

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 5th JULY, 2021, COMMENCING 2.00 PM VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES

COUNCILLOR M. CORRIGAN

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MR. F. CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. B. KILKENNY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT
MR. L. FITZPATRICK, HEAD OF IS SUPPORT
MR. D. MARNANE, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER
MR. M. DEVEREUX, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. F. KEOGH, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MS. H. DENNEHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR. J. NOLAN, DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER**

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. Michael Kavanagh, Ms. Katie Lingenfelter, Ms. Mary Fitzgerald, Mr. Jim Whitty, Ms. Marie Healy, Mr. Damien Walsh and Ms. Joan Redmond. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 10th May 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 10th May 2021.

ITEM NO. 2

To confirm and sign minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 17th May 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. A. Cronin and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 17th May 2021.

ITEM NO.3

To consider the disposal of property comprised in Folio No. WW2871L in the townland of Sheephouse, Arklow, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 107 St. Peter's Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Maureen Horan, Ms. Amy O'Reilly, Ms. Patricia Mackey, Mr. Matthew Jenkinson and Ms. Michelle Kennedy of 107 St. Peter's Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow (tenants-in-common of 1 undivided 1/5) and the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke and agreed to dispose of property comprised in Folio No. WW2871L in the townland of Sheephouse, Arklow, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 107 St. Peter's Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Maureen Horan, Ms. Amy O'Reilly, Ms. Patricia Mackey, Mr. Matthew Jenkinson and Ms. Michelle Kennedy of 107 St. Peter's Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow (tenants-in-common of 1 undivided 1/5) and the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in Statutory Notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 4

To consider the disposal of property comprised in Folio WW2174L in the townland of Abbeylands, Arklow, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 49 Rory O'Connor Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. Eamonn Molloy of 49 Rory O'Connor Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy and agreed to dispose of property comprised in Folio WW2174L in the townland of Abbeylands, Arklow, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 49 Rory O'Connor Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer

Order to Mr. Eamonn Molloy of 49 Rory O'Connor Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in Statutory Notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 5

To consider the disposal of property comprised in Folio WW1596L in the townland of Bray, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 4 Raverty Villas, Bray, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Sylvia Brennan of 4 Raverty Villas, Bray, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property.

It was proposed by Cllr. R. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. A. Flynn-Kennedy and agreed to dispose of property comprised in Folio WW1596L in the townland of Bray, Co. Wicklow being the property know as 4 Raverty Villas, Bray, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Sylvia Brennan of 4 Raverty Villas, Bray, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in Statutory Notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider the disposal of property to be disposed of is comprised on the attached map as highlighted in blue being part in the townland of Bray, Co. Wicklow being part of the property at Kilruddery Demesne, Windgates, Bray, Co. Wicklow in exchange for lands under Lord Meath's ownership as outlined in red on the attached map.

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Flynn-Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. A. Ferris and agreed to dispose of property to be disposed of is comprised on the attached map as highlighted in blue being part in the townland of Bray, Co. Wicklow being part of the property at Kilruddery Demesne, Windgates, Bray, Co. Wicklow in exchange for lands under Lord Meath's ownership as outlined in red on the attached map, as set out in Statutory Notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 7

To consider entering into a Section 85 Agreement with Dublin City Council for the provision of Social Housing at Burgage More, Blessington, via a Public Private Partnership – Bundle 3 of the National Social Housing PPP Programme.

Mr. J. Lane, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Estate Directorate gave an update on what is required to progress the next stage of the Public Private Partnership bundle. He advised of the following:

- The Elected Members of the Blessington area have been kept informed
- Wicklow County Council were involved in Bundle 1 which saw the successful completion of 51 units
- In 2019 Wicklow County Council were given the opportunity to be included in Bundle 3, including the Blessington lands
- Dublin City Council to progress as the lead

- It is proposed to progress with the planning (part 8) which will be discussed with the Baltinglass Municipal District Members in the near future

Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. O'Neill and agreed to enter into a Section 85 Agreement with Dublin City Council for the provision of Social Housing at Burgage More, Blessington, via a Public Private Partnership – Bundle 3 of the National Social Housing PPP Programme.

