

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON  
MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND  
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**PRESENT:**

COUncillors M. CORRIGAN CATHAOIRLEACH, D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, N. WHELAN AND C. WINSTANLEY (32)

**APOLOGIES**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

MS. E. O'GORMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
MS. J. CARROLL, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. H. DENNEHY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. L. EARLS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. B. GLEESON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. T. O'BRIEN, T/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT  
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR  
MR. S. DOYLE, IS PROJECT LEADER  
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER  
MR. C. FAY, ATKINS REALIS

At the commencement of the meeting a roll call was taken. The Meetings Administrator advised all present they are bound by the Code of Conduct for Councillors and Employees. Also, 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. Kathleen Dunne, Ms. Anne Egan, Mr. David O'Carroll, Mr. William Shortall, Mr. Thomas O'Reilly, Mr. Lorcan McMahon, Mr. Kenneth Honner, Ms. Kate Crampton, Mr. Robert Richardson, Ms. Melanie Carton, Ms. Caroline Egan, Ms. Catherine Keenan and Mr. Charles Breslin. A minute's silence was observed for the deceased.

Following his resignation from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 the Cathaoirleach, Elected Members and the Chief Executive all paid tribute to Cllr. D. O'Brien on his hard work, enthusiasm, commitment, integrity and knowledge. His work on behalf of his constituents and the youth of the county in particular, was acknowledged. The Cathaoirleach made a small presentation to Cllr. O'Brien and wished him every success in his future endeavours.

**ITEM NO. 1**

**To confirm and sign minutes of annual budget meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025.**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all to confirm and sign minutes of annual budget meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

**ITEM NO. 2**

**To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Behan and agreed by all to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

**ITEM NO. 3**

**To consider the disposal of 0.0298Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Corporation Lands Td. being the property known as 51 Seafield, Dunbur Road, Wicklow to Emma Brown and Seana Cooke.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.0298Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Corporation Lands Td. being the property known as 51 Seafield, Dunbur Road, Wicklow to Emma Brown and Seana Cooke, as set out in statutory notice previously circulated.

**ITEM NO. 4**

**To consider the disposal of 0.2025Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Lacken TD. being the property known as Cobwebs, Lacken. Co. Wicklow to John Reilly and 0.1125Ha or thereabouts to Wicklow County Council.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Glennon, seconded by Cllr. P. Mahon and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.2025Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Lacken TD. being the property known as Cobwebs, Lacken. Co. Wicklow to John Reilly and 0.1125Ha or thereabouts to Wicklow County Council, as set out in statutory notice previously circulated.

**ITEM NO. 5**

**To note the Local Government Statutory Audit Report to the Elected Members for the year ended 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024.**

Elected Members were circulated with the Local Government Statutory Audit Report for year ended 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

Mr. B. Gleeson, Director of Services gave a brief summary of the Local Government Statutory Audit Report.

Questions raised were responded to by the Chief Executive and Director of Services.

The Local Government Statutory Audit Report to the Elected Members for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 was noted.

**ITEM NO. 6**

**To note deadline for reporting of political donations by Elected Members in accordance with the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999, as amended, and the Local Elections (Amendment)(Political Funding) Act 2012, as amended.**

Ms. L. Earls, Director of Services advised the Elected Members that Ms. A. Dunne is the new Ethics Officer and that she had written out to Elected Members in respect of the annual political donations declarations. The forms were sent out on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January and must be completed and returned by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January.

**ITEM NO. 7**

**To note the Ethical Framework for Local Government Service Annual declaration form in accordance with Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.**

Ms. L. Earls, Director of Services drew the Elected Members attention to the Code of Conduct for the Elected Members setting out the principles and standards of conduct, respect, dignity, equality and integrity for the Councillors in performing their functions and in their relationship with each other, Council staff and the public. Elected Members were requested to read and adhere to the Code.

In relation to the ethics declaration, Ms. Earls advised that the Ethics Officer circulated declaration forms which must be completed and returned by the 28<sup>th</sup> of February.

**ITEM NO. 5**

**To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, December 2025.**

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, December 2025.

