

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**PRESENT:**

**COUNCILLORS A. FLYNN KENNEDY CATHAOIRLEACH, T. ANNESLEY, 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, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, M. RYAN, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, S. STOKES, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS (31)**

**APOLOGIES**

**CLLR. M. BARRY (1)**

**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, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT  
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR  
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MS. L. HEALY, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MS. S. NICHOLS, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MR. F. KEOGH, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MR. M. FLYNN, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MR. M. DEVEREUX, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER  
MS. E. BERMINGHAM, SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER  
MS. E. O'DONOVAN, HEAD OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
MS.D. WHITFIELD, TOWN REGENERATION OFFICER  
MR. T. GRIFFIN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE CHEMIST  
MR. J. SEXTON, EXECUTIVE SCIENTIST  
MR. G. HICKEY, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR  
MS. M. VAN DER WEL, LOCAL CO-ORDINATOR, HEALTHY AGE FRIENDLY HOMES**

**MR. G. MURPHY, IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER**  
**MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER**  
**MS. A. MCGRATH, REGIONAL TEAM MANAGER, HEALTHY AGE FRIENDLY HOMES**  
**MR. T. BYRNE, IRISH FARMERS ASSOCIATION (IFA)**

**SENATOR P. CASEY**

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. Andy Byrne, Mr. William Redmond, Ms. Carmel Burke, Mr. John Gahan, Ms. Robyn Archer, Mr. Kevin Browne, Mr. Pat Jones, Ms. Maura O'Loughlin and Mr. Patrick Conroy. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Cllr. G. Dunne thanked all the Elected Members who attended and supported the AILG Annual Conference held in Arklow on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February.

Cllr. V. Blake congratulated the Chief Executive, Staff and Elected Members on winning the 'Council of the Year' award at the LAMA award ceremony held in the Convention Centre, Dublin the previous week.

### **ITEM NO. 1**

**To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. P. Glennon and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

### **ITEM NO. 2**

**To consider the disposal of property measuring 0.027HA or thereabouts in the townland of Corporation Lands, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. (Property has never been registered with the Land Direct so no folio available. Not listed on Registry of Deeds) Co. Wicklow being the property known as 2 Seafield, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow by Deed of Conveyance to Ms. Patricia Colohan of 2 Seafield, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne and agreed to consider the disposal of property measuring 0.027HA or thereabouts in the townland of Corporation Lands, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. (Property has never been registered with the Land Direct so no folio available. Not listed on Registry of Deeds) Co. Wicklow being the property known as 2 Seafield, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow by Deed of Conveyance to Ms. Patricia Colohan of 2 Seafield, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property., as set out in statutory notice circulated.

### **ITEM NO. 3**

**To consider the disposal of 0.0034 hectares or thereabouts in the townland of Dunlavin Upper Townland, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio WW6103F Co. Wicklow to Ms. Fiona Kinsella, 2 The Green, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow.**

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Cronin, seconded by Cllr. P. Glennon and agreed to consider the disposal of 0.0034 hectares or thereabouts in the townland of Dunlavin Upper Townland, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio WW6103F Co. Wicklow to Ms. Fiona Kinsella, 2 The Green, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

### **ITEM NO. 4**

**To consider the disposal of property measuring 0.0216Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Sheephouse, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW2873L Co. Wicklow being the property known as 47 Saint Peters Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Alice Kelly of 47 St. Peters 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 consider the disposal of property measuring 0.0216Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Sheephouse, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW2873L Co. Wicklow being the property known as 47 Saint Peters Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Alice Kelly of 47 St. Peters Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

### **ITEM NO. 5**

Prior to discussing the disposal, Cllr. M. Kavanagh excused herself from the meeting.

**To consider the disposal of property measuring 0.0322 Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Corporation Lands Td, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 58 Seafield, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Mary Kavanagh of 58 Seafield, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property.**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. Leonard and agreed to consider the disposal of property measuring 0.0322 Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Corporation Lands Td, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 58 Seafield, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Mary Kavanagh of 58 Seafield, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

Cllr. Kavanagh was invited to rejoin the meeting which she duly did.

#### **ITEM NO. 6**

**To consider the disposal of property measuring 0.0158Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Oldcourt Td, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 16 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Karen Brierton (as LPR of Elizabeth Dundon deceased) of 16 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property.**

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Corrigan, seconded by Cllr. R. O'Connor and agreed to consider the disposal of property measuring 0.0158Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Oldcourt Td, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 16 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Karen Brierton (as LPR of Elizabeth Dundon deceased) of 16 Wolfe Tone Square South, Bray, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. V. Blake and agreed by all to move to Item No. 10.

#### **ITEM NO. 10**

**To receive a presentation: Irish Farmers Association (IFA)**

Mr. T. Byrne, Irish Farmers Association (IFA) gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Farmers across mainland Europe have been voicing their anger and frustration at the ever increasing administrative burden being placed on farmers, which have had a major impact on farm family incomes.
- The EU, the Irish Government, and local government, are devising policies far from the farm gate, with little or no consideration of direct impact on farmers.
- Transformation of CAP away from supporting food production towards actually reducing farm output.
- The failure of the EU to properly compensate farmers under CAP.

