

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW ON MONDAY 12th MARCH 2018, COMMENCING 2PM

PRESENT:

COUNCILLOR E.TIMMINS, CATHAOIRLEACH, COUNCILLORS T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, T. CULLEN, S. CULLEN, P. DORAN, G. DUNNE, T. FORTUNE, C. FOX, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, N. LAWLESS, S. MATTHEWS, G. MCLOUGHLIN, D. MITCHELL, M. MURPHY, O.O'BRIEN, M. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN, J. SNELL, B. THORNHILL, P. VANCE, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS.

APOLOGIES: CLLRS. P. FITZGERALD, M. MCDONALD, D. NOLAN AND J.WHITMORE.

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MR. F. CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MR. S. QUIRKE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. T. MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. D. O'BRIEN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. GEANEY, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
MS. L. GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MR. M. FLYNN, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. L. BOURKE, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER
MS. C. FLOOD, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. H. DENNEHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR. D. MARNANE, A/SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. B. MARTIN, COUNTY LIBRARIAN
MR. M. RICHARDSON, CIVIL DEFENCE OFFICER
MR. A. DEMPSEY, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
MR. D. FORDE, BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
MS. N. DRAIN, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MS. A. MINION, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. T. HUGHES, IS SUPPORT
MR. M. CONROY, IS SUPPORT**

Votes of Sympathy

Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Mrs. Aileen Synnott, Mrs. Emma Hannigan, Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Mr. Garech de Brún, Mr. Sham Furlong, Mr. Patrick Kelly and Mrs. Bridget Hynes, wife of former Wicklow County Council Chairman, the late Frank Hynes. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Cllr. J. Behan requested a Suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the ongoing lack of progress on the opening of Coláiste Ráithín and Ravenswell schools in Bray because of the collapse of the

Carillion Group. The request was seconded by Cllr. O O Brien and it was agreed to discuss the matter at 4.30 p.m.

ITEM NO 1

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 15th January, 2018.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 15th January, 2018 as circulated.

ITEM NO 2

To confirm and sign minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 22nd January, 2018.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Matthews, seconded by Cllr. N. Lawless and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 22nd January, 2018 as circulated.

ITEM NO. 3

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 5th February, 2018.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. Vance and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 5th February, 2018 as circulated.

ITEM NO. 4

To consider the disposal of 15.75m x 3.7m of land comprised in Folio NJO 4484, Plan 9, Property No. 166 being lands situated in the townland of Prettybush adjacent to Knockroe, Co. Wicklow to Mr. Eoin Reynolds, No 7 Knockroe, Delgany, Co. Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. C. Fox, seconded by Cllr. T. Fortune and agreed to dispose of 15.75m x 3.7m of land comprised in Folio NJO 4484, Plan 9, Property No. 166 being lands situated in the townland of Prettybush adjacent to Knockroe, Co. Wicklow to Mr. Eoin Reynolds, No 7 Knockroe, Delgany, Co. Wicklow.

ITEM NO 5

To consider report in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended; Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended: To carry out an extension of the Herbert Road Car Park, Bray, Co Wicklow.

The proposed works involve:

- Demolition of a dwelling on a 1,070 sqm site acquired by the Council adjacent to the existing carpark
- Construction of a new boundary wall to the acquired property
- Upgrading of public lighting and surface water drainage
- Relocation of carpark entrance and infill of front boundary wall with cut stone to match existing
- Surfacing of extended area and resurfacing existing car park as required
- Laying out of new surface car park with 50 additional spaces, including additional disabled access parking, club car parking and electric vehicle charging bays

The elected members were circulated with report for consideration in accordance with Article 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000: Planning Register Reference 17/1478.

At the outset, it was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. M. Kavanagh that residents concerned about the development, and present in the chamber, be given the opportunity to address the meeting prior to discussion on the proposal. The Cathaoirleach advised that he understood that the group had addressed the elected members of the Bray Municipal District at their meeting the previous Tuesday. At the request of the Cathaoirleach the meetings administrator read paragraph 20 of standing orders in relation to the receiving of deputations:

(a) The Council may by resolution decide to receive a deputation. Subject to the direction of the Cathaoirleach, 3 persons may speak on behalf of the deputation for not more than a total of 15 minutes, unless permitted by the Cathaoirleach.

