

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WEXFORD BOROUGH DISTRICT
HELD AT 2.30P.M. ON MONDAY 20th 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, Chief Executive
Mr. Shay Howell, A/Director of Services
Ms. Eilís Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Hugh Maguire, Administrative Officer, Environment
Mr. Alan O'Shea, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Mr. Tom Byrne, Executive Engineer, Roads
Mr. Peter Foley, Transport Planning Specialist, AtkinsRéalis
Mr. Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer, Planning
Mr. Graeme Hunt, Executive Planner,
Ms. Liz Burns, Arts Officer
Ms. Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Ms. Siobhán Kehoe, Staff Officer
Ms. Caroline Crowe, Assistant Staff Officer.

Apologies

Apologies from Mr. A. Bailey, District Manager on his inability to attend the meeting were noted.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 15th April, 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Bell, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

MATTERS ARISING

As the Health Service Executive have confirmed that in the short term the development of a Memorial Garden on the grounds of Ely House was unlikely to proceed, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Hegarty requested Members to consider redirecting funds previously earmarked for this to the development of a playground at Curraclloe beach. Members unanimously agreed to the redirection of funding to the playground, provided that the concept of a memorial garden be considered by the new Council.

MINUTES OF HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Heritage Committee Meeting held 19th April 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, were noted. Members congratulated all involved in the committee and acknowledged their work in raising awareness about the importance of heritage to Wexford Town.

UPDATE ON FLEADH CHEOIL 2024

Mr. E. Taaffe, Chief Executive provided a brief update to Members on Fleadh 2024.

Mr. Taaffe confirmed that the public information evening held 14th May was very well attended.

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

- Alternate parking arrangements for those working in the pedestrian zone.
- Policing and security presence during the Fleadh
- Encouraging business owners/workers to be ambassadors for Wexford.
- Possibility of live streaming of future public meetings

Mr. Taaffe expressed his gratitude to all Members for their ongoing support for the Fleadh, in particular Cllr. M Bell and Cllr. G. Lawlor for the giving of their time voluntarily to work on the Fleadh Executive Committee.

Cllr. George Lawlor asked Mr. Taaffe for clarification regarding information relating to access to G.P.s during the Fleadh, as misinformation appeared to be circulating on social media following the public meeting. Mr. Taaffe reiterated that the public were not instructed to find alternate GP cover during the Fleadh and that access to the Community Care facility on Grogan's Road, would be maintained. The Centre is on a green route which will be continuously monitored to maintain access. Mr. Taaffe also confirmed that discussions are ongoing with the H.S.E. and the Community Care Service Providers regarding access to clients in the pedestrian zone.

SECTION 180 TAKING IN CHARGE – BARR AN AIRD, COOLCOTTS

The attached report regarding the proposed taking in charge of Barr an Aird, Coolcotts, a copy of which had previously been circulated was presented by Mr. Tom Banville, and unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr. L. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor

UPDATE ON WEXFORD TRANSPORT PLAN

On behalf of Members, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty, extended sympathy to Mr. Alan O'Shea, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, on the passing of his father.

Mr. O'Shea and Mr. Peter Foley, AtkinsRealis gave a brief presentation on the Wexford Transport Plan and Active Travel Plan to Members.

The following matters raised by Members were addressed by Mr. O'Shea and Mr. Foley.

- Progress of works on Newtown Road
- Access for Emergency Vehicles
- Expansion of Bolt Bike services to outlying areas
- Construction of bike stands at Bolt Bike locations
- Future funding to extend active travel scheme to link Castlebridge and the town.
- Increase of traffic, and resulting wear and tear, on roads now more utilised to avoid using Newtown Road
Full plan expected to be completed by end Quarter 3

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty thanked Mr. O'Shea and Mr. Foley, on behalf of Members for their presentations.

UPDATE ON URDF CALL 3

An update on the URDF Call 3 was provided by Mr. Mick McCormack, Town Regeneration Officer and Mr. Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer, Planning Section.

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

- Vegetative growth from side of building on King Street
- Potential to a levy charge on two buildings issued with derelict site notices.

His Worship the Mayor Cllr. J. Hegarty thanked Mr. McCormack and Mr. Banville, on behalf of Members for their update.

