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WICKLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Town Hall,
Wicklow.

3rd January, 1964.

To/ The Chairman and Each Member of the
Wicklow Urban District Council.

A Chara,

The Monthly Meeting of the Wicklow Urban District Council will be held in the Town Hall, Wicklow, on Tuesday, 7th January, 1964, at 7.30 p.m.

You are requested to attend.

Mise, le meas,

M. J. Cusack

Town Clerk

A G E N D A

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 3rd December, 1963 (copy herewith).
2. Letter from Mr. Michael Herbst re proposed lease of site on The Murrough.
3. 4 Houses at Castle Park - Correspondence from Department of Local Government re acceptance of next lowest tender.
4. Water Supply for Industrial Purposes - Correspondence with Shamrock Fertilizers Ltd.
5. Town Planning Applications.
6. Foreshore Protection Works - Shamrock Fertilizers Ltd. - Correspondence with Wicklow County Council.
7. Monthly Report of Town Surveyor (copy herewith).
8. Any Other Business at discretion of Chairman.

WICKLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

M I N U T E S

MONTHLY MEETING

HELD ON 7TH JANUARY, 1964

Present: Councillor T. A. Delahunt, Chairman, Presiding, Councillors W. Hopkins, J. Lalor, J. Kelly, T. Conroy, J. Kane and J. Everett, T.D.

In attendance: The County Manager, Mr. M. Flannery, Town Surveyor, Mr. J. T. O'Byrne and Town Clerk, Mr. M. J. Cusack.

The Chairman proposed a vote of sympathy with the Town Clerk, Mr. Cusack, on the recent death of his mother. It was seconded by Councillor Everett and supported by the other members present and passed in silence all present standing. The Town Clerk expressed his appreciation to the members for their kind sympathy.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 3rd December, 1963, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

LEASE OF SITE ON MURROUGH: A letter was read from Mr. Michael Herbst, Kilpool Farm, indicating that he did not now intend proceeding with the erection of a grain drying plant on the Murrough as it had been discovered that there were over 240 plants in operation in the country and the siting of one in Wicklow Town would not be economic. He explained that for the present he intended operating the plant at his home in Kilpoole and promised that if the scheme proved successful he would consider transferring it at a later date to the Murrough. He expressed his thanks to the Council for their co-operation in his proposed venture. Noted with regret.

4 HOUSES AT CASTLE PARK: A letter was read from the Department of Local Government as follows:-

A Chara,

I am directed by the Minister for Local Government to refer to your letter of 10th November, 1963, regarding the erection of 4 houses at Castle Park and to state that the tender price of £8,952 or £2,238 per house which it is proposed to accept is considered to be excessively high for houses which have a floor area of only 787 sq. ft. Having regard to the fact that the lowest tenderer has withdrawn, that the next lowest tender is so much higher and, further, that it is now over 12 months since tenders were invited, it is considered that the Council should consider re-advertising.

Mise, le meas, etc.

The Town Clerk pointed out that in his letter he had stressed to the Department that the Council had already considered the question of re-advertising and did not think it would serve any useful purpose. Councillor Hopkins enquired as to the possibility of building the houses by direct labour and was told by the Town Surveyor that there was no possibility of getting the necessary tradesmen. After considering the matter, the Council decided to press the Department to sanction the acceptance of Mr. McNulty's tender, pointing out that re-advertising would not secure a lower tender and indeed it was even possible that no tenders at all would be received.

WATER SUPPLY FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES: The Town Clerk read a copy of the letter which he had sent to Shamrock Fertilizers Ltd. regarding the reduction in water consumption at their factory at North Quay. He had pointed out the effect the loss of receipts from the sale of water would have on the Council's finances particularly in view of the fact that the Council had embarked on various water supply schemes in an endeavour to meet the enormous demand of the factory up to the present year. A reply from Shamrock Fertilizers was read indicating that approximately 1 ml. gallons of water would be required for the 3 months to the 31st March. The Town Clerk pointed out that revenue from this would only be

£75 as compared with £450 for the same period last year. The letter indicated that within the coming weeks it would be possible for the firm to confirm definitely what their requirements of water would be for the year 1964/65. The Town Clerk told the Council that he understood privately that the future of the acid plant was very much in the balance at present and that a decision as to whether or not it would be brought back into production would be taken during the present month. After debating the matter the Council decided to write to the Managing Directors of Goulding Fertilisers Ltd. and Albatross/Windmill Ltd., drawing their board's attention to the matter and requesting favourable consideration be given to bringing the acid plant back into production.

TOWN PLANNING APPLICATIONS: An application was submitted from Messrs J. P. Hopkins & Sons Ltd. for permission to carry out extensions and alterations to their Self-Service Grocery Premises at Main St. The Town Surveyor indicated that he had no objection to the proposal but he would like to have the concurrence of the Chief Fire Officer. The Council unanimously recommended that permission be granted.

A letter was read from Mr. F. Conway regarding the site which had been leased to him by the Council at Dunbur Road and indicating that he proposed to provide a shop as part of his dwellinghouse, plans for which he would shortly submit. The Town Clerk pointed out that the lease to Mr. Conway did not permit of any trade or business being carried on and solely covered the erection of a dwelling thereon. He further thought that it would not be advisable to have a shop immediately on or near the main Dunbur Road. Councillor Conroy stressed that shopping facilities in this area were very necessary. The County Manager said that the Council as yet had made no provision for this item but it was within their power to set aside a particular area for shops. The normal practice then was to invite tenders for the shop sites. Councillor Kane suggested that this appeared to be matter for their Consultant Architect and after some further discussion it was decided to refer the matter to the Architect for his opinion.

FORESHORE: A letter was read from the County Council noting that Shamrock Fertilizers had now commenced a scheme of Foreshore Protection Works at North Quay themselves. The Town Clerk pointed out that the firm were still anxious to obtain assistance both from the state and from the local authorities. They started the work as they considered it urgent and could not wait the outcome of negotiations regarding grants. Councillor Conroy said that Shamrock Fertilizers were doing only a small part of the work and he felt that a scheme of protection works extending from the Packet Pier to the New Pier was necessary. The Council suggested that the whole matter should be brought directly before the Minister for Finance. This was agreed to.

REPORT OF TOWN SURVEYOR: The Council then considered the monthly report of the Town Surveyor, copies of which had been circulated. Regarding the wiring of Council houses the Town Clerk explained that he had contacted a different section of the E.S.B. and explained the Council's problem. He had been promised that they would go into the matter carefully and endeavour to facilitate the Council. Councillor Kane said that if the E.S.B. could not do the job it would be necessary to employ a Consultant Engineer at much greater expense.

Regarding the proposed handrailing requested by the Parish Priest, the Town Surveyor said he could make arrangements to have this provided in the near future. The Council approved the necessary expenditure in sum of £20.