(b) Request for a deputation to be heard by the Council shall not be considered unless the subject matter to be raised be notified in writing on the motion of a member of the Council, or direct application by the body concerned, sent to the meetings administrator at least 7 clear days before the of the meeting.

In response to Cllr. Behan advising that the request was made in writing more than seven days ago to the Cathaoirleach, the Meetings Administrator advised that the request should appear as an item on the agenda to enable a resolution to be passed by the Council to receive the deputation at the following meeting.

Cllr. S. Matthews put forward the following motion, which was seconded by Cllr. O. O'Brien: *'That this Council passes a resolution in accordance with the Local Government Act (Part 14. Section 131) to delegate the function of considering a report in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act and Part 8 of Planning Regulations to Bray Municipal District and following the consideration of this report that the decision to vary, modify or decide not to proceed with the development shall be taken by Bray Municipal District.'*

Cllr. Matthews referred to functions that can be performed by Municipal Districts and put forward that if the Council passed the resolution proposed by him the decision to proceed with this development could be and should be taken by the Bray Municipal District.

With regard to Cllr. S. Matthews's proposal the Meetings Administrator advised in relation to standing orders, that a matter as significant as this would need to be listed on a meeting agenda and in order to give elected members due notice in advance. Standing orders were also referred to wherein the elected members receive due notice of a meeting accompanied by an Agenda listing the business to be transacted at that meeting so that the elected members are prepared for the business that is to be discussed and that this matter would have to be listed as an item on the agenda in advance.

Cllr. B. Thornhill put forward the following proposal which was seconded by Cllr. M. Kavanagh: *'That in view of the contradictions that are apparently related to the acquisition and proposed demolition of St. Paul's, Herbert Road, Bray, that the Council will adjourn the subject item number 5 on the agenda for today's meeting and will seek independent counsel advice on the procurement and proposed demolition planning process.'* Cllr. Thornhill made three points on the matter relating to; the Report of the Chief Executive in dealing with the responses to the submission, the site notices in the existing carpark which he considered not to conform to the law and the timeframe for discussing the matter which he considered to be rushed.

Elected members made the following contributions/expressed the following views:-

- St. Paul's is a very well appointed house of some architectural merit it could be used to provide homeless accommodation to the Jigsaw Group for example. The suggestion was put forward that the decision should be put back for a month to allow the local residents to address the meeting and then take a vote on the issue.
- View expressed that the residents consider that the responses contained within the Council's report are 'cherry picked' and that there are items left out and some not properly answered. The residents are of the view that they have not been given the opportunity to rebut the answers that were given and that the procedure is unfair. View expressed that the Council cannot proceed if there is any doubt over the validity or legality of the planning process.
- View expressed that there is a provision within standing orders for emergency motions to be taken and request put forward again to allow the residents ten minutes to address the Council.
- Discussion on the proposed works have been going on for a considerable period of time, the first of the site notices were erected prior to Christmas. At two Bray Municipal District meetings the Municipal District Manager informed the elected members that the process was underway to purchase the house with a view to demolishing it and providing additional car parking space, having regard to the Florentine site coming on stream and that there was no objections expressed at that time. Bray has been without a car park for a number of years, this has devastated the town and is a major concern among retailers in the town that the Florentine centre car park will be out of operation this year and which will mean that 200 car parking space will be lost to the town.

Cllr. S. Fox put forward the following proposal which was seconded by Cllr. P Vance; *'That the Council proceed with the development'*. In doing so Cllr. Fox stated that he did not agree with the suggestion that the matter was rushed and that the proposal put forward in relation to delegating consideration of reports in relation to S. 179 of the Planning Act, 2000 to Municipal Districts is a far reaching proposal and that there were elected members not in the chamber who may have had an opinion on it and that the matter was not listed on the Agenda.

In response the meetings administrator referred to standing order no. 16 which refers to motions dealing with urgent business of the council which related to a function of the local authority, matters of an urgent nature with regard to the workings of the organisation, not the receiving of deputations. Cllr. J. Behan asked for it to be clearly recorded that he was proposing under standing orders that an emergency motion can be taken and that the Meetings Administrator advised that it has to be urgent business of the Council.

