

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**PRESENT:**

**COUNCILLORS T. ANNESLEY CATHAOIRLEACH, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, G. MCMANUS, 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 (31)**

**APOLOGIES**

**CLLR. E. DOYLE**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**MR. B. GLEESON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. B. KILKENNY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICE  
MS. L. EARLS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. B. MCCARTHY, A/HEAD OF FINANCE  
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MR. M. FLYNN, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER  
MR. D. MARNANE, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR  
MS. H. DENNEHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MR. D. MCGOWAN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE QUANTITY SURVEYOR  
MS. E. O'DONOVAN, HEAD OF IS  
MS. E. HICKEY, EXECUTIVE ARCHITECT  
MR. P. GRANELL, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
MR. D. PORTER, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
MR. G. HICKEY, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
MR. B. WILDES, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER  
MR. M. CANAVAN, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER  
MS. G. WHITTY, HR OFFICER  
MR. G. MURPHY, IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER  
MS. C. LYNCH, STAFF OFFICER  
MS. P. O'REILLY, STAFF OFFICER  
MS. C. WHELAN, STAFF OFFICER**

**MS. E. KELLY, STAFF OFFICER**  
**MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER**  
**MR. D. MARAH, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER**  
**MS. C. HENDRICK, CLERICAL OFFICER**  
**MS. S. FORRISTAL, CLERICAL OFFICER**  
**MR. E. MCGUANE, ASSET MANAGEMENT LEAD. LDA**  
**MR. D. HAYDEN, COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER, LDA**  
**MS. A. BEUAMONT, MUSIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, MUSIC GENERATION WICKLOW**

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 Ms. Sanell Vosloo, Ms. Catherine (Kitty) Quirke, Mr. Bill Walsh, Ms. Kathleen Faulkner, Fr. Kevin Lyon, Mr. Sean Kelly and Ms. Elizabeth Kenny. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

**Request for Suspension of Standing Orders:-** The Meetings Administrator advised that two requests for suspension of standing orders had been submitted in advance of the meeting. In accordance with the protocol adopted both requests were 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 evolving situation in Direct Provision Centre at the Grand Hotel which has been deemed necessary because of the failure of the Minister and his Department to engage with the Public Representatives in the Wicklow Municipal District and the dangerous living conditions the residents find themselves in.

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

2. Cllr. G. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. J. Behan requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the provision of modular housing in the Baltinglass Municipal area.

Following a roll call it was agreed by a margin of 26 votes for, 3 against and 3 not present to have a discussion on the matter at 4.30 p.m. viz:-

<b>FOR 26</b>	<b>CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, G. MCMANUS, J. MULLEN, D. O'BRIEN P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, S. STOKES, E.TIMMINS, AND I WINTERS.</b>
<b>AGAINST 3</b>	<b>CLLRS. V. BLAKE, S. CULLEN AND D. MITCHELL,</b>
<b>NOT PRESENT 3</b>	<b>CLLRS. E. DOYLE, M. MURPHY AND G. WALSH</b>

### **ITEM NO. 1**

**To confirm and sign minutes of Annual Budget Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Annual Budget Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

### **ITEM NO. 2**

**To confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.**

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Ferris, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

### **ITEM NO. 3**

**To consider the disposal of 0.0483Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Rathballylong, Co. Wicklow comprised I Folio No. WW4484 Co. Wicklow being the property known as lands located in the townland of Rathballylong in the Barony of Talbotstown Lower, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Margaret Brown and Ms. Catherine Egan (LPR's in the Estate of Ms. Agnes Browne deceased), the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property.**

It was proposed by Cllr. E. Timmins, seconded by Cllr. P. Glennon and agreed to consider the disposal of 0.0483Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Rathballylong, Co. Wicklow comprised I Folio No. WW4484 Co. Wicklow being the property known as lands located in the townland of Rathballylong in the Barony of Talbotstown Lower, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Margaret Brown and Ms. Catherine Egan (LPR's in the Estate of Ms. Agnes

