

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON  
MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 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, 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.**

**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  
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT  
MR. S. DOYLE, A/HEAD OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
MR. D. MARNANE, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. M. DEVEREUX, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MS. H. FALLON, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MR. J. SEXTON, EXECUTIVE SCIENTIST  
MS. H. DENNEHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MS. V. DELAHUNT, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE  
MS. A. MINION, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
MS. L. HEALY, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR  
MR. D. O'KEEFE, LAWPRO  
MR. J. GLEESON, PARTNER, SAFFREY CHAMPNESS IRELAND  
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER**

At the commencement of the meeting a roll call was taken. The Meetings Administrator advised of etiquette for those attending in the chamber and those attending remotely. The Meetings Administrator also advised 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. Annie Byrne, Ms. Valerie Carroll, Ms. Mary Forde, Mr. Patrick Dennehy, Mr. P.J. Lane, Mr. William Cullen, Mr. Kevin O'Donohue, Mr. Patrick Nolan and Mr. Christopher Miley. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Cllr. M. Kavanagh requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss that Wicklow County Council writes to the National Citizens Information Board to express its deep concern at the possibility of the withdrawal of the Citizens Advise Service from Wicklow Town and furthermore that the proposed funding be granted immediately to secure a suitable premises for the service to continue. It was seconded by Cllr. J. Behan and agreed by all to send a letter to the National Citizen's Information Board.

#### **ITEM NO. 1**

**To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. I. Winters and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

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

**To consider the disposal of property comprised in Folio No. WW2896L in the townland of Tombrean, Co. Wicklow being the property known as Tombrean, Carnew, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. Seamus Alwell of Tombrean, Carnew, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property.**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Mullen, seconded by Cllr. V. Blake and agreed to dispose of property comprised in Folio No. WW2896L in the townland of Tombrean, Co. Wicklow being the property known as Tombrean, Carnew, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. Seamus Alwell of Tombrean, Carnew, 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 property comprised in Folio 460L in the townland of Knockanrahan Lower, Arklow, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 5 Knockenrahan, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. John Leo Doyle of 17 St. Michael's Terrace, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. T. Annesley and agreed to dispose of property comprised in Folio 460L in the townland of Knockanrahan Lower, Arklow, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 5 Knockenrahan, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. John Leo Doyle of 17 St. Michael's Terrace, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in Statutory Notice circulated.

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

**To Consider the disposal of 0.0061 hectares or thereabouts comprised in Folio WW4065 in the townlands of Sheepphouse and Knockanrahan Lower, Arklow, Co. Wicklow being a strip of land to the side of 30 Fr. Redmond Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Sinead Kavanagh (nee Kearns) of 30 Fr. Redmond Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. T. Annesley and agreed to dispose of 0.0061 hectares or thereabouts comprised in Folio WW4065 in the townlands of Sheepphouse and Knockanrahan Lower, Arklow, Co. Wicklow being a strip of land to the side of 30 Fr. Redmond Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Sinead Kavanagh (nee Kearns) of 30 Fr. Redmond Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow., as set out in Statutory Notice circulated.

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

**To approve a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

Elected Members were circulated with a letter from Mr. Brian Gleeson, Head of Finance, requesting the approval of a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

It was proposed by Cllr. V. Blake, seconded by Cllr. I. Winters and agreed to approve a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

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

**To enter into a Section 85 Agreement between Wicklow County Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council for the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme**

Further to the report circulated with the agenda Mr. J. Bowes, Senior Engineer outlined the following:

- Severity of traffic issues on the N11 at peak time needs early intervention to address problems on the corridor.
- A project to assess the feasibility of providing bus lanes on the N11 is progressing.
- If feasible, bus lanes could offer a practical solution in advance of the main junction scheme.
- This separate project called the Bus Priority Interim Scheme is a multi-authority project involving Wicklow County Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), National Transport Authority (NTA) and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.
- The Bus Priority Scheme is being implemented in accordance with Transportation Infrastructure Ireland's project management guidelines.

- In order to facilitate the project in an efficient manner to the operation and preliminary design of statutory orders, Wicklow County Council proposed to enter into a Section 85 agreement, with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

Following a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr. D. Mitchell, seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke and agreed to enter into a Section 85 Agreement between Wicklow County Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council for the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme.

