

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 8TH JANUARY 2024, 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, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, D. MITCHELL, M. MURPHY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, M. RYAN, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, S. STOKES, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS (31)

DEPUTY JOHN BRADY TD

APOLOGIES

CLLR. J. MULLEN (1)

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MS. E. O'GORMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. DEVEREUX, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. L. EARLS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. B. MCCARTHY, A/HEAD OF FINANCE
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. H. FALLON, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. F. KEOGH, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. M. FLYNN, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER
MS. E. O'DONOVAN, HEAD OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS
MR. M. COSTELLO, CLIMATE ACTION CO-ORDINATOR
MR. J. CALLERY, CLIMATE ACTION OFFICER
MS. J. SAMMILLER, COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION OFFICER
MR. S. CLARKE, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MR. M. OVINGTON, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. D. PORTER, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. M. MCNAMARA, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MS. A. CASHMAN, HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER
MR. G. MURPHY, IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER**

MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER
SGT. J. FITZPATRICK, CRIME PREVENTION 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 Mr. Michael Gleeson, Mr. Patrick Fox, Ms. Rose Barlow, Ms. Annette Cashen, Mr. Damien Murphy, Mr. Brian White, Mr. Gerard Lowe and Mr. Tony Duffy. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of annual budget meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 27th November 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. S. Cullen and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of annual budget meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 27th November 2023.

ITEM NO. 2

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 4th December 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. P. Glennon and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 4th December 2023.

ITEM NO. 3

To consider the disposal of 0.0237 HA or thereabouts in the townland of Ballynerrin Lower, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW5220 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 32 & 34 Glenview Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow to Mr. Michael Dunne of 32 Glenview Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed to consider the disposal of 0.0237 HA or thereabouts in the townland of Ballynerrin Lower, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW5220 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 32 & 34 Glenview Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow to Mr. Michael Dunne of 32 Glenview Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 4

To consider the disposal of 0.0011 Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Kindlestown Lower, Co. Wicklow at the rear of 135 Kenmare Heights, Greystones, Co. Wicklow comprised in part Folio No. WW7142F to Anthony and Eileen McCoy of 135 Kenmare Heights, Greystones, Co. Wicklow

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. S. Stokes and agreed to consider the disposal of 0.0011 Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Kindlestown Lower, Co. Wicklow at the rear of 135 Kenmare Heights, Greystones, Co. Wicklow comprised in part Folio No. WW7142F to Anthony and Eileen McCoy of 135 Kenmare Heights, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 5

To consider the disposal of 0.09813 Hectares (0.2425 acres) or thereabouts at Former Ashford Garda Station, Ashford, Co. Wicklow (Folio: WW8994F) to Ashford Development Association CLG for a period of 30 years by way of lease.

A discussion relating to the use and access to the building by community groups took place. Mr. M. Nicholson, Director of Services, Community Cultural & Social Development, advised a condition could be attached to the lease ensuring widespread community use.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. M. Kavanagh and agreed to consider the disposal of 0.09813 Hectares (0.2425 acres) or thereabouts at Former Ashford Garda Station, Ashford, Co. Wicklow (Folio: WW8994F) to Ashford Development Association CLG for a period of 30 years, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider the disposal of 0.0575 Hectares (0.142 acres) or thereabouts at Aquaskiff Boat House, Castle View, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow to Wicklow Rowing Club/Sub Aqua Club for a period of 30 years by way of lease.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed to consider the disposal of 0.0575 Hectares (0.142 acres) or thereabouts at Aquaskiff Boat House, Castle View, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow to Wicklow Rowing Club/Sub Aqua Club for a period of 30 years, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 7

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.

Ms. H. Purcell advised in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, that Sinn Féin has nominated Mr. Mick Ryan to be their candidate to fill the vacancy following the resignation of Cllr. G. McManus. Mr. Ryan confirmed his acceptance of the nomination in writing.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Behan and agreed by all to co-opt Mr. Mick Ryan onto the council.

The Elected Members welcomed Cllr. Ryan and wished him well and looked forward to working with him.

Cllr. Ryan thanked the Elected Members for their kind words and his family for their continued support and stated he looked forward to working with everyone.