LEVEL CROSSING AT MURROUGH: A letter was read from the Law Agent submitting Bill of Costs in sum of £11. 5. 0. in respect of Agreement between the Council and C.I.E. regarding the level crossing. The Town Clerk pointed out that the Council had undertaken to pay these costs and the meeting accordingly approved the necessary expenditure.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Town Clerk said he had submitted the Council's proposals re decentralisation of Government Departments to the Department of An Taoiseach and had received an acknowledgement.

Councillor Kane referred to the condition of the footpath at Quarentine Hill as a result of cable laying by the E.S.B. and queried as to who would be legally liable if an accident were to take place there. The Town Surveyor indicated that the E.S.B. would be liable but said that the Council would be carrying out the necessary reinstatement works the following week.

Councillor Hopkins referred to the condition of the roadway at Church Hill and it was referred to the Town Surveyor for attention.

Councillor Conroy enquired if any progress had been made for the re-planting of tress on The Mall and was told by the Town Clerk that the matter was under discussion with Mr. J. Dawson, Horticultural Instructor. The County Manager said they would have some proposals as to the type of tress to be planted for the next meeting of the Council.

Councillor Kelly expressed satisfaction that the Department of Posts were in the course of erecting the two telephone kiosks at Ballynerrin and Summer Hill.

Councillor Conroy drew attention to a recent statement of the Minister for Local Government regarding grants from the Road Fund for the lighting of main traffic routes. The County Manager explained that grants were only available for 50% of the capital cost of the installation and the total running expenses would have to be borne directly by the Council. He mentioned that a quotation of last year from the E.S.B. for lighting to traffic route standards for the main streets of the town amounted to £9,000. It was agreed that the Council could not embark on such a large undertaking.

The Chairman wished the members, County Manager and staff and the Press a happy and prosperous new year.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 p.m.

J. A. O'Rourke

WICKLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

M I N U T E S

SPECIAL MEETING

HELD ON 27TH JANUARY, 1964

Present: Councillor T. A. Delahunt, Chairman, Presiding, Councillors J. Kelly, T. Conroy, J. Lalor, J. Kane, W. Hopkins and J. Everett, T.D.

In attendance: The Town Clerk, Mr. M. J. Cusack.

Opening the meeting the Chairman indicated that this Special Meeting had been called to consider an application from Robert McArd & Co. Ltd., London, for a lease of a site on The Murrough for the purpose of erecting a factory for the manufacture of plastic articles (mainly W.C. seats) for export.

The Town Clerk reported on the negotiations which had taken place to date. The firm are anxious to acquire a lease of the first site on The Murrough and an option on about half of the second site. The total development costs of the factory would be approximately £200,000. He understood that previously the Company had acquired a site in Castleblaney but had subsequently discovered that the raw material would have to be transported by road from Dublin. For that reason they had sought a site nearer Dublin and convenient to the railway, and for these reasons The Murrough suited their requirements ideally. Regarding employment it was anticipated that at the end of the first year there would be 52 workers in training (22 men and 30 women) and by the end of the 4th year this would have risen to approximately 110. The firm's Irish Representative is Mr. Conor Crowley of Kennedy Crowley & Co., Public Accountants, Dublin. Application has been made to the Industrial Development Authority for the appropriate state grant of 33% and it was expected that a decision on this would be available by late February or early March. They were anxious now to have the Council's decision regarding the lease of the site and also the question of the rent. They also wished to see a draft lease and by the time the state grant was notified they would be in a position to indicate their definite decision regarding building in Wicklow.

The meeting carefully considered the matter and after various suggestions were put forward and discussed regarding the rent it was unanimously decided on the proposal of Councillor Kelly seconded by Councillor Hopkins to grant a 75 year lease from 25th March, 1964, at the following rent:-

First Year	£20
Second Year	£40
Third Year	£60
Fourth Year	£80
Fifth Year	£100.

It was also decided that a condition be inserted in the lease requiring the factory to be completed within a period of 3 years from the date of the lease.

The Council further decided to grant the firm an option on half of the second site, the option to be free of charge for a period of five years.

The meeting then concluded.

Handwritten signature

WICKLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Town Hall,

Wicklow.

28th February, 1964.

To: The Chairman and Each Member of the
Wicklow Urban District Council

A Chara,

The Monthly Meeting of the Wicklow Urban District Council will be held in the Town Hall, Wicklow, on Tuesday, 3rd March, 1964, at 7.30 p.m. You are requested to attend.

Mise, le meas,

M. J. Cusack
Town Clerk

A G E N D A

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 5th February 1964 (copy herewith).
2. Housing List No. 14 - Report of County Medical Officer and Revised List (copy herewith).
3. Foreshore Protection Works - Correspondence with Department of Finance re scheme of protection works undertaken by Shamrock Fertilizers Ltd.
4. Charges for water used for Non-Domestic Purposes - report on metered charges and charges for water supplied to ships (copy herewith).
5. Allotments - 1964 Season - Report on present position.
6. Fix date of Annual Estimates Meeting.
7. Building Sites on Dunbur Housing Estate - Applications.
8. Application from Mr. F. Conway for consent to assignment of lease of dwelling at Dunbur Road and redemption of Mortgage thereon.
9. Town Planning Applications.
10. Revision of Wages of Workmen - Application from I.T.&G.W.U. for increase of 12% in wages of members employed by the Council.
11. S.D.A. Acts - Sealing of Mortgage - Loan of £1,800 to Mr. F. J. Clarke.
12. Retirement of Town Surveyor.
13. Correspondence from Wicklow & District Men's Association.
14. Planting of shrubs on The Mall.
15. Monthly Report of Town Surveyor (copy herewith).
16. Any Other Business at discretion of Chairman.

Application from Results Committee for use of 17th March

WICKLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONTHLY MEETING

HELD ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 1964

Present: Councillor T. A. Delahunt, Chairman, Presiding, Councillors J. Lalor, J. Kane, T. Conroy, W. Hopkins, and J. Kelly.

In attendance: The Town Surveyor, Mr. J. T. O'Byrne, B.E., and Town Clerk, Mr. M. J. Cusack.

Apologies were received from the Deputy County Manager, Mr. K. J. Brangan.

