

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**PRESENT:**

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

**APOLOGIES**

**CLLR. E. DOYLE (1)**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**MS. E. O'GORMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. M. MCNAMARA, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. L. EARLS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. B. GLEESON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. M. DEVEREUX, T/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT  
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR  
MS. L. HEALY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MS. S. NICHOLS, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MR. F. KEOGH, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MR. M. FLYNN, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MS. H. FALLON, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER  
MR. L. ROE, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
MS. M. CAHILL, A/SENIOR ENGINEER  
MS. E. O'DONOVAN, HEAD OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
MR. S. CLARKE, TOWN REGENERATION OFFICER  
MS. M. CAMPBELL, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

**MR. G. CULLEN, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**MS. G. FRANNEY, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**  
**MR. D. PORTER, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**  
**MR. G. MURPHY, IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER**  
**MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER**  
**MS. A. GRAHAM, NATIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**  
**MR. H. CREEGAN, NATIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

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. Patrick Fleming, Ms. Victoria Leonard, Mr. Bill Dickenson, Mr. Adam Slater, Mr. Cathal Mac Oireachtaigh, Mr. Pat O'Donnell and Ms. Lizzie Lott. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Congratulations were extended to Bray Emmets Senior Hurling Team who defeated Carnew and have won six hurling championships in a row and also to the Garden County Football Club who have secured both the league and the Harding Cup. The success of the Wicklow Pride on their nomination of the Gala Awards was also acknowledged. Cllr. P. O'Brien was also congratulated on his appointment as Chairperson of KWETB.

**Request for Suspension of Standing Orders:-** The Meetings Administrator advised that two requests 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. Alvey, seconded by Cllr. M. Barry requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following motion:

*'That this Council agrees to write to An Taoiseach and the Minister of Heritage and Electoral Reform asking the State to examine purchasing 197 acres of land currently for sale in Kindlestown, Delgany that connects Kindlestown Wood to the Glen of the Downs Nature Reserve, in line with our obligations under the Nature Restoration Law; and thereby bringing this land into the ownership of the State as is the preference of this Council'.*

2. Cllr. P. Leonard, seconded by Cllr. J. Behan requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following motion:

*'That this council request the Chief Executive write to the EPA to request an emergency environmental & human impact assessment be carried out on Ballinclare Quarry, Kilbride and environs due to concerns from the local community around the presence of asbestos and*

*the quarry's recent water drainage operations and the risk of contamination to nearby lands and water and air quality'.*

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

### **ITEM NO. 1**

**To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.**

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed by all to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.

### **ITEM NO. 2**

**To consider the disposal of 285 sq.m or thereabouts in the townland of Lathaleer, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow known as The Enterprise Units at Lathaleer, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow by way of 3-year lease commencing 1st September 2024 to Mr. Eric Woods, 12 Verschoyle Rise, Saggart Abbey, Citywest, Co. Dublin, T/A SP Sports and Leisure for consideration of €500 per month in addition to rates, taxes and other applicable charges.**

It was proposed by Cllr. E. Timmins, seconded by Cllr. A. Cronin and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 285 sq.m or thereabouts in the townland of Lathaleer, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow known as The Enterprise Units at Lathaleer, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow by way of 3-year lease commencing 1st September 2024 to Mr. Eric Woods, 12 Verschoyle Rise, Saggart Abbey, Citywest, Co. Dublin, T/A SP Sports and Leisure for consideration of €500 per month in addition to rates, taxes and other applicable charges, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

### **ITEM NO. 3**

**To consider the disposal of 8.96 sq.m. or thereabouts in the townland of Ballard, Shillelagh, Barony of Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio 2214F being land situated in Ard Darach, Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to ESB of 27 Fitzwilliam Street Lower, City of Dublin.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 8.96 sq.m. or thereabouts in the townland of Ballard, Shillelagh, Barony of Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow comprised in Folio 2214F being land situated in Ard Darach, Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to ESB of 27 Fitzwilliam Street Lower, City of Dublin., as set out in statutory notice circulated.

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

##### **Appointment of 1 Elected Member to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

Cllr. D. O'Brien was proposed by Cllr. W. O'Toole and seconded by Cllr. M. Duddy and agreed by all to elect Cllr. O'Brien to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). Cllr. O'Brien accepted the nomination.

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

##### **To consider the appointment of the following 2 Elected Members to the County Wicklow Heritage Forum (Bray and Baltinglass Municipal Districts):**

- **Cllr. G. O'Neill, Baltinglass Municipal District**
- **Cllr. C. Winstanley, Bray Municipal District**

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. P. Glennon and agreed by all to consider the appointment of the following 2 Elected Members to the County Wicklow Heritage Forum (Bray and Baltinglass Municipal Districts):

- Cllr. G. O'Neill, Baltinglass Municipal District
- Cllr. C. Winstanley, Bray Municipal District

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

##### **To ratify the appointment of the following 2 Elected Members to Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG**

- **Cllr. G. Richmond, Wicklow Municipal District**
- **Cllr. J. Snell, Wicklow Municipal District**

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne and agreed by all to ratify the appointment of the following 2 Elected Members to Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG:

- Cllr. G. Richmond, Wicklow Municipal District
- Cllr. J. Snell, Wicklow Municipal District

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

##### **To ratify the appointment of the following 2 Elected Members to Wicklow Enterprise Park CLG:**

- **Cllr. G. Richmond**

- **Cllr. G. Dunne**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all to ratify the appointment of the following 2 Elected Members to Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG:

- Cllr. G. Richmond, Wicklow Municipal District
- Cllr. J. Snell, Wicklow Municipal District

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

**To ratify the appointment of the following Elected Members to the Local Sports Partnership Committee:**

- **Cllr. P. O'Brien, Wicklow Municipal District**
- **Cllr. J. Mulhall, Baltinglass Municipal District**

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all to ratify the appointment of the following Elected Members to the Local Sports Partnership Committee:

- Cllr. P. O'Brien, Wicklow Municipal District
- Cllr. J. Mulhall, Baltinglass Municipal District

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

**To consider the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and notice in accordance with Section 138 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, for the construction of 54 social houses at Hawkstown Park, Wicklow Town.**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all To consider the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and notice in accordance with Section 138 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, for the construction of 54 social houses at Hawkstown Park, Wicklow Town.