Browne deceased), the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

#### **ITEM NO. 4**

**To consider the disposal of 0.0478Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Ballybeg, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW2627 Co. Wicklow, adjoining 26 Ballybeg, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. Alan Duffy, Mr. Alan Newsome, Mr. Philip Sayer and Ms. Margaret Doyle (as LPR of Ms. Margaret Duffy deceased), the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property at 26 Ballybeg, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed to consider the disposal of 0.0478Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Ballybeg, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW2627 Co. Wicklow, adjoining 26 Ballybeg, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. Alan Duffy, Mr. Alan Newsome, Mr. Philip Sayer and Ms. Margaret Doyle (as LPR of Ms. Margaret Duffy deceased), the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property at 26 Ballybeg, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

#### **ITEM NO. 5**

**To consider the disposal of 0.0339Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Knockanrahan Lower, Arklow, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW2290 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 5 Fernhill, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Grainne Dunne of Ballycooleen, Avoca, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed to consider the disposal of 0.0339Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Knockanrahan Lower, Arklow, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW2290 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 5 Fernhill, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Grainne Dunne of Ballycooleen, Avoca, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

#### **ITEM NO. 6**

**To consider the disposal of 0.0171Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW10203 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 9 Hazelwood Crescent, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Laurie Linton of 9 Hazelwood Crescent, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property.**

It was proposed by Cllr. T. Fortune, seconded by Cllr. D. Mitchell and agreed to consider the disposal of 0.0171Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW10203 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 9 Hazelwood Crescent,

Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Laurie Linton of 9 Hazelwood Crescent, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

#### **ITEM NO. 7**

**To consider the disposal of property in the townland of Knockanrahan Lower, Arklow, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW11164 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 41 Knockanrahan, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Christine O’Leary of 41 Knockanrahan, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy and agreed to consider the disposal of property in the townland of Knockanrahan Lower, Arklow, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW11164 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 41 Knockanrahan, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Christine O’Leary of 41 Knockanrahan, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

#### **ITEM NO. 8**

**To consider the disposal of 0.0383Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Baltynanima, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW8010F Co. Wicklow being the property known as lands located in townland of Baltynanima in the Barony of Ballinacor North, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. William Murphy and Ms. Mary Murphy of Baltynanima, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property.**

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Brien and agreed to consider the disposal of 0.0383Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Baltynanima, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW8010F Co. Wicklow being the property known as lands located in townland of Baltynanima in the Barony of Ballinacor North, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. William Murphy and Ms. Mary Murphy of Baltynanima, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

#### **ITEM NO. 9**

**To consider the disposal of 0.0254Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Sheepphouse, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW4065 Co. Wicklow being the property known as lands located at 3 Parnell Terrace, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Hilda Arfield of 3 Parnell Terrace, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy and agreed to consider the disposal of 0.0254Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Sheepphouse, Co. Wicklow

comprised in Folio No. WW4065 Co. Wicklow being the property known as lands located at 3 Parnell Terrace, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Hilda Arfield of 3 Parnell Terrace, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

#### **ITEM NO. 10**

**To consider the disposal of 5.72 sq.m. or thereabouts of land in the townland of Kilmacanoge North, Barony of Rathdown, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW15685F being land situated in Jameson Heights, Kilmacanoge, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to ESB of Two Gateway, East Walk Road, City of Dublin.**

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Ferris, seconded by Cllr. M. Corrigan and agreed to consider the disposal of 5.72 sq.m. or thereabouts of land in the townland of Kilmacanoge North, Barony of Rathdown, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW15685F being land situated in Jameson Heights, Kilmacanoge, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to ESB of Two Gateway, East Walk Road, City of Dublin, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

#### **ITEM NO. 11**

**To note the Local Government Statutory Audit Report to the Elected Members for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.**

Ms. B. McCarthy, A/Head of Finance gave a brief summary of the Local Government Statutory Audit Report.

Following a short discussion this item was noted by the Elected Members.

#### **ITEM NO. 12**

**To consider filling the vacancy to the Wicklow County Partnership arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Cronin from this committee.**

Cllr. A. Cronin proposed Cllr. M. Corrigan to fill the vacancy to the Wicklow County Partnership arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Cronin, this was seconded by Cllr. T. Annesley and agreed by all. Cllr. Corrigan agreed to fill the vacancy.

Cllr. P. O'Brien proposed Cllr. J. Mullen to fill a second vacancy to the Wicklow County Partnership, this was seconded by Cllr. P. Glennon. Cllr. Mullen agreed to fill the vacancy.

