

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON  
MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA  
MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**PRESENT:**

**COUNCILLORS M. CORRIGAN CATHAOIRLEACH, D, ALVEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, O. FINN, , T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, N. WHELAN AND C. WINSTANLEY (31)**

**APOLOGIES**

**CLLR. P. FITZGERALD (1)**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**MS. E. O'GORMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
MS. H. PURCELL, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. F. KEOGH, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. T. O'BRIEN, T/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. B. GLEESON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. M. DEVEREUX, T/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT  
MS. P. CARMODY, COMMUNITY SAFETY CO-ORDINATOR  
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 Ms. Brigid Dooley O'Keeffe, Ms. Alice Josephine (Josie) Dagge and Mr. Michael Delmer. 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 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. A. Cronin and agreed by all to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

#### **ITEM NO. 2**

**To confirm and sign minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025.**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all to confirm and sign the minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

#### **ITEM NO. 3**

**To confirm and sign minutes of annual meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025.**

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Stokes, seconded by Cllr. L. Fenelon Gaskin and agreed by all to confirm and sign the minutes of annual meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

#### **ITEM NO. 4**

**To consider the disposal of 0.0989Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Brockagh Td. comprised in Folio WW829F being land situated at Brockagh, Laragh, Co. Wicklow to Mr. William McCoy.**

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.0989Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Brockagh Td. comprised in Folio WW829F being land situated at Brockagh, Laragh, Co. Wicklow to Mr. William McCoy, as set out in statutory notice previously circulated.

#### **ITEM NO. 5**

**To consider the disposal of 0.0142Ha, 0.01260Ha & 0.062Ha (0.0330Ha) or thereabouts in the townland of Blessington being the property known as 31 Rockypool Crescent Place to Michael & Christopher Reid.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Glennon, seconded by Cllr. J. Mulhall and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.0142Ha, 0.01260Ha & 0.062Ha (0.0330Ha) or thereabouts in the townland of Blessington being the property known as 31 Rockypool Crescent Place to Michael & Christopher Reid, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

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

**To consider the disposal of 0.180Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Kilquade Td. being the property known as Woodstock Road, Kilquade, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow to Peter Woodgates.**

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. L. Fenelon Gaskin and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.180Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Kilquade Td. being the property known as Woodstock Road, Kilquade, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow to Peter Woodgates, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

#### **ITEM NO. 7**

**To consider the disposal of 0.134Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Corporation Lands Td. being the property known as 8 Dunbur Terrace, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow to Desmond Olohan as Legal Personal Representative in the estate of Adeline Adela Olohan deceased.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. D. Alvey and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.134Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Corporation Lands Td. being the property known as 8 Dunbur Terrace, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow to Desmond Olohan as Legal Personal Representative in the estate of Adeline Adela Olohan deceased, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

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

**To consider the vacancy to the County Wicklow Heritage Forum arising from the resignation of Cllr. P. Leonard.**

It was agreed by the Elected Members to refer this item back to Arklow Municipal District and to revert to the Council for ratification at the September meeting.

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

**To ratify the appointment of Cllr. N. Whelan to the Board of Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre CLG**

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. A. Cronin and agreed by all to ratify the appointment of Cllr. N. Whelan to the Board of Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre CLG.

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

##### **To ratify the appointment of Cllr. N. Whelan to Bray Area Partnership**

It was proposed by Cllr. L. Fenelon Gaskin, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all to ratify the appointment of Cllr. N. Whelan to Bray Area Partnership.

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

##### **To ratify the appointment of Cllr. N. Whelan to the Greystones/Bray Cliff Walk Management Plan sub-committee**

It was proposed by Cllr. O. Finn, seconded by Cllr. M. Duddy and agreed by all to ratify the appointment of Cllr. N. Whelan to the Greystones/Bray Cliff Walk Management Plan sub-committee.

#### **ITEM NO. 12**

##### **To consider the variation of the basic rate of Local Property Tax and the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor in accordance with the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended) to apply for the period as specified from the next local property tax liability date 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025.**

Elected Members were circulated with:

- Report of Chief Executive dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 to Members on the matters to which Wicklow County Council shall have regard in relation to the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor from the Chief Executive, Ms. E. O’Gorman.

