

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2022, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS T. ANNESLEY CATHAOIRLEACH, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, 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, 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

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MR. B. GLEESON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. B. KILKENNY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICE
MS. L. EARLS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. B. MCCARTHY, A/HEAD OF FINANCE
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. M. FLYNN, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. D. MARNANE, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MS. H. DENNEHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. C. FLOOD, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR. G. MURPHY, IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER
MS. M. HALVEY, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. D. STELFOX, CONSART CONSULTANTS
MR. M. ROWLETTE, FAILTE IRELAND
MS. O. MESSETTE, CELTIC ROUTES PROJECT 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 Ms. Christine Fox, Mr. John Heslin, Mr. Michael Byrne, Mr. Robert McGrogan, Mr. Louis Collins and Mr. Jimmy Doyle. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

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

1. Cathaoirleach Cllr. T. Annesley, seconded by Cllr. J. Behan requested a suspension of standing orders to acknowledge Cllr. J. Neary who resigned from the Council on 21st October 2023.

The Cathaoirleach and Elected Members paid tribute and thanked Ms. Neary for her contribution and work as an Elected Member of Wicklow County Council.

2. Cllr. P. Leonard, seconded by Cllr. T. Annesley and supported by Cllr. J. Behan, Cllr. M. Kavanagh, Cllr. T. Fortune, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. T. Annesley, Cllr. P. Kennedy, Cllr. S. Stokes, Cllr. Cllr. R. O'Connor, Cllr. J. Snell, Cllr. L. Scott, Cllr. S. Bourke, Cllr. D. Mitchell, Cllr. M. Corrigan, Cllr. G. McManus, Cllr. D. O'Brien, Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and Cllr. G. O'Neill requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following notice of motion:

'That Wicklow County Council asks the Government to recognise the European Commission's confirmation that the Government could exceptionally address the case of C.J. Gaffney and the MV Mary Kate through the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF).'

Ms. H. Purcell, Meetings Administrator advised the Elected Members that this is a private legal matter and does not link in to any of the areas that the Council is responsible for.

A discussion took place in which the Elected Members supported the motion and it was agreed to write to the Taoiseach, Tánaiste, relevant Ministers, Wicklow TDs and to circulate the motion to other councils.

3. Cllr. F. Fortune, seconded by Cllr. M. Kavanagh requested a suspension of standing order to discuss the situation with the fishermen at Greystones Harbour.

Ms. H. Purcell, Meetings Administrator advised the Elected Members that the Law Agent has given her opinion that this matter is before the courts. The Elected Members risk contempt of court and/or defamation proceedings should the matter be discussed.

The Chief Executive advised the Elected Members that he had received separate legal advice on the matter. If discussed it will leave both officials of the Council and Elected Members open to possible contempt of court and defamation proceedings and for that reason it cannot be discussed at the meeting.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of Special Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 12th September 2022.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. S. Cullen and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Special Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 12th September 2022.

ITEM NO. 2

To confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 3rd October 2022.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 3rd October 2022.

ITEM NO. 3

To confirm and sign the minutes of Special Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 10th October 2022.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Special Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 10th October 2022.

ITEM NO. 4

To consider the disposal of 10.2 Sq. M. or thereabouts in the townland of Knockanrahan Upper, Barony of Arklow, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW37437F being land situated in Delany Park, Meadowvale, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to ESB of Two Gateway, East Walk Road, City of Dublin.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy and agreed to dispose of 10.2 Sq. M. or thereabouts in the townland of Knockanrahan Upper, Barony of Arklow, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW37437F being land situated in Delany Park, Meadowvale, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to ESB of Two Gateway, East Walk Road, City of Dublin.as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 5

To consider the disposal 0.0170Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Knockanrahan Lower, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW4065 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 17 Pearse Terrace, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Nicola Hobbs & Mr. Joseph Hobbs of 17 Pearse Terrace, 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 dispose of 0.0170Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Knockanrahan Lower, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW4065 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 17 Pearse Terrace, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Nicola Hobbs & Mr. Joseph Hobbs of 17 Pearse Terrace, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider the disposal of 0.0226Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Abbeylands, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio WW1063 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 7 Rory O'Connor Place, Arklow Town, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. Adrian Molloy of 7 Rory O'Connor Place, Arklow Town, 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 dispose of 0.0226Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Abbeylands, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio WW1063 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 7 Rory O'Connor Place, Arklow Town, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. Adrian Molloy of 7 Rory O'Connor Place, Arklow Town, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 7

