

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2024, 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, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, 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 (30)

APOLOGIES

CLLRS. S. BOURKE AND M. RYAN (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. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. L. HEALY, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. H. FALLON, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. F. KEOGH, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. M. FLYNN, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. E. BERMINGHAM, SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER
MR.S. KEANE, A/SENIOR ENGINEER
MS.D. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MS. E. O'DONOVAN, HEAD OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS
MS. S. NUGENT, EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTANT
MS. J. WHELAN, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER
MS. R. WOOD, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. F. VERDIER, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
MS. M. VAN DER WEL, LOCAL CO-ORDINATOR, HEALTHY AGE FRIENDLY HOMES PROGRAMME
MR. G. MURPHY, IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER
MR. T. GREGAN, CHAIR, WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE**

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. John Bruton, Ms. Christine McNeilly, Mr. John Doyle, Mr. Joe O'Mahony, Mr. Jim O'Neill, Mr. Sean Hannon, Mr. Cecil Ward, Mr. Patrick Kearns and Ms. Annette Cashen. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Cllr. G. Dunne advised the Elected Members that the AILG Annual Conference will be held the following week in Arklow, 14th and 15th February. It is the first time it has been held in County Wicklow and he asked for the support of the Elected Members.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 8th January 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 8th January 2024.

ITEM NO. 2

To consider the disposal of property in the Townland of Arklow, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio NO. WW2998L being the property known as 22 Lower Tinahask, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Fionnuala Thomas of 22 Lower Tinahask, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy and agreed to consider the disposal of property in the Townland of Arklow, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio NO. WW2998L being the property known as 22 Lower Tinahask, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Fionnuala Thomas of 22 Lower Tinahask, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 3

To consider the disposal of 18 square metres or thereabouts in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow to Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE 12 by way of a two-year lease commencing 26th June 2022.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne and agreed to consider the disposal of 18 square metres or thereabouts in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, Co.

Wicklow to Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE 12 by way of a two-year lease commencing 26th June 2022, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 4

To consider the disposal of land situated at Quinnsborough Road and Seymour Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow known as the Carlisle Grounds by way of 23 year extension to existing thirty five year lease made on 9th February 2001.

Prior to discussing the disposal, Cllr. D. O'Brien excused himself from the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Ferris, seconded by Cllr. R. O'Connor and following a roll call it was agreed by a margin of 25 for, 1 against, 5 not present and 1 abstain '*to consider the disposal of land situated at Quinnsborough Road and Seymour Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow known as the Carlisle Grounds by way of 23 year extension to existing thirty five year lease made on 9th February 2001, as set out in statutory notice circulated*' viz:-.

FOR 25	CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, M. BARRY, V. BLAKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, L. SCOTT, S. STOKES, E. TIMMINS AND G. WALSH
AGAINST 1	CLLR. J. BEHAN
NOT PRESENT 5	CLLRS. S. BOURKE, D. O'BRIEN, M. RYAN, J. SNELL AND I WINTERS.
ABSTAIN 1	CLLR. M. KAVANAGH

Cllr. D. O'Brien was invited to rejoin the meeting which he duly did.

ITEM NO. 5

To consider the disposal of property in the townland of Bray, Co. Wicklow known as 9 Scott Park, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Jennifer Delittle (as Attorney to Dolores Breen) of 9 Scott Park, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Corrigan, seconded by Cllr. A. Ferris and agreed to consider the disposal of property in the townland of Bray, Co. Wicklow known as 9 Scott Park, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Jennifer Delittle (as Attorney to Dolores Breen) of 9 Scott Park, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider the disposal of 115 square metres or thereabouts in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow to Art McCormack and Tomas O’Leary of MosArt Ltd. by way of a one-year lease commencing 23rd May 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Brien and agreed to consider the disposal of 115 square metres or thereabouts in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow to Art McCormack and Tomas O’Leary of MosArt Ltd. by way of a one-year lease commencing 23rd May 2023, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 7

To consider the disposal of 176 sq. meres or thereabouts in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow known as The Science Laboratory, Clermont House, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Caoimhe Doyle, 128 Kindlestown Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow by way of a one-year lease commencing 9th June 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Stokes, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Brien and agreed to consider the disposal of 176 sq. meres or thereabouts in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow known as The Science Laboratory, Clermont House, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Caoimhe Doyle, 128 Kindlestown Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow by way of a one-year lease commencing 9th June 2023, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 8

To receive a presentation: Wicklow County Council Audit Committee end of year report 2023.

Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman of the Committee, reported to the Elected Members as follows including a brief overview of the following areas:

- Membership of the Committee.
- Role and function of the Committee.
- Internal Audit Assignments for 2023
- The following audits were also commenced and are due to be reported on in early 2024
- Internal Audit Recommendation Tracker.
- National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC).
- Annual Audit Plan.

- Risk Register.
- Local Government Audit Report 2022.
- Meetings during the year.
- Audit Committee Effectiveness.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chief Executive joined with the Cathaoirleach in thanking the Audit Committee for the work that they carry out for the council describing their work as extremely important and thorough.

ITEM NO. 9

To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, January 2024.