In response to the proposal put forward by Cllr. S. Matthews, and seconded by Cllr. O Brien, the Cathaoirleach advised that his advice is that this matter should appear on the Council's agenda in advance and that the proposal had far reaching implications which requires due notice and consideration by elected members.

- Reference made to the retail element of Bray which has suffered significant retail leakage as a result of the development of Dundrum and Carrickmines and that the town has been given a massive lift with the belief that the Florentine Centre site is finally going to be a reality and which will be extremely important to Bray. There are currently 220 parking spaces in the Florentine Centre site and as of May this will be terminated and the proposal at Herbert Road is to in some small way resolve the issue of parking spaces to provide an additional 50 spaces and bring that car park up to 251 spaces.
- Clarity sought at to the status of the building in terms of heritage, view expressed that the opinion of the Heritage Officer of Wicklow County Council be requested.

Cllr. N. Lawless put forward the following proposal which was seconded by Cllr. M. O Connor: *'Amendment to Part 8, that St. Pauls Lodge is not demolished but kept as a house and used for either emergency accommodation or other use like Jigsaw Project'*.

Mr. Des O Brien Director of Services responded to the issues raised:-

- A huge amount of work was put into the preparation of the report to ensure that every single point made by way of submissions on the proposed development was recorded and answered.

The Cathaoirleach then adjourned the meeting for 15 minutes because of interjections from the public gallery. On resumption, the Director of Services continued with the response to the issues raised.

- The building referred to is not a listed structure, 40 structures have been added to the list since the 1999 Plan, it is not on the national imagery of architectural heritage, unlike 314 other buildings in Bray. The building is not in an architectural conservation area.
- The process was rigidly adhered to, which is covered in the report. The works relate not only to the extension of a car park but also to the redevelopment of the existing car park.
- Notices were erected at both entrances to the car park, from the arcade and from the main entrance. However, when it was brought to the Council's attention that the St. Paul's building had no notice, this was taken into consideration and new site notices were erected. It was taken on board that the notices may not have been conspicuous and legible, which in the Council's view, they were, however, new signs were erected in the existing car park entrance. The signs were up for the requisite period of time. The second newspaper notice was to simply advise that the time was extended. The requirements of the process have been complied with completely.
- Legal submissions were examined by the Council's Law Agent who is satisfied that the procedure is in accordance with the law.
- The Florentine centre is a great opportunity for Bray to get critical mass of new retail development which has been declining slowly over a period of time. If people are coming to Bray to shop additional parking is required which is useful to support the town and the traders and to reinvigorate the town.

Cllr. S. Matthews put forward the following proposal which was seconded by Cllr. O O Brien: *'That we do not proceed with this development as we are permitted to propose under the Planning Act'*

The Chief Executive advised that the agenda set out clearly that what is before the elected members to be considered which was the proposed works at the Herbert Road Car park, which included the demolition of the house and the extension to and improvement of the existing car park at Herbert Road Bray. The report circulated clearly sets out exactly what this involved.

The Chief Executive advised in relation to Part 8s and Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 in that there are three options open to the elected members; proceed with the development as set out, not to proceed with the development, or make an amendment to the development. These are the three options that are available under the legislation. He described the Florentine Centre for Bray as very positive, which will result in an increase in retail intensity and that additional car parking spaces are required.

The Meetings Administrator advised that in relation to the item on the agenda, to consider report in accordance with S. 179 of the Planning and development Act, 2000, there was a proposal by Cllr. C. Fox, seconded by Cllr. P. Vance to proceed with the development and that there was a

proposal by Cllr. S. Matthews, seconded by Cllr. O O Brien not to proceed and there was a proposal from Cllr. N. Lawless, seconded by Cllr. M. O Connor to modify it.

In response to a query by Cllr. I. Winters as to what happens if the Part 8 does not go ahead, Mr Des O Brien advised that it was well within the Elected Members' rights not to proceed and the property could be put back on the market. Alternatively if the finances are available it can be used for a homeless hostel, or an arts centre for example, if the monies can be raised. The Council has paid market value, plus a special purchaser amount, which he said was reasonable and normal within most commercial transactions where there is a special purchaser.

