

INDEX

Analyst's Report.....	Page(s) 34
Burrow Rosslare-Planting of Rice Grass.....	27-28
Confirmation of Minutes of Committees.....	2
Covering for floor of Wexford Courthouse.....	5
Claim for loss of heifer.....	16
Clonlard Road No.786.....	24-25
Courtown Harbour Committee.....	26-27
Complaint re Road.....	30
Duncannon Harbour.....	23-24
Defaulting Road Contractors.....	30
Direction and Danger Signs.....	32-33
Food and Drugs Acts.....	8
Finance Committee 22nd October,1931.....	2
Finance Committee 5th November,1931.....	9
Food and Drugs Acts.....	14-16
Flooded Roads.....	28-29
Flooding at Scar,Duncormack.....	29-30
Gritting Machine for Roads.....	33-34
Illness of Assistant Surveyor.....	5- 6
Industrial School Cases.....	7- 8
Irish Tourist Association and Agreement.....	13-14
Industrial School Application.....	14
Loss of heifer.....	20
Linoleum for floor of Courthouse.....	20-23
Main Road Upkeep Grants 1932-33.....	31-32
Navigation lights - New Ross Bridge.....	14
New Ross Bridge and navigation lights.....	19
National Peace Conference Committee.....	35-36
Payments.....	1
Payments.....	3
Payments.....	10
Proposed loan £750-Courtown Harbour.....	12-13
Payment to Road Contractors.....	34
Rate Collection.....	3
Rate Collection -State of.....	10-11
-Payment of Poundage.....	11-12
-Illness of Rate Collector.....	12
-Application Rate Inspector.....	12
Rates on Saltee Islands.....	16-17
Rate Collection.....	18-19
-Travelling expenses of Rate Inspr.....	19
Seizing of Sheep on Bantry Commons.....	4
Saltee Islands.....	20
Suggested Loan for Road Improvement.....	39
The late Mr Reck.....	1
The late Canon Kehoe.....	1- 2
Transfer Road Accounts.....	30
Transport System.....	36-39
University Scholarship Scheme.....	6- 7
Vinegar Hill Monument.....	30-31
Wall at Poulfur.....	23
Work of Committees.....	25-26

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WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEETING - 9TH NOVEMBER 1931

M I N U T E S

COUNTY HALL,
WEXFORD.

N.J. FRIZELLE,
SECRETARY.

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A meeting of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 9th November, 1931.

Present:- Mr. M. Doyle (Chairman) presiding. Also:- Messrs John Brennan, James Cline, Patrick Colfer, Thomas Cooney, Richard Corish, John Culleton, John Cummins, Timothy F. D'Arcy, James Gaul, James Hall, Patrick Hayes, Michael Jordan, William P. Keegan, Thomas McCarthy, John Murphy, Sean O'Byrne, Miss Nellie O'Ryan, Myles Smyth and James E. Walsh.

The Chairman mentioned that Col. Gibbon could not attend the meeting as he had to be present at a Conference in Dublin with the Beet Growers' Association.

The County Secretary, Assistant Secretary, County Surveyor, County Solicitor and Rate Inspector were also in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £14,875: 1: 8d was examined and signed.

THE LATE MR. RECK

Mr McCarthy proposed the following resolution:-

"That we express our deep sympathy with our esteemed colleague, Mr James Shannon, in the death of his nephew, Mr Robert Reck, Courtnacuddy, Enniscorthy, and which occurred under tragic circumstances."

In moving the motion Mr McCarthy said that Mr Reck was cycling to his work on 6th inst. when he collided with a lorry and was killed instantly. Deceased was a young man of fine character and was universally esteemed and respected in his district.

Mr Corish seconded the motion which was spoken to by Mr O'Byrne, Mr Cummins, the Chairman, Secretary, County Surveyor and County Solicitor, and adopted in silence.

THE LATE CANON KEHOE

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The following resolution proposed by Mr O'Byrne, and

seconded by Mr Smyth was adopted nem con:-

"That reply received from Mr John Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, to vote of condolence by the County Council on the death of his brother, the late lamented Very Rev. Paul Canon Kehoe P.P. Cloughbawn, be inserted on this day's Minutes."

The following is copy of reply:-

"Will you please convey to the County Council our sincere thanks for the kindness shown us on the death of our dear brother Father Paul.

"It is a great consolation to have such a kind and sympathetic resolution sent to us in our bereavement by the premier body of the County Wexford.

"Please assure them we will always remember their thoughtfulness with pride and gratitude.

"We have also to express our deep obligations to yourself and staff and to the other officials who so kindly sympathised with us in our loss."

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEES.

Finance Committee: Minutes of Meeting of Finance Committee of 22nd October, 1931, were submitted as follows:-

The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 22nd October, 1931.

Present - Messrs John J. Culleton, James Hall, Sean O'Byrne and James Shannon.

The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, County Surveyor, County Solicitor and Rate Inspector were also in attendance.

The Chair was taken by Mr Hall on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shannon.

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £2,661: 14: 7d was examined and signed.

RATE COLLECTION

The State of Rate Collection up to date was laid before the meeting as follows:-

No.	Name of Collector.	Percentage of Warrant collected.
1.	John Curtis	49.6 %
2.	E. J. Murphy	46.1 %
3.	J.J. O'Reilly	45.2 %
4.	J. Quirke (No.1)	43.2 %
5.	Art Dunne	42.1 %
6.	M. McCarthy	41.4 %
7.	Thady Bolger (Own)	40.8 %
8.	Thos. Rowe	40.4 %
9.	Wm. Doyle	40.2 %
10.	Joseph Cummins	40.0 %
11.	Patk. O'Byrne	39.1 %
12.	John Deegan	38.8 %
13.	Patk. Carty	38.8 %
14.	Philip Doyle	38.7 %

No.	Name of Collector.	Percentage of Warrant collected.
15.	Patk. Nolan	37.7 %
16.	Sean Gannon (No.6)	37.5 %
17.	W. Cummins	37.0 %
18.	Sean Gannon (No.10)	35.6 %
19.	J.J. Sinnott	34.6 %
20.	Jas. Quirke (No. 2)	32.8 %
21.	T. Bolger (No. 12)	31.5 %

In connection with the failure of Collector T. Rowe (No. 18 District), to explain to the Finance Committee his failure to lodge 25 % of his Warrant by the 31st August, 1931, Mr Rowe came before the meeting and expressed his regret that he had neglected to attend to the communications of the Finance Committee in this matter. He promised he would be more careful in the future.

The meeting accepted his explanation.

SEIZURE OF SHEEP ON BANTRY COMMONS

Under date 12th October, 1931, the Local Government Department wrote (G. 76912/31/ Fa Loch Garman) that with reference to the account of Mr O'Byrne, Rate Collector, in connection with the seizure of sheep on Bantry and Blackstairs Commons, the proposed payment of £26: 10s. 0d was not a matter for the sanction of the Minister but should be dealt with by the County Council on their own responsibility.

After discussion with Mr Elgee, the meeting decided to adjourn consideration of this matter until the next meeting.