Mr. B. Gleeson, Director of Services gave a presentation on Local Property Tax (LPT) and the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor under the following areas:

- Budgetary process for Local Authorities.
- 2026 Budget process.
- LPT Revaluation.
- LPT 2026 Allocation.
- Elected Members decisions.
- The Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2014.
- 2026 budget adjustments.
- Estimate of Income and expenditure.
- Financial position of Wicklow County Council.
- Financial effect on a liable person.

- Impact on Wicklow County Council revenue budget and service delivery for 2026.
- Public consultation process.
- LPT 2026 recommendation summary.

In conclusion, Mr. Gleeson's proposal is that the LPT is increased from the existing rate from 6% to 15% and that the current rate of 6% would be maintained for the discretionary funding scheme within the municipal districts and that the 9% incremental increase would be ring-fenced for staff recruitment.

An alternative option would be to only increase it to 10% rather than the full 15%. This would be an incremental increase of 4%. Mr. Gleeson also recommended to the Members to set the rate for the remainder lifetime of the Council, four years, up to 2029. This can be altered at any stage subject to the wishes of the Members.

The Elected Members discussed the matter at length, some of the issues raised were:

- High cost of living.
- Social housing delivery.
- Revaluations welcome.
- Response to public consultation process.
- Public sector pay.
- Discretionary funding.
- Tax on the wealthy.
- Local property tax going to footpaths, road markings etc.
- Ring-fenced for employment of outdoor staff.
- Ring-fenced for urban regeneration programmes.

The following proposals were put forward:

**It was proposed by Cllr. S. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. D. Alvey:** In accordance with the provisions of Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, as amended, that the base rate of Local Property Tax shall stand varied upwards by 6% for one year, 2026, in respect of the relevant residential properties situated in the administrative area of Wicklow County Council.

**It was proposed by Cllr. D. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Behan:** In accordance with the provisions of section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, as amended, the basic rate of Local Property Tax should stand varied downwards by 15% for one year, 2026, in respect of relevant residential properties situated in the administrative area of Wicklow County Council.

**It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell and seconded by Cllr. P. Leonard:** In accordance with the provisions of section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, as amended, that the basic rate of Local Property Tax should be maintained at the base rate for 2026 in respect of relevant residential properties situated in the administrative area of Wicklow County Council.

The proposal put forward by Cllr. S. Bourke and seconded by Cllr. D. Alvey '*In accordance with the provisions of Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, as amended, that the base rate of Local Property Tax shall stand varied upwards b 6% for one year, 2026, in respect of the relevant residential properties situated in the administrative area of Wicklow County Council*'

Was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 29 for, 10 against and 3 not present viz:-

<b>FOR (19)</b>	<b>CLLRs. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, P. GLENNON, S. LANGRELL, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, P. O'BRIEN, G. RICHMOND, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, N. WHELAN AND C. WINSTANLEY</b>
<b>AGAINST (10)</b>	<b>CLLRs. J. BEHAN, M. DUDDY, O. FINN, T. FORTUNE, P. LEONARD, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE AND J. SNELL</b>
<b>NOT PRESENT (3)</b>	<b>CLLRs. P. FITZGERALD, P. KENNEDY AND L. SCOTT</b>

### **ITEM NO.13**

**To adopt the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029 in accordance with the provisions of the Traveller Accommodation Act, 1998.**

Mr. M. Nicholson, Director of Services, gave a short overview of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029 outlining the following:

- Five year programme.
- Consultation process.
- Wicklow County Council has a good record of providing traveller accommodation.
- Significant shift to standard social housing as opposed to traveller specific accommodation.
- Wicklow County Council also provide traveller specific accommodation for those who still require it.
- Under this plan we 48 units will be provided.
- In this five-year plan 45 units will be standard and three units will be traveller specific accommodation.
- Fire safety improvements.

A short discussion followed in which the Elected Members raised queries which were responded to by Mr. Nicholson. It was agreed the mid-term review of the programme would place more focus on youth consultation.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all to adopt the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029 in accordance with the provisions of The Traveller Accommodation Act, 1998, as amended.

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

#### **ITEM NO. 14**

**To adopt the Wicklow County Council Annual Report 2024 in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.**

Ms. H. Purcell advised that the Draft Annual Report was considered by the Elected Members at the April meeting. NOAC performance indicators for 2024, public sector duty and the Annual Financial Statement along with a statement of internal financial control were now included.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all to adopt the Wicklow County Council Annual Report 2024 in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

#### **ITEM NO. 15**

**To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, June 2025.**

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, June 2025.