With regard to the proposal put forward by Cllr. Lawless, seconded by Cllr. M. O Connor 'Amendment to Part 8, that St. Pauls Lodge is not demolished but kept as a house and used for either emergency accommodation or other use like Jigsaw Project' Mr. Des O Brien, advised that the proposal formed more than a modification and was a new development as it would entail changing the use of the house and the development would not achieve the parking efficiency which is part of the scheme. The proposal accordingly was not voted upon.

With regard to the proposal put forward by Cllr. S. Matthews, seconded by Cllr. O Brien: '*That this Council passes a resolution in accordance with the Local Government Act (Part 14. Section 131) to delegate the function of considering a report in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act and Part 8 of Planning Regulations to Bray Municipal District and following the consideration of this report that the decision to vary, modify or decide not to proceed with the development shall be taken by Bray Municipal District.*' The Chief Executive advised that this was a much broader separate issue and that it would require further debate with due notice on the Agenda. The members were advised that they can vote to not proceed with the development, proceed with the development or vary/modify it. Accordingly Cllr. Matthews's proposal was not voted upon.

The Cathaoirleach advised that he was proceed to call for a vote on the proposal put forward by Cllr. C. Fox, seconded by Cllr. P. Vance which was objected to by Cllr. J. Behan as there were two proposal made prior it. The Meetings Administrator advised that the second proposal put forward by Cllr. Matthews and seconded by Cllr. O Brien, was a direct opposite to the one put forward by Cllr. C. Fox and seconded by Cllr. P. Vance and could be voted on accordingly.

The proposal as set out in the report circulated to the elected members in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended; Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended: To carry out an extension of the Herbert Road Car Park, Bray, was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 16 votes for, 10 against, 2 abstaining and 4 not present viz

FOR (16)	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, G. DUNNE, S. CULLEN, P. DORAN, C. FOX, P. KENNEDY, D. MITCHELL, M. MURPHY, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN, E. TIMMINS, P. VANCE AND G. WALSH
AGAINST (10)	CLLRS. M. O'CONNOR, T. FORTUNE, M. KAVANAGH, N. LAWLESS, S. MATTHEWS, O. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, J. SNELL, B. THORNHILL AND I. WINTERS.
ABSTAINING (2)	CLLRS. T. CULLEN AND G. MCLOUGHLIN
NOT PRESENT (4)	CLLRS. P. FITZGERALD, M. MCDONALD, D. NOLAN AND J. WHITMORE.

Time Extension: It was proposed by Cllr. E. Timmins, seconded by Cllr. J. Behan and agreed that the time of the meeting would be extended to 6.00 p.m.

ITEM NO 6

To receive a report on the recent severe weather conditions

Elected members were circulated with report dated the 8th of March in relation to the February/March, severe weather event.

Report on Severe Weather Event – February / March 2018 : Report to Members of the Council

Introduction

On 23rd February Met Eireann issued a Weather Advisory indicating that we were facing a very unusual, extremely cold period with snow affecting the East and South East of the Country effective from Tuesday 27/2/18.

6 Met advisories issued between the periods 23rd February to 5th March 2018

The status on these warning went from Yellow on 23/2/18 to orange on 26/2/18 to RED / SEVERE on 28/2/18. This red warning remained in place until 2nd March 2018.

3 OPW Flood Advisory warning issued on 3rd and 4th March.

Severe Weather Co - ordination Group – Wicklow

On Monday 26th February the first meeting of this group took place.

Under Emergency Management the lead authority in events of severe weather is the Local Authority. The coordination group is represented by all the principal response agencies, Senior Management Team Local Authority, Gardai & Health Service Executive and is chaired by Frank Curran, Chief Executive Wicklow Co Co. Contacts to the Defence forces and Irish Water were also accessible as required.

