

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 6th DECEMBER 2021, COMMENCING 2.00 PM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS S. CULLEN CATHAOIRLEACH, T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, M. CREAN, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, T. FORTUNE, 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

**CLLR. P. GLENNON
CLLR. P. FITZGERALD**

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MR. F. CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. B. KILKENNY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICE
MR. C. LAVERY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICE
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT
MR. S. DOYLE, A/HEAD OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS
MR. D. MARNANE, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. M. DEVEREUX, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. H. DENNEHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. C. FLOOD, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. V. DELAHUNT, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE
MS. D. BURNS, HERITAGE OFFICER
MS. M. HARTNETT, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
DEPUTY S. MATTHEWS T.D.
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER
MR. D. STELFOX, CONSARC CONSULTANTS
MR. M. ROWLETTE, FAILTE 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 Mr. Joe O'Sullivan and Ms. Patricia Lott. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Cllr. P. Leonard requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss sending a letter to the Department of the Environment Climate and Communications in relation to the Community Benefit funding from the wind farms. It was seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke and agreed by all to send a letter to Department of Environment, Climate and Communications with the following motion;

'That Wicklow County Council email the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications outlining its wishes for any future Community Benefit Funding generated from the Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) be managed at a local community/council level and not by Central Government'

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 1st November 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. A. Flynn-Kennedy and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 1st November 2021.

ITEM NO. 2

To consider the disposal of property comprised in Folio No. WW582L in the townland of Arklow, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 19 Knockenrahan, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer order to Ms. Eileen Kinsella of 19 Knockenrahan, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. T. Annesley and agreed to dispose of property comprised in Folio No. WW582L in the townland of Arklow, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 19 Knockenrahan, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer order to Ms. Eileen Kinsella of 19 Knockenrahan, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in Statutory Notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 3

Note the changes of Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees

The Meetings Administrator advised that the elected members received a note with the agenda in relation to the chairpersons of the SPCs. In accordance with the decision taken at the annual general meeting on the 7th June 2019, five of the six Strategic Policy Committees will rotate with effect from January 2022. This will reflect in the corporate policy group. As there will be no representative from the Bray Electoral Area, the Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District will have a seat on the Corporate Policy Group, which was noted.

ITEM NO. 4

To review Standing Order Number 6: Place of meeting and address of principal office

Elected Members were circulated with the following documentation:

- Letter dated the 30th November 2021 from Ms. Helen Purcell, Senior Executive Officer/Meetings Administrator
- Proposed amendment to Wicklow County Council Standing Orders: Paragraph 6: Place of Meeting and Address of Principal Offices

The Meetings Administrator outlined that standing orders were amended to provide for the holding of remote meetings as set out in the standing orders for six months, ending December 2021 and asked if members were agreeable to extending for another six month period to the end of June 2022, reviewable on a monthly basis.

It was agreed by all to extend for another 6 month period to the end of June 2022 and review monthly.

ITEM NO. 5

To note the resignation of the Chief Executive

The Cathaoirleach advised that the Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran was resigning his post to take up the post of Chief Executive in Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council. The Cathaoirleach gave a brief summary of some of Mr. Curran's many achievements in the four years he served as Chief Executive. He said that Mr. Curran has been in Wicklow County Council for just over four years and in that time has brought structure and vision to the Council that had not previously existed. His leadership qualities are evident and can be seen in every department of the council and he expressed his appreciation in this regard. He wished him every success in his new role and thanked him for all he has done for county Wicklow.

Elected Members joined in wishing Mr. Curran well in his new post. Ms. H. Purcell also read a message received from Deputy S. Matthews T.D.

ITEM NO. 6

To receive a presentation on the progress of the development of the Content Creation Hub

Ms. V. Delahunt, Head of Enterprise gave a presentation on the following:

- Clermont House and Courtyard at Wicklow County Campus
- Clermont Enterprise Hub Chapel conversion and 2nd Floor dorms conversion
- Clermont Content Creation Enterprise Hub, impressions and progress
- East Crew Development Hub initiative
- Screen Wicklow
- Why film in Wicklow?
- Increase in filming activity 2021
- Wicklow County Campus
- Tourism and Economic Benefits
- Number of exciting projects underway for 2022

A discussion on the positive impact of the Content Creation Enterprise Hub took place.

ITEM NO. 7

To receive a presentation: Housing for All/Housing Delivery

Mr. J. Lane, Director of Service and Mr. D. Marnane, Senior Engineer gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland
- Housing supply targets
- Housing for all – 4 pathways
- Pathway 1 – Pathways to supporting homeownerships and increasing affordability
- Pathway 2 – Eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion
- Pathway 3 – Increasing new housing supply
- Pathway 4 – Addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock
- Affordable Housing Act 2021
- Affordable housing options
- Cost rental
- Affordable purchase local authority build
- Affordable housing fund
- First Home Shared Equity Scheme
- Part V changes
- Social housing delivery under Housing for All
- Funding provision and delivery mix

- Housing Delivery Action Plan
- Housing Delivery Action Plan – Wicklow County Council progress

Time Extension: On the proposal by Cllr. I. Winters and seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne a time extension to 5.30 p.m. was agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy and agreed by all that a senior official in the Housing Directorate should source and buy lands to increase the Council's land bank.

A broad discussion followed during which the Elected Members raised many questions relating to the provision of affordable housing and the availability of land on which to build.

ITEM NO. 8

Presentation by Dawson Stelfox of Consarc Consultants on the Glendalough & Wicklow Mountains Masterplan and Visitor Orientation Plan for County Wicklow

Mr. D. Stelfox, Consarc Consultants, gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Visitor Experience & Management Masterplan
- The need for a Masterplan
- Update on Plan progress
- Summary for Glendalough and Laragh
- Management and delivery
- Process – Concept/Visitor Analysis, surveys & studies/inception/draft plan/draft masterplan/masterplan
- Traffic and car park surveys
- People counter data
- Visitor Centre arrival
- Upper Lake Visitor Pavilion
- Visitor Management and Delivery

Mr. M. Rowlette, Failte Ireland advised the Elected Members that there is a major part of the study that is all about moving, orientation, and utilising other sites, so it is how can some of the people be moved away from Glendalough on busy days to as far south as Shillelagh.

A broad discussion followed, the importance of continued consultation was highlighted. The Cathaoirleach asked that the Council be kept involved and informed as the plan progresses.

Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator noted the following:

- That the Elected Members had received an email on November 16th in relation to three circulars for Elected Members expenses, LG03/2021 – Elected Members Expenses and Public Register, LG04/2021 – Increase to Elected Members Annual Remuneration and LG05/2021 – Allowances and Expenses of Elected Members – and advised that she would be in contact with each Elected Member in the coming week in relation to the application of the circulars and in particular the Local Representational Allowance element.
- All Corporate Policy Group and Protocol Minutes for the year have been circulated to the Elected Members
- Sr. Oliver Treacy from Bray is the recipient of the President’s Distinguished Service Award for Education and Business for her work as School Principal in South Sudan

It was agreed by all to extend a letter of congratulations to Sr. Oliver Treacy.

The Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive noted the forthcoming departure of Mr. C. Lavery, Director of Service and wished him well in his new role.

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 10th January 2022