

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT HELD AT 2.30P.M. MONDAY 16th SEPTEMBER, 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. Shannon

In Attendance:

Mr. Shay Howell, A/Director of Services
Mr. Anthony Bailey, District Manager
Ms. Eilís Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Melissa Goff, Senior Staff Officer, Environment
Mr. Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer, Planning
Mr. Graeme Hunt, Executive Planner
Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Mr. David Codd, Chief Technician, Roads
Ms. Caroline Crowe, Assistant Staff Officer
Mr. Richard Murphy, Clerical Officer.

Apologies from Cllr. R. Staples on his inability to attend the meeting were noted.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor Cllr. G. Lawlor Members agreed to the matter of the District Engineer's report be dealt with first on the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 15th July, 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. C. Walsh.

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.

- Update on steps at Kennedy Park
- Pedestrian crossing at Cluain Dara
- Speed survey on Abbey Street to determine if a pedestrian is necessary from Library to Arts Centre
- Review recent roadworks at junction of Abbey St. and George's Street
- Review of left turn at junction of Coolcotts Lane on to Newtown Road following change to footpath, including sightlines at the junction.
- Refresh line-markings in district.
- Japanese Knotweed issue on private land encroaching on public roadway.

- Hedgecutting on rural roads
- Review of sightlines at entrance Wolfe Tone Villas.
- Drainage issues in green area at Bishopswater
- Update on Fairways/Distillery Road junction works

NOTIFICATION OF CIVIC RECEPTIONS

Members were notified of the following Civic Receptions which were approved at a Protocol Meeting held Monday 16th September:

- Wexford Wanderers RFC 100th Anniversary – Thursday 10th October
- Ger Hore Retirement – Thursday 17th October
- Faythe Harriers 75th Anniversary – Thursday 24th October
- Larry Kirwan – recognition for contribution to the arts – Wednesday 30th October

SECTION 183 – LAND AT LAMBSTOWN, KILLURIN

The attached report regarding the proposed transfer of land at Lambstown, Killurin a copy of which had previously been circulated was presented by Mr. Tom Banville, and unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. G. Laffan and seconded by Cllr. R. Shannon.

ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

Amendment to the Standing Orders Regulating the Proceedings of Meetings of Wexford Borough District Members, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposal Cllr. R. Shannon and seconded by Cllr. C. Walsh.

DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR OUTDOOR TRADING WITHIN THE WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT FOR THE PERIOD 2025 - 2027.

The draft framework for outdoor trading within the Wexford Borough District for the period 2025 - 2027, copies of which had previously been circulated was presented by Mr. A. Bailey, District Manager. The draft framework was proposed by Cllr. T. Forde and seconded by Cllr. L. Kelly.

Following discussion on licence fees, Members unanimously agreed that a review of the fees be carried out to ensure that value for money was being achieved for the Council.

In response to a suggestion from Cllr. L. Kelly that outdoor trading be considered for the Crescent Quay site, Mr. A. Bailey advised that as no long-term plan has been agreed for the site, it would not be prudent to issue 2-year trading licences.

DRAFT TAKING IN CHARGE POLICY OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS.

The draft Taking in Charge Policy, copies of which had previously been circulated was presented by Mr. T. Banville, S.E.O. Planning Section, proposed by Cllr. L. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. T. Forde.

The following issues raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Banville.

- Legacy issues with existing estates not addressed under new policy
- Availability of current list of estates taken in charge on the website
- Update on taking in charge of Whiterock Heights.
- Update on Planning Enforcement and Dangerous Structures for Strandfield Manor
- Agreed policy for taking in charge of rural roads

Cllr. L. Kelly proposed that planning would develop a statement or policy to address legacy estate issues. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. T. Forde.

Members unanimously agreed that the use of bond monies to carry out any works in Whiterock Heights, be brought before the Members for approval.

It being 3:14p.m, Cllr. G. Laffan exited the meeting

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW DEFAULT 60KM/H RURAL LOCAL ROADS SPEED LIMIT.

The attached report regarding the implementation of the new default 60km/H rural local roads speed limit previously circulated was discussed and queries raised by Members were addressed by Mr. D. Codd, Chief Technician.

- Concerns raised regarding implementation of plan
- Resources available for implementation

DEVELOPMENT AT CLONARD LITTLE.

The attached report regarding the development at Clonard Little, copies of which was previously circulated, was presented by Mr. S. Howell, A/Director of Service.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Howell and Mr. G. Hunt.

- Any proposal to extend the roadway
- Completion date for the development.
- Construction schedule of paving infrastructure.

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.

- Number of new housing applicants over the last three years.
- Number of affordable housing projects in Wexford Borough District.
- Figures for planned maintenance of windows/doors 2024/25 and budget for this period.
- Agreed expenditure for B&B emergency accommodation between Wexford County Council and Department of Housing – figure of spend to date to be provided.

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.

- Timeframe between request for pre-planning meeting and meeting occurring.

COMMUNITY

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

ENVIRONMENT

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

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Ms. M. Goff, Senior Staff Officer.

- Update regarding location of new air quality monitoring station in the town.
- Update on fully accessible, free to use toilet on Wexford Quay front.

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 and following discussion was unanimously adopted.

“We ask that the walkway from Kennedy Park to the R733 to be reinstated to the previous design or further improved upon with the input and approval of the residents committee, and that any future changes to such walkways in the district be discussed with residents that would be impacted by such changes.”

The following motion jointly submitted by all Members of Wexford Borough District and following discussion was unanimously adopted.

“We ask that the Wexford Borough District Bye Laws be amended to prevent school buses from parking in the Talbot Green area and that this be completed through the input of Councillors and local residents committee and any other stakeholders and that the council work with schools in an effort to regularize school times”.

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:

Fr. James Furlong, Tomgarrow, Adamstown, Co. Wexford RIP, uncle of Ms. Eilis Furlong, Senior Executive Officer.

CLOSURE OF POST OFFICE, MAIN STREET.

Members expressed their concerns at the closure of Butler’s Post Office, North Main Street, which will leave only one post office in operation in the town in Anne Street.

Members requested reassurance be sought from An Post that Anne Street Post Office will remain open and that services at the Clonard depot be upgraded.

BOLT E-SCOOTERS.

Members expressed the following concerns regarding the safety of the Bolt Electric Scooters and reiterated their frustration that the scheme had not been brought to Members for consideration before implementation.

- Safety issues specifically to the visually impaired
- Users lack of understanding of the rules of the road

- Lack of effectiveness of age limit and sobriety test.

Director of Service confirmed a mid-term review following trial period. Members asked that the Active Travel department would be invited to present that review in the future

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 21st OCTOBER, 2024

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.