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY: Opening the meeting the Chairman referred to the recent death of Mr. E. P. Farrell, Director and General Manager of Wire Ropes Ltd., President of Wicklow Chamber of Commerce and a member of Wicklow Harbour Commissioners and proposed a vote of sympathy with his relatives and with his fellow directors in Wire Ropes Ltd. The motion was seconded by Councillor Kane, supported by the other members present and passed in silence, all standing. A message of sympathy was also passed with Mr. J. McCrea, Chairman, Wicklow Co. Co. on the death of his brother.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 7th January, 1964, and of Special Meeting held on 27th January, 1964, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

TIDY TOWNS COMPETITION: The Town Clerk submitted correspondence from Bord Fáilte re the 1964 Tidy Towns Competition. The meeting unanimously decided to again enter this Competition. Councillor Kane referred to the necessity of tidying up derelict sites so that marks would not be unnecessarily lost in the Competition. Members discussed problems presented by the various derelict sites in the area and it was finally agreed that a survey of these sites should be undertaken with a view to their owners being forced to have them cleaned up or alternatively their acquisition by the Council. Councillor Conroy inquired as to what progress had been made with arrangements for re-planting the trees on the Mall and was told by the Town Clerk that after discussion with the Horticultural Instructor, Mr. Dawson, it was considered that flowering trees could not be successfully grown on the Mall but that it might be possible to introduce a variety of flowering shrubs between the existing trees. Councillor Conroy further asked if flowering shrubs could be planted on the green spaces at Leitrim Place and Bachelors' Walk. In reply to inquiries, the Town Clerk indicated that there was approximately £30 to credit in the Voluntary Civil Improvement Fund for tree planting and it was agreed that this sum should be expended for this purpose.

Reference was made to the furze bushes on the Murrough and the Council was told that some small progress had been made in clearing them by the workmen from time to time. It was agreed that under this method it would take a considerable time to achieve complete clearance. The Town Surveyor agreed to the Council's suggestion that a bull dozer be employed and accordingly unanimously agreed to approve over expenditure in sum of £50 for this work.

PENSION INCREASES: The Town Clerk submitted a circular letter from the Department of Local Government relative to increases in pensions of retired officials and servants of local authorities. The increase would be effective from 1st November, 1963 and would apply to those who had retired before 1st February, 1960. The Town Clerk pointed out that of the two workmen on superannuation only one, James Clarke Carter, had retired before 1st February, 1960 and in accordance with the terms of the Circular his pension would be increased from £1. 1. 4. per week to £1. 4. 7. The Council approved the necessary expenditure and on Councillor Conroy's suggestion it was agreed to enquire from the Department if the increase could be also granted to the second workman, William Murphy.

WATER SUPPLY TO SHAMROCK FERTILIZERS LTD: The following letter was read from Mr. W. J. C. Milne, Chairman of Shamrock Fertilizers Ltd:-

- 2 -

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 8th January was considered at a meeting this morning at which Mr. W. S. Dowley, Chairman of Albatross-Windmill Fertilizer Co. Ltd. and Sir Basil Goulding, Chairman of Goulding Fertilizers Ltd., were present, together with Directors of Shamrock Fertilizers Ltd.

We are all very conscious of the importance which your Council attaches to the operations of the Shamrock factory. We also appreciate that since the sulphuric acid plant is not operating there is a very much smaller consumption of water in the factory.

We are at the moment conducting certain negotiations which, if they can be brought to fulfilment, may enable us to recommission the sulphuric acid plant, and we would assure you that we shall take all reasonable steps to try to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion. If, however, we fail, then we regret that it is most unlikely we shall be able to recommission the sulphuric acid plant in the near future.

The statement contained in your letter that "acid could be produced in Wicklow economically and that certainly the cost would compare favourably with the cost of transporting acid from Dublin to Wicklow" is unfortunately not correct. Whilst we are not at liberty to say how much cheaper it is to bring acid from Dublin than to manufacture in Wicklow, we can assure you that the saving is more than £1 per ton of sulphuric acid, and this is such a significant cost that we could not consider operating the Wicklow plant unless the requirements of acid are so great that they cannot be met from our other plants. If it were not so we would be very happy to operate the plant in Wicklow.

Yours faithfully, etc.

Council noted the position and it was agreed that if no further news was forthcoming within a period of 2 weeks that a further letter be addressed to the Chairman.

Councillor Conroy referred to the charges for metered supplies to non-domestic consumers and enquired if the schedule showing the revenue earned could be submitted to the next meeting. It was also decided to review the revenue from water supplied to ships.

4 HOUSES AT CASTLE PARK: The Town Clerk reported that the Department of Local Government had with reluctance sanctioned the acceptance of the tender of Mr. M. McNulty for the erection of 4 houses at Castle Park. The Contractor had now signed the Contract and was making arrangements to secure the necessary Bond without which he could not commence work. It was proposed by Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Lalor and agreed: "That the Seal of the Council be and is hereby affixed to Contract - Wicklow U.D.C. with Michael McNulty, Building Contractor, Greystones - in sum of £8,952 for the erection of a Scheme of 4 Houses at Castle Park, Wicklow."

ALLOTMENTS 1964: The Town Clerk reported that for the past few years it was becoming increasingly difficult to run an Allotments Scheme as each year the number of applicants was dropping off. To illustrate the position he gave the following figures:-

1961 - Plots available 68	Plots let - 53
1962 - Plots available 36	Plots let - 34
1963 - Plots available 36	Plots let - 28

This year a new field would have to be taken over, ploughed, harrowed and marked out. For the past 2 seasons great difficulty had been experienced in letting plots and indeed people had to be persuaded to take them. Also for the last 2 years seed potatoes had been left on our hands and had to be sold at a loss which had created difficulty with the Department of Agriculture. The Town Clerk said that at present only 3 applications for plots had been received so he could neither make arrangements to secure a field nor arrange for the purchase of seed potatoes. In reply to members he said that he had to have at least 20 qualified applicants to operate an Allotments Scheme. After considering the matter, the Council decided to advertise for applicants in the Wicklow People and also to indicate that a number of paying plots would be made available so as to fill up the field.

RENEWAL OF LEASES: An application was received from Messrs J. H. McCarroll & Co., applying on behalf of the Wicklow Corn Co. for a renewal of the lease of their offices, stores and yard at South Quay. The Town Clerk indicated that the original lease to Samuel E. Pim at a rent of £15 per annum would expire on 29th September, 1965. After considering the matter it was proposed by Councillor Kane, seconded by Councillor Kelly and resolved:- "That we hereby grant to the Wicklow Corn Co. Ltd. South Quay, Wicklow, a renewal of the lease of their premises comprising offices, stores and yard at South Quay, in return for a surrender of the existing lease originally granted on 4th May, 1891 to Samuel E. Pim for a period of 75 years from 29th September, 1890, at an annual rent of £15; the new lease to be for a term of 75 years from 25th March, 1964, at an annual rent of £25. 0. 0."

An application was received from E. J. H. Hopkins, Solicitor, applying for a lease of Nos. 19 and 20, Monkton Row on behalf of Mrs. Patricia O'Brien. The Town Clerk told the meeting that these 2 houses formed part of a block of 6 houses in which the late George Doolittle had an interest and paid an annual rent of £6. 10. 0. to the Council. There was no record of a lease being in existence and it would accordingly appear that only a yearly tenancy existed in respect of these houses. After considering the matter it was proposed by Councillor Conroy seconded by Councillor Lalor and resolved:- "That we hereby grant to Mrs. Patricia O'Brien, subject to the Council's Law Agent being satisfied as to her interest therein, a lease of 2 houses Nos. 19 and 20, Monkton Row, Wicklow for a term of 75 years from 25th March, 1964, at an annual rent of £4."

