MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2026, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS C. WINSTANLEY CATHAOIRLEACH, D, ALVEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, P. FITZGERALD, , P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, I. NEARY, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, J. WARD AND N. WHELAN (29)

APOLOGIES

CLLRS. A. CRONIN, O. FINN AND T. FORTUNE (3)

IN ATTENDANCE:

MS. E. O'GORMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. J. CARROLL, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. H. DENNEHY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. B. GLEESON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. S. MCCULLOUGH, T/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. H. PURCELL, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT
MS. R. GILLESPIE, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MR. S. BOLGER, IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER

DEPUTY J. BRADY TD
DEPUTY E. TIMMINS TD
DEPUTY F. O' SÚILLEABHÁIN TD

At the commencement of the meeting a roll call was taken. The Meetings Administrator advised all present they are bound by the Code of Conduct for Councillors and Employees. Also, 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. John O'Brien, Mr. John Brennan, Mr. Martin Walsh and Ms. Maura Duffy. A minute's silence was observed for the deceased.

ITEM NO. 1

To consider Section 140 motion in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

Section 140 motion in the name of Cllr. W. O'Toole, Cllr. J. Ward and Cllr. J. Behan.

'That Wicklow County Council, pursuant to Section 140 of the Local Government Act 2001, hereby directs the Chief Executive to immediately stop the implementation of the new Differential Rent Scheme due to take effect on 3rd October 2026, and continue to operate the two differential rent schemes in existence before that date.'

A lengthy discussion took place in which the Elected Members raised queries and concerns which were responded to by the Chief Executive.

Section 140 motion in the name of Cllr. W. O'Toole, Cllr. J. Ward and Cllr. J. Behan: -

'That Wicklow County Council, pursuant to Section 140 of the Local Government Act 2001, hereby directs the Chief Executive to immediately stop the implementation of the new Differential Rent Scheme due to take effect on 3rd October 2026, and continue to operate the two differential rent schemes in existence before that date.'

was put to a vote and following a roll call was defeated by a margin of 9 for, 1 against, 3 not present and 19 abstained: -

FOR (9)	**CLLRS. J. BEHAN, M. DUDDY, P. LEONARD, I. NEARY, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, J. SNELL, S. STOKES AND J. WARD**
AGAINST (1)	**CLLR. P. STAPLETON**
NOT PRESENT (3)	**CLLRS. A. CRONIN, O. FINN AND T. FORTUNE**
ABSTAINED (19)	**CLLRS. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, P. FITZGERALD, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, P. O'BRIEN, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, N. WHELAN AND C. WINSTANLEY**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. P. Leonard and seconded by J. Snell: -

'That Wicklow County Council agree to place a six-month stay on the implementation of the Social Housing Rent Review, pending the outcome of the High Court proceedings.
During this six-month period, the Council shall:
1. Maintain social housing rents at their current level, with no increase arising from the proposed rent review until that date.
2. Immediately implement an appropriate Carers and Maintenance Exemption, taking into account the financial circumstances of households where a tenant has significant caring responsibilities or where essential maintenance costs arise'.

was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 25 for, 1 against, 3 not present and 3 abstained: -

FOR (25)	**CLLRS. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, P. FITZGERALD, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, I. NEARY, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, S. STOKES, J. WARD, N. WHELAN AND C. WINSTANLEY**
AGAINST (1)	**CLLR. P. STAPLETON**
NOT PRESENT (3)	**CLLRS. A. CRONIN, O. FINN AND T. FORTUNE**
ABSTAINED (3)	**CLLRS. E. DOYLE, P. O'BRIEN AND G. RICHMOND**

The Chief Executive advised the motion is ultra vires and she cannot implement it.

ITEM NO. 2

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 7th September 2026.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. N. Whelan and agreed by all to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 7th September 2026.

ITEM NO. 3

To consider the disposal of 0.1114 hectares or thereabouts in the townland of Killincarrig, Greystones, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 10 Mill Road, Killincarrig, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 DH76 to Gareth O'Sullivan and Danielle O'Sullivan having

their address at 3 Castlefield Terrace, Killincarrig, Greystones, Co. Wicklow by way of auction/private treaty conditions.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Duddy, seconded by Cllr. S. Stokes and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.1114 hectares or thereabouts in the townland of Killincarrig, Greystones, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 10 Mill Road, Killincarrig, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 DH76 to Gareth O'Sullivan and Danielle O'Sullivan having their address at 3 Castlefield Terrace, Killincarrig, Greystones, Co. Wicklow by way of auction/private treaty conditions, as set out in statutory notice previously circulated.

ITEM NO. 4

To consider the disposal of 1.40 acres or thereabouts in the townland of Corballis Upper, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow being the property known as Site 10A, Avondale Business Park, Corballis, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow to Derek Stafford t/a DS MetalWorx Ltd., Hartes Cottage, Ballynattin, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by way of a 999-year lease.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 1.40 acres or thereabouts in the townland of Corballis Upper, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow being the property known as Site 10A, Avondale Business Park, Corballis, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow to Derek Stafford t/a DS MetalWorx Ltd., Hartes Cottage, Ballynattin, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by way of a 999-year lease, as set out in statutory notice previously circulated.

