

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 3RD APRIL 2023, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS T. ANNESLEY CATHAOIRLEACH, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, G. MCMANUS, 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 (31)

APOLOGIES

CLLR. T. FORTUNE

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
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MS. B. MCCARTHY, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. F. KEOGH, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. H. FALLON, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. D. MARNANE, A/SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. M. DEVEREUX, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. D. WHITFIELD, TOWN REGENERATION OFFICER
MR. T. HUGHES, IS PROJECT LEADER
MS. C. MURPHY, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER
MS. E. JAWORSKI , SENIOR STAFF OFFICER
MR. G. MURPHY, IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER
MS. C. HENDRICK, CLERICAL 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 Mr. Bert Kenny, Mr. Joe Vickers, Mr. Dudley Annesley and Mr. John McDonald. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Request for Suspension of Standing Orders:- The Meetings Administrator advised that a request for suspension of standing orders had been submitted in advance of the meeting. In accordance with the protocol adopted the request was read to the meeting as proposed and seconded:-

1. Cllr. D. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. McManus requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss and receive updates from the Chief Executive and appropriate Directorates about the lifting of the Eviction Ban and the state of readiness in Wicklow County Council to respond to NTQs (Notices to Quit).

It was agreed by all to have a discussion on the topic at 4.30 p.m.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of Special Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 6th March 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. A. Flynn-Kennedy and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Special Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 6th March 2023.

ITEM NO. 2

To consider the disposal of 1.223 acres or thereabouts in the townland of Tinakilly Townland, Aughrim, Co. Wicklow by way of 3-year lease for the period 6th March 2023 to 5th March 2026 to Woodfab Timber Ltd., Aughrim, Co. Wicklow

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed to consider the disposal of 1.223 acres or thereabouts in the townland of Tinakilly Townland, Aughrim, Co. Wicklow by way of 3-year lease for the period 6th March 2023 to 5th March 2026 to Woodfab Timber Ltd., Aughrim, Co. Wicklow, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 3

To consider the disposal of 0.0281Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Yardland, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW4065 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 6 Saint Columbas Terrace, Coolgreaney Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. Brian McDonald and Ms. Marian McDonald (also known as Marian Van Den Akker) of 6 Saint Columbas Terrace, Coolgreaney Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, the persons 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 0.0281Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Yardland, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW4065 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 6 Saint Columbas Terrace, Coolgreaney Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. Brian McDonald and Ms. Marian McDonald (also known as Marian Van Den Akker) of 6 Saint Columbas Terrace, Coolgreaney Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 4

To consider the disposal of 82 square metres or thereabouts of property in the townland of Strand Road, Bray by way of a 35 year sporting lease to the Trustees of Bray Rowing Club, Strand Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Flynn-Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. R. O'Connor and agreed to consider the disposal of 82 square metres or thereabouts of property in the townland of Strand Road, Bray by way of a 35 year sporting lease to the Trustees of Bray Rowing Club, Strand Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 5

To consider the disposal of 0.2448Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Ballinameesda, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow to the Legal Personal Representatives of the Late Ms. Jennifer Grogan deceased named as Alice Krabbe (daughter).

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy and agreed to consider the disposal of 0.2448Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Ballinameesda, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow to the Legal Personal Representatives of the Late Ms. Jennifer Grogan deceased named as Alice Krabbe (daughter), as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider the Wicklow County Council Capital Investment Programme 2023 - 2025

Elected Members were circulated with the Wicklow County Council 3- year Capital Investment Programme 2023-2025 on 31st March 2023.

Mr. B. Gleeson, Head of Finance gave a summary of the 3-Year Annual Capital Investment Programme to the Elected Members.

Following a broad discussion the Elected Members raised questions which were responded to by Mr. Gleeson.

ITEM NO 7

To consider filling the vacancy to the County Wicklow Tourism Board arising from the resignation of Cllr. M. Murphy from this committee.

Cllr. P. Fitzgerald proposed Cllr. P. Kennedy to fill the vacancy to the County Wicklow Tourism Board arising from the resignation of Cllr. M. Murphy, this was seconded by Cllr. M. Murphy and agreed by all. Cllr. Kennedy agreed to fill the vacancy.

ITEM NO. 8

To consider and adopt the draft Wicklow County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2023.