An application was received from Houghton & Bowler, Solicitors, applying on behalf of Mr. Henry W. Jordan, 8 The Mall, for the Council to accept a surrender of the balance of the existing lease and to grant a new lease. The Town Clerk indicated that the original lease to Samuel E. Pim dated 21st June, 1898 would expire on 25th March, 1972. The lease was in respect of 3 houses, Nos. 6, 7, & 8, The Mall, occupied by Messrs Duggan, Cleary and Jordan respectively and the annual rent was £5. 10. 0. The apportioned rent in respect of Mr. Jordan's house was £1. 16. 8. He drew attention to the Council's policy in respect of the renewal of leases before expiry date and indicated that it had been decided that such renewals would only be granted where the Council was satisfied that circumstances warranted doing so. In the present case the applicant's Solicitor had indicated that his client proposed to carry out certain necessary repairs and improvements. Having carefully considered the matter, it was proposed by Councillor Lalor, seconded by Councillor Kelly and resolved:- "That the Council hereby accept from Mr. H. Jordan a surrender of his interest in No. 8, The Mall, Wicklow, held under lease dated 21st June, 1898 to Samuel E. Pim for a term of 75 years from 25th March, 1897 and do grant unto Mr. H. Jordan a new lease of No. 8, The Mall, for a term of 75 years from 25th March, 1964, at an annual rent of £5, subject to Law Agent being satisfied as to his interest therein."

LEASE OF BUILDING SITE AT DUNBUR: The Council unanimously agreed to grant to Mr. John Vickers, High St., a lease of a building site on the Dunbur Housing Estate for a term of 75 years from 25th March, 1964, at an annual rent of £10.

S.D.A. ACTS: The Council considered an application from Mr. J. Vickers, for a loan of £1,800 under the S.D.A. Acts to enable him to erect a bungalow on site leased to him at the Dunbur Housing Estate. The Town Surveyor had valued the bungalow at £2,250 and accordingly under the Council's Scheme, Mr. Vickers would be entitled to a loan of £1,800. The Town Clerk indicated that there was no objection to the granting of the loan and the Council accordingly recommended that the loan be granted.

Councillor Kane enquired if the Council could increase their loans from 80% of the value of the house to say 90% as had been done recently in Dublin. The Town Clerk mentioned that different circumstances applied in Dublin. In Wicklow as in most other local authorities the monies with which the advances were made was obtained from the Local Loans Fund and consequently the Council were obliged to limit their loans to 80% of the Market Value of the dwelling. This restriction did not apply in Dublin as the money for advances under the S.D.A. Acts was obtained from other sources. It was agreed on Councillor Kane's suggestion to enquire further into the matter.

TOWN PLANNING: There being no objection from the Town Surveyor, the Council unanimously recommended that permission under the Town & Regional Planning Acts be granted in the following instances:-

- (1) John Vickers - Bungalow on Dunbur Housing Estate.
- (2) S. V. Delahunt & Co. Ltd. - Alterations to Marine Hotel for use as a bottling plant and stores.
- (3) Miss B. Kavanagh - Extension to dwellinghouse at Summer Hill.

In regard to the application of Mr. T. Kavanagh for permission to extend his shop at Main St., the Town Surveyor indicated he had no objection in principle but drew attention to the proximity of the extension to the gable wall of adjoining premises. Accordingly, the Council recommended that permission be granted subject to the applicant making any necessary arrangements with the adjoining property owners.

TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME: It was proposed by Councillor Conroy, seconded by Councillor Kelly and resolved:- "That the Seal of the Council be and is hereby affixed to Memorial wherein the Council, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Local Government, demise to the undermentioned tenants the dwellings of which they are at present tenant, for a term of 99 years from the 29th September, 1963, at an annual rent of £1. 0. 0:-

Adela Oloahn, 8 Dunbur Tce.
 Sarah Giff, 11, St. Laurence's Road
 Elizabeth Henry, 1, St. Laurence's Road
 Denis Byrne, 4, St. Laurence's Road
 Annie Barlow, 6, St. Laurence's Road
 Ellen Sillery, 4, Castlefield
 George Hall, 16, Urban Villas.

TOWN SURVEYOR'S REPORT: The monthly report of the Town Surveyor, copies of which had been circulated was adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS: In reply to Councillor Conroy, the Town Clerk said that no reply had been received from the Department of Finance regarding the Council's application for a scheme of Foreshore Protection Works extending from the East Pier to the Packet Pier. The Town Clerk was instructed to press the Department for an early reply.

Councillor Conroy enquired if 2 old stone pillars at the entrance to the disused dump at the Black Castle could be given to St. Patrick's G.A.A. Club for use at the entrance to their new sports field. Agreed.

The Town Surveyor promised to look into repairs needed to a tiled fire surround of Mrs. Healy, St. Laurence's Park.

The following items were then discussed in committee.

RETIREMENT OF TOWN SURVEYOR: Councillor Kane referred to the pending retirement of the Town Surveyor which he understood would arise at the same time as his retirement from the County Council. He enquired as to what the position was and indicated that a considerable amount of work was in hands or in the planning stage and felt that this would be totally disrupted by the retirement of Mr. O'Byrne. He wondered what if any were the proposals for his replacement. The Town Clerk explained that as Mr. O'Byrne had reached the age of 65 on the 13th March, 1964, he was obliged under the terms of the Age Limit Order 1957 to retire both from the position of County Surveyor and from the position of Town Surveyor. As far as he was aware the Chief Assistant County Engineer would fill the vacancy in the County Council until a permanent County Surveyor was appointed. He had no information as to what the County Manager's proposals were in respect of the Urban Council but no doubt the Manager would make some arrangement to fill the position temporarily until a permanent appointment could be made. Councillor Conroy pointed out that under the County Management Act the appointment and control of staff was a matter solely for the County Manager and the Council had now power or function in these matters. In reply to members the Town Surveyor stated that if he had to retire from his position in the County Council on the 13th March he would automatically be obliged to retire from the Urban Council. Finally it was decided on Councillor Kane's proposal to request the

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County Manager to circulate the members before the next meeting with his proposals regarding the filling of the position of Town Surveyor after 13th March, 1964.

LEASE OF SITE ON MURROUGH TO ROBERT McARD & CO. LTD: The Town Clerk submitted a letter from Kennedy Crowley & Co., indicating their clients' acceptance of the Council's terms for the lease of a site on The Murrough. They further enquired as to whether the rent of the second site would be similar to that for the first. The Council unanimously agreed that the rent of the second site which was approximately half of the size of the first site should be £10 in the first year rising annually by £10 to £50 in the 5th and subsequent years.

The meeting concluded at 9.45 p.m.