To consider the disposal of 0.0208Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Kindlestown Lower, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW4484 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 30 Upper Grattan Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. Alan Rogers and Ms. Carol Ryan of 30 Upper Grattan Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Walsh, Seconded by Cllr. S. Stokes and agreed to dispose of 0.0208Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Kindlestown Lower, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW4484 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 30 Upper Grattan Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr. Alan Rogers and Ms. Carol Ryan of 30

Upper Grattan Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 8

To consider the disposal of 0.0138Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Bray, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 6 Cillmantain Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Mary O'Hagan of 189 Killarney Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property.

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Ferris, seconded by Cllr. A. Flynn-Kennedy and agreed to dispose of 0.0138Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Bray, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 6 Cillmantain Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Mary O'Hagan of 189 Killarney Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 9

To consider the disposal of 0.0262Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Blessington Demesne, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW2482 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 65 Westpark, Blessington, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Phyllis Plant of 65 Westpark, Blessington, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property.

It was proposed by Cllr. E. Timmins, seconded by Cllr. P. Glennon and agreed to dispose of 0.0262Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Blessington Demesne, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW2482 Co. Wicklow being the property known as 65 Westpark, Blessington, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Phyllis Plant of 65 Westpark, Blessington, Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 10

To approve a temporary overdraft accommodation of €30m for the financial year ending 31st December 2023.

Elected Members were previously circulated with a letter from Ms. B. McCarthy, A/Head of Finance, requesting the approval of a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31st December 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne and agreed by all to approve a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31st December 2023.

ITEM NO. 11

To consider the casual vacancy arising from the resignation of Cllr. J. Neary in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended).

Letter circulated to the Elected Members on 21st October 2022 advising a casual vacancy had occurred due to the resignation of Cllr. J. Neary was considered. Ms. H. Purcell advised no nominations for co-option has been received from the Social Democrat Party.

It was proposed by Cllr. L. Scott, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed that Item No. 11 be deferred until the December meeting.

ITEM NO. 12

To consider the vacancy to the Climate & Biodiversity SPC arising from the resignation of Cllr. J. Neary.

It was proposed by Cllr. I. Winters, seconded by Cllr. A. Flynn-Kennedy and agreed that Item No. 12 be deferred until the December meeting.

ITEM NO. 13

To consider filling the vacancy to the Audit Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr. M. Kavanagh from this committee.

Cllr. E. Timmins proposed Cllr. G. Walsh to fill the vacancy on the Audit Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr. M. Kavanagh, this was seconded by Cllr. M. Kavanagh and agreed by all. Cllr. Walsh agreed to fill the vacancy.

ITEM NO. 14

To receive a presentation on the Masterplan for Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park.

Presentation circulated to the Elected Members on 2nd November 2022.

Mr. M. Rowlette, Failte Ireland and Mr. D. Stelfox, Consart Consultants gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Introduction and background – The need for a Masterplan.
 - Enhance the natural built and cultural heritage.
 - Disperse the benefits and impacts of tourism.

- Improve the visitor experience balancing conservation and heritage needs with an enhanced but sustainable, visitor experience with improved access, signage, interpretation, visitor facilities, traffic management and parking.
 - The Visitor Orientation Plan is looking at dispersal of visitors and key activities across the county, highlighting of lesser known attractions, improved access and parking, and rehabilitation of trails - all aimed at encouraging visitors to stay longer, to dine locally and to spend locally.
- Process:- Concept; visitor analysis, surveys and studies; inception; draft plan; draft masterplan and masterplan.
 - Introduction and background – Where we are now.
 - Work started September 2020 with surveys, research and consultations.
 - Draft Findings and Outline Proposals issued for public consultation Feb/Mar 2021.
 - Consultation Feedback report April 2021 and presented to Council – positive support for proposals.
 - Further research and survey work to develop the outline proposals through 2021.
 - Draft Report December 2021 – presented to Council with positive support.
 - Draft Report approved by Project Steering Group in January 2022.
 - Preparation of Strategic Environmental Assessment, (SEA) Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Report through 2022, signed off by Steering Group in October 2022.
 - Public Consultation – November 2022 – January 2023.

