

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2023, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS A. FLYNN KENNEDY CATHAOIRLEACH, T. ANNESLEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, S. STOKES, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS (30)

APOLOGIES

CLLRS. T. FORTUNE (1)

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MS. E. O'GORMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. B. KILKENNY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. L. EARLS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT
MS. E. O'DONOVAN, HEAD OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. H. FALLON, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. M. FLYNN, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. F. KEOGH, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. M. DEVEREUX, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER
MR. B. DOYLE, PROJECT LIAISON OFFICER
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. L. HEALY, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. D. WHITFIELD, TOWN REGENERATION OFFICER
MS. E. HICKEY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ARCHITECT
MS. R. KIDNEY, ASSISTANT ARCHITECT
MR. M. WOODS O'ROURKE, ASSISTANT PLANNER
MS. K. BEACOM, SENIOR EXECUTIVE TECHNICIAN
MR. R. NETO, TECHNICIAN GRADE 1
MS. C. DALY, CLERK OF WORKS/BUILDING INSPECTOR**

MR. T. HUGHES, IS PROJECT LEADER
MR. D. PORTER, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. G. MURPHY, IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER
MS. G. O'NEILL, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER
MR. B. DORGAN, NTA
MR. O. DALTON, NTA

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 Mr. Michael Quinn, Ms. Claire Mullarney and Ms. Maura O'Brien. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Request for Suspension of Standing Orders:- The Meetings Administrator advised that three requests for suspension of standing orders had been submitted in advance of the meeting. In accordance with the protocol adopted the request was read to the meeting as proposed and seconded:-

1. Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following:

"The ongoing destruction and deterioration of The Murrough in Wicklow Town.

It was agreed by all to have a discussion on the topic at 4.30 p.m.

2. Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. I. Winters requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following:

'The 950-bed temporary accommodation at Glendalough Estate at Annamoe. The concerns are the process, scale, location and the impact on the local communities'.

It was agreed by all to have a discussion on the topic at 4.30 p.m.

3. Cllr. G. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following:

'That Wicklow County Council calls on the Irish Government to expel the Israeli Ambassador until there is a permanent ceasefire in Gaza'.

Following a role call to discuss the motion at 4.30 p.m. ‘That Wicklow County Council calls on the Irish Government to expel the Israeli Ambassador until there is a permanent ceasefire in Gaza’ was defeated by a margin of 3 for, 24 against, 3 not present and 1 abstaining viz:-

FOR 3	CLLRS., D. O’BRIEN, G. O’NEILL, J. SNELL
AGAINST 24	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN-KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, P. O’BRIEN, R. O’CONNOR, L. SCOTT, S. STOKES, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS
NOT PRESENT 3	CLLRS. M. BARRY, T. FORTUNE AND M. MURPHY
ABSTAIN 1	CLLR. E. DOYLE

Following her resignation the Cathaoirleach, Elected Members and the Chief Executive all paid tribute to former Cllr. G. McManus on her hard work, commitment, integrity, and knowledge and wished her every success in her future endeavours.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 2nd October 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Brien and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 2nd October 2023.

ITEM NO. 2

To confirm and sign minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 9th October 2023

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Walsh and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 9th October 2023.

ITEM NO. 3

To consider the casual vacancy arising from the resignation of Cllr. G. McManus in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Proposed by Cllr. D. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed that Item number 3 be deferred until the December meeting.

ITEM NO. 4

To consider the vacancy to the Housing and Corporate Estate SPC arising from the resignation of Cllr. G. McManus

Proposed by Cllr. D. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed that Item number 4 be deferred until the December meeting.