John Kane
3/2/64

WICKLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONTHLY MEETING

HELD ON 3RD MARCH, 1964

Present: Councillor J. Kane, Vice-Chairman, Presiding, Councillors J. Lalor, T. Conroy, J. Kelly and W. Hopkins.

In attendance: The County Manager, Mr. M. Flannery, Town Surveyor, Mr. J. T. O'Byrne and Town Clerk, Mr. M. J. Cusack.

Also present was Mr. J. Samson Mwanza a native of Northern Rhodesia and at present in Wicklow studying local government.

Apologies were received from Councillor T. A. Delahunt, Chairman.

Opening the meeting the Vice-Chairman referred to the absence of the Chairman through illness and expressed the good wishes of the meeting for his speedy recovery. The Vice-Chairman also welcomed Mr. Samson Mwanza and hoped that his stay in Wicklow would be a fruitful one. Mr. Mwanza replied and expressed his appreciation of the welcome afforded to him by the members and staff. The Chairman at a later stage in the meeting, on the arrival of the County Manager, welcomed him on his return after his recent illness.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 5th February, 1964, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

HOUSING LIST NO. 14: The Council then considered revised Housing List No. 14 together with the report of the County Medical Officer thereon, copies of which had been circulated. They accepted the Medical Officer's decision not to change the placings as to do so would be a cause of hardship to persons a long time on the list. Regarding his suggestion to carry out a survey of unfit houses on Fitzwilliam Road, the meeting decided that this survey was not necessary at present. Members expressed displeasure that the Medical Officer had not examined the housing conditions of each applicant on the List and after debating the matter for some time, it was decided to reiterate to the Medical Officer the Council's request that the housing conditions of each applicant on the housing list be examined and an up-to-date report on each case furnished.

FORESHORE PROTECTION WORKS: The Town Clerk read copy of letter which he had forwarded to the Department of Finance dealing with the necessity for Foreshore Protection Works in Wicklow and pointed out that no action in this matter had been taken by the County Council. The reply from the Department of Finance was read which indicated that the Office of Public Works was the body responsible for carrying out schemes of protection works and that the County Council for the area was the appropriate body to initiate such schemes. After carefully considering the matter it was decided to request the Wicklow County Council to initiate foreshore protection schemes in respect of the following two areas within the Urban District:-

(a) North Beach extending from end of Promenade towards boundary at Chemical Works.

(b) Harbour area - beach between Packet Pier and New Pier.

At this stage Councillor Conroy referred to a request made by the Harbour Commissioners to the E.S.B. to have overhead electric wires in the harbour area placed underground as they were a source of danger to employees of Shamrock Fertilizers Ltd. operating mobile cranes and other equipment. On his suggestion the meeting agreed that a similar request should go from the Council to the E.S.B. in respect of electric wires in Bond Street/North Quay which is within the functional area of the Urban Council.

WATER CHARGES: The meeting then considered the report of the Town Clerk on water charges for non-domestic water supplied by meter and for water supplied to ships, copies of which had been circulated. After carefully considering the report and having various queries dealt with by the Town Clerk, the report was adopted. In reply to Councillor Conroy the Town Clerk mentioned that the revenue in 1963/64 for water supplied to Shamrock Fertilizers Ltd. amounted to £607 as against £1,440 the previous year. At the present rate of consumption it was estimated that the revenue next year from this source would only amount to about £240.

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from Mr. Yates, Friars' Hill, objecting to the Council's efforts to re-open the acid plant. The letter was marked "read".

ALLOTMENTS: The Town Clerk reported that at present he had 21 applicants for the Allotments Scheme and of these 18 had had plots last year. The field proposed to be used would hold 24 plots and he now proposed to seek sanction from the Department of Local Government to the operation of the scheme. Councillor Conroy inquired if a few plots could be provided on the upper portion of the land adjoining the dump to facilitate people from the southern end of the town. It was indicated that it would be doubtful if the Department would sanction the proposal but that it would be looked into.

ESTIMATES MEETING: It was decided that the Annual Estimates Meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday, 24th March, 1964.

BUILDING SITES AT DUNBUR: Applications for sites from Mr. J. G. Sugrue and Mr. B. J. Whelan were granted, the leases to be for a term of 75 years from 25th March, 1964, at an annual rent of £10 each. In reply to members the Town Clerk said that at this stage 7 out of the 14 sites provided with water and sewerage facilities had been allocated. The watermain would serve a further 16 sites and Councillor Conroy inquired as to the possibility of extending the sewer to serve these sites as it seemed apparent that the extra sites would be required within the next 12 months. It was agreed that the Town Surveyor should prepare an estimate for the work.

Councillor Kelly inquired as to the position of roads in the housing estate and was supported by Councillor Conroy who stressed that it was essential that they be provided immediately in order to facilitate persons erecting their houses. The Town Clerk said that the Engineer's estimate for providing roadways and footpaths for the area now serviced with water and sewerage was £4,800 if the work was done in concrete and £3,200 if done in Tarmacadam. Should it be decided to do the road in Tarmacadam it would be necessary that portion of the new road going in off the main Dunbur Road be surfaced in concrete. An approximate estimate for the work would therefore be £3,500 and as there would be no state assistance towards the cost it would be necessary to raise a loan from the Council's Treasurer repayable over 15 years and the annual loan charges would cost the Council approximately 10d. in the £. per year. The meeting was in agreement that provision for this work be made in the Estimates and directed that the Town Surveyor should prepare plans and specification.

S.D.A. ACTS: An application was received from Mr. B. J. Whelan, N.T., Glenealy, for a loan of £1,800 to finance the erection of a bungalow on the Dunbur Housing Estate. The meeting was informed that the Town Surveyor had valued the house at £2,250 and that there was no objection to the granting of the loan. The Council unanimously recommended Mr. Whelan as a suitable applicant for a loan of £1,800.

ASSIGNMENT OF LEASE - DWELLINGHOUSE AT DUNBUR ROAD - MR. F. CONWAY: An application was submitted by Mr. F. Conway requesting the consent of the Council to the assignment of the lease of his dwellinghouse at Dunbur Rd. to Mr. Smith. The Council unanimously agreed to give their consent. It was also indicated that Mr. Conway proposed to redeem the Mortgage on the property and it was proposed by Councillor Lalor, seconded by Councillor Conroy and resolved:-

"That the Seal of the Council be and is hereby affixed to Indenture and Memorial whereby the Council in consideration of the sum of £1,100 and interest thereon been fully paid to them by Mr. Francis Conway, hereby assign, surrender and release unto Mr. Conway all the leasehold hereditaments and premises comprised in or demised by the Mortgage dated 3rd July, 1962."