Some of the issues raised included the following:

- Affordable housing scheme, Mariners Point.
- Footpath, Brittas Bay.
- Derelict building, Market Square, Wicklow Town.
- Development contribution scheme.
- Update – Clúid – rent review.
- Derelict houses, Ashford
- Damage to headstone, Roundwood graveyard.
- Park & Ride update.
- Park and ride facility, Blessington.
- Transport issues – N81.
- 132 and 65 bus routes.
- Request to lease land at Milltown – Dunlavin Soccer Club.
- Colbinstown Bridge.
- Hill fort, Baltinglass.
- RRDF – Town centre, Baltinglass.
- Review of parking bye laws.
- Charlesland dual carriageway.
- Traffic lights, Greystones.
- Farrankelly housing estate.
- Property on Mill Road.
- NTA – travel allocations.
- Bray/Greystones cliff walk.
- Update – Hillview Estate, Wicklow Town.
- Gritting roads – staff commended.
- Review of gritting routes requested.
- Ashford park and ride.
- Court house, Wicklow Town.
- An Post building, Wicklow Town.
- Update – tender process – Wicklow Gaol.
- The Murrough, Wicklow Town.
- Housing bodies – who are they accountable to?
- Coastal erosion studies.
- Access to all beaches – Arklow.

- Loss of access to North beach, Arklow.
- Roadstone jetty, Arklow.
- Derelict properties, Main Street, Arklow.
- Lack of parking on Main Street, Arklow.
- Update – Kippure Lodge.
- 106 houses due to be built in Burgage, Blessington.
- Call to boycott attendance at St. Patrick's Day, Parade, America.
- Update on position of the Boxing Club premises in Bray.
- Withdrawal of services of the ISPCA in Wicklow.
- Fire Service.
- Rehills lands, Bray.
- Electoral register.
- Old Heitons building, Bray.
- Bray Area Plan.
- Update on Sports programme.
- Bray Bridge Active Travel Scheme.
- Increase in notices to quit being issued.
- Tenant in situ scheme.
- Repair to lease scheme.
- Number of live planning grants.
- Capital programme, Arklow.
- Pilot city centre living programme, Arklow.
- Councillors email addresses.

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

Following a short discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. L. Scott, seconded by Cllr. J. Behan and agreed by all to increase the nomination to the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk Management Committee from three to four external representatives. One each from both Bray and Greystones.

Elected Members from Bray and Greystones Municipal Districts were reminded they are all eligible to join the committee.

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

**To receive a presentation: Briefing in advance of a non-statutory public consultation on the Emerging Preferred Route Option for the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway.**

Mr. J. Bowes, Senior Engineer gave a short overview prior to the presentation.

Mr. C Fay, Atkins Realis gave the presentation highlighting the following:

- Project overview.
- Phases 1 – 7.

- Scope of the current scheme – Phase 2 to Phase 4.
- Key deliverables.
- Phase 2: Options selection.
- Phase 3: Design & environmental evaluation.
- Phase 4: Statutory processes.
- Optioneering process.
- Process:- identify the study areas for constraints analysis; identify long list of route corridors; develop and evaluate link-by-link route options within the preferred corridor; and select the emerging preferred route.
- Recap on Stage 1 route options assessments: Route corridor identification.
- Multicriteria analysis.
- Assessment criteria.
- General findings.
- Emerging preferred route (EPR).
- EPR – Greystones.
- EPR – Kilcoole.
- EPR – Six Mile Point.
- EPR – Five Mile Point.
- EPR – Killoughter.
- EPR – Wicklow Town.
- EPR – key benefits; challenges; balancing scheme & environment.
- Public consultation no. 3.
- Next steps.
- Project programme.

A broad discussion followed in which the Elected Members raised queries and concerns which were responded to by Mr. Fay. Some of the concerns raised were as follows:

- Land owners not notified of preferred option.
- Safety – farm land.
- Lack of understanding of farm life.
- Protecting the environment.
- Impact – inland route.
- Need to be re-visited, opposition to project.
- Tourism.
- Need for rigorous environmental assessment.
- Only benefit is to take cars off road.
- Benefit to mental health.
- Meet demands of environmental challenges.
- Prefer if money was spent on Cliff walk.
- Parking issues – Wicklow and Greystones.
- Where will the entry points be?
- Devalue farmers land.
- Flooding issues – Kilcoole.
- Coastal erosion – The Murrough.
- Expectation route would be coastal.

- Stakeholder engagement.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**



**CLLR. MELANIE CORRIGAN  
CATHAOIRLEACH  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**



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

**Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**