- The proposed Mercosur trade deal being pushed by the European Commission has the capacity to devastate and, in particular, the Irish in particular, the Irish beef sector.
- Overcomplicated schemes, which have been poorly implemented by the Irish Department of Agriculture.
- There has also been a complete systems failure on farm investment grant aid, otherwise known as TAMs scheme.
- The reduction of nitrates derogation from 250kgs of organic N to 220 organic N imposed by the European Commission, with absolutely no flexibility offered.
- The nature restoration law, which places further restrictions on farmers, particularly on designated lands with no compensation.
- The lack of flexibility being shown to tillage farmers within the new regulations.
- It is imperative that any measurement of emissions and removals is based on research that reflects Irish conditions.
- Delays in planning process, which is hindering on farm investment.
- County Councils will be doing an increasing number of inspections on farm. .
- The lack of dog wardens in many counties to deal with the dog attacks on sheep flocks.

Following the presentation the Elected Members expressed views and raised queries which were responded to by Mr. Byrne

The following motion was put forward:-

*‘Wicklow County Council resolves to write to the President of the EU Commission, the Taoiseach and the Minister for Agriculture advising them that the Council has passed the following resolution.*

*Wicklow County Council supports the IFA ‘enough is enough’ campaign.*

*The Council recognises the significant contribution that farming, and the Agri-sector makes to the Irish and local economy. The Council acknowledges the income challenge on Irish farmers arising from the significant increases in the cost of doing business, regulatory costs and cuts in Basic Income support for farmers.*

*The Council calls on the Government to introduce no further regulations on farmers or any measures that may increase costs on farms without full negotiation and agreement with the Irish Farmers Association (IFA). The Council calls on the European Union and the Irish Government to provide*

*additional stand-alone funding, separate to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), to support farmers to undertake climate and biodiversity measure”*

The motion was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke and agreed by all.

## **ITEM NO. 7**

### **To consider the Chief Executive’s Monthly Management Report, February 2024.**

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

- Wicklow County Council awarded ‘Council of the Year’.
- Local enterprise week.
- Successful AILG conference, Arklow.
- Greystones/Wicklow greenway consultation.
- Road marking around the county.
- Short term lets in rural areas.
- Flooding – Tinahely, Shillelagh, Carnew.
- Funding – improve drainage.
- Healthy Wicklow – period poverty.
- Greystones Enterprise Centre – opening date.
- Traffic signs at schools.
- Development of allotments and community gardens.
- Retro-fitting, Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy.
- One-bed social housing.
- Enniskerry Part 8.
- Flooding, Quill Road.
- The Scalp Road Scheme.
- ESB outages in Aughrim.
- Roads allocations for 2024.
- HAP figures.
- Rent arrears.
- Update Part Vs.
- Adaptation grants.
- Coastal blueway project.
- Town regeneration supports.
- School warden, Vevay Road.
- Rehills land.
- Bus priority interim scheme.
- Whitestown remediation.
- Development charges and exemptions.
- Pre-planning enquiry system.
- Footpath, Ashford
- Dog fouling, Wicklow Town

- Vacant houses.
- Fire station, Dunlavin.
- RRDF funding, Baltinglass.
- Retrofits time frame.
- Healthy Age Friendly Co-Ordinator.
- Postal votes.
- Blocked drain, Kilmacanogue.
- Update on the Murrrough.
- Funding for small biodiversity/climate change projects.
- County Wicklow Website – not user friendly.
- Grants for new businesses.
- Land, Milltown, Dunlavin.
- URDF funding, Arklow.

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

**Time Extension:** It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. R. O'Connor and agreed by all to extend the meeting to 5.15 p.m.

#### **ITEM NO. 8**

**To note Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee end of year report 2023.**

This item was noted by the Elected Members.

#### **ITEM NO. 9**

**To consider the issue of polling information cards pursuant to Article 55 of the Local Elections Regulations, 1995, as amended.**

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Corrigan, seconded by Cllr. I. Winters and agreed by all to consider the issue of polling information cards pursuant to Article %% of the Local Elections Regulations, 1995, as amended.

#### **ITEM NO. 11**

**To receive a presentation: Healthy Age Friendly Homes Initiative.**

Ms. A. McGrath, Regional Team Manager and Ms. M Van Der Wel, Local Co-Ordinator gave a presentation highlighting the following:

- Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme: Context.

- Our mission.
- How can we help? – Housing, health, technology, community, climate/energy, financial.
- Referral pathway.
- National rollout.
- Expected outcomes.
- Referrals process.

A short discussion followed. The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. McGrath and Ms. Van Der Wel for their presentation.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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**CLLR. AOIFE FLYNN KENNEDY  
CATHAOIRLEACH  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

**Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**