TOWN PLANNING APPLICATIONS: There being no objection from the Town Surveyor the Council unanimously recommended that permission under the Town & Regional Planning Acts be granted in the following cases:-

- (1) Bungalow on Dunbur Housing Estate for Mr. B. J. Whelan.
- (2) Extension to house and surgery at Church St., for Dr. P. Liston.
- (3) In the case of the application of Mr. F. Conway for permission to erect a dwelling house on Site No. 15 at Dunbur Road, the Town Surveyor indicated that he no objection except as to the positioning of the garage, the entrance to which would be too close to the proposed new road. It should be possible for the applicant to re-site the garage without much difficulty. The Council accordingly recommended that permission be granted subject to the applicant complying with the Town Surveyor's requirements as to the siting of the garage.

REVISION OF WAGES OF WORKMEN: An application was submitted from the I.T.&G.W.U. to have the terms of the National Wages Formula applied to the members of the Union employed by the Council. The Town Clerk indicated that under the present application one Town Sergeant, one driver and 4 labourers would be involved and under the terms of the 12% increase they would be entitled to £1. per week. The cost in a full year would be £324 which was equivalent to a rate of 7d. in the £. It was also expected that very shortly an application for a similar increase in respect of the Waterworks Overseer and in respect of the officials would come before the Council. Provision for the payment of 12% increase to all the staff would be included in the Estimates for 1964/65 and would require an additional rate of 1/3d. in the £. In the case of the present application it was requested that the increase be awarded as from 14th January, 1964 and it was understood that similar increases locally had been granted from this date. It was also understood that other local authorities would be granting the increases from that date. The cost of the increase in the present year would be £77. The Council unanimously recommended that the increase of £1. per week be paid as from 14th January, 1964 and approved the necessary over-expenditure in the current year.

S.D.A. ACTS - SEALING OF MORTGAGE:- Mr. F. CLARKE: It was proposed by Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Lalor and resolved:- "That the Seal of the Council be and is hereby affixed to Deed of Mortgage - Mr. F. J. Clarke to Wicklow U.D.C. - in respect of loan of £1,800 under the S.D.A. Acts to finance erection of bungalow at Friars' Hill, Wicklow"

The Vice-Chairman referred to the fact that at present loans under the S.D.A. Acts were paid in 3 instalments and inquired as to the possibility of amending the scheme so as to make payment in 4 instalments. This arrangement would be of great benefit to the applicants. After discussing the matter, it was decided to ask the Town Surveyor to submit proposals for the payment of the loans in 4 instalments.

RETIREMENT OF TOWN SURVEYOR: The County Manager mentioned that the Town Surveyor would reach the Age Limit on 13th March, 1964, and under the terms of the Age Limit Order 1957, was obliged to retire from the position of Town Surveyor and County Surveyor on that date. He had agreed to continue Mr. O'Byrne in a temporary unestablished position as County Surveyor for a period of 3 months or until a new County Surveyor would be appointed whichever was the earlier and he proposed to do likewise in the case of his position as Town Surveyor. In reply to the Vice-Chairman the County Manager said that the new County Engineer would not automatically be Town Surveyor. The practice in other counties was that the duties of Town Surveyor were assigned to some member of the County Council engineering staff. He said he would inform the Council at the earliest possible moment as to his proposals for filling the position permanently.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM WICKLOW & DISTRICT MEN'S ASSOCIATION: A letter was read from the Wicklow & District Men's Association which was dealt with as follows:-

- (1) Application for light at Fallon's, Leitrim Place, to be considered in conjunction with the Estimates.
- (2) The provision of posts to prevent cars driving across the Mass Path and Parnell Bridge to be looked into.
- (3) To confirm to the Association that meetings of the Council are open to the public.

PLANTING OF SHRUBS ON THE MALL: The Town Clerk reported that having discussed the matter with Mr. J. Dawson, Horticultural Instructor, it was proposed to provide a few small flowering shrubs which would be interplanted between the existing trees on The Mall. For this year it was thought sufficient if a small number were provided and if these were successful the scheme could be continued next year. Agreed.

MONTHLY REPORT OF TOWN SURVEYOR: The meeting then considered the monthly report of the Town Surveyor copies of which had been circulated. Councillor Kelly thanked the Town Surveyor for the job he had done in the Ball Alley and which was very much enjoyed by the young lads of the town. Regarding the furze bushes on The Murrough, the Town Surveyor said he hoped to have a grader available in about 10 days time.

The Town Surveyor submitted a supplementary report dealing with damage caused by sea action to the outfall from the main Dunbur sewer at the Golf Links. The report stressed the necessity of having repairs carried out immediately and the estimated cost was £145. The meeting agreed that this work should be undertaken immediately.

In reply to Councillor Conroy regarding flooding at the rear of the new houses at Dunbur Road, the Town Surveyor said he would be investigating the matter and would be attending to it very shortly.

Councillor Conroy referred to the road improvement works being carried out by the County Council at Whitegates and mentioned that in the re-positioning of poles the E.S.B. had substituted wooden poles in place of the steel ones. It was decided to write to the E.S.B. requesting that the steel poles be re-placed.

OTHER BUSINESS: Councillor Kelly mentioned that a box of wood shavings which had been placed for collection by the bin men by a householder had not been collected. The Town Clerk pointed out that it was not mandatory on the bin men to collect such items but that he would look into the matter.

The Vice-Chairman referred to congestion on the Mall caused by parking of vehicles outside the new Post Office premises and it was agreed that the Council should write to the Garda Superintendent requesting his observations on how the matter could be dealt with. It was further decided on Councillor Conroy's suggestion to ask the Garda authorities to deal with the question of cars and lorries parking on footpaths in the town.

The question of proceeding with the proposed swimming pool was raised by Councillor Conroy who suggested that a decision as to its future should be made by the Council. He proposed that provision for the erection of the Pool be made in the Estimates for the coming year, but as there was no seconder to the motion it was dropped.

The application from the Wicklow Regatta Committee (1959) for the use of the Sea Front for the Annual Regatta for the period 1st to 16th August, 1964, was granted on the proposal of Councillor Kane seconded by Councillor Hopkins.

The meeting concluded at 9.30 p.m.

L. A. DeWitt

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WICKLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Town Hall,

Wicklow.

14th March, 1964.

To:
The Chairman and Each Member of the
Wicklow Urban District Council

Estimates for Financial Year Ending on 31st March, 1965

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Details of the estimated Expenditure and Receipts for the financial year 1964/65 are given in the Tables attached to this Report. These Estimates will be considered at the Estimates Meeting of the Council on Tuesday, 24th March, 1964.

The total expenditure for the coming year is estimated at £51,231 and the receipts are expected to come to £24,310, so that the net requirement to be met from the rate would be £26,921. This would require a rate of 49/- in the £.