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive Monthly Management Report January 2024. Some of the issues raised included the following:

- Active travel.
- Arklow/Shillelagh Greenway.
- Dredging of Wicklow Harbour.
- RRDF works, Baltinglass.
- Fire Stations – Baltinglass and Dunlavin.
- Vacant properties list.
- Court house, Baltinglass.
- Eir building – possible IPASS centre, Arklow.
- Tracker systems for vacant properties.
- New housing development = Tinahask, Arklow.
- Murrough update.
- Drilling for lithium.
- Housing adaptation grants.
- Cliff walk, Greystones.
- Coastal blue – south beach board walk, Greystones.
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.
- URDF/RRDF.
- Dog licences.
- Park and ride, Fassaroe.
- Roll out of speed limit signs.
- Pedestrian/cycle infrastructure, Greystones.
- ESB outages, Avoca/Augrim/Rathdrum areas.
- Drainage problems, Kilmacanogue.
- Vacant HSE buildings.
- Flooding, Quill Road.
- Works on tenant homes.

- NTA funding.
- Active travel – disability activities.
- Works at site -, Foggy Field at entrance to Kilruddery Estate.
- Self-accommodation letters.
- Communication.
- Lighting – Shillelagh.
- Playground, Ashford.
- Planning decisions, Calary.
- Government department decision-making.
- Pontoon, Arklow.
- Circular economy, sustainable cup, Blessington.
- Bus shelters in rural villages.
- Town planning, Blessington.
- Parking fees/fines.

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

ITEM NO. 10

To consider in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 200 (as amended), the Taking in Charge of the following estates:

- **Dromkeen, Wicklow.**
- **Meadowvale, Arklow.**
- **The Orchard, Greystones.**
-

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne and agreed by all to the taking in charge of the following estate: Dromkeen, Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. T. Annesley and agreed by all to the taking in charge of the following estate: Meadowvale, Arklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Stokes, seconded by Cllr. G. Walsh and agreed by all to the taking in charge of the following estate: The Orchard, Greystones.

ITEM NO. 11

To note the County Wicklow Road Safety Plan 2023 – 2030

Ms. L. Healy, Road Safety Officer gave a report covering the following:

- The Road Safety Plan is County Wicklow's second Road Safety Plan and covers the period up to 2030.
- It has been prepared by the Road Safety Working Together Committee, which is made up of key stakeholders; Gardaí, the Road Safety Authority, TII, and officials from Wicklow County Council.
- The plan is in line with the Road Safety Authority's national strategy titled Vision Zero, which aims to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on Irish roads by 50% before 2030.
- In order to achieve this figure, both plans are led by a safe systems approach, which is viewed as best practice globally in the delivery of road safety strategies. The safe system approach recognises that, while road safety education, training and engineering design can reduce the number of road collisions, human error cannot be eliminated.
- It, therefore, aims to reduce the likelihood of a collision occurring, and, if one does occur, to ensure that the road users involved will not be killed or seriously injured.
- Twenty three actions are outlined in the plan under four safe systems priority intervention areas, which are safe roads and roadsides, safe speeds, safe road use, safe and healthy modes of transport.
- This Road Safety Plan will be evaluated on an annual basis and a report presented to the SPC.

Following the presentation the Elected Members expressed views and raised queries relating to:

- Speed vans, garda presence.
- RSA
- Annual collision cluster analysis.
- Enforcement.
- Signage.
- Speed reductions at schools.
- Driver behaviour.
- Road side verges.
- 'Slow down' campaign.
- Safe systems approach.
- Education.
- Safe route to schools programme.

The Elected Members queries were responded to by Ms.Healy.

Time Extension: It was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. R. O'Connor and agreed by all to extend the meeting to finish of business.

ITEM NO. 12

To receive a presentation: Strategic Development of Tourism

Mr. F. Verdier, Tourism Development Officer gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Strategic development of tourism.
- Ecotrail Wicklow.
- Wicklow outdoors.
- International promotion.
- Passport – map your journey.
- Digital promotion.
- Tourism displays.
- Ireland's Ancient East.
- Wicklow Naturally.
- Screen Wicklow.

Following the presentation the Elected Members expressed views and raised queries relating to:

- Accommodation shortages.
- Challenges to tourism.
- Walking trails.
- Hill forts, potential.
- Airbnbs, positive impact.
- Film trails.
- Static tourism displays.
- Advertisement.
- Sustainable tourism.
- Rural accommodation.
- Tourism experiences.
- Tourist offices.
- Planning issues.
- International v national tourists.
- Craft trail.

The Elected Members queries were responded to by Mr. Verdier.

ITEM NO. 13

Correspondence

Ms. H. Purcell reminded the Elected Members that the Ethics Declarations are due by the 28th February and the declarations on donations were due back by 31st January 2024 and requested those who have not submitted them, should do so immediately.

ITEM NO. 14

Notice of Motion No. 1

Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. S. Stokes (proposer), seconded by Cllr. R. O'Connor (2nd January 2024).

'Wicklow County Council supports the AILG Ready for Reform Campaign. Wicklow County Council also calls for more powers and functions to be transferred to local government. Wicklow County Council further resolves to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage about the matter'.

Following a short discussion it was agreed by all to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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 4th March 2024