The group met each morning and discussed and planned around the worsening weather conditions and the effects of areas of:

- Water Supply
- Road Conditions
- Fire Services
- Civil Defence
- Homeless activity
- Flooding
- Wicklow Co Co Resources
- Community / voluntary resources
- Communications
- Other issues as they arose

The co-ordination group continued to maintain contact through phone calls and emails throughout the day following each meeting.

9 Meetings of the local coordination group were held between 26th February and 7th March.

National Emergency Co-ordination Group

The first meeting of the National group also commenced on Monday 26th February. Daily reports issued from the NECG.

Situation reports were submitted by Wicklow to the LGMA/NECG daily and a total of **15 reports** of activity around the county were submitted during the period 1/3/18 to 7/3/18. These reports were supplemented by numerous phone calls and emails between co ordination group and department.

Communications

Communications were constant between all parties from Monday 26th February.

Some forms of communication included:

- Meetings / conference calls of Local Co ordination group
- Conference calls with Eastern Region MEM working Group
- Press Releases - **12 total issued**
- Radio & TV interviews - RTE, East coast Radio
- Social Media - Twitter, Facebook
- Web sites
- Wicklow Co Co Text Alerts
- Calls and points of contact with ESB, Irish Water Safety, Food Supply Distributers, Milk/ Dairy Suppliers, IFA, Army, local contractors, Mountain rescue, Uplands council, Motorway maintenance contractors and local community
- PPN & reissue of Be Winter Ready
- Mobile calls to /from many staff of Wicklow Co Co - large volumes
Wicklow Co Co main switch remained open till 3pm on Thursday 2nd March at which time calls switched to out of hours Call Pageboy service.

Staff were available in all areas and continued to provide assistance as required.

Brief update of Directorates

Roads & Transportation

Roads

Friday 23/2/18

- 1,500 tons of salt available - 12 trucks with snow ploughs -Normal gritting took place as per Winter Maintenance Programme
- Thursday 1/3/18
- Little snow county wide - M11 & N81 Clear -220 tonnes of salt used, 9 gritter trucks & 4 snow ploughs
- Friday 2/3/18
- Blizzard conditions across the county. Power outages in many areas. Advice of NECG was to prioritise clearing of main routes and try to maintain access to essential services such as hospitals etc.
- Most road across the county were reported as impassable, with N11 down to single lane cleared and N81 closed with deep snow drifts 3-4 m in height
- In the afternoon of 2/3/18 an offer was made of support of the army to clear footpaths in urban areas and assist with entrances to housing estates. A request was submitted back to defence forces accepting offer and listing a number of areas across all districts that

assistance would be beneficial. Wicklow Co Co clearly stated that where machinery was available from the army it would be more beneficial at that time.

Weekend 3/3/18 & 4/3/18

- Wicklow Co Council crews continued to work to clear roads, and snow ploughs were required in most areas. Additional plant and equipment organised from contractors, farmers, quarries and assistance of community welcomed. Additional tractors with snow ploughs were also sourced.
- Roads remained treacherous and there were some roads where trees had also fallen with weight of snow drifts.
- Many rural and remote areas remained completely blocked.
- Efforts to clear roads in some areas was severely hampered by cars travelling too fast in such conditions and also hampered by snow tourists.

Monday 5/3/18

- Crews and contractors continued to clear access on roads, with majority of roads passable with single lane traffic. 90 items of plant were in operation across the County.
- A GIS interactive map was produced showing impassable roads. This map was updated continuously.

Tuesday 6/3/18 & Wednesday 7/3/18

- Defence forces deployed to areas of Blessington, Roundwood, Arklow, Laragh & Glendalough and assisted with clearance of footpaths
- By the end of 7/3/18 all roads were cleared to at least a single track. Work then commenced to return to all roads to widen clearance and remove remaining snow drifts from main routes.
- Work continued in badly affected areas to address conditions.

