

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

Presiding: His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor

Councillors: G. Laffan, L. Kelly, T. Forde, C. Walsh, R. Staples, R. Shannon

In Attendance:

Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Chief Executive
Mr. Shay Howell, A/Director of Services
Mr. A. Bailey, District Manager
Ms. Eilís Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. David Codd, Chief Technician & Road Safety Officer
Mr. Mick McCormack, Town Regeneration Officer
Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment
Mr. Graeme Hunt, Executive Planner
Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 15th May, 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated were confirmed and signed on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly.

MINUTES FROM ANNUAL MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Monday, 25th June, 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated to Members, were confirmed, and signed on the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. R. Staples.

FORMATION OF COMMITTEES: -

Protocol Committee

Nominations were invited for membership of the Protocol Committee (Mayor ex-officio plus three members.)

Cllr. Shannon was proposed by Cllr. Kelly seconded by Cllr. Forde

Cllr. Walsh was proposed by His Worship the Mayor Cllr. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. Staples.

Cllr. Staples was proposed by Cllr. Walsh seconded by Cllr. Kelly.

There being only three councillors nominated, Cllrs. Shannon, Cllr. Walsh and Cllr. Staples were then confirmed, in addition to the Mayor ex-officio.

Twinning Committee

Nominations were invited for membership of the Twinning Committee (Mayor ex-officio plus three members.)

Cllr. Walsh was proposed by His Worship the Mayor Cllr. Lawlor seconded by Cllr. Kelly

Cllr. Kelly was proposed by Cllr. Forde seconded by Cllr. Staples.

Cllr. Staples was proposed by Cllr. Forde seconded by Cllr. Kelly

There being only three nominations proposed and seconded, Cllr. Walsh, Cllr. Kelly and Cllr. Staples were then confirmed, in addition to the Mayor ex-officio.

Heritage Committee

Nominations were invited for membership of the Heritage Committee (Mayor ex-officio plus 2 members.

Following a discussion, Members unanimously agreed that the committee should consist of Mayor ex-officio plus 3 members.

Cr. Laffan was proposed by Cllr. Staples, seconded by Cllr. Walsh.

Cllr. Forde was proposed by Cllr. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. Staples.

Cllr. Kelly was proposed by Cllr. Forde, seconded by Cllr. Shannon

Cllr. Kelly withdrew his nomination, and at his request, Members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Shannon take his place on the committee.

SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS – 60KM/H RURAL LOCAL ROADS BY-LAWS

Mr. D. Codd, Chief Technician gave a brief presentation to Members on the proposed reduction of the existing default 80km/h on all Rural Non-National County Roads to 60km/h, in November 2024 as part of the National Speed Limit Review. Mr. Codd advised that this change will affect approx. 2,993 kms of roadway in the county. Mr. Codd further advised that the proposal will go out to public consultation next month and it is anticipated that the drafty bye-laws will be presented to Members at the September meeting.

Mr. Codd clarified that all works required to implement the proposed change i.e. signage etc, is fully funded by the Department of Transport, who are also organising a National Awareness Campaign.

Mr. Codd requested that Members email any observations on the proposal to speedlimits@wexfordcoco.ie

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

- Commencement of Phase 2 of National Speed Limit Review
- Extension of public consultation period to September.
- Outsourcing erection of new signage

- Assessment of condition of roadway affected by the proposed changes.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor thanked Mr. Codd, on behalf of Members, for his detailed presentation.

TOWN CENTRE FIRST, CASTLEBRIDGE

Mr. M. McCormack gave a presentation to Members on Town Centre First, Castlebridge. Mr. McCormack firstly gave an overview of what is Town Centre First to Members and outlined the challenges facing our towns. He advised that Town Teams now needed to be set up for Wexford Town and Castlebridge and he gave a brief outline of the key roles of the team.

Mr. McCormack then invited Members to select a Chairperson for each Town Team.

On the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor, seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly, Members unanimously agreed that Cllr. R. Staples, Chair the Castlebridge Town First Team.

Members unanimously agreed that His Worship the Mayor Cllr. G. Lawlor chair the Wexford Town First Team, with the chair changing annually with the election of the new mayor.

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

- Inclusion of older people in process.
- Inclusion of diverse youth group
- Issues with antisocial behaviour.
- Frequency of team meetings and presentation of minutes to Members at the Ordinary meeting.
- Funding streams and levels available.
- H.S.E. membership on team.

Mr. McCormack informed Members that walk-in information clinics about the Town Teams will be organised in the next month.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor, on behalf of Members, thanked Mr. McCormack for his comprehensive presentation.

DRAFT TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2025 – 2029.

The draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029, copies of which had previously been circulated was noted.

ERECTION OF COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE TO ARTHUR LEARED.

