

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2025, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS P. O'BRIEN CATHAOIRLEACH, D, ALVEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, N. WHELAN AND C. WINSTANLEY (29)

APOLOGIES

CLLRS. P. LEONARD, M. MURPHY AND W. O'TOOLE (3)

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MS. E. O'GORMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. H. PURCELL, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. F. KEOGH, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. B. GLEESON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. DEVEREUX, T/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER
MS. D. JORDAN, EAST COAST REGIONAL DRUGS AND ALCOHOL TASK FORCE (ECRDATAF)**

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. Paddy Macauley, Mr. Bill Stokes, Dr. Bill O'Connell, Mr. John Holmes (Bray), Mr. Seamus McDonnell, Mr. John Holmes (Blessington), Mr. Sean Fennessy, Mr. Dylan Leonard, Mr. Paul Costigan, Ms. Ina Fridenberg and Mr. Seamus Walker. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Congratulations were extended to Bray/Greystones Chess Club in recognition of their first team being promoted to the Armstrong Cup, Division 1 of the Leinster Chess Leagues.

Request for Suspension of Standing Orders:- The Meetings Administrator advised that one request for suspension of standing orders had been submitted in advance of the meeting. In accordance with the protocol adopted the request was read to the meeting as proposed and seconded:-

Cllr. G. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following motion:

'To call on the Council to oppose the application by Avon, Blessington to the Department to provide International Protection Accommodation at Avon, Burgage, Blessington.

If granted, it could remove access on the present shared driveway to the Blessington Greenway which would require a new entrance/roadway and could impinge on the lands where planning has been granted for 106 new social houses'.

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

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 12th May 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. L. Fenelon Gaskin and agreed by all to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 12th May 2025.

ITEM NO. 2

To consider the disposal of 0.0050Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Bray Td. being the property known as 30 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow to Fiona Hayes.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. M. Corrigan and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.0050Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Bray Td. being the property known as 30 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow to Fiona Hayes., as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 3

To consider the disposal of 0.0046Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Bray Td. being the property known as 29 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow to Susan Jasper.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. M. Corrigan and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.0046Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Bray Td. being the property known as 29 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow to Susan Jasper, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 4

To consider the disposal of 176 square meters or thereabouts situated at the Science Laboratory Building, Wicklow County Campus in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow by way of a two-year lease commencing 9th June 2025 to Ms. Caoimhe Doyle, 128 Kindlestown Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Stokes, seconded by Cllr. O. Finn and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 176 square meters or thereabouts situated at the Science Laboratory Building, Wicklow County Campus in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow by way of a two-year lease commencing 9th June 2025 to Ms. Caoimhe Doyle, 128 Kindlestown Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 5

4To consider the disposal of 18 square meters or thereabouts situated at Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow by way of a one-year lease commencing 26th June 2025 to Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE12.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 18 square meters or thereabouts situated at Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow by way of a one-year lease commencing 26th June 2025 to Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE12, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider the disposal of 97 square meters or thereabouts situated at Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow by way of a three-year lease commencing 1st July 2025 to Uisce Éireann.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 97 square meters or thereabouts situated at Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow by way of a three-year lease commencing 1st July 2025 to Uisce Éireann, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 7

To consider the disposal of 0.2514Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Templelyon Upper Td. being the property known as Templelyon Upper, Redcross, Co. Wicklow to Martin and James Maher.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.2514Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Templelyon Upper Td. being the property known as Templelyon Upper, Redcross, Co. Wicklow to Martin and James Maher, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 8

To consider and adopt Wicklow County Council Flag Policy.

Ms. H. Purcell, Meetings Administrator advised the Elected Members that Wicklow County Council receive a number of requests during the year to fly different flags. It is proposed to put a policy in place. The policy has gone before the Senior Management Team and Corporate Policy Group (CPG) in June.

The Corporate Policy Group asked that the policy would come to the full Council for discussion and for agreement.

A lengthy discussion in relation to paragraph number 7, "Other Flags" took place. In particular the Pride flag and the flag of Palestine and whether or not they should be included in the policy or whether they should be covered by "no guest flag will fly for more than seven days in any month or more than once in any year".

A broad discussion followed in which the Elected Members raised queries and concerns.

Cllr. J. Behan proposed, seconded by Cllr. T. Fortune to re-establish the Protocol committee. It was agreed to list this as an agenda item at the July meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. M. Corrigan *'to consider and adopt the Wicklow County Council Flag Policy with the addition of the line 'and brought to full Council for approval' at the end of paragraph 11 policy review which will only apply in relation to new requests for flags. The current flags, Pride flag for the month of June and the Palestinian flag to be reviewed monthly, remain as they are and are outside this policy'*

was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 25 votes for, 2 against, 4 not present and 1 abstained viz:-

FOR (25)	CLLRS. M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, P. FITZGERALD, , P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, N. WHELAN AND C.
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	WINSTANLEY
AGAINST (2)	CLLRS. D. ALVEY AND G. O'NEILL
NOT PRESENT (4)	CLLRS. O. FINN, P. LEONARD, M. MURPHY AND W. O'TOOLE
ABSTAINED (1)	CLLR. T. FORTUNE

ITEM NO. 9

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

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

Some of the issues raised included the following:

- Footpaths, Brittas Bay.
- Enniskerry – Parking Bye-Laws outdated.
- Update on Herbert Road junction?
- Parks Department for Wicklow County Council.
- Blessington Greenway.
- Update on Baltinglass URDF.
- Update on Local Link.
- Circulation of the Migrant Strategy.
- Outstanding actions Age Friendly Strategy.
- Rent Arrears.
- Dumping of clothes at Clothes banks, Greystones.
- Farrankelly Estate.
- Bray/Greystones Cliff Walk.
- Chapel Road, Greystones.
- Funding for extra outdoor staff.
- Traffic study, Rathdrum.
- Lack of response from NTA.
- Ardavon House, Rathdrum – extra car parking for the town.
- Good luck - Tidy towns committees.
- PPP bundle, Burgage, Blessington.
- Baltinglass Municipal District – worse infrastructure in the county.
- Update on proposed solar farm, Hollywood.
- Update on RRDF – timelines.
- IPAS – breakdown in all 5 municipal districts.
- Update on roads/footpaths, Delgany.
- High number of businesses closing in Wicklow.
- Media Campus, Greystones.
- Derelict house, Kilcoole village.

- Request for National Transport Authority (NTA) to engage with Elected Members.
- Property Tax.
- Presence of Fire Service at Bray Air Show.
- Wicklow County Council's position in relation to Lockheed Martin's sponsorship of Bray Air Show.
- Whitestown Remediation Project.
- Interim Bus Corridor – Herbert Road closure.
- NTA – local link – Glendalough to Bray.
- The Old Roadstone Quarry, Long Hill.
- Fire stations – Baltinglass and Dunlavin.
- Town and city gift cards for county.
- Dedicated anti-social behaviour staff.

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. S. Stokes and agreed by all to extend the meeting to 5.30 p.m.

ITEM NO. 10

To receive a presentation: Planet Youth Findings.

Ms. D. Jordan, Development Worker/Youth Co-Ordinator, East Coast Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force (ECRDATAF) gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Planet Youth – survey results 2024.
- Family.
- Substance use.
- School.
- Leisure time.
- Peer group.
- Community.
- Wellbeing.
- Risk and protective factors in the wellbeing domain.
- The Action plan.

Following the presentation the Elected Members thanked Ms. Jordan for her presentation and expressed views and raised queries which were responded to by Ms. Jordan.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Cllr. G. O'Neill seconded by Cllr. J. Snell requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following motion:

'To call on the Council to oppose the application by Avon, Blessington to the Department to provide International Protection Accommodation at Avon, Burgage, Blessington.

If granted, it could remove access on the present shared driveway to the Blessington Greenway which would require a new entrance/roadway and could impinge on the lands where planning has been granted for 106 new social houses'.

Following a broad discussion on the matter the motion proposed by Cllr. G. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell was agreed by all;

'To call on the Council to oppose the application by Avon, Blessington to the Department to provide International Protection Accommodation at Avon, Burgage, Blessington.

If granted, it could remove access on the present shared driveway to the Blessington Greenway which would require a new entrance/roadway and could impinge on the lands where planning has been granted for 106 new social houses' was carried.

ITEM NO. 11

Correspondence

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

- To note the circulation of Circular F.04/2025 Nomination of candidates for President.

ITEM NO. 12

Notice of Motion number 1

Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. S. Stokes (proposer), seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and supported by Cllrs. L. Scott and J. Mulhall (7th May 2025)

'Wicklow County Council calls on the National Transport Authority to introduce regular clinics for public representatives, similar to those provided by Uisce Éireann. This is to discuss local transport issues'

A broad discussion followed and it was proposed by the Cathaoirleach to refer the matter back to the Transportation Infrastructure Delivery and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee for further discussion and a suggested terms of reference.

Notice of motion number 2

Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. C. Winstanley (proposer), seconded by Cllr. D. Alvey (8th May 2025)

‘That Wicklow County Council, in the interest of public safety and accessibility, creates a bye-law requiring all waste collection companies operating within the County to ensure that their employees, when collecting and emptying bins, replace the bins back to the location where they were found—typically against a wall or boundary—and in a manner that is safe and does not pose a hazard to visually impaired individuals or others with disabilities.

It is noted that bins left obstructing footpaths or placed haphazardly after collection can create significant dangers for people with visual impairments and other mobility challenges. By enacting such a bye-law, the Council would enhance safety and accessibility for all residents.

We understand that the Council would need to formally adopt a bye-law to enable it to require bin collection companies to comply with these safety measures. This proposal is inspired by a similar bye-law adopted by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, and we request that Wicklow County Council consider implementing a comparable regulation’.

Response

Wicklow County Council note the concerns raised in this notice of motion.

In light of Cllr. Winstanley’s Notice of Motion the Climate Environment Recreation and Amenity Directorate when reviewing all Waste Bye-Laws which is scheduled for Q.3 2025 will amend the Bye-Laws where possible to align with Cllr. Winstanley’s suggestion and alleviate the issue of bins left obstructing footpaths and in so doing eliminate the danger that this poses for people with visual impairments and other mobility challenges.

Draft versions of the new Bye-Laws will go on public display and will then be brought before the Climate Action Biodiversity Environment Energy Marine Recreation and Amenity Strategic Policy Committee for noting ahead of a full council meeting final approval.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

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

**MS. HELEN PURCELL
A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 7th July 2025