The expenditure and receipts, over the four main headings used for accounting purposes, for 1964/65, together with the corresponding figures for the current year are set out below (the figures for the current year are shown in parenthesis):-

<u>Service</u>	<u>Gross Expenditure</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Net Expenditure</u>
Roads	£3,968 (£3,539)	£2,065 (£2,065)	£1,903 (£1,474)
Sanitary Services	£9,308 (£8,411)	£2,592 (£3,203)	£6,716 (£5,208)
Housing	£16,959 (£15,456)	£15,271 (£13,929)	£1,688 (£1,527)
General Urban Purposes	£20,996 (£18,270)	£4,382 (£4,170)	£16,614 (£14,100)
	<u>£51,231 (£45,676)</u>	<u>£24,310 (£23,367)</u>	<u>£26,921 (£22,309)</u>

The rate required by the Estimates which are now submitted would be 49/- in the £, which is an increase of 8/- over that for the present year. Two years ago the rate was 41/3d. and last year Estimates requiring a rate of 41/3d. again were submitted, but the Council decided to reduce the levy to 41/-. Consequently, it will be seen that whereas in almost all other Urban areas there was a progressive increase in rates in 1962/63 and 1963/64 there was no such occurrence here and on the contrary a reduction was made last year.

A rise in the rate of 8/- in the £, is, however, a very steep one. Still it will be recollected that during the course of the year it was made clear to the Council that new liabilities and commitments and the expansion of services would require an increased rate.

The two items which account in the main for the rise in the rate are the County Council Demand, which is up by 3/9d. and a loss in receipts from Water Rents of almost 2/-. In addition to these two items it is only to be expected that the rate levy would be influenced by the necessity to provide for a 12% increase in wages and salaries in accordance with the terms of the National Agreement arrived at a few months ago; these increases will require 1/2d. in the £. In order to facilitate new private building in the Dunbur Road district, it has been necessary to lay new watermains and sewers and to construct a new access road and the outlay on these will result in a rate increase of 1ld.

Last year it was decided to improve the type of meal being served under the School Meals Scheme and this will cost 5d. extra in the £. in the coming year.

Provision has to be made for new superannuation charges to the extent of 7d. and the introduction of a 5 day week will entail additional costs of about 1d. in the £.

The foregoing items requiring additions to the rate levy will, however, be offset to an extent by a saving of about 5d. in superannuation and an increase of 4d. in the receipts from Corporate Estate Rents. As a result the net increase in the rate becomes 8/- in the £.

ROADS

Employment Schemes Grant: Each year the Council receives a special State Grant which is used for schemes to provide employment during the Winter. The total outlay on such grant works is expected to be £1,075 of which £75 has to be contributed by the Council from rates. During the present year the grant, (which incidentally was £1,300) was used in the construction of a new concrete road at Lower Strand Street. A report will later be submitted making recommendations as to the manner in which the grant might be used during the coming financial year.

Ordinary Road Works: The provision being made under this heading would be the same as in the present year except that it is necessary to provide for a 12% increase in wages and this involves an extra of £110 making the outlay £1,103. This provision in the Estimates is used for ordinary maintenance and repair and if the Council is to avail of the grant from the Road Fund it is necessary that it be included.

Special Works - Tar Spraying: A sum of £100 is again included for this purpose. It will enable the Council to carry out only a very limited tar spraying programme.

Road Fund Grant: It is expected that a Road Fund Grant will again be received in the coming year and a sum of £990, corresponding to that received this year, is again included. The Council later will be asked to consider a scheme of works which could be carried out with this grant. Last year Bath Street and Castle Street were re-surfaced in Tarmacadam.

New Road Works - Loan Charges: For private house development in the Dunbur Road area it is necessary to construct a new service road. The Council already has approved of this proposal and has arranged for a loan of £3,500 repayable in 15 years. For the coming year provision has been made for a half-year's loan charge of £220.

Superannuation: It will be necessary to provide for the superannuation of the Town Surveyor and the lump sum which will be payable is not being charged in full in the coming year. Instead it is proposed that the amount be defrayed from rates over a period of 5 years. The total charge involved is £320 and is distributed between four headings of Roads, Sanitary Services, Housing and General Urban Purposes.

SANITARY SERVICES

For the coming year the total cost of Sanitary Services is estimated at £9,308 and after deducting Receipts of £2,592 the net requirement would be £6,716 which compares with £5,208 allowed by the Council for the present year.

Water Supply: - Maintenance: The amount required for salaries shows an increase of £94 and the maintenance of the town supply will require a further £68 to cover the cost of wages increase.

As already mentioned there will be a heavy reduction in the receipts from water rents. Last year the amount estimated as receipts from this source was £1,754. For the coming year the receipts will be down to £730. The cause of this reduction is the falling off in the requirements of Shamrock Fertilizers Ltd. When the Acid Plant of that Company

was in full operation the consumption of water from the town supply was very heavy and at times reached a peak of 80,000 gallons per day. At one stage the Company, which then operated the plant, had indicated that their requirements could be expected to expand to a marked extent in succeeding years and stated that eventually they would require a supply of 150,000 gallons per day. They asked that the Council should take steps without delay to expand the water supply so as to meet this increased industrial demand. It was evident that the additional supply could not be afforded unless the Council were to arrange to enlarge the filtration plant at Cronroe on the Regional Scheme. The cost of doing this would probably have been in excess of £20,000. Fortunately, however, the Council had not entered into definite commitments for augmenting the water supply to meet this additional industrial demand; otherwise a diminution in receipts could have been accompanied by increased loan charges and new Capital Costs. It should also be stressed that the estimated receipts from water rents were based by the Council on a fair indication of continuing industrial demand at the level which obtained in 1962/63.

The receipts from water rents would have even been further reduced if it had not been for the arrangements made by the Council to instal meters on water supplies which were being used for non-domestic purposes. Nowadays the receipts from this source comes to about £300. Briefly the receipt of £730 from Water Rents is made up of:

Shamrock Fertilizers Ltd.	£240
Other non-domestic consumers	£430
Supplies to ships	£60

For the maintenance of the East Wicklow Regional Supply, based on Cronroe, a sum of £400 is again being included. It should be mentioned here that agreement made with the County Council was that the Urban Council would contribute 50% of the cost of maintenance up to a maximum of £400 per year. Last year, however, the maintenance costs came to almost £1,500 so that it will be seen that the proportion of the outlay met by the Urban Council is somewhat less than 30%.

Water Supply and Sewerage - Loan Charges on New Works: In order to make services available to new private houses at Dunbur Road, the Council arranged last year to lay a new watermain and sewer. The capital cost of this work, which is now being completed, came to about £5,000 and this will involve a loan charge of £583 in the coming year of which 60% will be met by state grant, so that the net cost to be met from rates will be £233. Recently it was found necessary to provide for further development on Corporate Lands south and a further length of sewer main is required for this purpose. The capital cost is estimated at £1,800 and a half years loan charge of £105 has been included. The state subsidy will be £63 so that the net cost to be met from rates will be £42.

