- Fault at the pedestrian lights Castlebridge
- Blocked storm drains at Bishopswater.
- Update on the low-cost safety works at Cluain Dara.
- Requirement for additional dog bins on Coolcots Lane
- Loose manhole covers at Crosstown Manor
- Traffic Survey along the stretch of road at Mansfield Drive/Meadowvale
- Update on the pedestrian crossing and lights at Cuan Aingeal, Ferrybank.
- Ash Dieback policy for the district.
- Draining clearing at Curralcoe
- Continuing issues with the traffic lights at Wexford Bridge
- Replacement of sign at Ballymartin Cross.
- Strengthening on the R741 to Crosstown.
- Installation of water supply and bench at the dog park in Min Ryan
- Sewerage connections at Mulgannon
- Water leak at Crosstown.

Mr. S. Howell, Acting Director of Services informed Members that initial work is complete on the Mechanics Institute but that additional works are required at the rear of the building and upstairs. Mr. Howell added that no decision has been made regarding its future use but there are a number of interested parties in the building.

Cllr. T. Forde thanked Ms. E. Furlong for the works carried out recently on the gullies at Liam Mellows Park.

COMMUNITY

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated were noted.

Cllr. G. Laffan congratulated the Sports Active Team on their Nature Walker App being chosen as a finalist in the Digital Community category of the .ie Digital Town Awards 2024. The awards ceremony will take place on the 24th May, 2024.

ENVIRONMENT

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated was discussed.

Mr. H. Maguire advised Members that April is National Spring Clean Month, and that equipment is being provided to groups to carry out clean ups in their area over the month.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Maguire.

- Repairs to the beach access boardwalk at The Raven, Curracloe.
- Changing facilities at Curracloe.
- Update on the public convenience on the quayfront.
- Extension to the operation of the lights at the skateboard park in Min Ryan Park.

In response to query from Members on the proposed water activity centre in Curracloe, Mr. S. Howell, Acting Director of Services advised that tenders are currently being assessed for the pumping station, rising main and building and the tender report should be available in the coming weeks.

Following a request from His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty for an update on the proposed playground, Mr. Howell confirmed that sufficient funding was not available for the playground but that alternatives were being investigated and that he would have more information for Members at the May meeting.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVE & ARTS

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated were noted.

FIRE SERVICE

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated were noted.

MEMBERS SUPPORT

The attached report, copies of which had previously been circulated were noted.

DRAFT CASUAL TRADING BYE-LAWS 2024 – FLEADH CHEOIL AND DRAFT STREET PERFORMANCE BYE-LAWS 2024

Mr. A. Bailey, District Manager informed Members that the closing date for receipt of submissions on the Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws, 2024 and Draft Street Performance Bye-Laws 2024 is Tuesday 16th April, 2024.

MEMORIAL GARDEN, FERRYBANK

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty advised Members that the Health Service Executive is exploring the possibility of a memorial garden at Ely House, Ferrybank.

WESTGATE HERITAGE CENTRE

In response to request for Cllr. L. Kelly on the status of the Westgate Heritage Centre, Mr. A. Bailey, District Manager confirmed that Ms. L. Burns, Arts Officer will make a presentation to Members at the May meeting on the proposed use of the centre.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 20TH MAY, 2024

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.