ITEM NO. 5

To consider the vacancy on the Bray Area Partnership arising from the resignation of Cllr. G. McManus

Proposed by Cllr. D. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed that Item number 5 be deferred until the December meeting.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with section 13 (4)(a) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, on submissions to Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Rathdrum Town Plan) and to consider making, not making or modifying the Proposed Variation

Ms. S. Walsh, Senior Planner gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Proposed variation No. 1 – *'Rezone 0.81ha of land at Ballygannon, Rathdrum, from 'RN – New Residential' to 'OS2 – Passive open space' and amend the written text of the Rathdrum Town Plan to reflect the changes consequent from the rezoning'*.
- Current land use zoning.
- Land use zoning under proposed variation no. 1.
- Proposed amendments to Rathdrum Town Plan written statement.

- Strategic environmental assessment/Appropriate assessment.
- Submissions on draft proposed variation no. 1.
- Recommendation – The Chief Executive recommends that proposed variation no. 1 be made by the Elected Members as published.

A short discussion followed.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke ‘*To make Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Rathdrum Town Plan) in accordance with the Chief Executive’s Report, as circulated*’ and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 29 for and 2 not present viz:-

FOR 29	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN-KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, D. O’BRIEN, P. O’BRIEN, R. O’CONNOR, G. O’NEILL, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL S. STOKES, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS
AGAINST 0	
NOT PRESENT 2	CLLRS. M. BARRY AND T. FORTUNE

ITEM NO. 7

To consider the Chief Executive’s Report in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for a bus based park & ride facility located to the west of M11 Junction 6 at Fassaroe.

Mr. J. Bowes, Senior Engineer gave a brief outline of the Chief Executive’s report advising:

- Proposed development is for a strategic bus park and ride facility located to the west of the M11 Junction 6 in the townland of Fassaroe comprising of a car park of 388 spaces, including 26 spaces for mobility impaired users, 42 EV charging, 40 bicycle parking stands and 20 bike lockers.
- The project also includes public lighting, CCTV and tow bus bays, two passenger shelters and a bus turning area.
- The proposed park and ride is in accordance with objectives in the County Development Plan and the Bray Local Area Plan.

- The aim of the park and ride at this location is to intercept N11 traffic that originates further south and to transfer these journeys to bus from this location to Dublin City centre and vice-versa.
- The new bus service would be an express service.
- Proposed development is not at any significant risk of flooding.
- Plans and details for the proposed development were made available online and in the Council offices from 23rd August 2023. Last day for submitting comments/observations was 4th October 2023.
- Total of 14 submissions were received.

There followed a broad discussion in which the Elected Members raised questions which were responded to by Mr. Bowes and by Mr. Dorgan and Mr. Dalton from NTA.

It was proposed by Cllr. R. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. M. Corrigan *'In accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, the development of the M11 Junction 6 Fassaroe Bus Park & Ride Scheme may be carried out as recommended in the Chief Executive's Report'* and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 27 for and 4 not present viz:-

FOR 27	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, E. DOYLE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN-KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL S. STOKES, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS
AGAINST 0	
NOT PRESENT 4	CLLRS. G. DUNNE, T. FORTUNE, G. O'NEILL AND E. TIMMINS

ITEM NO. 8

To enter into a Section 85 agreement for the provision of Social Housing via a Public Private Partnership – Bundle 6 of the National Social Housing PPP Programme

Mr. J. Lane, Director of Services updated the Elected Members in relation to the Section 85.

Following a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke *'to enter into a Section 85 agreement for the provision of Social Housing via Public Private Partnership – Bundle 6 of the National Social Housing PPP Programme'* and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 26 for, 1 against and 4 not present viz:-

FOR 26	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, M. BARRY, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN-KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL S. STOKES, E. TIMMINS G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS
AGAINST 1	CLLR. J. BEHAN
NOT PRESENT 4	CLLRS. A. CRONIN, , S. CULLEN, T. FORTUNE AND G. O'NEILL

ITEM NO. 9

To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, October 2023.