Cleansing Services: The cleansing service still continues to operate quite satisfactorily and is one which, it is felt, is much appreciated by the townspeople. For the coming year the cost shows an increase of £155. Apart from the necessity to provide a 12% increase in wages provision also has to be made for overtime work on Saturdays which will arise between March and November consequent on the introduction of the 5 day week.

Public Lighting: During the present year 5 additional public lights were provided and as the Council have recently been discussing the provision of some further lights, some additional provision is being made in respect of them. In consequence the cost of lighting is estimated at £596 as against £567 in the present year.

HOUSING

The total outlay on Housing is estimated at £16,959 and having taken into account receipts of £15,271 from Rents, Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Acts loan repayment and State Grants, the net cost to be met from Rates is £1,688

Maintenance and Repair: Last year the Council allowed £1,000 under this heading and a similar sum has again been included. A few years ago the estimate for this purpose was only £700 but it was found that each year the provision made was being extended. In the present year it is expected that £70 in excess of the sum allowed will be required. Furthermore in order to carry out urgent repairs to and renewals of electrical installations an excess estimate of almost £100 had to be voted.

Provision for New Scheme: The Council is still endeavouring to build a small scheme of new houses but great difficulty has been found in securing a contractor. It is hoped, however, that it may be possible to start work at a fairly early date and a provision of £522 has been included for this purpose in the Estimates. It is expected, however, that this outlay would in the main be offset by receipts from rents and State Subsidy.

Sale of Council Houses: During the present year the Council completed the sale to occupying tenants of 12 houses. The capital sum received is being used in the repayment of loans. The resulting position will be a falling off in loan charges but this will be accompanied by a reduction in rents received and in State Subsidy to a corresponding extent.

Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Acts:- Loans: Applications for these loans continue to be received each month. So far 41 loans have been issued and 6 more were approved by the Council recently. Up to the present £54,000 has been borrowed by the Council for this purpose and arrangements are now being made to secure another £20,000. The loan charges to be met by the Council which come to £3,809 will be offset completely by repayments by borrowers so that the scheme involves no charge to the rates.

GENERAL URBAN PURPOSES:

Under this heading comes the expenditure for many services, including Foreshore Maintenance, School Meals, Cheap Fuel Scheme, Allotments, Corporate Estate Maintenance, Insurance on Council property, Printing, Stationery, etc., but by far the largest item is the County Council Demand.

The total expenditure is estimated at £20,996; the Receipts come to £4,382, leaving the net expenditure £16,614. Of the total expenditure of £20,996 the County Council Demand accounts for £16,614.

School Meals: The provision of a hot meal for school children, which was agreed to by the Council in the current year, involves an additional expense of £130 on food and £160 on cost of preparation and serving. One half the cost of £130 will be recouped by the State so that the net increase to be met from rates is £225.

Salaries, etc: As a result of the application of the 12% increase in remuneration to the Council's staff the cost of salaries and poundage will show increases coming to £339.

Foreshore Protection Works: In the past four years the Council has been engaged on foreshore protection works which have been carried out by way of a 3 stage scheme. In this scheme large boulders brought from the Co. Council Quarry at Ballinclare have been placed along the sea front. So far these have been found to stand up well to heavy seas. It will be remembered that early in 1956/57 a scheme under which concrete blocks were chained together and placed along part of the sea front was also carried out. The total cost of all these works comes to £28,400 of which £21,950 has been made available through Government Grants and the balance of £6,450 was raised by the Council through short term loans. The total loan charges arising from these successive schemes comes to £762 and represents a rate of almost 1/6d. in the £.

Cheap Fuel Scheme: Provision is again being made for the cost of this Scheme under which 1 cwt. of machine won turf is supplied each week to

householders who cannot meet their fuel requirements from their own resources. The average number of households availing of the scheme is about 180 and the estimated cost for the coming year is £1,300. Whilst the Urban Council staff administer the scheme it involves no cost to the Council funds as the outlay is met by State Grant and by the County Council through public assistance.

County Council Demand: Almost each year there has been an increase in the Demand from the County Council mainly due to the cost of the Health Service but for the coming year the rise is abnormally high and represents an additional rate of 3/9d. in the £. The following tables show how the new Demand compares with that for the present year:-

<u>Service</u>	<u>1963/64</u>	<u>1964/65</u>	<u>Increase or Decrease</u>
Main Roads	£1,571	£1,812	£241 (Increase)
Public Assistance	£385	£314	£71 (Decrease)
Mental Hospital	£1,563	£2,119	£556 (Increase)
Health (County)	£5,873	£6,648	£775 (Increase)
General Purposes (County)	£421	£609	£188 (Increase)
Fire Brigades	£516	£571	£55 (Increase)
Libraries	£73	£73	-
Separate Charges	£782	£1,059	£277 (Increase)
	<u>£11,184</u>	<u>£13,205</u>	<u>£2,021 (Increase)</u>

The greater part in the increase in the Demand is attributable to the Health Service. The cost of these services is naturally effected by the recent 12% increase in remuneration but in addition the County Council was informed of two cases during the present financial year of increases in the charges for treatment in Voluntary Hospitals in Dublin. Most of the patients from County Wicklow who require hospital treatment, particularly of the specialist type, are sent to the Dublin Voluntary Hospitals. It has been stated that the charges made to the County Council for these patients do not in fact reflect the actual costs as large hospital deficits were being met each year from the Hospital Trust Fund. The amount of subsidy from this latter source has recently been very much reduced and this has resulted in a rise to the extent of 60% in hospital charges.

Whilst the increase in the rate which the attached Estimates would require is a comparatively large one, it is felt that it must be borne in mind that in the past few years, as stated at the outset, the Council was in the fortunate position of being able to stabilise the rate because of a number of factors which no longer operate. There was first of all the very substantial receipts from industrial consumption of water. This arrived at a time when it was possible to instal a new water supply without having to incur the heavy additional costs which normally could be expected to result from such an undertaking. The water supply scheme was arranged to coincide with a period at which existing loan charges, defrayed from the Stock Issue were being liquidated. It was also a joint undertaking and the greater part of the cost has been met by the County Council. It should be mentioned here that having regard to the source which had to be used, the type of terrain over which the supply pipes had to be laid and the many other complexities involved, the undertaking reflects much credit on the Consultant Engineer who designed it and supervised its construction. It was fortunate also that it was assigned to a competent Contractor who carried it without any hitch. Without this scheme the Council would not have been in a position to meet the water consumption attaching to an industry which has given much new employment in the town in recent years. Nor would it have been possible to meet the requirements of the new Housing Development which has been taking place in the past few years.

Due to the ownership of Corporate Lands inherited from the past, the Council has been in the fortunate position of being able to give very material assistance to persons building their own houses. Sites can be made available at reasonable Ground Rents and in addition new services, such as water supply, sewerage and access roads have been provided. All this, however, involves costs to the rates which are not met by receipts to a corresponding extent. In the coming year the loan charges