ITEM NO. 8

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

Cllr. D. O'Brien proposed Cllr. M. Ryan to fill the vacancy to the Housing and Corporate Estate SPC arising from the resignation of Cllr. G. McManus, this was seconded by Cllr. J. Behan and agreed by all. Cllr. Ryan agreed to fill the vacancy.

ITEM NO. 9

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

Cllr. D. O'Brien proposed Cllr. M. Ryan to fill the vacancy on the Bray Area Partnership arising from the resignation of Cllr. G. McManus, this was seconded by Cllr. J. Behan and agreed by all. Cllr. Ryan agreed to fill the vacancy.

ITEM NO. 10

To consider and adopt the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan.

Mr. M. Costello, Climate Action Co-Ordinator, gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Climate Policy – global to local.
- Desktop engagement.
- Public consultation process.
- Following public consultation.
- What happens next?
- Submission summary.

- Summary of modifications.
- Summary of 11 modifications.
- Other revised actions combined.
- Climate Action Plan overview.
- Actions brief overview.

The Members acknowledged the considerable consultation and stakeholder engagement carried out. They welcomed the plan and the impact it will have once implemented. They requested the actions also be published in plain English. Chief Executive, Ms. E. O’Gorman thanked the climate action team and SPC for their tireless work on the plan.

Following a broad discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. L. Scott, seconded by Cllr. D. O’Brien and agreed by all to adopt the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan.

ITEM NO. 11

To consider the Chief Executive’s Monthly Management Report, December 2023.

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

- Arklow Flood Relief Scheme.
- Baltinglass RDF.
- Short term lets in particular Airbnbs.
- Presentation on tourism.
- Blessington Greenway.
- Derelict property, Carnew.
- Level of funding for roads in South Wicklow.
- Baltinglass bridge update.
- Blessington inner relief road.
- Street lights, West Wicklow.
- NTA – local link.
- Periodic speed signs.
- Local Authority Integration Team.
- Community gardens and allotments.
- Housing figures.
- Ready to build scheme.
- Greystones Enterprise Hub.
- Town Team, Bray.
- Homeless services – cold weather arrangements at weekends.
- 44 units, Kilbride Road.
- Road gritting, West Wicklow.
- Safe routes to school.

- Changes to management structure.
- Baltinglass Courthouse.

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. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. R. O'Connor and agreed by all to extend the meeting to finish of business.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Stokes, seconded by Cllr. T. Annesley and agreed by all to move to Item no. 14 at this point.

ITEM NO. 14

To receive a presentation: Personal Safety for Elected Members.

Sergeant John Fitzpatrick, Crime Prevention Officer, gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Canvassing safely Local Elections 2024.
- Principles
- Dynamic risk- Assess – act.
- Trust your instincts – gut feeling – the brain.
- Routine – the enemy of personal safety.
- Canvassing.
- Dogs and canvassing.
- Final tips.
- Have a plan.

Following the presentation the Elected Members expressed views and raised queries which were responded to by Sergeant Fitzpatrick.

ITEM NO. 12

To note the Local Government Statutory Audit Report to the Elected Members for the year ended 31st December 2022.

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

A short discussion took place, some of the items raised included:

- Whitestown remediation.
- Retired officials on boards of directors.
- Shareholding in East Coast FM.
- Housing rent arrears.
- Capital levies.
- Bad debt provision.

Questions raised were responded to by the Chief Executive and A/Head of Finance.

This item was noted by the Elected Members.

ITEM NO. 13

To note circular F01/24 deadline for reporting of political donations by Elected Members.

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

- January 31st is the deadline for reporting of political donations by Elected Members.
- The reporting requirements due this year are unchanged from any which applied in previous years.
- Each person who in the preceding year was a member of the local authority is required under section 19(e) of the Act to fill out and complete and return the forms.
- Received hard copies of forms today and soft copies have also been sent out.
- Gavin O'Connor is now Ethics Officer, and the completed forms should be returned to him.

ITEM NO. 15

Correspondence

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

- 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 28th February 2024. The Code of Conduct for Councillors was also circulated to all.
- Requested that the Elected Members meet the two deadlines: 31st January for political donations and 28th February for the Ethics declarations.
- To note circulation of letter of 21st December 2023 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage relating to the allowances and expenses of Elected Members.
- To note circulation of Circular LG07/2023 Domestic Subsistence Allowances for Elected Members.

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 12th February 2024