COVERING FOR FLOOR OF WEXFORD COURTHOUSE

Under date 13th October, 1931, Mr Elgee, County Solicitor, forwarded for consideration the following letter 404/296 from the Department of Finance:-

"With further reference to your letter of the 9th ult. and previous correspondence regarding the payment of the balance of a conditional Award of £5,000:0:0: made in respect of the destruction of Wexford Courthouse, I am directed by the Minister for Finance to state that he understands that the acoustics of the new courthouse are defective, that the County Council has so far failed to carry out a request made to them on more than one occasion that the floor of the Building should be covered with linoleum or matting and that in consequence the Judge has been obliged to direct that the Circuit Court Business be transferred to Enniscorthy.

"I am to inform you that the question of paying the balance of the Award to the Council must be deferred until the requirements of the Judge have reasonably been met.

"I am also to point out that the necessity for transferring Circuit Court Business to Enniscorthy involves the imposition on Public Funds of avoidable expense. This fact will be taken into consideration when the balance of the Award is being discharged."

After discussion it was decided to refer this matter to the County Council in view of the refusal of the Council to provide a covering referred to in letter from Department of Finance.

ILLNESS OF ASSISTANT SURVEYOR

The County Surveyor reported that Mr Treanor, Assistant Surveyor, Gorey District, had to undergo on 14th October, 1931, an operation in Dr. Furlong's Nursing Home, Wexford, and would not be fit for duty for at least 10 days from date

6

of meeting of Finance Committee.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shannon:-

"That acting on Report of County Surveyor, ten days' sick leave be granted to Mr Treanor, Assistant Surveyor, Gorey District, as from this date."

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Under date 19th October, 1931, Mr Joseph A. Flynn, Ballyvoclare, Campile, wrote that as he was leaving shortly for Rome to pursue his ecclesiastical studies in the Irish College there, it would be impossible for him to avail of the University Scholarship awarded by the County Council.

Proposed by Mr O'Byrne and seconded by Mr Culleton and passed:-

"That vacant Scholarship be offered to Mary Kavanagh, Hollyfort, Gorey, who has been decided by the Academic Council, University College, Dublin, as eligible for the award of such Scholarship."

Under date 17th October, 1931, Mr Joseph Cullen, 16 Monck Street, Wexford, wrote applying for an extension of his Scholarship with a view to obtaining the Higher Diploma in Education, as he had been informed by the University Authorities that he was successful in securing the B. Sc. Degree.

Proposed by Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Culleton and adopted:-

"That the Council be recommended to accede to the request of Mr Joseph Cullen B. Sc., University Scholar, for an extension of his Scholarship, in order to obtain the Higher Diploma in Education."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Shannon seconded by Mr O'Byrne:-

"That the Council be recommended to agree to changes

7

of addresses for University Scholarship holders:-

John Dunphy, c/o Mrs. T. O'Byrne, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin.

John J. Hunt, Ashview, Chapleizod, Co. Dublin, provided the premises are approved by the Dean of Residence."

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL CASES

Notification, under date 13th October, 1931, was received from the Garda Siochana, New Ross, as to application on the 20th October, 1931, to the local District Court for the committal of Martin O'Brien, Mary Street, New Ross, aged 7½ years, illegitimate son of Mary McGrath, to Kilkenny Industrial School.

Mr. R.J. Shortall, Wexford, Superintendent, Home Assistance, reported that the mother of this child was a widow and had four children under 15 years of age. She kept house for her father a tinsmith, who was not sufficiently well off to provide for all the family. She was in receipt of 4/- weekly, home assistance, and the whole family appeared to be just able to carry on.

Mr Elgee reported that the District Justice, had made an order to commit this child to Kilkenny Industrial school.

In connection with the committal of Elizabeth Roche, 4 years old, to an Industrial School, Mr Shortall, Superintendent Home Assistance, reported that the mother Ellen Roche who resided at Hospital Lane, Enniscorthy, was in receipt of 4/- Home Assistance, and also had 3/9 weekly for repairing bags. She had a son 18 years old who worked occasionally. Owing to the husband having being committed to prison the wife and family were in poor circumstances. Three of the children had been committed to schools and this left Mrs Roche without the necessity of providing for them.

8

Her circumstances, therefore, in Mr Shortall's opinion, should be somewhat altered.

Mr Elgee, reported that in this case the District Justice stated that the child should be committed and had accordingly agreed to the application.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

In connection with Report received in County Council offices on 22nd October, 1931, in regard to sample of whiskey purchased in New Ross on 16th September, 1931, Mr Elgee stated that as proceedings in such cases must be instituted within 28 days from the date the sample was taken proceedings could not now be taken.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Shannon seconded by Mr Colloton:-

"That District Superintendent, Garda Siochana, New Ross, be requested to report direct to Mr Elgee, County Solicitor, in all cases coming under Food & Drugs Acts, and in which articles are reported by the County Analyst as not genuine."

9

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Clince:-

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 22nd October, 1931, be received and considered."

The Secretary stated that the following items had been disposed of at Council meeting of 26th October, 1931:-

Covering for floor of Wexford Courthouse; Illness of Assistant Surveyor and University Scholarship Scheme.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Clince seconded by Mr O'Byrne:-

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 22nd October, 1931, be and are hereby confirmed "

Finance Committee Meeting 5th November, 1931: The Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 5th November, 1931 were submitted as follows:-

10

The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 5th November, 1931.

Present:- Messrs James Hall, Thomas McCarthy, Sean O'Byrne, James Shannon and Col. C.M. Gibbon.

The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, County Surveyor, County Solicitor and Rate Inspector were also present.

On the motion of Col. Gibbon seconded by Mr O'Byrne the chair was taken by Mr Hall.

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

PAYMENTS -----

Treasurer's Advice Note for £6,329: 2: 0d was examined and signed.

RATE COLLECTION -----

State of: The State of Rate Collection up to date as follows was read:

Name of Collector.		Percentage of Warrant collected
1.	J. Quirke (No.1)	52.2
2.	J. Curtis	51.8
3.	E. J. Murphy	47.6
4.	J.J. O'Reilly	47.1
5.	W. Doyle	47.
6.	J. Cummins	45.
7.	T. Rowe	44.7
8.	Sean Gannon (No.6)	44.5
9.	Sean Gannon (No.10)	44.4
10.	P. Carty	44.0
11.	T. Bolger (No.14)	43.9
12.	M. McCarthy	43.9
13.	Art Dunne	43.6
14.	P. O'Byrne	43.4

11

Name of Collector.	Percentage of Warrant collected.
15. P. Doyle	42.0
16. J. Deegan	41.0
17. W. Cummins	40.5
18. Patrick Nolan	40.4
19. J.J. Sinnott	38.0
20. J. Quirke (No.2)	34.9
21. T. Bolger (No.12)	34.3

The aggregate collection showed an increase of 3 per cent over the corresponding period last year.