### **ITEM NO. 13**

#### **To note the County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023 – 2027.**

Mr. M. Nicholson, Director of Services gave a short overview of County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023 – 2027 outlining the following:

- The programme has been operating since 2008
- It is affiliated to the World Health Organisation and every county has an agency friendly programme, an Age Friendly Strategy and an Age Friendly Co-Ordinator.
- The key to success is active involvement of all key stakeholders, including Age Friendly Programme Manager, Local Authority interdepartmental group, and local age friendly alliances.
- There are age friendly parking, libraries, housing specialists and benches.
- There are age friendly considerations, walkability surveys, talent initiatives, bus shelters, housing units, dementia garden etc.
- Senator Pat Casey is Wicklow Age Friendly Ambassador.
- The new plan has 72 actions over eight thematic groups.
- Recommendation that there should be an Elected Member on the Age Friendly Alliance.

A short discussion followed, the Elected Members congratulated the Age Friendly Alliance and the Administrative Team on their many achievements.

### **ITEM NO. 14**

#### **To nominate a member to the Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance.**

Cllr. V. Blake proposed Cllr. P. Fitzgerald to the Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance, this was seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy. Cllr. Fitzgerald accepted the nomination.

### **ITEM NO. 15**

#### **To receive a presentation on Affordable Housing from the Land Development Agency.**

Mr. J. Lane, Director of Services, gave a short presentation outlining the following:

- Housing For All – 4 Pathways.

- Pathway 1 – Pathways to supporting homeownerships and increasing affordability.
- Affordable Housing Options: Local Authority Build – Turnkey – Shared equity – Part V – Cost Rental.
- Affordable Purchase.
- Affordable Housing Fund.
  - Available for Local Authority Affordable Purchase, Cost Rental and advance purchase (turnkey).
  - Discount to market value – minimum 15%.
  - Infrastructure/site works or as direct funding of Local Authority housing development cost.
  - Increased maximum from €50,000 to €100,000. Subject to a number of conditions including density criteria.
- Local Authority purchase.
  - Greenhill Road – 365 units – portal open 9<sup>th</sup> January.
  - Lott Lane – 75 units – Part 8 to be republished.
- Affordable Purchase (AHF assisted Advance purchase i.e. developer constructed)
  - Approval for 2 schemes received in December 2022.
  - Rathnew – 44 units Affordable – anticipated delivery late 2023/2024.
  - Baltinglass – 25 affordable units – part of a bigger scheme – anticipated delivery late 2024.
  - Further applications being processed.
  - Seeking expressions of interest for affordable and social housing to be published January 2023.
- First Home Scheme (Shared Equity Scheme) launched July 2022.
- Part V changes.
- Cost Rental.

Mr. E. McGuane, Asset Management Lead and Mr. D. Hayden, Community Liaison Officer, Land Development Agency gave a 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation covering the following areas:

- Structure and Statistics.
- Current site portfolio.
- Projects.
- Strategic Planning Projects.
- Affordable Homes – Project Tosaigh.



- Cost Rental – Overview.
- Cost Rental – Eligibility.
- Cost Rental – Archers Wood, Delgany.
- Public Lands – Register of relevant land

There followed a broad discussion in which the Elected Members raised questions which were responded to by Mr. Hayden, Mr. McGuane and Mr. Lane.

The Elected Members welcomed the Affordable Pathways outlined by the Director of Service. The Cost Rental Development in Delgany was acknowledged as a positive addition, however, the Elected Members expressed surprise that they were not informed of the development at an earlier stage in the process.

Questions were raised about Cost Rental rents in the long term, sale of affordable houses, ownership of cost rental properties and exclusion of pet owners. A lengthy discussion took place on the eligibility criteria for affordable housing particularly in relation to the origin of the applicants.

It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach to move to Item No. 18 followed by Item 17.

