

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON  
MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025, 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. FENELOW 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. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR  
MR. S. DOYLE, IS PROJECT LEADER  
MS. H. O'KELLY, BIODIVERSITY OFFICER  
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER  
CLLR. P. O'ROURKE, VICE PRESIDENT, AILG  
MS. E. LYNCH, COMMUNICATIONS & MEETINGS OFFICER, AILG

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 Mr. Mervyn Kearon, Mr. Paddy O'Brien, Ms. Marie Byrne and Ms. Ann Lawler. A minute's silence was observed for the deceased.

The Elected Members welcomed Cllr. G. Dunne back to the Chamber following a long illness, while acknowledging his commitment through his remote attendance at meetings.

**ITEM NO. 1**

**To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025.**

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Cronin, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025.

**ITEM NO. 2**

**To consider the disposal of 0.0157 Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Oldcourt Td. being the property known as 23 Wolfe Tone Square South to Susan Byrne as legal personal Representative in the estate of Kathleen O'Rourke deceased.**

It was proposed by Cllr. D. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. N. Whelan and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.0157 Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Oldcourt Td. being the property known as 23 Wolfe Tone Square South to Susan Byrne as legal personal Representative in the estate of Kathleen O'Rourke deceased, as set out in statutory notice previously circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy and agreed by to move to Item 6.

**ITEM NO. 6**

**To receive a presentation: Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan, AILG President.**

Cllr. P. O'Rourke, Vice President, AILG gave a short overview of the workings of AILG.

Ms. E. Lynch, Communications & Meetings Officer, AILG gave a presentation highlighting the following:

- AILG – Your voice, your association.
- What we do.
- Organisational structure.
- Your member benefits – what's in it for you?
- What we've delivered – your voice heard nationally and beyond.
- Policy impact – at national and EU level.
- Policy impact – local democracy taskforce.

- Training & education – supporting your growth and impact.
- AILG for the future – a new strategic vision.
- Your role in a stronger AILG – your engagement strengthens our impact.
- Your role in a stronger AILG – your association, your voice.

The Elected Members thanked Cllr. O'Rourke and Ms. Lynch for her comprehensive presentation and thanked her and her colleagues for all the good work that they do.

A discussion took place highlighting:

- The role of the Elected Member.
- The importance of training.
- Regional caucus network plans.
- The need to include the disability strategy on the agenda.
- The local democracy taskforce.

#### **ITEM NO. 3**

**To consider and adopt Wicklow County Council Biodiversity Plan.**

Ms. H. O'Kelly, Biodiversity gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031.
- Why does this plan matter?
- Wicklow's responsibilities – legal and policy framework.
- The ecological network.
- How the plan was developed.
- What is the remit of the plan.
- The BAP adaptive implementation cycle – assess, protect, enhance, engage, monitor and report.
- Implementation, reporting and resourcing.

A lengthy discussion followed in which the Elected Members thanked Ms. O'Kelly and the biodiversity team for their work. They raised queries which were responded to by Ms. O'Kelly.

It was proposed by Cllr. E. Doyle, seconded by Cllr. L. Scott and agreed by all to consider and adopt Wicklow County Council Biodiversity Plan.

#### **ITEM NO. 4**

**Consideration of membership of the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk Management Committee.**

The Chief Executive advised the Elected Members of the following:

- There was a proposal at last month's plenary meeting to bring this matter as a headed item on this agenda today.
- In the interim there was a task force meeting with the Tánaiste, which was very positive, the Tánaiste has committed to funding of the next stage of the process which involves engaging subject matter experts to prepare detailed designs and route options and to get the work going on it.
- The Tánaiste welcomed the suggestion of expanding the Cliff Walk Management Committee to those external to the Council.
- It is a matter for the Elected Members of this Council to decide the shape and format of that and how that is to be expanded.

A broad discussion followed in which the Elected Members raised queries. Some of the queries raised were as follows:

- Expanding the terms of reference to include representation from local groups, a representative from Bray and representative from Greystones.
- RPS report.
- Concern about timescale of works to be carried out.
- Secure funding.
- Staff resources.
- Public representatives should have input into selection of committee members from local groups.
- Required flexibility for additional specialist members.
- Irish Rail – facilitate any works that may take place.
- Public safety.
- Newly expanded committee should meet as soon as possible.
- Tanaiste has committed to securing funding for the works.
- Terms of reference to be circulated to committee.

Cllr. T. Fortune, seconded by Cllr. L. Fenelon Gaskin proposed expanding the membership of the committee to include 2 members from Greystones community groups and 2 members from Bray community groups. He subsequently withdrew this motion.

Cllr. J. Behan proposed, seconded by Cllr. O. Finn and agreed by all that two representatives from the Friends of the Cliff Walk, two equivalent members from Bray, and one business person from both Greystones and Bray to be nominated to the committee, along with all Bray and Greystones Municipal District Members who wish to join.

Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne called for the set up of a taskforce for the Murrough.

## **ITEM NO. 5**

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

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

Some of the issues raised included the following:

- 2023 ORIS Scheme – 150 outdoor projects.
- Barravore carpark.
- Request to write to landowners on R747 to keep hedges cut.
- Update on public lighting – Tinahely and Coolafancy.
- Review of parking byelaws.
- Chapel Road, Greystones.
- Use of private email addresses by Elected Members.
- Public lighting – Wexford Road and Dublin Road, Arklow.
- Coastal erosion, Clogga.
- Damaged jetty, Roadstone.
- Derelict building, Arklow Main Street.
- An Taisce Report.
- South Quay, Arklow.
- Waste disposal lock up, Arklow.
- Update on newly installed toilets, Arklow.
- Bait Fridge, Arklow.
- Car parking, Hollywood.
- Park and ride facilities, West Wicklow.
- Safety on N81.
- Works on bridge between Kildare and Wicklow.

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

## **ITEM NO. 7**

### **Correspondence**

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

- Circulation of 'Public consultation on Uisce Eireann's draft Capital Investment Plan 2025 – 2029' and 'Public consultation: Our Rural Future – open until 12/12/2025'.
- Circulation of LG10/2025 Security Allowance for Local Authority Elected Members – reminder to submit receipts.

- To note circulations of CPG minutes for 13<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025.
- Reminder that next meeting is 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

Melanie Corrigan  
CLLR. MELANIE CORRIGAN  
CATHAOIRLEACH  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Helen Purcell  
MS. HELEN PURCELL  
SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/  
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

**Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**