ITEM NO.5

To consider the disposal of 0.0381Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Knockanrahan Upper TD being the property known as 98 Fernhill, Arklow to Helen Greene.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed by all present to consider the disposal of 0.0381Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Knockanrahan Upper TD being the property known as 98 Fernhill, Arklow to Helen Greene, as set out in statutory notice previously circulated.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider the disposal of 0.014Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Blessington TD being the property known as 15 Rockypool Crescent, Blessington, Co. Wicklow to Bridget Cullen, Mary Hamilton, Edward Lennon, Patrick Lennon and Margaret Lismore.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Glennon, seconded by Cllr. G. O'Neill and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.014Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Blessington TD being the property known as 15 Rockypool Crescent, Blessington, Co. Wicklow to Bridget Cullen, Mary Hamilton, Edward Lennon, Patrick Lennon and Margaret Lismore, as set out in statutory notice previously circulated.

ITEM NO. 7

To consider the disposal of 0.0536Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Little Bray TD being the property known as 35 Ledwidge Crescent to Noel Dodd.

It was proposed by Cllr. N. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. I. Neary and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.0536Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Little Bray TD being the property known as 35 Ledwidge Crescent to Noel Dodd, as set out in statutory notice previously circulated.

ITEM NO. 8

To ratify the appointment of Cllr. J. Ward to the Bray Local Drugs Task Force.

It was proposed by Cllr. I. Neary, seconded by Cllr. P. Glennon and agreed by all to ratify the appointment of Cllr. J. Ward to the Bray Local Drugs Task Force. Cllr. Ward accepted the appointment.

ITEM NO. 9

To ratify the appointment of Cllr. G. Richmond to the East Coast Regional Drugs Task Force.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. N. Whelan and agreed by all to ratify the appointment of Cllr. G. Richmond to the East Coast Regional Drugs Task Force. Cllr. Richmond accepted the appointment.

ITEM NO. 10

To approve in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31st December 2027.

Elected Members were previously circulated with a letter from Mr. B. Gleeson, Director of Services, requesting the approval of a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31st December 2027.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all to approve in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31st December 2027.

ITEM NO. 11

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 1st November 2026.

Elected Members were circulated with:

- Report of Chief Executive dated 30th September 2026 to the Elected 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:

- 2027 Budgetary process.
- LPT legislative background.
- What services does LPT support?
- Estimate of Income and expenditure.
- LPT 2027 Allocation.
- 2027 budget adjustments.
- Financial position of Wicklow County Council.
- 2027 LPT recommendation.
- Financial effect on a liable person.
- Impact on Wicklow County Council revenue budget and service delivery for 2027.
- Public consultation process.
- LPT 2027 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 cover inflationary costs and balance the budget.

Mr. Gleeson also recommended to the Members to set the rate for the remainder lifetime of the Council, three 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:

- Cost of living crisis.
- Additional housing qualifying for LPT in the next year.
- Income of derelict properties and vacant units.
- Discretionary funding for Municipal Districts.
- If LPT cut, will significant services be cut.

4.05 p.m.: It was proposed by Cllr. S. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all to adjourn the meeting for 15 minutes to discuss the matter.

Meeting resumed at 16.30 p.m. commencing with a roll call.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS C. WINSTANLEY CATHAOIRLEACH, D, ALVEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, P. FITZGERALD, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, I. NEARY, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, J. WARD AND N. WHELAN (29)

APOLOGIES

CLLRS. A. CRONIN, O. FINN AND T. FORTUNE (3)

Mr. B. Gleeson clarified the following:

- that there will be no increases to our LPT allocations for next year.
- To avoid having to cut LPT allocations for 2027 the Department got a commitment from DPER to allow them to stay unchanged and that the issue would be reviewed for 2028. So there are no increases to any Local Property Tax allocations for any Local Authority in 2027.
- The new derelict tax will be collected by the Revenue Commissioners from 2027 onwards.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Stapleton, seconded by Cllr. S. Stokes to increase the base rate by 10% and to set the rate for the remainder lifetime of the Council.

4.40p.m.: It was proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. M. Duddy and agreed by all to adjourn the meeting for 10 minutes to discuss the matter further.

Meeting resumed at 16.52 p.m. commencing with a roll call.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS C. WINSTANLEY CATHAOIRLEACH, D, ALVEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, P. FITZGERALD, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, I. NEARY, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, J. WARD AND N. WHELAN (29)

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CLLRS. A. CRONIN, O. FINN AND T. FORTUNE (3)

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell and seconded by Cllr. J. Behan to suspend the meeting and to hold a special meeting on the item.

The motion was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 18 for, 10 against, 3 not present and 1 abstained: -

FOR (18)	**CLLRS. J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, P. FITZGERALD, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, I. NEARY, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL AND J. WARD**
AGAINST (10)	**CLLRS. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, M. CORRIGAN, E. DOYLE, S. LANGRELL, M. MURPHY, P. O'BRIEN, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES AND N. WHELAN**
NOT PRESENT (3)	**CLLRS. A. CRONIN, O. FINN AND T. FORTUNE**
ABSTAINED (1)	**CLLR. C. WINSTANLEY**

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

CLLR. DR. CAROLINE WINSTANLEY
CATHAOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

MS. RACHEL GILLESPIE
A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 2nd November 2026.