Payment of Poundage: The following under date 26th October, 1931, (G.70913-1931 Loch Garman) was read from the Department of Local Government:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to acknowledge the receipt of the resolution of the Wexford County Council at their meeting on the 12th instant regarding the payment of poundage. I am to draw attention to Article 101 (1) of the Public Bodies Order, 1925, and to point out that the method of poundage payment is not irregular. Poundage is payable half-yearly when a sum equivalent to the first moiety and arrears is lodged and when the Collectors' warrants are closed. The Minister will not sanction the payment of poundage to any Collector until he has lodged a sum equivalent to the first moiety and arrears. Where such lodgment is not made by the prescribed date the Collector concerned should not expect to receive poundage at the full rate otherwise authorised."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Gibbon seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That in view of the large amount of arrears brought in for collection for current financial year we request the Minister for Local Government to sanction payment of poundage on account to the extent of

12

75 % on lodgments to the 31st October, 1931, in all cases in which 50 % of total warrant is lodged within a month. We are also of opinion that more favourable treatment viz. payment of poundage when 40 % of total warrant has been lodged, should be meted out to Collectors who have been appointed for work in districts besides their own owing to the fact that the work of Collection, through want of knowledge of the locality concerned presents exceptional difficulties."

Illness of Rate Collector: Medical Certificates were read from Dr. J.J.O'Neill, Bellevue, Camolin, under date 21st and 27th October, stating that Mr.T. Bolger (Nos. 12 & 14 Districts) was suffering from a severe attack of acute suppurative tonsillitis and would not be fit to resume duty until November 2nd.

The Secretary stated that Mr Bolger had resumed duty on last mentioned date.

Application Rate Inspector: Application from Mr O'Kennedy, for increase in his salary and travelling expenses, adjourned from meeting of Finance Committee of 8th October, 1931, was considered.

Mr McCarthy proposed and Mr Shannon seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That County Council be recommended to increase the amount of travelling expenses of Mr O'Kennedy, Rate Inspector, by £50 per annum. This proposal to be subject to the approval of the L. G. D."

PROPOSED LOAN £750 - COURTOWN HARBOUR

Under date 27th October, 1931, the Manager, National Bank, Wexford, wrote that he had submitted the application of the County Council for Loan of £750 to cover the cost of completing the work at Courtown Harbour to his Directors, who declined to grant same, the loan being regarded as too small to entitle it to such terms regarding repayment as

applied to the existing Loans account of the Council.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr McCarthy seconded by Mr O'Byrne:-

"That in view of the refusal of the National Bank Ltd to agree to advance/^{Loan} of £750 for work at Courtown Harbour, we recommend the Council to provide this amount out of the Public Works Account and to raise same in next year's Estimate for maintenance of Public Works."

IRISH TOURIST ASSOCIATION AND AGREEMENT

In connection with this matter letter under date 23rd October, 1931, was read from the Secretary, Irish Tourist Association, O'Connell Street, Dublin, enclosing the opinion of Mr Arthur Cox, Solicitor, 42-43 Stephen's Green, Dublin, from which it would appear Mr Cox held that in order to allow a County Council to hand over the contribution raised by them under the Tourist Traffic Development Act, 1931, it was necessary to enter into an agreement with the Authority empowered under this Act to receive such contribution."

Mr Elgee mentioned that in view of the repeal of Section 67 of the Local Government Act, 1925, it would appear that any County Council which raised a contribution under the Tourist Traffic Development Act, 1931, were bound to enter into an agreement such as suggested by the Irish Tourist Association. Of course the agreement need only be for the one year, at the end of which the County Council were perfectly entitled to decide whether or no their contribution should continue.

After discussion Mr McCarthy proposed and Mr O'Byrne seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That the County Council be recommended to enter into the necessary agreement with the Tourist Development Association to enable the rates contribution under the Tourist Traffic Development Act, 1931, to be paid over to

14
the Association.

"That this Agreement apply to the current year only."

NAVIGATION LIGHTS - NEW ROSS BRIDGE

Under date 23rd October, 1931, the following was read from Secretary, New Ross Harbour Commissioners:-

"The question of Navigation Lights on New Ross Bridge was again discussed at a meeting of my Board held on the 20th inst., when it was unanimously decided that ~~the~~ Wexford County Council be insisted upon by this Board to instal the Navigation Lights on the Bridge immediately, as under the Board of Trade Regulations you as the owners of the Bridge can be held responsible for any accident or damage through your neglect to light the obstruction to Navigation."

Mr Elgee said he was looking into the matter.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL APPLICATION

Under date 21st October, 1931, the District Court Clerk, New Ross, wrote that application for the committal of

Bridget Mary O'Connor, 13 years,

Catherine Patricia O'Connor, 11 years,

and Mary O'Connor, 8 years

to St. Aidan's Industrial School had been made.

The father of the children was in Canada and the mother was dead.

The woman who had charge of them was in hospital and she had been up to recently in receipt of Home Assistance in respect of the children.

Mr Elgee mentioned that the application to Commit the children had been rejected for the present.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Under date 4th November, 1931, the following letter relative to the prosecution of Garda Driscoll V Gregory Devereux, under Food and Drugs Acts, was read from Mr Elgee, County Solicitor:-

15

"In this case the Guard took a sample of milk from Mr. Devereux of Ballyfinogue on the 4th September last, and submitted same for analysis to Miss Ryan, who, by her Certificate dated the 24th September, 1931, certified that the milk had at least 18.33 % of its weight of fats abstracted.

"Mr Devereux submitted another sample of the Milk to his Analyst for analysis, and he certified that only 4.66 % of the Fats had been abstracted.

"As there was such a difference between the two Certificates the District Justice, on the application of Mr. Devereux submitted the third sample of milk to the Government Analyst for analysis by him, and by his Certificate dated the 24th October, 1931, he found that there was 4.55 % of fats in the sample submitted to him which was 1.45 % over and above the 3 % which is allowed for milk, and he certified that the sample of milk was genuine. The summons came before the District Justice today for final hearing when, having regard to the Government Analyst's Certificate he held, that he had no option but to dismiss the summons but without costs to either party."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr McCarthy:-

"That copy of Report of Mr Elgee, County Soliditor, & relative to the prosecution of Mr Gregory Devereux, Ballyfinogue, Killinick, under the Food & Drugs Acts, be furnished to the County Analyst for her observations and that her reply be submitted to next meeting of the Finance Committee."

"We consider ten days from the date of receipt of sample under Food & Drugs Acts should allow ample time to the Co. Analyst to furnish Report as to whether submitted sample was genuine or otherwise. We would also call attention to the Co. Analyst that if absent from duty or on annual holidays

16

she should appoint a competent analyst to take her place and notify such appointment to the Co. Secretary and to the Chief Superintendent, Garda Siochana, Wexford."

CLAIM FOR LOSS OF HEIFER

The following letter under date 29th October, 1931, was read from Mr. T.J. Kelly, Solicitor, New Ross:-

"I am instructed by Mr. Christopher Atkinson, Gurteen, Templeshambo, that the County Council has been using a large hole on portion of his lands adjoining Irishtown, New Ross, for the purpose of receiving the flow of water from the public road adjoining the said lands. I am informed that on the 24th ult. my client found a heifer of his valued at £10. drowned in this hole which at the time was almost full of water.

"I am now instructed that unless I receive payment of this amount within the next seven days and an undertaking from the County Council to provide proper protection for my client's cattle such proceedings will be taken as I may think fit."