Some of the issues raised included the following:

- Noise mitigation measures, Kilmacanogue.
- Clause preventing bulk sale of apartment developments.
- Task force – Bray/Greystones cliff walk.
- No updates forthcoming from the NTA.
- Consideration of age-living housing Dunlavin – Baltinglass Municipal District.
- Review of National Development Plan – request N81 inclusion.
- Request for NTA to attend meeting.
- Number of dog wardens in the county.
- Request for Blue flag beaches to be patrolled by dog wardens.
- Road markings.
- Arklow/Shillelagh Greenway.
- Breakdown of housing targets.
- CPOs – vacant properties/homes.

- Minister Browne's order relating to the Wicklow Town/Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 -2031.
- Proposal to stall report to the Minister on the Wicklow Town/Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031.
- Congratulations housing infrastructure delivery team. Social housing target.
- Arklow Harbour – Harbour Master's assistant.
- Update on refrigeration unit, Arklow.
- O.P.W. - Flood Relief Scheme.
- Arklow transport study.
- Farrankelly Estate.
- IPAS Centre, Avon Ri.
- Local Link – West Wicklow.
- Homeless children.
- Presentation to the Council by the Chief Fire Officer.
- Traffic study – Bray.
- Outdoor performance area, Bray.
- Safety survey, Ard Avon House, Rathdrum.

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

#### **ITEM NO. 16**

##### **Update on Local Community Safety Partnerships**

Ms. P. Carmody, Community Safety Co-Ordinator gave a short presentation outlining the following:

- Rationale for Local Community Safety Partnerships.
- Guiding principles for Local Community Safety Partnerships.
- Local Community Safety Partnership membership.
- Public sector representatives' nomination guidelines.
- Nominations.
- Membership information.

A short discussion followed the presentation during which the appointment of a chairperson was raised. Mr. M. Nicholson advised there will be 7 Elected Members on the Partnership, he suggested one Member per Municipal District with an additional Member from Bray Municipal District and Baltinglass Municipal District.

Membership of one Elected Member from Arklow, Greystones and Wicklow Municipal Districts and two Elected Members from Baltinglass and Bray Municipal Districts was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan and seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien.



## **ITEM NO. 17**

### **Consideration of re-establishment of Protocol Committee**

Ms. H. Purcell gave a short overview of the Protocol committee including the following:

- The role of the Protocol Committee, included civic receptions, award ceremonies, training, new circulars, members' expenses, attendance on twinning and foreign trips, applications to put up the flag and to light up our Council Buildings in different colours.
- There were 15 members.
- Meetings were scheduled for 5.00 p.m. following the Council meeting.
- Management team are not in attendance.
- No legislative requirement to have a Protocol Committee.
- Duties of the Protocol Committee have been brought into the CPG and they are dealing with these issues now.

Following a short discussion the Elected Members requested this item to be deferred for further discussion.

## **ITEM NO. 18**

### **Correspondence**

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

- To note the circulation of Guidelines for interaction with Tobacco Industry 2025.

## **ITEM NO. 19**

### **Notice of Motion number 1**

**Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. C. Winstanley (proposer), seconded by Cllr. T. Fortune and supported by Cllrs. D. Alvey and M. Barry (29<sup>th</sup> May 2025)**

*'It has now been a year since Ireland officially recognised the State of Palestine, and nearly two years since the beginning of Israel's ongoing military campaign in Gaza.*

*In light of this, Elected Members of Wicklow County Council call upon the Chief Executive of the Council to write to the Government on our behalf, urging immediate and decisive action. We request that the Government act to end the facilitation and sale of Israel Bonds under its authority, and that the Central Bank of Ireland cease all regulatory oversight of these financial instruments, which currently supports continued violence and destruction.*

*Continued regulation and facilitation of these bonds represents not only a moral failure but also a clear violation of Ireland's legal obligations under:*

*The UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, International human rights law, and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) legislation.*

*As a nation that upholds a position of military neutrality, Ireland must not be complicit in enabling financial mechanisms that fund or support potential war crimes. Unless there is an immediate and verifiable ceasefire, the sale and regulation of Israel Bonds must end. We urge the Irish Government to take a stand and ensure that our country plays no role in facilitating further violence or injustice in the region'.*

A short discussion followed. The motion was passed by all present.

#### **THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

---

**CLLR. MELANIE CORRIGAN  
CATHAOIRLEACH  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

---

**MS. HELEN PURCELL  
A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/  
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025**