Water & Environmental Services, including Fire & Civil Defence

Water –

- Precautionary boil water notices issued for Aughrim / Annacurra and Barndarrig due to mechanical failure of the chlorine pumps – both boil water notices have now been lifted
- Additional 4x4 vehicles sourced on 26/2/18 to allow for access to treatment plants
- Very few leaks over the period
- Water restrictions put in place by Irish Water for greater Dublin region – Bray & Greystones
- While reservoirs around the county were at low levels there were no major Water issues throughout and after storm

Fire

- Retained fire crews on standby in Local Stations on 1st and 2nd March
- Chief Fire Officer – member of Local Co-ordination Group & Eastern Region MEM working group
- 21 Incidents between 28/2/18 & 5/3/18

Civil Defence

- Civil Defence Officer – member of Local Co-ordination Group
- February 26th to March 8th (12 Days) - Five 4 x 4 Jeeps - 26
- Mainly assisting with transfer of dialysis patients to and from St Vincents & St Michaels hospital
- Cross assistance between Wexford Civil Defence & Wicklow Civil Defence

Environmental Services

- Monitoring of all areas for possible flooding & high tides. Flood Plans activated for Bray & Arklow. Sandbags available across all municipal districts. Three houses, Castle St, Wicklow flooded Friday 2nd March by waves crashing over the sea wall just North of breakwater/new pier. The Council's Technical Staff have already liaised with the OPW in relation to possible inclusion in a Minor Works programme.

Boat sank in Arklow, due to weight of snow on board.

- Murrough recycling centre some flood damage
- Bray Recycling Centre – damage to roof following storm

Housing

The Council's Cold Weather Initiative continued to operate to provide night shelter to homeless individuals throughout the severe weather period. Provision was made to resource extra hours to complement the Homeless Day Service being operated by the Five Loaves in Bray. Individuals who did not wish to access the service were provided with essentials also.

Alternative accommodation was retained for families at risk of homelessness.

Conclusion

The Severe Weather event has caused major disruption to Co Wicklow and its residents, and work continues to clear all areas of remaining snow.

The unprecedented event has been quoted as the worst in 35 years, with some reports indicating the worst in 70 years.

Credit must be given to all **Wicklow Co Co outdoor staff** across all Municipal Districts who worked tirelessly in severe and harsh conditions.

The assistance of volunteers from **Wicklow Civil Defence** was invaluable. Work of Wicklow **Fire Services** is noted together with assistance of any staff member who worked behind the scenes. The recovery effort in the aftermath of Storm Emma could not have progressed without the voluntary community assistance of contractors, farming community and the army Wicklow Co Co wishes to sincerely thank all parties who contributed in some way.

The Chief Executive outlined the background in the matter and paid tribute to all of the Council staff involved through the various departments, Roads, Housing Water, Fire Service, Civil Defence, Community and Communications, and the Gardai and HSE. He also advised of the assistance received from outside agencies and groups in a voluntary capacity, local contractors, quarry owners and the army and that the elected members of the council also informed of the issues as they were happening on the ground.

A presentation was given by the following officials covering the four areas:-

1. Ms. Helena Dennehy, SEO, Environment and Water Services
2. Mr. S. Quirke, Director of Services, Roads and Transportation
3. Mr. A. Dempsey, Chief Fire Officer,
4. Mr. M. Richardson, Civil Defence

Presentation – Severe Weather/ Storm Emma

- Severe Weather Co-Ordination Group – Wicklow
- Communications
- Severe Weather / Storm Emma
- Water Services
- General Environment Services – Flooding; Other
- Transportation and Roads
- Winter Maintenance
- Priority
- Position on the ground countywide
- Road condition
- Types of calls received
- Fire Service

- Crews in Station on stand by
- Daily co-ordination activities
- Fire service incidents by date
- Fire Service incidents by date
- Position on the ground countywide
- Civil defence Response

In conclusion the Chief Executive advised of the disruption to County Wicklow and its residents and that the work continues in areas of the County where there is remaining snow. He paid tribute again to all the Wicklow County Council outdoor staff who worked tirelessly in the severe and harsh conditions. The assistance of volunteers from Wicklow Civil Defence was invaluable as well as the work of the fire services and the assistance of staff behind the scenes. He also thanked the voluntary community for their assistance and the assistance of contractors and the farming community and the army and all parties who contributed in some way.

The Cathaoirleach and elected members collectively commended everyone involved in the response to Storm Emma and officials responded to the queries raised by them in relation to the response. They conveyed their thanks and appreciation to the efforts of the Council, staff, management, outside agencies including the ESB and the IFA and the general public for their during this difficult and trying time.