The Secretary stated that the matter had been brought to the notice of County Surveyor and Co. Solicitor.

The County Surveyor mentioned that he was inspecting the place and would report to the meeting of the Council on the 9th inst.

RATES ON SALTEE ISLANDS

Col. Gibbon brought forward the question of the Wild Birds Protection Society taking over the Saltee Islands as a bird sanctuary. One difficulty which would be experienced in carrying out this proposal would be the amount of ^{outstanding} rent and rates. So far as could be learned at present the only Income from the Islands was the small sum realised from the sale of rabbits.

He proposed the following resolution:-

"That if the Wild Birds Protection Society submit a proposal to take over the Saltee Islands, the County Council on the application of the Society, would possibly favourably consider the exemption of the Islands from the payment of Rates, subject to the sanction of Minister for Local Government.

"That Mr Elgee, Solicitor, communicate with Secretary of Society in the matter."

18

Rate Collection: Mr Keegan said that on the 7th inst. Mr Hughes, Toberduff, Gorey, had been with him complaining that Rate Collector O'Reilly (No. 13 District) had refused to accept a half year's rates from him although Hughes up to then had been unable to pay as he could not sell his cattle. The Rate Collector said the amount would now have to be paid through his Solicitors (Messrs M.J.O'Connor & Co.) who had sent a demand with 5/- costs for the payment of the full year's rates up to 31st March next. Hughes had made the statement to him that O'Reilly had not called to his house for rates since February last. This man had a family of five and was trying to live out of 15 acres of land. He (Mr Keegan) considered that the majority of the Council would not agree to this harsh treatment of a Ratepayer who was only too anxious to pay when he had the money.

The Chairman said that there were similar cases all over the County. It was only this week he had a letter from Jas. Middleton, Camolin Park, complaining that though he had promised to pay he had been served with a Solicitor's letter by Collector Bolger. In this case Mr Middleton was under a wrong impression as he did not think he was bound to pay the second moiety until the 31st March next. The Collectors should, however, in these cases use a little discretion in such a trying year. It was very dangerous for the Council to issue an Instruction to the Rate Collectors in such cases, ^{as} the ~~Council~~ ^{Collectors} could say the action of the Council held up the collection. If they sympathised with the ratepayers they would have the Rate Collectors offering excuses as to poor returns and saying they were told to do so and so. On the other hand if they were drastic with the people and served notices on them which would mean extra law costs it was a very bad thing also. It was difficult to know how to deal with such cases.

After further discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Keegan:-

19

"That Rate Collector O'Reilly (No. 13 District) be asked for his observations as to rates due on holding of Mr Hughes, Toberduff, Gorey, and that a similar instruction issue to Collector Bolger as regards rates due by a man named Middleton, the circumstances of whom have been referred to at this meeting."

In reply to Mr Colfer, Mr Elgee said that in his opinion a Rate Collector was bound to issue a Six Days' Notice to Ratepayer before he could bring a ratepayer into Court.

Mr Colfer - It is not always done to my knowledge.

The Chairman said he was aware of a Court case for rates having to be withdrawn as a Six-Day Notice had not been served by the Collector.

Mr Elgee- The Collector is bound to issue a Six Days' Notice before he can proceed in Court.

Travelling Expenses of Rate Inspector: Mr Cummins proposed and Mr Keegan seconded the confirmation of the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Cline, Colfer, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Hall, Hayes, Keegan, McCarthy and O'Byrne - 10.

Against:- Messrs Brennan, D'Arcy, Murphy, O'Ryan, Smyth and the Chairman - 6.

Messrs Cooney, Culleton, Jordan and Walsh were not present when poll was taken.

Subsequently Mr D'Arcy gave Notice of Motion to rescind the resolution and to move ~~that~~ at next meeting that the increase be £25 in lieu of the £50 agreed to.

New Ross Bridge and Navigation Lights: Mr Elgee said there were by-laws governing the opening and closing of span of New Ross Bridge. His recollection was that vessels were not allowed through bridge during the hours of darkness and in that case it would not be necessary to provide lights on the bridge. He was looking into the matter and would report later.

20

Loss of Heifer: The County Surveyor reported that he had inspected the place on 6th November and found it was situate in New Ross Urban District.

It was decided that Mr Kelly, Solicitor for Mr Atkinson, be informed accordingly.

Saltee Islands: In connection with rates due on Big Saltee Island the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr Murphy:- "That we request the Minister for Local Government to allow this Council to proceed against Nicholas Brennan, 17 Hardwicke Street, Dublin, to whom the Big Saltee Island was transferred in order to avoid the payment of rates. This man has we are informed no means and we believe most drastic steps should be taken against him in connection with the payment of rates. We request the same permission as regards the transfer of part of the Bog of Boira to Madame Serres of the Py^ernees, France, the transfer having been effected for the same purpose by Capt. Anthony L. Bryan."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr McCarthy seconded by Mr O'Byrne:-

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 5th November, 1931, be and are hereby confirmed."

LINOLEUM FOR FLOOR OF COURTHOUSE

The following under date 6th November, 1931, was read from Mr. M.J. Dwyer, County Registrar:-

"I have on this day received a communication from the Department of Justice, upon the subject of lino for the Courthouse at Wexford.

"This states that the Minister for Finance is prepared to pay, out of the unexpended balance of £400, of the award of Compensation in respect of Wexford Courthouse, the cost of provision of linoleum, plus the cost of fixing the same.

"I am directed to inform the County Council to this effect

21

and to intimate that unless the County Council give directions to have the necessary work done at once, I am to proceed to do so myself.

Kindly let me know the decision of the County Council as soon as possible."

c The Chairman said he thought they should take no action in the matter but let the Government do what they pleased.

Mr McCarthy said that as it was apparent the linoleum would be put down it would be more economical for the Council to do it themselves.

The Chairman said the Council had taken a certain stand and he did not see any reason why they should go back of it. The proposal to provide linoleum had been before the Council several times and was always defeated. Let the Government put it down if they liked.

Mr McCarthy said the Finance Committee had had their meeting in the Court room on 5th inst. and he did not think the putting down of the linoleum would cure the trouble which was, in his opinion, overhead.

Mr Hall said the linoleum would make no difference only when people were walking about.

Mr D'Arcy proposed and Miss O'Ryan seconded the following resolution:- "That the Council take no action on the request of Co. Registrar to provide linoleum or other suitable covering for the floor of County Courthouse."

Mr Corish said that in view of the statements of members who had attended the meeting of the Finance Committee he considered the County Surveyor should carefully examine the place and report what in his opinion would prevent the present distortion of the voice, in the Courtroom.

The County Surveyor considered that voice distortion in Courtroom might be corrected by stretching across and along the place, close to the ceiling a number of wires which

22

would help to break up the echo. This would cost about £6 or £7, and in his opinion, would be more effective in improving the acoustic properties of the place than covering the floor.

Mr Corish said that the linoleum was required on account of the noise in the Court and if they had their County Surveyor stating that the trouble could be corrected by taking another course and for £6 or £7 they should not come to any hasty decisions to what was best to be done

Mr Keegan - Can these people legally hold your £400 ?