Ms. H. Purcell, Meetings Administrator advised the Elected Members that the purpose of the Annual Service Delivery Plan is to set out the objectives and the performance standards for the Council's service delivery areas for 2023.

Appendix 1 of the plan details the annual performance indicators which are monitored by the National Oversight and Audit Committee (NOAC) and appendix 2 sets out the key baseline data target outputs for 2022. Attention was drawn to errors on page 61 relating to Goal TWES 3 Roads;

- Number of safety measures at schools p/a 2023 target is 3 and;
- Number of low cost safety improvement target is 10, not 123.

The Elected Members requested a presentation from each Director be given outlining details of the plan for their directorate.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed by all to adopt the draft Wicklow County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2023 subject to the amendment of figures on page 61. Ms. Gallagher advised the Elected Members that their

proposal would be taken on board and discussed at the next Senior Management Team meeting.

ITEM NO. 9

To note the draft County Council Annual Report 2022

The Elected Members were circulated with the draft Wicklow County Council Annual Report 2022 on 29th March 2023.

Ms. H. Purcell, Meetings Administrator advised the Elected Members that this is a reserved function of the Elected Members to adopt an Annual Report by the 30th June each year. The Annual Financial Statement is due to be listed at the May meeting and will then be included in the final annual report, along with NOAC performance indicators, which are due to be submitted by the 21st April 2023.

This report is to be noted today with the finalised Annual Report, 2022 being listed on the agenda for meeting of 10th June 2023.

ITEM NO. 10

To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, March 2023.

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive Monthly Management Report March 2023.

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

ITEM NO. 11

To receive a presentation on the implementation of ePlanning

Ms. J. Carroll, Senior Executive Officer gave a presentation outlining the following:

- e-Planning will improve efficiency, reduce potential for invalid applications.
- Current Planning Application Process.
- e-Planning Application Process.
- e-Planning Application Dashboard.
- April 2023 – ePlanning goes live.

A short discussion followed in which the Elected Members raised queries which were responded to by Ms. Carroll and Ms. C. Murphy.

ITEM NO. 12

To receive a presentation on the Control of Dogs

Ms. J. Carroll, Senior Executive Officer gave a presentation covering the following areas:

- Legislative Context.
- Obligations of Wicklow County Council - Operation of Dog Pound.
- Controlled breeds.
- Statistics 2022.
- Obligations of dog owners.
- Responsible dog ownership – Awareness and Behaviour Change Campaigns.
- National consultation on control of dogs.
- A review of measures relating to the control of dogs.
- Outcome of public consultation.
- Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine – Review of animal health & welfare issues – 2022.
- National Cross Agency Working Group.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Cllr. D. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. McManus requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss and receive updates from the Chief Executive and appropriate Directorates about the lifting of the Eviction Ban and the state of readiness in Wicklow County Council to respond to NTQs (Notices to Quit).

A broad discussion followed. The Elected Members highlighted the following:

- The hard work and commitment of the Housing & Corporate Estate Director of Service and his staff.
- Collective approach and responsibility to this matter.
- Wicklow are the best performing county in terms of housing supply in the country.
- Supply of housing key.
- Housing is a collective issue.
- Multi-strand approach required.

Mr. J. Lane, Director of Services responded by stating that Wicklow County Council had 74 NTQs at the start of the year with a further 3 in the last week, 70 new H.A.P. applications have been received. A multi-team approach is being taken involving teams from the Homeless Unit, HAP and Allocations. The purchase in lieu target is 30, currently 6 are agreed, 5 in progress, queries have been submitted on 14 and 18 will not be pursued. Wicklow's target for 2023 is 226 units. 380 units will be delivered with an expression of interest option on further units. Wicklow County Council is currently pursuing negotiations with key stakeholders on the supply of housing units, some of which can be earmarked for NTQs (Notices to Quit)

Correspondence

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

- Public meeting of Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Meeting on Wednesday 26th April 2023 in Arklow.
- Launch of National Women's Council: A toolkit for local Authorities on supporting family Friendly Local Government, on Monday 8th May 2023 at 11.30 a.m.
- Circular Letter LG03/2023 – Elected Members Training.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

**CLLR. TOMMY ANNESLEY
CATHAOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 8th May 2023