UPDATE ON WESTGATE HERITAGE CENTRE

Ms. L. Burns, Arts Officer provided an outline to Members on the future plans for the Westgate Heritage Centre.

Ms. Burns advised that it is envisaged that the centre itself will be used as a flexible space for arts and cultural i.e. small performances, dance workshops etc following the Fleadh and the computer centre will provide space for 6 artist workshops.

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

- Consultation with artist currently operating from the Creative Hub.
- Artists Workplace Scheme being initiated in September.
- Requirement for an accessibility audit.
- Condition and location of old audio-visual material.
- Possibility of other Council owned buildings being used by the Arts Dept.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty thanked Ms. Burns, on behalf of Members, for her comprehensive update.

DRAFT CASUAL TRADING BYE-LAWS, FLEADH CHEOIL NA ÉIREANN 2024

The attached Draft Casual Trading Bye-Law, copies of which had previously been circulated, regulating casual trading in the district for the duration of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, 2024 were unanimously adopted on the recommendation of Cllr. M. Bell, seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor.

DRAFT STREET PERFORMANCE BYE-LAWS 2024

The attached Draft Street Performance Bye-Laws, 2024, copies of which had previously been circulated, regulating street performance in the town, were presented by Ms. S. Kehoe, Staff Officer. Ms. Kehoe advised Members that no submissions were received following the statutory public consultation period. Cllr. T. Forde expressed concern that the decibel levels indicated in the bye-laws were too low, and together with the prevention of use of amplification, the range of buskers playing on the main street would be very limited

Following lengthy discussion, a vote was taken on the matter which resulted as follows:

In Favour: Cllr. M. Bell, Cllr. G. Lawlor, Cllr. G. Laffan, Cllr. J. Hegarty (4)

Against: Cllr. T. Forde, Cllr. L. Kelly (2)

Absent: Cllr. D. Hynes (1)

There being a majority of votes in favour the Bye-Laws were adopted.

Suspension of Standing Orders

It being 4.320p.m., on the proposal of His Worship the Mayor, and seconded by Cllr. Maura Bell it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow for the remaining business on the agenda to be concluded.

REPORTS

HOUSING

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

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

- Cost of electricity bills in zero energy housing and possibility of re-education on use of heat pumps
- Addition of audio support to Choice- Based Letting website.
- Acknowledgement system for documentation submitted with Housing Applications.
- Affordable Housing Schemes for District.
- Policy on anti-social behaviour

PLANNING

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

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

- Conditioning to include installation of footpaths prior to commencement of new developments in the future.
- Planning condition to include access roads be kept clean while works ongoing.
- Planning along the route of the Oylegate to Rosslare motorway.

DISTRICT ENGINEER

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

Ms. E. Furlong, Senior Executive Engineer thanked Members for contributing discretionary funding to low- cost safety works at Whiterock Hill. Ms. Furlong confirmed that safety plans are being drawn up, with works to commence in the next few weeks.

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

- Ponding at Liam Mellows Park again following repairs to gullies.
- Standard of grass cutting and strimming across the district.
- Update on closure of lanes at Talbot Green.
- Permanent implementation of temporary one-way system in Corish Park.
- Review of St. Ibar's Cemetery, Crosstown
- Road and foothpath repairs Parklands.
- Requirement for traffic survey at Cromwellsfort Heights

- Update on crossing at Cluain Dara.
- Cleaning of Glenville Road due to siteworks at development.
- No Parking signage for residents of Slippery Green
- Examination of roof flashing on Monck.
- Automatic bollard at Main Street/Georges Street junction.
- Steps at Kennedy Park to be rectified.

5.21pm Cllr. Tom Forde left the meeting.

COMMUNITY

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

ENVIRONMENT

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

Mr. H. Maguire advised Members that additional hours for beach wardens would be implemented over the Fleadh period.

Mr. Maguire thanked Members for their contributions over the past five years and wished them well in the upcoming Local Elections.

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.

As this was His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Hegarty and Cllr. M. Bell last meeting, as both were not contesting the local elections, Members wished both well in their future endeavours and all those Members standing for election were wished well in the forthcoming elections.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED THIS DAY 20TH MAY, 2024

MAYOR OF WEXFORD.