Mr Elgee - I would not like to give an off-hand opinion on that. I would have to look into the matter.

Mr Keegan - I hold they have no right to with-hold it when we fulfilled our contract.

Mr Corish asked the County Surveyor if he was satisfied that the acoustic properties of the court-room were such that it was almost impossible to hear in it and the County Surveyor replied in the affirmative. The linoleum would stop the noise caused by the shuffling of feet, but there was no moving about at the Finance Committee held there and they could not hear properly.

Mr Corish suggested that they should instruct the Co. Surveyor to go into consultation with the County Registrar and point out that in his opinion the linoleum was not going to prevent the noise. It might be that the linoleum would cost £100. A few members of the County Council with the Co. Surveyor should interview Mr Dwyer, County Registrar. He then proposed a resolution to this effect.

Mr D'Arcy seconded.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Brennan, Clince, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, D'Arcy, Gaul, Hall, Hayes, Jordan, McCarthy, O'Byrne, O'Ryan, Smyth and Walsh - 16.

Against:- Messrs Keegan and Murphy - 2.

The Chairman (1) did not vote.

Mr Culleton (1) was not present when poll was taken.

The motion was declared carried.

The following were then appointed as a Committee:-

Messrs Corish, D'Arcy, Hall and McCarthy with the Co. Surveyor.

After the interview Mr Corish reported that after a long discussion the County Registrar agreed to hold his hand for the present provided the County Council carried out the experiments with the overhead wires suggested by the County Surveyor.

Consideration of letter from County Registrar was then adjourned pending result of experiments.

WALL AT POULFUR

In this matter which was referred to a Committee consisting of Councillors of New Ross County Electoral Area with the County Surveyor, the Committee met on 31st October, 1931, Messrs Cummins, Colfer and Murphy with the County Surveyor and Mr Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, being in attendance.

They reported that they had inspected ^{the} place and were satisfied that the Surveyors were correct in objecting to the structure. The Committee could not recommend interference with the suggestions of the Surveyor that the wall should be removed.

The report of the Committee was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Colfer and it was also decided that Mr Elgee take the necessary steps to have the wall complained of as an obstruction removed.

DUNCANNON HARBOUR

The complaint of the fishermen using this harbour that owing to the lack of smooth facing they found difficulty in pursuing their calling had been referred to a Committee of Councillors representing New Ross County Electoral Area with

24

the County Surveyor.

The Committee met on 31st October, 1931, Messrs Colfer, Cummins and Murphy with the County Surveyor and Mr Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor for the district being in attendance.

The Committee inspected the Pier and the inner Harbour regarding which complaint was made and found that there was really no cause of complaint. A very small piece of pointing on the edge of the coping stones might be done with advantage. This was recommended, and the Assistant Surveyor was directed to have the work carried out.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Cooney:- "That the report of Committee of Duncannon Harbour submitted to this meeting be and is hereby adopted."

The following under date 28th October, 1931, (D/50/14) was read from the Department of Lands & Fisheries:-

"With reference to your letter of the 3rd instant regarding Duncannon Harbour, I am directed by the Minister for Lands and Fisheries to inform you that the maintenance, including dredging, of Duncannon harbour appears to be imposed on the Wexford County Council by the operation of the statute 16 & 17 Vic. c.136, while the Council would appear to have the right of levying tolls, etc. in respect of Duncannon pier."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Cooney:- "That Mr Elgee, Solicitor, be instructed to take Counsel's opinion as to the rights, powers and duties of the County Council in relation to Duncannon Harbour."

CLONLARD ROAD NO. 786

The complaint of Mr William Ward, Clonlard, as to the condition of road adjoining his residence was referred at

the meeting of the Council on the 26th October, 1931, to a Committee of the Councillors for New Ross Co. Electoral area with the Co. Surveyor.

The Committee met on 31st October, 1931, Messrs Colfer, Cummins and Murphy, with the County Surveyor and Mr Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, being in attendance.

The Committee presented the following report:-

"The Committee went over this road and found it certainly in an unsatisfactory condition but not at all to the extent that the complaint would indicate. This is a Contract Road, about 1½ miles long for which there is only a sum of £12 per annum allocated, and the Contractor appears to be doing the best possible under the circumstances. There is heavy lorry traffic over the road, which certainly was never constructed for such traffic, and Mr Ward himself, is responsible for this. At the present time, as County Funds stand it will be impossible to have further allocation made, but the matter should be considered in next Year's Road Estimate."

The Report of the Committee was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne seconded by Mr Cline.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Colfer seconded by Mr Murphy:- "That a sum of £5 to be taken from appropriate Contingency Fund be spent on Road 786 as soon as possible."

WORK OF COMMITTEES

Mr Murphy considered it was a waste of time and money to appoint Committees in matters which could be dealt with quite well by their officials. For the present meeting as the Council could see the members for New Ross Co. Electoral area had acted as a Committee for three matters (1) Duncannon pier. Half a bag of cement would carry out the necessary repairs. Then they saw the wall at Poulfur in regard to which the recommendation of the Surveyors was quite reasonable. Following that there was the road at Clonlard. If the expenses incurred by the

26

members of the Committee and the Surveyors were added there would be enough money to effect all the repairs necessary.

Chairman - We have an efficient staff of officials and I often suggested you should leave a great deal more to them than you were doing. Here you have an example. It is only in very exceptional cases you should have these Committees. They are a great waste of time for the members acting on them.

Mr Keegan disagreed and considered committees most useful.

Mr Colfer said the wall at Poulfur was the only case in which it was at all necessary to have a Committee.

The matter dropped.

COURTOWN HARBOUR COMMITTEE

The Committee appointed to deal with the suggestion of Lord Fitzwilliam regarding the opening up of Courtown Harbour for trading purposes met on 4th November, 1931,

Present - Messrs Sean O'Byrne, (presiding), T.F. D'Arcy, J. Hall, W.P. Keegan and M. Smyth with the County Surveyor.

The Committee reported that Rev. J. O'Grady C.C. and a large number of traders and fishermen waited on the Committee.

After a great deal of discussion it was finally decided that the County Council should be asked to nominate members to meet Lord Fitzwilliam on the 12th December, ^{and} that representatives of the local traders should be present at the interview.

In regard to the actual work it was pointed out that the Department of Lands & Fisheries are now providing extra boats, and the local people new boats for the fishing industry so that it was essential, even outside of the matter of general trade at the Port, that the inner basin should be dredged. It was recommended that the County Council make application to the Department of Lands & Fisheries for a grant for this work. The difficulties in regard to the approach to the harbour were discussed and it was agreed that the Fishing Industry would be very much improved by the deepening of the harbour, as the scour in the channel from the increased

impoundings of water would be very much improved. This work, while essential for the Fishing Industry, would, to a great extent, meet the requirements of ordinary trade.

Mr O'Byrne who proposed the adoption of the report of the Committee said that there was a possibility if the inner basin was dredged that further boats would be built. At present there was no place to keep a boat owing to the condition of the inner basin. It was the opinion of experienced people who were acquainted with the local conditions that if this basin was dredged out it would not require any further attention for a great number of years. A scheme had been put up several years ago for improvements at Courtown and it was then understood that the Government would have provided the funds for the dredging of the inner basin.

