

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2023, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS A. FLYNN KENNEDY CATHAOIRLEACH, T. ANNESLEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, 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, M. MURPHY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, S. STOKES, E. TIMMINS AND G. WALSH (30)

APOLOGIES

CLLRS. R. O'CONNOR AND I. WINTERS (2)

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MS. E. O'GORMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. B. KILKENNY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. L. EARLS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. H. FALLON, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. M. FLYNN, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. F. KEOGH, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. M. DEVEREUX, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER
MR. B. DOYLE, PROJECT LIAISON OFFICER
MR. M. COSTELLO, CLIMATE ACTION CO-ORDINATOR
MS. M. CAHILL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. S. NICHOLS, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. D. WHITFIELD, TOWN REGENERATION OFFICER
MS. A. HUBBARD, SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR**

MR. T. HUGHES, IS PROJECT LEADER

MR. D. PORTER, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

MR. S. BOLGER, IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER

MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER

MS. L. O'CALLAGHAN, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, DISABILITY FEDERATION OF IRELAND

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 Ms. Evelyn Lalor, Mr. Michael Cashen, Mr. Kieran Griffin, Mr. Jim Spencer, Ms. Catherine McAlister, Mr. William Byrne, Mr. Paul Kearns, Mr. Patrick Murphy, Mr. James Doran, Ms. Catherine Mooney and Mr. Lauren Quinn. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Request for Suspension of Standing Orders:- The Meetings Administrator advised that a 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. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. T. Fortune requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following:

"That this Council views with extreme concern the fact that two separate and distinct proposals to construct bus lanes on (i) Castle Street, Bray and (ii) on the N11 between Fassaroe and Glen of the Downs have been progressed without ever being formally discussed at any meeting of Wicklow County Council despite the fact that they will have extremely negative repercussions on local Bray people and businesses in the case of Castle Street and on many thousands of motorists and commercial drivers in Bray, Enniskerry, Kilmacanogue and surrounding areas in the case of the N11.

That this Council therefore calls for the following actions to be taken ...

(i) That the NTA removes the bus lane planned for Castle Street, Bray from the Bus Connects scheme submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

(ii) That the proposal by Kildare County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, NTA, TII and Wicklow County Council to close permanently the N11 access to and from the Herbert Road, Enniskerry Road and many other minor entrances and the proposal to install traffic lights on Hills Roundabout be withdrawn and the funding for the major N11/M11 Upgrade scheme be restored by the Government."

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 4th September 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 4th September 2023.

ITEM NO. 2

To approve a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31st December 2024

Elected Members were previously circulated with a letter from Mr. B. Gleeson, Head of Finance, requesting the approval of a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31st December 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. E. Timmins, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all to approve a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31st December 2024.

ITEM NO. 3

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

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive Monthly Management Report September 2023. Some of the issues raised included the following:

- Homebond – Greenhill Road
- Arklow/Shillelagh Greenway
- Baltinglass Affordable Housing Scheme
- Arklow Flood Relief Scheme
- Avoca Mines Remediation Project
- Vacant houses
- Local authority home loans
- Cliff walk Bray/Greystones
- Plan design stage for 75 houses at Tinahask
- Community Recognition Fund, Greystones
- Overhanging and dangerous trees on rural roads
- Community gardens and allotments

- Proposed Murrough works
- Youth homeless strategy
- Local area plans
- Derelict buildings, Arklow
- Community land in Rathdrum
- Dredging, Wicklow Harbour
- Staffing levels Greystones
- Housing relets
- Pride of Place
- NTA
- Foreign travel

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 Draft Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029

Mr. M. Costello, Climate Action Co-Ordinator, gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Climate Policy – global to local.
- Stakeholder engagement.
- Climate Action Plan overview.
- Scope of actions.
- Actions - brief overview.
- Governance and leadership.
- Built environment and transport.
- Natural environment and green infrastructure.
- Communities: resilience and transition.
- Sustainability and resource management.
- Arklow decarbonisation zone.
- Timeline to completion of plan.

Following the presentation the Elected Members acknowledged the amount of stakeholder and public consultation carried out on the plan. They acknowledged the importance of the plan and encouraged everyone to get involved with it.

ITEM NO. 5

To consider and approve the County Wicklow Local Economic & Community Plan 2023 to 2029

Ms. D. Whitfield, Town Regeneration Officer, gave a presentation outlining the following:

- LECP framework.
- What is the LECP?
- Wicklow LECP: Stages and timeline.
- Socio-economic statement.
- Vision and HLGs – as approved by LECP ASG.
- Goal 1 objectives – climate action.
- Goal 2 objectives – enterprise, innovation and creativity.
- Goal 3 objectives – a connected county.
- Goal 4 objectives – equality, diversity and just transition.
- Goal 5 objectives – health, resilience and well-being.
- Next steps for LECP.

Following the presentation the Elected Members welcomed the plan, they highlighted the need for investment and recognised the importance of implementation of the plan.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Mullen, seconded by Cllr. T. Fortune and agreed by all to approve the County Wicklow Local Economic & Community Plan 2023 to 2029.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider and approve the County Wicklow Disability & Inclusion Strategy 2023 to 2028

Ms. L. O'Callaghan, Community Development Officer, Disability Federation of Ireland, gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee (DISC) – established in November 2021.
- Why is DISC unique?
- Disability & Inclusion Strategy.
- Action area 1: Participation, communications and rights.
- Action area 2: Community participation, accessibility and universal design.
- Action area 3: Employment, housing and recreation.
- Strategy aims.

Cllr. M. Murphy thanked the committee for their participation and work on the strategy. The Elected Members voiced their support of the strategy and recognised the dedication of those involved including Cllr. Murphy.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. T. Annesley and agreed by all to approve the County Wicklow Disability & Inclusion Strategy 2023 to 2028.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. L. Scott and agreed by all that each Municipal District consider allocating €1,000 towards works that could be carried out to make their areas more inclusive.

Time Extension: It was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. T. Annesley and agreed by all to extend the meeting to 5.30 p.m.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. T. Fortune requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following:

“That this Council views with extreme concern the fact that two separate and distinct proposals to construct bus lanes on (i) Castle Street, Bray and (ii) on the N11 between Fassaroe and Glen of the Downs have been progressed without ever being formally discussed at any meeting of Wicklow County Council despite the fact that they will have extremely negative repercussions on local Bray people and businesses in the case of Castle Street and on many thousands of motorists and commercial drivers in Bray, Enniskerry, Kilmacanogue and surrounding areas in the case of the N11.

That this Council therefore calls for the following actions to be taken:

- (i) That the NTA removes the bus lane planned for Castle Street, Bray from the Bus Connects scheme submitted to An Bord Pleanála.*
- (ii) That the proposal by Kildare County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, NTA, TII and Wicklow County Council to close permanently the N11 access to and from the Herbert Road, Enniskerry Road and many other minor entrances and the proposal to install traffic lights on Hills Roundabout be withdrawn and the funding for the major N11/M11 Upgrade scheme be restored by the Government.”*

A broad discussion followed.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. T. Fortune and agreed by all to write the Minister for Environment, Climate Action & Transport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland and to make submissions to both public consultation processes.

ITEM NO. 7

Correspondence

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

- Note Circular LG05/2023 Security Allowance for Local Authority Elected Members.
- Note circulation of Protocol minutes for 8th May, 12th June and 3rd July.
- LPT special meeting next Monday 9th October 2023 at 2.00 p.m.
- Caucus event with women Travellers tomorrow 3rd October at 11.00 a.m. in the Chamber

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 6th November 2023