

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 1ST
FEBRUARY, 2021, COMMENCING 2PM VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS P. KENNEDY CATHAOIRLEACH, T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, M. CREAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, E. DOYLE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. LEONARD, G. MCMANUS, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, J. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS.

IN ATTENDANCE:

MR. F. CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/ MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. B. KILKENNY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. C. LAVERY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. L. FITZPATRICK, HEAD OF IS SUPPORT
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR. M. DEVEREUX, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. H. FALLON, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MS. F. FLYNN, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MS. G. LANG, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER

At the commencement of the meeting a roll call was taken. The Meetings administrator advised of meetings etiquette for online meetings and that the press and some members of the public were also present.

Votes of Sympathy

Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Mrs. Eileen Cashman, Mr. James O'Reilly, Mr. Michael Walsh, Mrs. Ursula Drew and Mrs. Margaret Quinn. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Cllr. J. Behan requested a suspension of standing orders, seconded by Cllr. M. Kavanagh, to consider the following matter: "That Wicklow County Council calls on the Government to allow a full open and democratic vote on the CETA agreement before it is ratified", seconded by Cllr. M. Kavanagh, to be discussed at 4.30pm.

In accordance with standing order 40 (a) the request was put to a vote and following a roll call was defeated by a margin of 16 votes for, 14 against and 2 not present viz:-

FOR 16	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, M. CREAN, T. FORTUNE, M. KAVANAGH, P. LEONARD, G. MCMANUS, J. MULLEN, J. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL AND G. WALSH.
AGAINST 14	CLLRS. V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, E. DOYLE, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, D. MITCHELL, E. TIMMINS AND I. WINTERS.
NOT PRESENT 2	CLLRS. A. FERRIS AND M. MURPHY.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 11th January, 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. R. O'Connor and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 11th January, 2021 as circulated.

ITEM NO. 2

To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, January 2021.

The Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, January 2021 on 27th January, 2021.

The Chief Executive highlighted the following

- Covid19 level 5 restrictions still in place with the offices still open by appointment only and 75% of staff working from home
- Housing construction closed however schemes that were due for completion by the end of February can continue and this may be extended to the end of April.
- In terms of Roads, schemes deemed to be essential services are being worked and also emergency repairs. Otherwise the outdoor staff are stood down.
- Water and emergency services are running as normal
- Community call activity is down but phone line operational
- "Keep Well" campaign is a focus of the Community call initiative as is keeping active and being outdoors, keeping in contact and staying in touch with people, minding your mood and switching off and eating well.
- Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park – A public consultation campaign is taking place with zoom drop-in sessions from 4.00pm to 8.00pm on 23rd February, 11th and 12th March. As much public consultation that can take during Covid 19 will take place and all of the information will come back through the consultants to the elected members in due course.
- In relation to NTA schemes, sustainable transport measure grants will be increased this year – up to €7.5m, typically the Council receives around €2.5m, last year for example.
- A lot of schemes are coming through in Arklow, Woodenbridge, Shillelagh, Bray Dart interchange, Arklow and Greystones Traffic Studies etc.
- Approval has been received to take on a number of technical staff which can stay in place for five years and the Council will commence the recruitment process.

Elected members raised questions which were responded to by the Chief Executive and the relevant Director of Services.

ITEM NO.3(a) (b)

To receive a presentation: Housing and Corporate Estate Directorate (1) Presentation Social Housing* (2) Presentation on operation and maintenance. * This presentation will include information on Homelessness figures as agreed at Council meeting held on Monday the 11th January, 2021.