Mr Keegan seconded the resolution adopting the report, and the proposition was adopted.

Mr O'Byrne proposed and Mr Keegan seconded the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:- "That this Council requests the Department of Land & Fisheries to provide the necessary sum to carry out efficient dredging of inner basin at Courtown Harbour which work has been estimated to cost between £1,200 and £1,500 and that representations in the matter be made to the Department."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Gaul:- "That the County Councillors of Gorey Co. Electoral Area with the five T.D.'s for the County, Col. Gibbon and Messrs D. Bolger, Wallace and R.O'Connor be appointed as a deputation on behalf of the County Council to wait on Lord Fitzwilliam at his residence on 11th December, 1931."

BURROW ROSSLARE - PLANTING OF RICE GRASS

The following Report was submitted:-

"A meeting of the County Councillors for Wexford Co.

28

Electoral Area was arranged for 11 o'clock on 3rd November 1931, at end of Burrow Road, Rosslare to confer with the local people as to the proposal of the Co. Wexford Committee of Agriculture to make experimental plantings of Rice Grass which it is expected would obviate the flooding which occurs through high tides at Hopeland bank and which interferes seriously with the convenience of the general public, but of course forms a material grievance to the people of the locality.

The day was extremely inclement and Col. Gibbon was the only Co. Councillor in attendance.

The following were also present:- Messrs W.F. Barry, Co. Surveyor, J.F. Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, J.J. Hogan, Agricultural Instructor, E. Wickham, Harbour Master, Wexford, the Co. Secretary and five local representatives.

The latter were not in favour of the planting of the grass which they believe would interfere with the shooting and collection of sea ore.

It was finally decided that a meeting of all concerned would be called to meet Mr Hogan, Agricultural Instructor, to deal in detail with the planting and general effect of rice grass in relation to the peninsula."

The Report was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Colfer.

FLOODED ROADS . -----

Mr Colfer called attention to the condition of the Duncannon Line which on that date between Frayne's and Clonard Cross was completely flooded.

Mr Cooney said that general instructions should issue to the Surveyors to arrange that gangers should have water tables clear after heavy rain. A number of gulleys on Wexford-New Ross Road were choked with leaves with the result that the water was tearing up the road surface.

29

Mr Gaul proposed and Mr Colfer seconded a resolution calling the Co. Surveyor's attention to the necessity of keeping roads free from floods after having rain.

This proposal was adopted.

FLOODING AT SCAR DUNCORMACK

The following report was submitted by Mr Kehoe,
Assistant Surveyor:-

"The flooding below Scar Bridge on Road No. 57 is caused by a river running parallel with the road for nearly half a mile, and not more than about one hundred yards from the road for the whole way.

There is a dam in the river to bring the water to a Mill race, and this is largely the cause of the flooding.

"In addition, the river requires to be cleaned out badly. It has been neglected for years with the result that banks of mould and branches of trees obstruct the free flow of the water"

"If the river bed was cleaned out it would ease the flooding considerably."

Mr Murphy said the flooding took place a couple or three times a year.

The County Surveyor said they had power to compel land owners to clean up an artificial drain but not a natural stream. And so far as he could see the Co. Council had no power to clean it up as their own expense. To clean up the river in the present instance would cost about £50.

Mr Murphy suggested the Co. Surveyor should interview the landowners whose lands were flooded. It would be of considerable benefit to these people if the flooding was prevented, and if the work was undertaken by the Council the local people should be prepared to help.

It was decided on the motion of Mr Murphy seconded by the Chairman that Mr Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, should interview the local people whose lands suffered from flooding and ascertain how far they would be willing to help the Council should the

30

latter agree to carry out work which would obviate any flooding of the road between Scar and Baldwinstown.

TRANSFER ROAD ACCOUNTS

Under date 4th November, 1931, Mr. P.O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor, wrote applying for the transfer of £73: 1: 3d from account 12 M to 22 M, the amount paid in error out of account 22 M for 13 tons 5 cwt of Bitumen.

The County Surveyor said this error occurred in district of Mr Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, for portion of whose district Mr O'Neill was acting during Mr Kehoe's illness.

The transfer was agreed to on the motion of Mr Gaul seconded by Mr Corish.

Mr Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, wrote asking for transfer of £40 from Road Account No. 70 to Road Account No. 67.

The application was agreed to on the motion of Mr Murphy seconded by Mr Brennan.

DEFAULTING ROAD CONTRACTORS

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Clinck:- "That should the County Surveyor consider it necessary, prosecution be entered against the following Road Contractors for failure to carry out their Contracts:-

Martin Kehoe, Loughnageer, Foulksmills, Road Nos 825 and 828
Philip Kennedy, Gurteens, Saltmills, Road No. 849
Robert Sheridan, Blackhall, Bannow, Road Nos. 912 and 914
John Furlong, Knocktown, Duncormick, Road Nos. 917 and 918

COMPLAINT RE ROAD

Letter from Messrs Farrar Bros. Curratubbin, Killena, as to bad condition of road from Curratubbin to Ballyedmond and Curratubbin to Killena was referred to County Surveyor for inspection and report.

VINEGAR HILL MONUMENT

The following under date 6th November, 1931, (19599-31)

was read from Office of Public Works:-

"With reference to your communication regarding the condition of the tower at Vinegar Hill, we are advised that this structure is the remains of a windmill of no very great antiquity, and we do not think it would be admissable for preservation as a national monument. In the circumstances, we regret we are unable to take any action in the matter."

Mr McCarthy - I can't agree that it isn't an antiquity, and I think no one here would agree. If there is one historic place in the County it is Vinegar Hill, and I propose that this windmill, which is a great antiquity, be put in proper repair,

Miss O'Ryan - I think we should refer the matter to the Historical Society.

Mr Corish - I second Mr McCarthy's proposition. I think it is most important that that building should be preserved. It is a landmark in the county. You wouldn't know Vinegar Hill at all without that on it.

Chairman - I think we would be all pleased if that could be kept in preservation. It is looked upon as one of the most historic places in the county.

Mr Hall - A lot of strangers visit there every year.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr McCarthy seconded by Mr Corish:-

"That we inform the Office of Public Works in our opinion the structure on Vinegar Hill is a national monument worthy of preservation and we request the Office of Public Works to carry out the necessary work to ensure its upkeep."

MAIN ROAD UPKEEP GRANTS 1932-33

The following under date 30th October, 1931 (RGM/201/31) was read from the Department of Local Government (Roads):-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that the County Councils would do well to take an early opportunity to frame estimates of the

sums which they are likely to allow for the upkeep respectively of (a) Main Roads and (b) County Roads for the financial year 1932-33. On particulars of these estimates being furnished to this Department the Minister will have them examined and he will then indicate, as soon as practicable, what upkeep grant, if any, can be made. Upkeep grants are calculated by reference to the amounts finally passed by County Councils, so that if grants are to be notified early the figures supplied should correspond as nearly as possible with the final figures. In furnishing particulars of the estimates, the requirements in regard to the upkeep of Main Roads in the Urban Areas of the County should be borne in mind.