ITEM NO 7

Introduction to the Wicklow County Council new web portal: Inventise Web Design

The Chief Executive advised that the new web portal is an initiative that emanated from the work of the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank and from the Wicklow County Council, Local Economic and Community Plan. He said that the key objective is to get the positive message out to the public and improve the online presence in terms of service delivery. It is based on three areas Living; Business and Visit Wicklow and gives key information for our residents, visitors to the County and potential investors.

Mr. Kevin Loughran from Inventise Web Design gave the Elected Members a presentation covering the following key areas and showcased the workings of the new Wicklow County Council Web Portal.

Who we are (Inventise)

We are a Bray based team of software developers, graphic designers and IT consultants ready to meet your business needs.

What we do

- Custom web development
- Web design
- Digital marketing
- Business intelligence
- IT consultancy

Specialising in enterprise custom software developments ranging from interactive, public facing websites to complex corporate CRM solutions

Wicklow.ie is a web portal to effectively communicate with businesses, investors, visitors and residents. It is seamless, integrated and simple.

The Brief:

- Website to be user-focused, intuitive, accessible and responsive
- Show distinctiveness of Wicklow
- Flexible and scalable for the future
- Visually engaging and easy to use
- The web portal will represent a single point of contact for all things Wicklow

Insight:**Resident needs**

- Support
- Social bond
- Belonging

Business needs

- Success
- Achievement
- Invention

Visitor needs

- Experiences
- Memories
- Rejuvenation

Wicklow.ie in 3 parts

- Living
- Business
- Visit

In conclusion Wicklow.ie is a clear and organised structure and layout that is easy to navigate. It is a vibrant and effective user experience for all things Wicklow. Importantly it meets the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.

Elected members congratulated the team involved describing the Web Portal as attractive in design, formative, and user friendly. The members urged the Council to keep the Web Portal content, up to date and relevant and information that the public can rely on as a source rather than having to contact the Council directly. Reference was made to the 'tone' and while the public sector communicates in a certain way, there is an opportunity for Wicklow County Council to introduce a piece of personality and lightness in the way we communicate with the public. The Wicklow Brand Logo Endless Opportunities brand was referred to and Cllr. O'Brien asked that it reflect the Irish language.

ITEM NO. 8**To consider the Wicklow County Council 3 Year Capital Budget 2018-2020.**

The Elected members were circulated with Chief Executive's report dated the 1st of March, 2018 in relation to the Wicklow County Council 3 Year Capital Budget 2018-2020.

The Chief Executive advised that the 3 year capital plan is updated annually and had increased from the previous year, mainly as a result of the increased housing unit target of 1,200 between

now and 2021. He advised that the programme is dependent on government grants and policy etc and there is a funding element via development contributions etc.

The Elected Members raised the following points:

- The Delgany to Blacklion Road which has been planned for some 30 years emphasised as essential and that this road should be funded through development contributions
- Query as to the proposed €11m borrowing from other resources and where this future burden will rest
- Concern expressed in relation to expenditure on Wicklow and Arklow Harbour having taken them over
- Request to have the proposed dog park for Bray up and running
- Reference made to the proposed conversion of the top floor classroom, courtyard development and conference facilities at Wicklow County Campus and what this relates to
- Query as to the funding available for coastal protection works
- Query as to the status of the proposed Columbarium Walls/Urn Walls in each municipal district

The Chief Executive and the Head of Finance responded to the queries raised by the elected members. The Chief Executive responded:-

- Proposed Dog Park for Bray can be examined
- The coastal protection works mainly refer to the Murrough
- There is a strong team in the Housing Department and the Council is looking at building some 1,200 units over the term of the Plan, some through the social housing building programme and some via voluntary housing bodies and Part Vs.
- In relation to roads, the Council is working very closely with TII in relation to the design on the M11/N11 and widening the scheme there.
- The economic development unit is working strongly to develop enterprise and Wicklow County Campus.
- There are some 250 students studying a wide range of degree courses at Wicklow County Campus and some 150 students graduated in 2017, the largest number yet. In promoting County Wicklow as a place to do business it is important that there is a third level institute providing higher education courses so that companies can recruit from a skilled workforce and the partnership with IT Carlow has been beneficial in that way.
- Wicklow County Council will be making an application to Enterprise Ireland under the Regional Development Fund to fund the development of the Courtyard at Wicklow County Campus as a audio visual centre of excellence that will compliment the film industry.