ITEM NO. 8

To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, June 2021

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive Monthly Management Report June 2021.

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

ITEM NO. 9

To consider and approve the Draft Civic Memorial Policy

Ms. L. Gallagher, Director of Services, Enterprise & Corporate Services Directorate gave a short update on the Civic Memorial Policy. She advised of the following:

- The policy had been considered by all five Municipal Districts, all of which have approved and recommended the policy for approval with a few minor amendments
- It strengthens the role of the municipal district in the policy, memorials will be included in the 'Wicklow County Council Civic Memorials & Plaques inventory'
- The policy is in two parts, the first part is the naming of key infrastructure and the setting up of a technical committee to consider that. The second part considers community memorials such as the installation of park benches and the planting of trees and they are to be considered by the relevant municipal districts.

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Ferris, seconded by Cllr. A. Flynn-Kennedy and agreed by all to approve the Draft Civic Memorial Policy.

ITEM NO. 10

Correspondence

Ms. H. Purcell, Meetings Administrator advised that The Local Government (Remuneration and Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulation 2021 came into effect from 1st July

2021 and advised that as soon as further correspondence is received the changes will be made in relation to the new regulations.

Ms. Purcell also advised that Wicklow County Council adopted a new Dignity at Work Policy which now includes Elected Members and copies will be circulated to all.

Ms. Purcell also advised CPG and Protocol minutes and all correspondence received from December 2020 to date has been circulated to the Elected Members.

ITEM NO. 11

Notice of Motions

No. 1 – Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Jodie Neary (Proposer)(27th January 2021) seconded by Cllr. P. Leonard

‘That Wicklow County Council acknowledges the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes; and proactively reaches out to survivors and survivor groups to understand how the Council can best support their needs as well as acknowledge this dark period in our nation’s and county’s history, in a sensitive and appropriate manner’

Ms. Purcell advised as follows:

Response:

At meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 1st of March, 2021 the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Councillor Pat Kennedy made a statement to the meeting acknowledging the publication of the Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes in the state. The apology issued by An Taoiseach at that time was echoed by Wicklow County Council.

The Council will await the detailed consideration which will be given to the report over the coming months and will actively participate in and support local measures furthering the development of the Government’s Action Plan as it relates to local government and under the eight specific themes set down below:-

- *A survivor-centred approach*
- *Apology*
- *Access to personal information*
- *Archiving and databases*
- *Education and research*
- *Memorialisation*
- *Restorative recognition*
- *Dignified Burial.*

Ms. Catherine Wright, County Archivist is currently dealing with enquiries relating to the County Home and Wicklow County Council will engage sensitively with survivors living in our

area who can benefit from the Council's services. Arrangements will be made to make a copy of the Commission's Final Report available in all of our Libraries, once they have been reopened. –In addition, the County Archives Service proposes to reprint the book, *Time Did Not Stand Still* by Kevin Byrne; for anyone connected to, or interested in, the history of the County Home in Rathdrum. Mr. Byrne has given his consent to the reprint of this book.

No. 2 – Notice of motion in the names of Cllr. Joe Behan (Proposer), Cllr. Mary Kavanagh, Cllr. Peir Leonard and Cllr. Mags Crean (1st February 2021) (amended 12th April 2021) seconded by Cllr. M. Kavanagh

'That this Council welcomes the Government decision to defer the ratification of CETA to allow for discussion at Oireachtas Committee level. We call on the Government to allow a free vote for all Oireachtas Members on any possible ratification bearing in mind the impact of the proposed Investor Court System on national and local economies and services'

Ms. Purcell advised that this was a matter for the Elected Members to consider.

This motion was agreed by all present.

No. 3 – Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Dermot O'Brien (Proposer) (2nd February 2021) seconded by Cllr. Grace McManus

'That this Council undertakes a process to become a 'Trauma informed' organisation.