Provided the estimates of the Council show that a reasonable sum is proposed for the upkeep of all roads, the Upkeep Grant for 1932-33 will be calculated on the basis of 40 % of the sum proposed.

In dealing with their estimates, Councils, subject to what is stated in the preceding paragraph, are to assume that the total sum provided in their Road Works Scheme is relieved to the extent of the Grant. In other words, the Grant is to be taken in as a credit and is not to form the basis of a supplementary Scheme after it is notified."

DIRECTION AND DANGER SIGNS

Under date 28th October, 1931, the Department of Local Government (Roads) wrote (R/IR/39) that it was frequently found that Regulations 7 and 12 of the Road Signs and Traffic Signals Regulations 1926 had not been observed, particularly the last mentioned regulation. Cases were noted where a level crossing came into view sooner than the indicating sign, and the appearance of signposts in many cases called for attention owing to neglect to keep them painted. The Minister trusted that Co. Councils would have the necessary

rectification put in hands bearing in mind that the erection and maintenance of road signs was portion of road maintenance expenditure.

The County Surveyor said the only level crossing in the County to which this communication could refer was that at Bridgetown but the signpost there had been suitably altered, three years ago. Most of the posts had been painted and the few not painted would be dealt with immediately. Another matter in connection with danger posts which had to be attended to was the replacing of the red reflecting lenses. These in many cases had been pushed out by mischievous people. The damaged ones were being taken into the workshop and he was having a plate fitted ^{at back of} the lenses in each case so that they could not be pushed out in future.

GRITTING MACHINE FOR ROADS

Mr Walsh said he had received a number of complaints as to the slippery condition of tar macadam roads particularly some leading into New Ross town. Wexford and Enniscorthy had the benefit of a cement road on their leading thoroughfare, but the principal roads into New Ross had been improved by tar macadam, with the result that people found it difficult especially at this time of the year to get into or out of town with loads. He asked the County Surveyor to see that New Ross district got its share of utilisation of gritting machine.

The County Surveyor said that Messrs Pierce had taken over the Selskar Iron Works at which the experimental gritting machine was made. Messrs Pierce had dismantled the machine as they said it would not pay them unless they had order for a dozen or more.

Mr Walsh said that men and horses could be employed to put out the grit.

Mr Corish considered that further representations should be made to Messrs Pierce. If the machine was successful in

Wexford County it would be taken up in other counties.

Mr Hall thought a manure distributor manufactured by Messrs Pierce would be found suitable but the County Surveyor was of a different opinion.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Corish seconded by Mr D'Arcy:- "That County Surveyor make further representations to Messrs Pierce & Co. as to manufacture of machine for distributing grit on tar macadam roads."

ANALYST'S REPORT

The Report of County Analyst for Quarter ended 30th September, 1931, showed that ~~221~~186 samples of foods; 51 Drugs, 3 Waters and 1 Sheep Dip- total 241 had been examined. The following had been found adulterated - Whiskey 1; New Milk 3; Butter 1.

The following is result of proceedings in the cases of adulterated articles:-

Whiskey (1) No prosecution.

Butter (1) Analyst would not issue Certificate for prosecution as the amount of moisture discovered was not unusual for the time of year.

Milk (3) Analyst stated adulteration too slight to issue certificate for prosecution (2) Fined £3 and £2:11s. costs, appeal pending. (3) State Analyst to whom third sample was submitted reported that sample was 1.45 above the 3 % allowed for milk. Case was dismissed.

PAYMENT TO ROAD CONTRACTORS

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Gaul seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the several proposals for payment presented to this meeting (including payment to Road Contractors as appearing on Form 22) be and are hereby adopted."

35

NATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The following resolution of Sligo Corporation with covering letter from Mr. Jas. Hunt T.C. Sligo, Secretary National Peace Conference Committee was received from Mr John Shea, Town Clerk, Sligo:-

"That this Council hereby heartily approves of the efforts of the recently established National Peace Conference Committee, the members of which being impressed with the gravity of the present position in this country and inspired by the eloquent and earnest appeal for peace contained in the recent Joint Pastoral Letter of the Irish Hierarchy are seeking to bring about a National Conference to include people of all political parties in the State who love their religion and country with a view to finding for the country's many pressing problems a solution that shall be in accordance with the traditions of Catholic Ireland, so that the dangers may be averted that threaten at the present juncture the cause of religion and peace in our beloved land;

"That we call upon all other Public Bodies in Saorstát Éireann to adopt this resolution and to actively co-operate with the National Peace Conference Committee and support that Committee's appeal to the Irish Hierarchy to summon the proposed Conference without delay; and

"That we recommend to the Peace Conference Committee to immediately approach the beloved Cardinal Primate of all Ireland directly and seek to enlist the esteemed co-operation of His Eminence, between whom and the Peace Conference Committee might we suggest, be arranged the different matters to be dealt with by the proposed National Conference."

Mr Cummins proposed and Mr Hayes seconded the adoption of the resolution.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Clince, Colfer; Cooney, Cummins, Gaul, Hayes, O'Ryan - 7.

Against:- Messrs Culleton, Jordan, McCarthy, Murphy, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman - 7.

Messrs Brennan, Corish and Hall (3) did not vote.

Messrs D'Arcy, Keegan, and O'Byrne (3) were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman gave his casting vote against the resolution which he declared lost.

TRANSPORT SYSTEM

The following resolutions were received in connection with transport system:-

From Leitrim County Council:-

"That we the Leitrim County Council view with grave anxiety the rumoured curtailment of Railway Services particularly as effects the Cavan and Leitrim Section of the Railway System and we call upon the Government to introduce legislation which will compel the Company to provide adequate transport facilities for the needs of the trading public in this area and in the whole of the Saorstát. Such legislation should compel the Company to maintain the Railway Services which were contemplated for the portion of the system which was established under the guarantee of the ratepayers and to which over two hundred thousand pounds of the ratepayers' money have been paid over since its installation.

"We call upon the elected representatives of the Constituency in the Dail to give their entire support to such legislation.

"We also resolve that the Solicitor for the Council be directed to write to the Secretary of the Great Southern Railways to enquire whether such closing down or abandonment is contemplated."

From Irish Motors Hauliers' Association:- "That we wish to place on record an emphatic protest against any curtailment of Motor Transport in the Irish Free State.

Rural development calls for a supplemental transport

system as the present railways were not designed for, nor are they capable of, adequately serving Agriculture. Any legislation that tends to restrict the natural development of Road transport or to increase the cost thereof, is not in the best interest of Agriculture. We may point out that the roads have been brought to their present state of efficiency, for transport with funds provided mainly by the Farmers and Motor Owners and the quick and convenient transport services now available should not be denied to the Farming Community."

From Dublin Railwayshops Joint Council of Action:-

"That this meeting of Irish Railwaymen view with alarm the condition of transport in the Irish Free State, feeling that the present ownership and control is detrimental to the interest of the country, and that the present condition of affairs are such that no progressive country could tolerate and retain its economic condition.

"We feel that the time has arrived for a full investigation into all the circumstances, and call upon the Government to take immediate steps for an impartial enquiry and the introduction of legislation for State Ownership and Control of the whole Transport Industry."

