

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 3RD JULY 2023, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS A. FLYNN KENNEDY CATHAOIRLEACH, T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, S. CULLEN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, G. MCMANUS, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, D. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, S. STOKES, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS (28)

APOLOGIES

CLLRS. M. BARRY, A. CRONIN, M. MURPHY AND P. O'BRIEN (4)

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MS. E. O'GORMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. J. CARROLL, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. FLYNN, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. H. FALLON, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER
MR. R. NETO, TECHNICIAN GRADE 1
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. L. HEALY, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. P. O'NEILL, IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER
MS. C. CULLIMORE, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER
DR. C. BUCUR, MANAGER, KPMG ANALYTICS
DR. A. DOYLE, KPMG ANALYTICS**

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. Danny Bohan, Mr. Jimmy Wright, Ms. Christina Jenkinson, Catherine Edgeworth, Mr. Christy Breen, Mr. John Medlycott, Sr. Una Neilan, Ms. Bridie Smith, Mr. Robert Doyle, Mr. James (Sonny) Gregan and Mr. Seb McGuire. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Congratulations were extended by the Cathaoirleach to Ms. Amy Wall on becoming European Games Kickboxing Champion. The Cathaoirleach also wished to acknowledge the Pride Event held in Wicklow Town and to all the clubs involved in the county.

Congratulations were also extended to St. Peters and beaten finalists Avonmore in the Wicklow Cup.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 12th June 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 12th June 2023.

ITEM NO. 2

To confirm and sign minutes of Annual Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 19th June 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Stokes, seconded by Cllr. I. Winters and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Annual Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 19th June 2023.

ITEM NO. 3

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

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive Monthly Management Report June 2023.

The following issues were among the items discussed under the Chief Executive's Report:

- Aghrim Wastewater Plant
- RRDF – Baltinglass
- Housing rent arrears
- URDF

- Septic tank inspections
- Local area plans – will process be completed?
- Improvement works N81 and N11, including park & ride.
- Use of consultants in strategy preparations.
- Housing project, Tinahely – start date?
- Delays in processing planning enforcement notices.
- Number of boiler services outstanding.
- Signage at new speed limits.
- Progress of Blessington inner relief road?
- Communications.
- Road markings not sufficient within the county.
- Emissions from incinerator in Ringsend.
- Community Climate Action Fund.
- Funding for footpaths.
- Bypass – Rathnew.
- Safe routes to school scheme – use of plastic bollards.
- Homelessness Strategy – subcommittee?
- Social housing stock and vacancies.
- Car parking – Burgage, Blessington.
- Fisherman's Huts.

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

ITEM NO. 4

To receive a presentation on the preparation of a Skills Strategy for County Wicklow By Dr. Cristina Bucur and Dr. Aoife Doyle, KPMG Analytics.

Dr. C. Bucur gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Introduction – KPMG Future Analytics – who we are – planning, research, economic, data analytics
- Proposed methodology.
- Wicklow County Council's 2018 Commuter Study – high percentage of employees living in Wicklow work outside the county.
- Project inception; baseline analysis; stakeholder engagement; detailed analysis; vision & recommendations; and action plan & strategy.
- Stakeholder engagement – overview of approach.
- Employers and workforce surveys.
- Wicklow stakeholders.
- Envisaged consultation timelines.
- Indicative project timelines.

Following the presentation the Elected Members expressed views relating to sustainable employment, the importance of the tourism, hospitality, film, renewables and arts & crafts sectors. The importance of promoting engagement throughout various sectors including non-nationals, youth, hospitality and disability sectors was raised. The importance of an implementation plan was also highlighted.

All queries raised were responded to by Dr. Bucur and Dr. Doyle.

ITEM NO. 5

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

ITEM NO. 6

Notice of Motions

Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. P. Fitzgerald (proposer), seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy (23rd May 2023)

'Wicklow County Council calls on the Office of Public Works to carry out the necessary excavation works to recover the remains of Joe Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Tim Kelly, in what is commonly known as the Invincibles Yard at Kilmainham Gaol. The bodies of these five members of the Irish National Invincibles lie beneath the paving slabs of the yard where they were executed in 1883 for their part in the Phoenix Park assassinations. The families of the five men are represented by the National Graves Association and the wish of the families is for their relatives to be exhumed from Kilmainham Gaol and reinterred in consecrated ground at Glasnevin Cemetery.'

It was proposed by Cllr. E. Timmins, seconded by Cllr. A. Flynn-Kennedy and agreed by all pass the motion.

Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. L. Scott (proposer), seconded by Cllr. P. Leonard and supported by Cllr. M. Kavanagh (24th May 2023)

'That Wicklow County Council produces a county wide strategy for the development of community gardens and allotments'.

Response:

It is acknowledged that Community Gardens/Allotments can create social ties, bring about positive health effects and increase community involvement and help reduce negative environmental impacts by promoting sustainable agriculture. All can benefit from urban agriculture since it creates habitats and improves the ecology of the area.

Wicklow County Council can certainly support such community initiatives through the LEADER programme.

There are already good Community developed allotments in Wicklow including Fassaroe at Little Bray Community Centre, run by the Community Centre.

There is currently no provision in the Budget in any Directorate or the necessary staff resources in place to develop a county strategy for community gardens and allotments.

Following a discussion the Elected Members requested that the Municipal Districts source suitable land and report back by September. Following receipt of reports from the Municipal Districts, expressions of interests countywide from community groups and interested parties may be sought.

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 September 2023