Trauma is a widespread, harmful public health problem that impacts on every facet of society. Trauma can result from events and circumstances people experience throughout the course of their lives that are physically or emotionally harmful and have lasting adverse effect on an individual's mental, physical, social or emotional well-being. When we talk about trauma-informed services, we mean systems that recognise not just the signs and symptoms of trauma, but the widespread impact of trauma in our society and respond by addressing trauma through policies and practises. Services should be delivered in a way that address people's experiences of trauma and actively seek to prevent re-traumatising people who uses services'

Ms. Purcell advised as follows:

Response:

As one of the first points of contact for service users to WCC, the Customer Service Innovation Hub is operated by a team of Customer Service Advisors. All advisors have undertaken and participated in extensive training relevant to their role, which included a tailor made programme facilitated by the IPA (Excellence in Customer Care Programme). This programme contained training on crisis trauma, dealing with behavioural and conflict management.

Additionally, the Customer Service Innovation Hub has liaised with the project leader at Trauma Informed Care Ireland for information and support. One of our own Customer Service Advisors has completed a Certificate in Professional Pastoral Care.

One of the key areas dealing with service users in trauma includes Housing Department Staff, WCC have a qualified Social Worker and a resident Social Worker from Dublin Simon available, along with other staff members with relevant qualifications.

Supports are also offered to staff members of WCC through counselling services for them and their families experiencing trauma or other crisis situations.

No. 4 – Notice of motion in the names of Cllr. Paul O'Brien (Proposer), Cllr. Anne Ferris and Cllr. Gail Dunne (18th February 2021) seconded by Cllr. A. Ferris

'That this Council writes to the minister responsible for local government and planning with the following proposal:

That as part of the conditions for planning applications for new housing estates, developers must install Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). We are also calling on the minister to instigate a review in order to install AEDs in all existing residential developments across Ireland.

70% of cardiac arrests happen at home, every minute that there is a delay in acting reduces the person's chance of survival by 10%. Having the AED close at hand provides a vital link in the chain of survival and offers the person, adult, baby or child the best chance of surviving a cardiac arrest'

Ms. Purcell advised as follows:

Response:

It is considered that the provision of AEDs in new housing estates should be dealt with outside of the planning process in a similar way that the provision of AEDs in public areas and existing housing estates is dealt with.

Hence, it is considered that the timing for the provision of the AEDs is best suited to when estates are already occupied, either partially or fully, and in addition it is always beneficial to work with the residents in an estate to agree the location of AEDs.

Planning permission is not required for the installation of AEDs in existing estates.

It was agreed to write to the minister and email copy of letter to all Wicklow TDs and to all local authorities.

No. 5 – Notice of motion in the names of Cllr. Mags Crean (proposer), Cllr. Peir Leonard, Cllr. Joe Behan, Cllr. Tom Fortune, Cllr. Mary Kavanagh and Cllr. Rory O’Connor (18th February 2021), seconded by Cllr. P. Leonard

‘That this Council writes to Darragh O’Brien, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and Peter Burke, Minister for State, with special responsibility for Local Government and Planning with a request that the Strategic Housing Development legislation is abolished’.

Ms. Purcell advised as follows:

Response:

This is a matter for the Elected Members to consider.

It was agreed to write to the Minister.

No. 6 – Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Grace McManus (proposer) and Cllr. Dermot O’Brien (12th March 2021)

‘That this Council writes to the Minister for Housing outlining our objection to the proposed Shared Equity Loan Scheme contained within the Minister’s Affordable Housing Legislation, due to the concerns raised by ESRI and others about the potential negative impacts of the scheme’.

Ms. Purcell advised as follows:

Response:

Affordable Purchase Shared Equity scheme is among a number of provisions included in the Affordable Housing Bill 2000 currently going through the Oireachtas., the main objectives is to provide a number of options to people who cannot enter the housing market. The Affordable Housing shared equity scheme would provide equity support to householders seeking to purchase homes in the private market but unable to secure the full mortgage.