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

**To note NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicators Report 2023**

Elected Members were circulated with the NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2023. It was agreed by all to note NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicators Report 2023.

## **ITEM NO. 11**

### **To approve a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

Elected Members were previously circulated with a letter from Mr. B. Gleeson, Head of Finance, requesting the approval of a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy and agreed by all to approve a temporary overdraft accommodation of €20m for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

## **ITEM NO. 13**

### **To receive a presentation: National Transport Authority (NTA)**

Ms. A. Graham and Mr. H. Creegan, National Transport Authority (NTA) gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Overview of the National Transport Authority (NTA).
- National & Regional Strategies.
- Strategic Rail Review.
- Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022 – 2042.
- Transport Strategy for Greater Dublin Area.
- What's in the Strategy?
- Capital Investment.
- Delivering Transport Investment Projects.
- Active Travel Investment.
- Active Travel – Wicklow County Council.
- Active Travel – Other significant projects.
- Public Transport Capital Programme.
- DART system.
- BusConnects Infrastructure.
- Fassaroe Park & Ride.
- Other Park & Ride Developments.
- BusConnects Service Networks.
- Revised plans for Wicklow routes.
- Subsequent phases.
- Connecting Ireland.
- Service improvements.
- Planned new services.
- Connecting Ireland Market Response.
- TFI Bus & Rail Services Provision.
- Performance TFI Commuter Services operated by Bus Éireann.

- Challenges for implementation of new & enhanced services.
- Bus Stop delivery.

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

There followed a broad discussion in which the Elected Members raised queries and concerns which were responded to by Ms. Graham and Mr. Creegan. Some of the queries raised were as follows:

- DART service to Wicklow Town.
- Bus Shelter – Rathnew.
- Future of the 145 bus service.
- Terminate of bus route at Kilmacanogue.
- Kilpeddar Park & Ride.
- Extra bus on the 133 bus service.
- Accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Proposal to bring LUAS to Blessington from Saggart, Citywest.
- Public transport infrastructure, Blessington.
- 132 bus service from West Wicklow to Dublin.
- Local link services.
- BusConnect routes.
- Greystones Pathfinder project.
- DART to Arklow.
- Bridge infrastructure.
- School bus service.
- Safe route to school.
- Shuttle bus between Wicklow Town to the Park & Ride, Greystones.
- The 185 bus services from Enniskerry to Bray.
- New bus service from Roundwood to Bray.
- Driver retention and recruitment.
- Lack of infrastructure in small towns such as Rathdrum.
- Contactless payments.
- Dart plus coastal south project.
- Charlesland dual carriageway.
- Reliability of bus service.
- Accessible taxi service and railway line.
- Welcome investment pedestrian and cycle routes.
- Park & Ride, Fassaroe.
- Pick up point Loughlinstown.
- Maintenance of cycle ways.
- Bus service to Blessington required.
- Reinstatement Inbhear Mór Park bus stop.

## **Suspension of Standing Orders**

1. Cllr. D. Alvey, seconded by Cllr. M. Barry requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following motion:

*‘That this Council agrees to write to An Taoiseach and the Minister of Heritage and Electoral Reform asking the State to examine purchasing 197 acres of land currently for sale in Kindlestown, Delgany that connects Kindlestown Wood to the Glen of the Downs Nature Reserve, in line with our obligations under the Nature Restoration Law; and thereby bringing this land into the ownership of the State as is the preference of this Council’.*

Following a short discussion on the matter it was agreed by all to write to An Taoiseach and to the Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform.

2. Cllr. P. Leonard, seconded by Cllr. J. Behan requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the following motion:

*‘That this council request the Chief Executive write to the EPA to request an emergency environmental & human impact assessment be carried out on Ballinclare Quarry, Kilbride and environs due to concerns from the local community around the presence of asbestos and the quarry’s recent water drainage operations and the risk of contamination to nearby lands and water and air quality’.*

A discussion followed and it was agreed by all to write to the EPA.

## **ITEM NO. 12**

### **To consider the Chief Executive’s Monthly Management Report, September 2024**

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive’s Monthly Management Report, September 2024. Some of the issues raised included the following:

- Update on Baltinglass RRDF.
- Stratford on Slaney/Grangecon, misinformation.
- Site investigations, N11.
- Permit to burn, grazing, Brockagh Mountain.
- Pathway, North Beach, Arklow.
- Kippure Development.
- Vacant property grants.
- Public lighting, Wicklow Town and District.
- Out of hours services, Homeless.
- Update social housing, Shillelagh.
- Shortage of tourist accommodation.
- Public lighting, Aughrim and Arklow.
- Bulky waste collection.



- Recycling centre, Greystones.
- Charlesland dual carriageway.
- Circulation of collection rates of development levies prior to Budget meeting.
- Rodents at Cove, Greystones.
- Repairing of windows and doors, tenants handbook.

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

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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**CLLR. PAUL O'BRIEN  
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 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024**