

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

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY CATHAOIRLEACH, P. GLENNON, 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 (28)

APOLOGIES

CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY CATHAOIRLEACH, E. DOYLE, T. FORTUNE AND M. KAVANAGH (4)

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MS. E. O'GORMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. B. KILKENNY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. D. MARNANE, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICE
MS. L. EARLS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
MS. E. O'DONOVAN, HEAD OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS
MS. B. MCCARTHY, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. M. FLYNN, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. F. KEOGH, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. M. DEVEREUX, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER
MS. G. POWER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MS. M. CAHILL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. D. MAGUIRE, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MS. R. WOOD, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MS. R. GILLESPIE, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. G. MURPHY, IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER
MS. C. WHELAN, STAFF OFFICER
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER
MS. D. COLEMAN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MANAGER, SSE RENEWABLES
MR. K. CHRISTENSEN, DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, SSE RENEWABLES
MR. P. DUNNE, CHEVIOT SHEEP OWNERS ASSOCIATION
MR. P. BEHAN, CHEVIOT SHEEP OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

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. Myles Kavanagh, Ms. Eileen Ivory and Ms. Joan O'Reilly. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

The Leas Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Emer O'Gorman, recently appointed Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council to County Wicklow wishing her every success in her tenure as Chief Executive.

The Elected Members joined together in collectively welcoming Ms. O'Gorman to Wicklow County Council and that they looked forward to working on the priorities for County Wicklow over the coming years.

The Chief Executive thanked the Elected Members for the warm welcome. She said that she looked forward to working with the Elected Members to achieve what is best for Wicklow to drive the county forward and to continue the great work that Mr. Brian Gleeson has led over the past year.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of Special Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 13th February 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Special Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 13th February 2023.

ITEM NO. 2

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 13th February 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. A. Ferris and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 13th February 2023.

ITEM NO. 3

To consider the disposal of 0.43 acres of land or thereabouts in the townland of Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow by way of 18 month lease for the period 9th January 2023 to 8th

July 2024 and the right to pass and repass thereto, to Mr, Noel Jacob and Ms. Helen Jacob, Jacob's Well, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy and agreed to consider the disposal of 0.43 acres of land or thereabouts in the townland of Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow by way of 18 month lease for the period 9th January 2023 to 8th July 2024 and the right to pass and repass thereto, to Mr, Noel Jacob and Ms. Helen Jacob, Jacob's Well, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 4

To note Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee end of year Report 2022

This item was noted by the Elected Members.

ITEM NO. 5

To enter into a Section 85 Agreement for the carrying out of the powers, duties and functions of Kildare County Council in respect of an event licence application for a multistage music and arts festival with camping and parking facilities at Russborough House & Parklands, Blessington, Co. Wicklow on the 30th June, 1st, 2nd & 3rd July 2023, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Glennon, seconded by Cllr. J. Mullen and agreed by all to enter into a Section 85 Agreement for the carrying out of the powers, duties and functions of Kildare County Council in respect of an event licence application for a multistage music and arts festival with camping and parking facilities at Russborough House & Parklands, Blessington, Co. Wicklow on the 30th June, 1st, 2nd & 3rd July 2023, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider filling the vacancy to the County Wicklow Tourism Board arising from the resignation of Cllr. M. Murphy from this committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed that Item No. 6 be deferred until the April meeting.

It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach, seconded by Cllr. A. Ferris and agreed by all to move to Items No. 8, 9 and 10.

ITEM NO 8.

To receive a presentation from Wicklow Cheviot Sheep Owners Association

Mr. P. Behan and Mr. P. Dunne, Wicklow Cheviot Sheep Owners Association gave a presentation outlining the following:

- 155,209 breeding ewes in Wicklow about to lamb this Spring.
- 233,000 lambs born in Wicklow every year.
- The fifth largest country in Ireland in terms of sheep numbers.
- Savage attacks are a huge animal welfare issue.
- Want Minister for Agriculture to deliver what farm organisations have asked for –
- Would like this council to write to relevant ministers – Minister Charlie McConalogue and Minister Heather Humphreys to ask for:
 - A national database for all dogs in the country for microchipping and licensing.
 - Extra dog wardens working flexible hours – to ensure there are dog wardens working weekends.
 - Dog wardens need to be out seen enforcing the law.

A broad discussion followed in which the Elected Members raised queries to which Mr. Dunne responded. There were four proposals put forward by the Elected Members.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. R. O'Connor and agreed by all to write to Minister for Agriculture and to the Minister for Rural & Community Development to ask for:

- A national database for all dogs in the country for microchipping and licensing.
- Extra dog wardens working flexible hours – to ensure there are dog wardens working weekends.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. M. Corrigan and agreed by all to request the Minister for Rural & Community Development to review the wording 'under effectual control' in the Control of Dogs Act 1986 Section 9 (1).

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Mullen, seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy and agreed by all to write to Coillte and that a copy of the letter to be send to all other councils, suggesting that Coillte add on and develop their open access policy to include that dogs should be on leashes when out and about in the countryside.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. I. Winters to establish a Working Group within the Council to review the existing bye-laws if any, or to establish new bye-laws.

ITEM NO. 9

To receive a presentation from SSE Renewables: Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Public Consultation 2023

Ms. D. Coleman, External Affairs Manager and Mr. K. Christensen, Development Manager gave a presentation outlining the following:

- A renewable energy pioneer.
- Delivering in Ireland. Arklow the birthplace of offshore wind in Ireland.
- Steps to Ireland's energy independence.
- Public consultation 2023.
- Project timeline.
- Principles for co-existence report.

There followed a broad discussion in which the Elected Members raised questions which were responded to by Ms. Coleman and Mr. Christensen.

ITEM NO. 10

To receive a presentation on the Age Friendly Strategy

Ms. C. Whelan, Staff Officer gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Demographic context.
- WHO 8 Domains Framework.
- What is an Age Friendly Community.
- Age Friendly Ireland milestones.
- National context – Age Friendly Ireland.
- Age Friendly National Networks.
- Older People's Councils.
- Age Friendly Programme – Local structure.
- Vision.
- Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023 – 2027 – 72 actions.
- Age Friendly Programme – Next events 2023.

A short discussion followed.

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

ITEM NO. 7

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

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

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

ITEM NO. 11

Correspondence

Ms. R. Gillespie advised the Elected Members of the following:

- Circulation of Protocol minutes for meetings of 7th November 2022, 5th December 2022 and 9th January 2023.

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 3rd April 2023