A broad discussion followed. Some queries raised by the Elected Members which Mr. Stelfox responded to were as follows:

- Consultation to date appreciated – keep the public involved right through the process.
- Parking facilities and possible hubs around the county.
- Park and Ride facilities.
- Disabled friendly – Changing Places facilities.
- Lack of access to the upper car park.
- Accommodation.
- West Wicklow to be included going forward.
- Dispersal of benefits throughout the county.
- Biodiversity improvements.

It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach, seconded by Cllr. I. Winters and agreed to move to Item No. 17.

ITEM NO. 17

To receive a presentation: Celtic Routes.

Ms. O. Messette, Celtic Routes Project Officer gave a presentation previously circulated outlining the following:

- European Territorial Co-Operation Programme – known as Interreg or the Ireland/Wales Fund.
- Carmarthenshire is the Project Lead Partner.
- Wexford County Council is the Irish Lead Partner for Waterford City & County Council and Wicklow County Council.
- Stakeholders include – Visit bodies, Fáilte Ireland, Ireland's Ancient East.
- Collaboration with Ancient Connections, Ports Past and Present, Portalis Project, and with Special Projects, Heritage, Film and Business Development Officers.
- Aim to convert potential visitors transiting through our counties into staying visitors.
- To increase sustainable economic developments by maximising visitor spend, income retention, adding value to the combined tourism offerings within the region.
- Through tailored marketing and promotional campaign for both our visitors and our tourism providers, supported by the Partners.
- Media Buying Contracts.
- Social Media Contracts.
- Asset Library.
- Content Creation.
- Thematic Groups.
- Phase 1 total budget was almost €2m (€1,987)
- Phase 2 total budget was almost €2m (€1,975)
- Funded at 80% by Ireland/Wales plus 20% from salary allocation and €5,000 cash contributions.
- 3 main areas of expenditure are Content Creation, Media and Social Media contracts and now the Thematic Groups.

A broad discussion followed. Elected Members raised questions which were responded to by Ms. Messette.

It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach, seconded by Cllr. S. Cullen and agreed to move to Item No. 16.

ITEM NO. 16

To consider holding a Civic Reception.

Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. I. Winters proposed to bestow a lifetime achievement award and to hold a Civic Reception for Sir. John Boorman. Cllr. Cullen highlighted Sir. Boorman's many achievements in the film industry, both locally and internationally.

Following a short discussion a resolution was passed to hold a Civic Reception for Sir. John Boorman, ceremony to be held in the Council Chamber within the next two weeks, date to be confirmed.

ITEM NO. 15

To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, October 2022 and to note the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, September 2022.

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive Monthly Management Report October 2022.

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

ITEM NO. 18

Correspondence

Ms. H. Purcell, Meetings Administrator advised the Elected Members of the following:

- Note circulation of two Circulars - LG05/2022 - allowances and expenses of Elected Members, changes to travel and subs rates and clarification on LRA particularly in relation to telephone and advertising expenses.
- LG 06/2022 – Allowances & expenses of Elected Members, clarification of certain matters relating to home office expenses under the LRA.
- To note letter received from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage relating to Electoral Reform Act 2022.
- Circulation of CPG minutes for meetings of 13th June and 7th March and the circulation of Protocol minutes for meetings of 7th March, 4th April, 9th May, 13th June, 4th July and 5th September.
- Public JPC Meeting on next Thursday 10th November 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in Little Bray Family Resource Centre, attendance encouraged.
- Budget meeting on Monday 28th November 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

ITEM NO. 19

Notice of motion

Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. E. Doyle, seconded by Cllr. M. Murphy (6th September 2022)

'That this Council ensures that any future playgrounds constructed on public land be accessible by the inclusion of play items that are accessible for children with disabilities or movement impairment. That accessibility be included at design stage.

That where possible, in the case of existing playgrounds being refurbished, an accessible item be included at that stage'.

It was agreed to defer this notice of motion to the meeting of 5th December 2022 as Cllr. E. Doyle was not present.

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 5th December 2022