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive Monthly Management Report October 2023. Some of the issues raised included the following:

- Flooding events – praise for the excellent work done by the outdoor crews.
- Derelict House, Carnew.
- Private sites in Tinahely.
- Update on East Coast Greenway.
- Coastal erosion, north beach, Greystones
- Vacant houses in Hawkins Wood.
- Land clearance between the Burnaby Mill and Charlesland Wood in Greystones.
- Derelict building at Market Square, Wicklow Town.
- Increase in the grant rate for rural septic tanks.
- Update on Ashford park.
- Ballinclare quarry.
- Notice to quit figures.
- Greystones Enterprise Centre purchase from Cairn.
- Community gardens/ allotments.
- Local Area Plan commencement.
- PURE mile awards.
- Tenant in situ purchase scheme.
- Visual impact safe routes to school.
- Derelict sites.
- Whitestown/Ballinclare.
- Troopersfield, Blessington
-

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

Time Extension: It was proposed by Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all to extend the meeting to 5.30 p.m.

Suspension of Standing Orders

1. Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following:

"The ongoing destruction and deterioration of The Murrough in Wicklow Town".

A broad discussion followed. The Elected Members highlighted the following:

- Acknowledge and thank Deputy Stephen Matthews T.D., who visited the site after the last storm.
- Finance secured, Irish Rail to proceed with some works.
- The Murrough means so much to the fabric of the town.
- Irish Rail has taken the initiative and will work alongside Wicklow County Council.
- Area of special conservation.
- The monkey pole having to be moved again.
- On the verge of losing something so precious to the people of Wicklow.
- Cannot afford to lose any more of The Murrough.
- The Murrough is a precious amenity – mental health benefits.
- Need to speed up the process to save the Murrough.

The Chief Executive responded by stating that it was a very important issue. The Murrough is a beautiful natural amenity. She advised that funding has been given to Irish Rail who have emergency powers and that Wicklow County Council will be encouraging them to use these powers to do the work. Mr. M. Devereux, Senior Engineer advised that he was invited by Irish Rail to sit on a steering group alongside colleagues from the OPW and other local authorities to work on the project.

2. Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. I. Winters requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following:

'The 950-bed temporary accommodation at Glendalough Estate at Annamoe. The concerns are the process, scale, location and the impact on the local communities'.

There followed a broad discussion in which the Elected Members raised the following concerns:

- On the 16th of October, a briefing was sent out to the councillors and the County Council that 950 bed accommodation was sought for Glendalough Estate at Annamoe.
- Annamoe is a small, hamlet between Roundwood and Laragh, with a population of about a hundred people.
- To bring 950 people into, a rural area without any consultation, either the County Council, the Council representatives, or communities.
- No facilities in this rural location, no sewerage, no mains water on this site, no broadband.
- A company called Pastures New have been awarded a contract to manage this site.
- The communities of Roundwood, Annamoe and Laragh in total shock with the scale and numbers.
- 32 week contract, temporary rest area.
- In relation to the County Development Plan, Annamoe was a level 8 in our housing strategy.
- Housing crisis.
- International obligations.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. I. Winters to write to the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality, Integration & Youth requesting him to consider the following motion:

‘To discuss the 950 bed temporary accommodation at Glendalough Estate at Annamoe. The concerns are the process, scale, location and the impact on the local communities.

Wicklow County Council are disappointed with the lack of engagement with the Council and also the lack of facilities in the area for the development. We request that the process is stopped with immediate effect in this location. Alternative accommodation should be sought in consultation with the relevant local authority’.

And following a roll call the motion was passed by a margin of 15 for, 3 against, 10 not present and 3 abstained viz:-

FOR 15	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, V. BLAKE, M. CORRIGAN, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN-KENNEDY, M. KAVANAGH, P. LEONARD, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, J. SNELL S. STOKES, E. TIMMINS AND G. WALSH
AGAINST 3	CLLR. E. DOYLE, R. O’CONNOR AND L. SCOTT
NOT PRESENT 10	CLLRS. M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, A. CRONIN, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, M. MURPHY, D. O’BRIEN, AND I. WINTERS
ABSTAIN 3	CLLRS. A. FERRIS, P. O’BRIEN, G. O’NEILL

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

**CLLR. AOIFE FLYNN KENNEDY
CATHAOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MS. HELEN PURCELL
SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 4th December 2023