(a) Ms. J. Carroll, Senior Executive Officer gave a presentation covering the following areas and answered the Elected Members queries:

- Policy Context
- Policy Context – Corporate Plan 2019-2024
- Social Housing Support
- Social Housing Need

- Social Housing Stock Rental Income
- Social Housing Estate Management
- Rebuilding Ireland Home loan
- Addressing Homelessness – The Regional Approach
- Addressing Homelessness – Expenditure
- Addressing Homelessness – Emerging Trends and Priorities
- Addressing Homelessness – providing exit strategies and pathways into sustainable tenancies
- Addressing Homelessness – HAP
- Working in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies – the collaborative approach to enduring housing solutions
- Supported Accommodation
- Addressing Homelessness – Housing First
- Addressing Homelessness – Covid-19 Challenges
- Traveller Accommodation
- Other Social Housing Supports – Private Rental Sector
- Irish Refugee Protection Programme – Syria – A Humanitarian Crisis
- Irish Refugee Protection Programme

(b) Ms. H. Fallon, Senior Engineer gave a presentation covering the following areas and answered the Elected Members queries:

- Maintenance and Upgrade of Stock
- Re-Letting of vacant properties
- Housing Grants
- Energy Upgrade Works
- Housing Repairs and Maintenance
- Inspection of Rented Properties
- Traveller Accommodation
- Age Friendly Schemes

Time Extension: On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach a time extension of 5.30 p.m. was agreed to.

ITEM NO. 4

To receive a presentation: East Coast Erosion Study.

Mr. M. Devereux, Senior Engineer gave a presentation covering the following areas and responded the Elected Members queries:

- East Coast Erosion Project
- Project Inception and Survey Report
- Assessment of Existing Coastal Processes and Coastline Evolution
- Preliminary Environmental Assessment and Consultation
- Options and Feasibility Assessment
- Outputs
- Coastal Cell CCA 4 Bray North Beach
- Coastal Cell CCA5 Bray Head to Greystones North Beach
- Draft Assessment
- Coastal Cell CCA6.1 Greystones to Newcastle
- Coastal Cell CCA6.2 Newcastle to Wicklow Harbour
- Coastal Cell CCA7 Wicklow Harbour
- Coastal Cell CCA11 Brittas Bay
- Coastal Cell CCA8 Arklow North Beach

- Coastal Cell CCA10 Arklow South Beach
- Next Steps
- What about Brittas Bay to Arklow?

ITEM NO. 5

To receive a presentation: To note the Wicklow Migrant Integration Strategy 2020 to 2026.

It was agreed to defer this item to the next ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council scheduled for Monday 1st March, 2021, due to time constraints.

ITEM NO. 6

To receive a presentation: To note the County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2020-2025.

It was agreed to defer this item to the next ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council scheduled for Monday 1st March, 2021, due to time constraints.

ITEM NO. 7

To note the Local Government Statutory Audit Report to the Elected Members for the Year Ended 31st December, 2019.

Elected Members were circulated with the Local Government Statutory Audit Report to the Elected Members for the Year Ended 31st December, 2019 on 29th January, 2021 which was noted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence to the elected members from the Ethics Registrar: L. Gallagher, Director of Services, reminded the elected members of the correspondence circulated by the Ethics Registrar and the elected members's requirements in relation to the submission of Annual Declarations by the 28th of February, 2021.

Notice of Motions

1. Notice of motion in the name of names of Cllr. Mary Kavanagh and Cllr. Peir Leonard (24th November, 2020 – deferred from special meeting of 25th January, 2021).

“That Councillors bi-monthly payslips are sent electronically to cut down on the use of paper thereby helping the environment”.

Response: Payroll is ran centrally for the sector by MyPay based in County Laois. There are currently two options for payslips - (1) the traditional paper payslip (2) online access via Core Portal. Core Portal is an online single sign in system which gives staff access to their daily clockings, leave requests and pay details. Payslips on Core Portal can be downloaded by staff only should they chose to do so.

The method of payslip is currently determined at paygroup level i.e. Salaries, pay group, pensioners paygroup, outdoor staff paygroup, and councilors paygroup etc, not at individual level. An email version option for payslips is not currently available to either staff, pensioners or Councillors on the system. We will investigate with My Pay if it is possible to transfer the paygroup for the Councillors onto Core Portal which would allow a member down a payslip. It should be noted, that if this is possible, all Councillors will be moved as a group, not individually as the method of receiving payslips can only be determined at paygroup level.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

CLLR. PAT KENNEDY
CATHOAIRLEACH

MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 1st of March, 2021.