The Head of Finance advised that there is provision within the revenue budget for the development of Urn Walls in the Municipal Districts.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Cllr. J. Behan advised that the situation in relation to the collapse of the Carillion group has created a huge amount of frustration and anxiety, particularly among the second level students preparing for summer exams. Cllr. Behan's understanding is that they school is just about finished and only a couple of hundred yards away the student of Colaiste Raithin are in unfit accommodation. Following a discussion on the matter and on the proposal of Cllr. J. Behan, it was agreed that the Council would write to the Department of Education and Skills to do whatever is necessary so that the students can move into the Schools.

ITEM NO 9**To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, February 2018.**

The consideration of the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, February 2018 was noted by the Elected Members. The Report was described as extremely helpful in terms of the information contained therein and it gives a very good picture of what is happening across the organisation and that it be forwarded to the elected members in hard copy also.

ITEM NO. 10**To receive a presentation on the National Planning Framework**

This matter was deferred to the April meeting having regard to time constraints.

ITEM NO 12**Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee: To consider the nomination of Cllr. B. Thornhill to replace Cllr. M. Kavanagh (deferred from meeting of 5th February 2018).**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. T. Fortune and agreed to the nomination of Cllr. B. Thornhill to replace Cllr. M. Kavanagh to the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee.

ITEM NO 11**To receive update: Wicklow Library Service (deferred from meeting of 5th February 2018).**

Mr. B. Martin, County Librarian gave a presentation to the elected members covering the following areas:-

- Network of Libraries
- Staff Embargo Losses
- Library Workforce Plan
- National HR / Union Issues

Recent Library Capital projects

- Mobile Library (2004)
- Baltinglass (2005) (refurbishment)
- Tinahely (2006) (relocated)
- Blessington (2006) (NEW)
- Enniskerry (2007) (refurbishment)
- Carnew (2008) (relocated)
- Greystones (2010) (Extension)
- Dunlavin (2012) (refurbishment)
- Arklow (2016) (NEW)
- Bray (refurbishment) (2016)

Capital Projects Planned

- Wicklow town library + Archives (2018/19)
- New Mobile (2018/19)
- Rathdrum(2018/19)
- Aughrim (2019/20)
- Bray extension (2020/21)
- Newtown – opportunity may arise

Current Initiatives

- "Work Matters" – Arklow + Vision Net business software county wide
- "Musical Instruments for Libraries" – Blessington & Arklow

- “Right to Read” programme
- “Healthy Ireland” Programme
- “Words Wicklow” literary festival (as part of “Creative Ireland”)

Summer Stars Programme

- Took place in libraries throughout country
 - Almost 3,000 children took part in libraries in Wicklow
 - National + local promotion
 - Certificate ceremony took place in September
- Issues 2017 v 2016
 - Library Visits 2017 v 2016
 - IT & Wi-fi usage
 - Wicklow Co Co Book Fund
- Developments nationally
 - Wicklow Online Resources Stats 2017
 - Most popular online languages

Elected members paid tribute to the staff for the excellent work being carried out in the Library service. In response to a query in relation to any proposals to downgrade Ballywaltrim Library the County Librarian advised that the Workforce Plan provides for the restoration of staff there.

ITEM NO 13

Correspondence

Ms. L. Gallagher advised the members that a letter had been received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government dated the 28th February, 2018 advising in relation to the Section 81 of the Planning and Development Act, notice of intent to issue a direction relating to the Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan pursuant to Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act. The letter has been circulated to the members and will appear as an item on the agenda of meeting dated 9th April, 2018.

ITEM NO 14

Notice of Motions

Cllr. J. Behan requested written responses for the notice of motions listed on the agenda under his name and that the notice of motions could then be removed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

CLLR. EDWARD TIMMINS, CATHOAIRLEACH, WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

Date _____