Notice of motion no. 6 proposed by Cllr. G. McManus and Seconded by Cllr. D. O’Brien was put to a vote and following a roll call was defeated by a margin of 9 votes for, 21 against and 2 not present viz:-

FOR 9	CLLRS. J. BEHAN, M. CREAN, A. FERRIS, T. FORTUNE, G. MCMANUS, J. MULLEN, J. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR,
AGAINST 21	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN-KENNEDY, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, D. MITCHELL, M. MURPHY, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS
NOT PRESENT 2	CLLRS. M. CORRIGAN AND P. GLENNON

Time Extension: On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. S. Cullen and seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy a time extension to 5.30 p.m. was agreed.

No. 7 – Notice of motion in the names of Cllr. Mags Crean (proposer), Cllr. Peir Leonard, Cllr. Joe Behan, Cllr. Tom Fortune, Cllr. Mary Kavanagh and Cllr. Rory O'Connor (18th February 2021)

'That Wicklow County Council establish an internal working group committed to advancing community wealth building beginning with an increased priority on the inclusion of green and social clauses in procurement criteria for services and goods'.

Ms. Purcell advised as follows:

Response:

The Government agreed that there will be a phased introduction of Sustainable (Green and Social) criteria targeting priority products and services as well as building appropriate green criteria into OGP frameworks and providing support and guidance to procurers. To this end, the LGMA, OGP, EPA and relevant Government Departments are presently working to advise Local Authorities how best to incorporate Sustainable Public Procurement into their current Procurement Policies and Practises and as such we must be guided by them.

Moreover, the OGP has commenced the updating of their Frameworks (which as a Local Authority we always look to first when procuring) in line with Green Procurement Practice. In fact, WCC is currently rolling out a drawdown from their new Office Supplies Framework which included Green Criteria in the Award Criteria.

All Local Authorities are to be advised in the coming months what sustainable requirements, standards etc. are to be incorporated into their Public Procurement, and in turn how they are to be measured and recorded. The following areas are currently being examined in relation to Sustainable Procurement:

- *Updating of Corporate Procurement Plan, Procurement Policies and Procurement Procedures.*

- *Managing, monitoring and working with suppliers for continuous improvement – at all stages of the procurement process.*
- *Identifying where Green and Strategic Public Procurement can be implemented e.g. in tender specifications, in the Selection and Award Criteria, in Contract Delivery.*
- *Taking the features of ecolabels and building them into specifications rather than simply using the ecolabels themselves.*
- *Setting Award Criteria directly linked to features.*

The Wicklow County Council Corporate Procurement Plan outlines goals in relation to Sustainable Procurement. As outlined in the plan, Wicklow County Council is continuing to engage with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment on the GPP4 Growth Project. This project brings together 9 partners from 9 countries to exchange experiences and practices, to improve capacities to promote growth through green procurement, and to exploit opportunities for green procurement. In relation to staff training, the Council's Procurement Officer recently undertook a green procurement training course in advance of the anticipated roll out of national guidance in this area. While our Corporate Plan includes targets in relation to sustainable procurement, we are awaiting the sector wide guidance and agreed measurement methodology before we can report specific statistics in this area.

Given the national guidance being provided to Local Authorities on this issue, it is not considered necessary or advisable for a separate working group to be established.

It was agreed to defer this motion to ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council on Monday 6th September 2021.

No. 8 – Notice of motion in the Cllr. Dermot O'Brien (proposer) (12th March 2021) seconded by Cllr. Rory O'Connor

'That this Council invites the Planning Department of Wicklow County Council to prepare and deliver a presentation to members which specifically illustrates the existing provision of land that is available across the county to be used for education'.