## **ITEM NO. 7**

### **To consider NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2020**

Elected Members were circulated with the National Oversight Audit Committee (NOAC) Local Authority Performance Indicator Report, 2020 on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Ms. L. Gallagher, Director of Service gave a brief overview of the Wicklow County Council performance in relation to some of the 42 indicators. Wicklow County Council improved its performance across a range of indicators during 2020, despite COVID-19 challenges while providing additional innovations and services during the pandemic. The NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2020 shows Wicklow County Council made advances last year, in particular in the areas of Community and Business supports. While COVID-19 placed a considerable burden on the Council, with a reduction in revenues and strained resources Council staff continued to deliver essential services throughout the pandemic.

Wicklow County Council established the Community Call service to provide support to more than 1,795 people since March 2020.

Alongside this, Wicklow County Council continued to deliver essential services throughout COVID, as the Performance Indicators Report 2020 shows:

- Wicklow County Council added 251 units to the social housing stock in 2020
- 88.7% of motor tax transactions were conducted online in 2020, a significant increase from 2019
- The Local Enterprise Office approved 301.9 (per 100,000 population) trading online vouchers to support Wicklow businesses to increase their online offering. The LEO also provided mentoring to 563.8 (per 100,000 population) businesses.
- In 2020, total road improvement and maintenance expenditure was €7,627,350 for strengthened and resealed on 156.2 km of both local and regional roads
- There were more than 1,459,825 million visits to council websites and our social media following increased by 22.2% to 80,626 in 2020.
- Wicklow has continued to demonstrate that it is a clean county with 80% of the County shown to be either litter free or only slightly littered. This is continuous level of improvement from 68% in 2018 and 76% in 2019.

Following a broad discussion it was agreed to send a letter to the National Oversight Audit Committee requesting the NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report issue in quarter 1 of the year following the year it relates to, in order to make the information more timely.

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

##### **To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, October 2021**

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

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

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

##### **To receive a presentation: Customer Care Innovation Hub**

Ms. G. Whitty, Administrative Officer gave a presentation covering the following areas:

- Call data – Stats – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- Communication – dedicated email address and direct phone line for Elected Members.
- Customer Service CRM – Cases by department/section; highest demand area – Housing and housing repairs.
- Public Counters – Motor Taxation and Revenue Cash Desk
- Community Call Helpline now incorporated in Customer Service and manned by the team.
- Customer Service & Motor Tax back-office amalgamation.
- Customer Services Hub – Disability Federation Ireland: A-D Caller initiative (Able Disable Caller)
- Customer Service Strategy (Customer Action Plan)
- RAG (LGMA Research Advisory Group)

A discussion on the positive impact of the Customer Care Innovation Hub took place.

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

##### **To receive a presentation: River Water Quality**

Mr. J. Sexton, Executive Scientist gave a presentation covering the following areas:

- Water Quality in Ireland Report 2013 – 2018.
- Wicklow surface water quality trends.
- Current water quality in Wicklow.
- Water improving in Wicklow since 2015.
- Water deteriorating in Wicklow since 2015.
- 2020 Water quality indicator report (national).
- Worrying national river nitrate trends 2013 – 2020.
- National river phosphate trend in South East.
- Pressures on water quality – nationally.

Mr. D. O’Keeffe, LAWPRO made the following points:

- Draft Basin Management Plan – public consultation is open at present.
- Plan aims to protect and restore good water quality in rivers, lakes, estuaries, ground water and coastal waters.
- To increase national ambition to halt the decline in water quality and reverse damage.
- Greater co-ordination between state agencies and local authorities in LAWPRO. Main aim is to deliver benefits to climate change and local communities.
- Visual consultation room. Submissions can also be made through paper format.
- Local meetings in each municipal district in the new year.
- Online meetings with Public Participation Network (PPN) members on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

A broad discussion followed.

### **ITEM NO. 11**

#### **To receive a presentation: 5-year County Wicklow Screen Development Strategy**

Mr. J. Gleeson, Partner, Saffrey Champness Ireland gave a presentation outlining the following:

- SWOT analysis
- Global context
- Production spend and economic contribution
- Consumer demand
- Media minutes grown, linear TV still largest
- Screen Wicklow: key recommendations
- Foreign direct investment
- Domestic screen content creation
- Screen tourism

**ITEM NO. 12**

**Correspondence**

Ms. H. Purcell advised the budget meeting will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021. A public Joint Policing Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy.

Also, Elected Members were circulated with details of the Local Authority Elected Members Public Liability & Personal Accident Insurance Schemes. They are requested to advise Ms. T. Byrne which option they wish to avail of by the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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**CLLR. SHAY CULLEN  
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 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021**