### **ITEM NO. 18**

#### **To receive a presentation: Music Generation.**

Ms. A. Beaumont, Music Development Officer gave a presentation highlighting the following:

- Who we are:
  - Established 2012 as part of Ireland’s National Music Education Programme.
  - Funded by Department of Education, KWETB, Wicklow County Council, U2, the Ireland Funds.
  - Music Performance Education and Community Music Programmes.
  - 2 Orchestras.
  - 1 Community Choir.
  - Range of musical styles and genres to suit local need.
- Where we are:
  - 44 schools.
  - 2 music hubs - Blessington and Bray.
  - 2 Community Centres – Ashford and Hollywood.
  - Public libraries in Arklow and Blessington.

- What we do:
  - Provide access to high quality affordable music performance education through a range of programmes.
- Why we do it:
  - See music education as an essential tool in the artistic, social and intellectual development of children and young people.
  - Its benefits include physical and emotional wellbeing; greater sense of belonging and community; improved concentration and behaviour; and creative thinking and problem solving.
- Future plans:
  - Expansion of provision through key partnerships.
  - Development of early years offer.
  - Pilot project for Ukrainian Music Programme.
  - Youth Music Festival.
  - Public performances.
  - Expansion of Youth Orchestra under artistic directorship of John Doyle.

The Elected Members congratulated Ms. Beaumont on the programme.

## **ITEM NO. 17**

### **To receive a presentation and to note the Gender Pay Gap Report.**

Ms. G. Whitty, HR Officer gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Action Plan adopted by EU Commission aimed at tackling the Gender Pay Gap.
- Directives already in place on pay discrimination/equal pay.
- Focus now on publication of data and reducing the pay, earnings and pension gap.
- Government approval for a range of measures, including legislation.
- Gender Pay Gap Information Act signed into law.
- Regulations published in May 2022.
- All organisations over 250 employees must report on their gender pay gap by end of 2022.
- National Public Sector Approach.
- Producing the report.
- Interpreting the figures.
- Benefit in kind.
- Women in Leadership.
- How we are supporting Gender Equality.

## **ITEM NO. 16**

### **To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, December 2022.**

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive Monthly Management Report December 2022.

Elected Members raised questions but due to time constraint the Chief Executive and the relevant Director of Services agreed to respond directly to the Elected Members after the meeting.

### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

1. Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the evolving situation in Direct Provision at the Grand Hotel which has been deemed necessary because of the failure of the Minister and his Department to engage with the Public Representatives in the Wicklow Municipal District and the dangerous living conditions the residents find themselves in.

Following a broad discussion on the matter it was agreed to write to the relevant Minister and to IPAS as a matter of urgency and request a meeting with relevant officials and a cross party delegation from Wicklow County Council to discuss the issue further.

2. Cllr. G. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. J. Behan requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the provision of modular housing in the Baltinglass Municipal area.

A short discussion took place in which the Elected Members expressed their concerns.

The Chief Executive advised the Elected Members that a list of possible sites were submitted to the Department for consideration in April. Sites selected were based on technical criteria as well as key requirements. The Government has appointed OPW as the contracting authority with responsibility for managing the construction and installation of modular units on a range of state-owned properties around the country. Two sites in County Wicklow remain under active consideration on the list, to date OPW has only requested access to carry out a survey for Baltinglass, some initial surveys were done in December, and it is expected a full site investigation will be carried out in January. A request to access the Dunlavin land, has not been received as yet. The site in Baltinglass is the only one surveyed at the moment. If the site is deemed suitable, the OPW will revert to the local authority in relation to proceeding with the developmental works. The Department of children will arrange for presentations to the relevant Elected Members in the district supported by the OPW technical team as part of our communications process. With regard to the emergency accommodation programme, the OPW will arrange a community information meeting and a leaflet drop in the relevant area.

## **Correspondence**

Ms. H. Purcell advised the Elected Members of the following:

- Circular F01/22 containing forms on the reporting of political donations by Elected Members were circulated to all councillors and are to be returned by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.
- Elected Members received a hard copy of the Ethical Framework for Local Government Service annual declaration form in accordance with Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 and this form should be submitted on or before 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The Code of Conduct for Councillors was also circulated to all.
- Note circulation of two Circulars - LG08/2022 – Local Representational Allowance and End of Year Requirements.
- LG 09/2022 – Local Government (Maternity Protection and Other Measures of Local Authorities) Act 2022

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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**CLLR. TOMMY ANNESLEY**  
CATHAOIRLEACH  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

**Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023**