Ms. Purcell advised as follows:

Response:

As part of the County Development Plan, the towns plans within same, and the Local Area Plans that flow from it, significant areas of lands are zoned for a variety of land uses where the development of schools is open for consideration, including but not limited to lands zoned 'Community & Education', 'Residential', 'Town / Village Centre' and 'Mixed Use'. There is no shortage of zoned land available for the potential development of new schools in the County.

It was agreed to revert this motion back to the Planning and Development SPC.

No. 9 – Notice of motion in the names of Cllr. Mags Crean (proposer), Cllr. Peir Leonard, Cllr. Joe Behan, Cllr. Tom Fortune, Cllr. Mary Kavanagh and Cllr. Rory O’Connor (18th February 2021)

‘That Wicklow County Council develops best international practice in community wealth building, with a focus on sustainable procurement practices. It will do this by exploring community wealth building in places such as Preston and North Ayrshire, and the role our large anchor institutions play as purchasers within the county and how that advances local business and enterprise growth and employment whilst also reducing WCC’s carbon footprint’.

Ms. Purcell advised as follows:

Response:

Community Wealth Building is a broad concept that will cut across nearly all of the Council’s directorates. The Council will shortly be commencing the review of the Local Economic and Community Plan and this concept can be explored and considered in the review of that plan.

It was agreed to defer this motion to ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council on Monday 6th September 2021.

The Cathaoirleach proposed to defer the remainder of notice of motions in Item no. 11 to the end of the meeting in order to discuss the Planning & Development (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2021.

Ms. S. Walsh, Senior Planner gave a presentation outlining the following:

- The Planning & Development (Amendment)(No.3)Bill 2021 is going through the houses at present
- It is in response to disruption caused by restrictions introduced in response to Covid-19 to provide for an additional period of the preparation of development plans required by planning authorities. Planning authorities may extend the preparation of existing plans or making new plans.
- Can avail of an additional period of up to one year. The review of the plan is normally a two-year process, 99 weeks, and can be lengthened out if there are delays relating to Covid-19 at any stage so far.
- This Bill would not provide grounds to delay the current plan programme on the basis of any dissatisfaction on the members behalf with the contents of the draft plan or any feedback from the public with regard to the content of the plan, or any new Government policy, guidelines or circulars with regard to plan content that might arise in during the current plan programme

- The process of commencing the review of the current Wicklow CDP commenced in November 2019.
- Having regard to the timelines set out in the Act for each stage of plan making, should each future stage occur exactly as per the Act, including the members deciding to make material amendments to the Draft Plan, the final plan would be adopted in or around June 2022 and come in effect in July 2022.
- Assuming all future timelines are met as per the Act, the plan process is already c. 8 months behind schedule due in particular, but not only, due to COVID,. This is a common issue across a number of local authorities, and is the key trigger for the amending legislation.
- Should the members therefore decide to resolve to extend the period within which the plan may be completed, a maximum of 4 months additional time would be available.

Following a broad discussion it was agreed to defer further discussion on the Planning & Development (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2021 to the special meeting of Wicklow County Council on Tuesday 27th July 2021.

The Cathaoirleach returned to Item no. 11 – Notice of motions.

No. 10 – Notice of motion in the names of Cllr. Grace McManus (proposer), seconded by Cllr. Dermot O’Brien (2nd April 2021)

That Wicklow County Council explores the potential and possibility of providing ‘step down’ housing units in the Bray area, with CCTV and other security features, to be managed day to day by the Women’s Refuge, specifically for women and children leaving the refuge until they can secure other more permanent accommodation’.

Ms. Purcell advised as follows:

Response: *It is noted that Bray Women’s Refuge is funded directly by Tusla and it is understood that ‘step down’ facilities are still part of the Crisis Management piece and would, in theory, therefore be funded by TUSLA also.*

The Council supports victims of domestic violence who are in need of accommodation by providing temporary housing supports in either emergency or private rented accommodation, under Circular Housing 2/17, which outlined guidance for Housing Authorities, to ensure effectiveness and consistency in responses to assist victims of domestic violence. The guidelines provide a summary of best practice in this area and the procedural pathways within which Local Authorities operate. Organisational responsibility is outlined between the key stakeholders in terms of crisis response to domestic violence, emergency accommodation and long term accommodation needs. Partnership working between

statutory agencies and organisations involved locally in the delivery of domestic violence services is emphasised.