The attached request to erect a commemorative plaque to Arthur Leared, copies of which had previously been circulated, was presented by Mr. A. Bailey, District Manager.

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. C. Walsh, Members unanimously agreed to the erection of the plaque in The Bullring but requested that a QR code be included with the plaque.

REPORTS

HOUSING

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. H. Meehan, Senior Staff Officer.

- Increased measures required at Talbot Green to prevent access to gated laneway
- Resources available for housing maintenance.
- Breakdown of numbers of long stay clients in Ozanam House.
- Update on Energy Retro Fit Programme.
- Timeframe to achieve B2 BER rating on all housing property.
- Number of houses currently below the B2 BER rating.

PLANNING

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. G. Hunt, Executive Planner.

- Policy on Taking in Charge of Estate, in particular different phases of Clonard Village.
- Consideration to be given to condition planning permissions to include installation of footpaths prior to the commencement of developments.
- Impact of development at Georges Street on residents parking.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. E. Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer.

- Condition of road surface at the entrance to Clonard Village
- Update on pedestrian crossing at Cluain Dara.
- Requirement for additional bus shelters across the district.
- Identified use of the Tourist Office on the quayfront after the Fleadh.

- Strategic plan for works on, and use of The Ballast Office
- Phasing out of the use of weedkillers across the district.
- Improvement works required at the entrance to Elderwood Estate, Castlebridge
- Update on the repairs to the Old Boley Bridge
- Road Safety concerns regarding the junction at Ferrycarrig Bridge.
- Timeframe for works at the junction of Distillery Road and The Fairways.
- Additional signage for the low-cost safety works on Whiterock Hill.
- Update on the permanent closure of the laneway at Talbot green
- Location for the historic fountain.
- Update on the link road between Clonard and Killeens.
- Timeframe for improvement works to the entrance at Lus Mor.
- Installation of additional ramp in Screen Village
- Progress on the line-marking from the Heritage Park to Killurin
- Requirement for consultation with residents on Whiterock Hill on the next phase of low-cost safety works.
- Examine possibility of replacing steps at Roches Terrace with an access ramp and rails.
- Remove debris from edge of green at Corish Park
- Refresh of line marking at schools around the district prior to their opening in September
- Need for additional double yellow lines at entrance to Wolfe Tone Villas to improve sightlines.
- Safety improvements to junction at John's Road and Westlands Estate.

Cllr. L. Kelly suggested that the Biodiversity Officer be invited to give a presentation to Members on how biodiversity is being managed in the district.

Mr. S. Howell, A/Director of Services advised members that the Ballast Office has been viewed by various interested parties, with a view to leasing the ground floor. Mr. Howell stated that there is considerable work to be done to renovate the whole building. He did however ask that Members refer any interested parties in any of vacant property in the ownership of the Council, to him.

COMMUNITY

The attached report a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

UPDATE ON FLEADH CHEOIL 2024

Mr. E. Taaffe provided a brief update on the upcoming Fleadh Cheoil to Members.

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

- Traffic management at the Dome in Clonard.
- Availability of specialized food i.e. for coeliac community

- Proposed use of tourist office after the Fleadh
- Provision of public toilets on the quay.
- Proposed use of Tesco site after the Fleadh
- Capacity of workers car park

In response to concerns raised by Cllr. T. Forde regarding arrangements for Fire Services Staff during the Fleadh, Mr. Taaffe undertook to discuss the concerns raised with the Chief Fire Officer, Mr. P. L'Estrange.

Suspension of Standing Orders.

It being 5p.m, on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Lawlor, it was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow for the remaining business on the agenda to be concluded.

ENVIRONMENT

The attached report a copy of which had previously been circulated was discussed.

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

- Additional measures at beaches during Fleadh.
- Clean up at laneway at Ferndale

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVE AND ARTS

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

FIRE SERVICES

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

MEMBERS SUPPORT SYSTEM

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

MOTIONS

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly and following discussion was unanimously adopted:

“I ask that this council erect a memorial of the many townspeople of Wexford who were murdered by forces under Oliver Cromwell in 1649 and all those who were shipped to Barbados as indentured slaves.”

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly and following discussion was unanimously adopted.

“I ask that this council carry out works in a timely manner at the Coolballow/Sinnottstown Lane junction. “

Ms. Eilis Furlong advised Members she would liaise with the Road Safety Officer to look at what, if any, minimum works could be carried out to improve safety until adequate funding becomes available.

CORRESPONDENCE

Following the formation of the Twinning Committee, Members unanimously agreed to facilitate a meeting with the Lugo delegation, as requested, week commencing 22nd July, 2024.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

On the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G.Lawlor, a unanimous vote of sympathy was extended to the family of the following:

- Mary Wright, Aunt of Cllr. R. Shannon RIP

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.