The Housing SPC previously received a presentation from Bray Women's Refuge and confirmed the Council's support for them to seek to acquire properties under the Capital Assistance Scheme. Although it was agreed that this is the optimum manner in which to progress temporary accommodation for those clients leaving the Refuge, to date, no requests have been received for the Council's support in this matter.

It was agreed to revert this motion back to the Housing & Corporate Estate SPC.

No. 11 – Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Rory O'Connor (proposer) (23rd April 2021) seconded by Cllr. Joe Behan

This Council writes to Facebook, Google and Twitter's offices in Ireland. Asking for the creation of a local newspaper fund to sponsor our local papers, whose sales have been hard hit due to the pandemic'.

Response:

There is no doubt that Covid 19 has presented economic challenges to small businesses across various sectors of society. The Government's response has been to support small business throughout the various stages of the pandemic by introducing schemes for the local authority to implement to assist and aid recovery such as Small Business Assistance, Rates Waiver, Outdoor dining grants etc. The LEO has and continues to provide a critical front line service to support small business throughout the pandemic through various supports such as Trading online Vouchers and other client supports. Wicklow County Council through its municipal districts has assisted in the recovery by introducing temporary mobility measures throughout towns and villages to aid in the recovery as well as supporting Town Recovery Teams working with local business and the wider community and shop local campaigns. It is not considered appropriate nor the role of the Council to write to private companies to fund one sector of the business community as distinct from another.

It was agreed to write to Facebook, Google and Twitter at their Irish offices.

No. 12 – Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Grace McManus (proposer), seconded by Cllr. Dermot O'Brien (4th June 2021) and in the name of the Elected Members of Bray Municipal District passed on 11th May 2021.

That this Council calls on the Government, by writing to the Minister for Housing, asking that the Fassaroe Regeneration Scheme, which was piloted in Ashlawn Court is reviewed and refunded for completion as a matter of urgency'.

Ms. Purcell advised as follows:

Response:

This is a matter for the Elected Members to consider

Following a discussion it was agreed to write to the Minister for Housing.

No. 13 – Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Tom Fortune (proposer) (23rd May 2021)

‘That this Council writes to the Minister for Justice Heather Humphries and the minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Michael McGrath asking that the Elected Members of Local Authorities be specifically included and named as being protected by the Protected Disclosures Act when the EU Whistleblowers Directive is transposed into domestic law in December’.

Ms. Purcell advised as follows:

Response:

This is a matter for the Elected Members to consider

Following a discussion it was agreed to write to the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

No. 14 – Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Lourda Scott (proposer) and supported by Cllr. Grace McManus, Cllr. Mags Crean, Cllr. Jodie Neary, Cllr. Anne Ferris and Cllr. Dermot O’Brien (4th June 2021)

‘Wicklow County Council acknowledges the need for a new national maternity hospital (NMH) to provide healthcare in the Greater Dublin Area, including County Wicklow.

Wicklow County Council notes the lack of legal clarity regarding the ownership and management of the hospital, and also acknowledges the concerns regarding the employment rights for those who will work in the hospital, many of whom live in Wicklow.

Wicklow County Council agrees to write to the Minister for Health to call for the proposed new publicly-funded NMH to be constructed on land owned by the State; and that, to guarantee it’s secular ethos, the new facility be fully owned and governed by the State. If passed, it is agreed that this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities’.

Ms. Purcell advised as follows:

Response:

This is a matter for the Elected Members to consider.

Following a broad discussion it was agreed to defer further discussion on this motion to the special meeting of Wicklow County Council on Tuesday 27th July 2021.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

**CLLR. SHAY CULLEN
CATHAOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MS. HELEN PURCELL
SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 6th September 2021