The Chairman stated he considered the resolution of the Motor Hauliers' Association deserved the most attention. It would be a very great hardship if motor transport was curtailed now that roads were capable of dealing with it. It would certainly mean throwing the country back again to the railways and they knew what the railways would do for them in the matter of charges. He did not think there should be the least fear of the railways being closed.

Mr Gaul commented that there was not the same consideration for hauliers when the council were striking the rates. They did not get much sympathy then.

Chairman - I believe they got as much sympathy as anyone else.

Mr Gaul added that they had today motor lorries carrying

the stones for a road under reconstruction when the work should be done by carters.

The Chairman said he presumed the material was being taken by lorries for economy sake by the Contractors. It was for the council to deal with the resolution as they desired.

Mr Hall - You might as well mark it "read".

Miss O'Ryan - We can't do without the railways. Most of the heavy haulage is done by the railways.

Mr Corish - In view of the fact that we passed a resolution some time ago viewing with alarm the dismissal of railwaymen, it would be dangerous to pass the resolution.

Miss O'Ryan - They are a very small association compared with the number of railway shareholders.

Mr Corish - And the number of men employed on the railways.

Chairman - If you do away with the lorries and buses you will have the railways fleecing you as they did before.

Mr D'Arcy - The biggest factor to be considered in that regard is the increased cost for the upkeep of the roads.

Mr Corish stated that if the railway system were curtailed the bus owners would be in a position to increase their rates.

The Chairman stated he did not think there was the least danger of the main lines of the railways being closed.

Mr Corish, alluding to wages, stated that the men engaged in motor transport were not being paid sufficiently.

Mr. P. Hayes stated that motor and lorry traffic had done more harm to the agricultural industry than anything else.

Chairman - Possibly they have, but do you think you are going to remove the motor traffic without getting a very drastic Act.

Mr Hayes - It is quite evident that the decreased railway receipts are due to motor transport.

Dealing with resolution of the shopmen's council, Mr Corish stated there was something wrong with the railways and transport generally.

Mr McCarthy - Isn't there a transport bill coming on in the Dail ?

Mr Walsh stated the resolution called for State control of the railways.

It was decided to take no action on resolution from Leitrim County Council and Motor Hauliers' Association.

As regards resolution from Dublin Railwayshops Joint Council of Action the following was proposed by Mr Gaul, seconded by Mr Corish and adopted nem con:-

"We feel that the time has arrived for a full and impartial enquiry by the Government into the whole transport system of the country."

SUGGESTED LOAN FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT

The following resolution was submitted from Meath County Council:-

"That we request the Government to raise, on the strength of the Road Fund, the sum of One Million pounds to be expended on second class or link roads and tourist roads, both of which have had a considerable amount of extra traffic cast upon them through the improvement of first class roads and suffered in consequence."

Mr Culleton proposed the adoption of the resolution and Mr D'Arcy seconded.

Mr Corish - I wish to support that resolution. I am assured by a member of the Roads Board that that can be done without extra money on the taxpayer, and it will relieve unemployment immediately.

The resolution was adopted.

Michael Doyle

INDEX

Analysis of milk sample.....	Page(s) 20-21
Bridge at Loggan.....	17
County Surveyor's Report.....	13-14
Concrete Roads.....	14-15
Cinema licence.....	24
Erection of building.....	19-20
Ferry carrig Bridge.....	15-16
Gorey Garden City Scheme.....	21
Housing and miscellaneous Provisions Bill.....	22
Holidays of County Medical Officer.....	24
Injury to Kilmore Harbour.....	17
Payments.....	1
Provisional Road Works Scheme.....	2-13
Road Grants.....	23
Slippery Roads.....	18-19
The late Robert Reck.....	1- 2
Transfer Road Accounts.....	16
Travelling allowance of Rate Inspector.....	22-23
Telegraphic lines.....	23-24
Unemployment in the coming Winter.....	24
Vote of condolence.....	25
Wall at Killegney.....	17

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WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING 23RD NOVEMBER 1931

M I N U T E S

COUNTY HALL,
WEXFORD.

N.J. FRIZELLE,
SECRETARY.

A meeting of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 23rd November, 1931.

Present:- Mr. M. Doyle (Chairman) presiding; also Messrs James Armstrong, John Brennan, James Cline, Patrick Colfer, Thomas Cooney, Richard Corish, John Culleton, John Cummins, Timothy F. D'Arcy, John Doran, James Gaul, Col. C.M. Gibbon, James Hall, Patrick Hayes, Michael Jordan, William P. Keegan, Thomas Maylor, Thomas McCarthy, John Murphy, Sean O'Byrne, Miss Nellie O'Ryan, Col. R.P. Wemyss Quin, M.M. Roche, James Shannon, Myles Smyth and James E. Walsh.

The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, County Surveyor, County Solicitor and the following Assistant Surveyors were also in attendance:- Messrs T. Treanor, R.J. Ennis, Thos. Cullen, P.O'Neill, and J.F. Birthistle.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £11,801: 1: 9d was examined and signed.

THE LATE ROBERT RECK

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Hall:- "That reply from Mr. James Shannon, M.C.C. to vote of condolence be inserted on this day's meeting."

The following is the reply:-

"Will you kindly convey my very sincere thanks to the members of the County Council one and all and to yourself, County Surveyor, County Solicitor and staff who kindly voted sympathy to me in my bereavement on the death of my nephew under very sad circumstances. I can assure you that I appreciate the Council's kindness very much as it is a comfort to me to know that I have the sympathy of my colleagues

2

in a time of trouble. It was a very sad affair but God knows best and we can only agree."

PROVISIONAL ROAD WORKS SCHEME

As arranged at a previous meeting a preliminary examination of provisional Road Works Scheme in respect of financial year 1932-33 was made.

The County Surveyor referring to this matter in his report stated:-

"The most important work of your meeting will be dealing with the Road Works Scheme, and I shall treat the items in detail as they come up. At present I merely report that I have carefully gone into the several items with the Assistant Surveyors, and, in my opinion, the sum set out for maintenance is the lowest figure for which the various roads can be maintained in a proper condition.

"I have pointed out to the Council on former occasions, that, generally, there is a depreciation in the condition of the County Roads owing to their getting insufficient material spread annually. I have, with the help of the Assistant Surveyors, endeavoured by the judicious use of the funds available to keep the roads from going to pieces, but there is no question about it, one severe winter would place many roads in an impassable condition. A number of improvement works are for new roads, and, with the limited funds at present available, I consider the Council should not take over further liability. Other of these improve-
ment works are absolutely essential, and the remainder are /
certainly
necessary."

The Secretary stated that the County Surveyor's Estimate for year 1932/33 for Road Maintenance amounted to £80,797, which represents an increase of £7,403 on County Surveyor's Estimate for 1931/32 which was £73,394. Last year's

Estimate was reduced by County Council from £73,394 to £50,000 so that the Estimate for 1932/33 means an increase of £30,797 on the amount allocated by County Council for Road Maintenance last year.

The following table gave the particulars of the allocation of £80,797 amongst the various classes of roads:-

Original Estimate: of Co. Surveyor 1931-32		Estimate of County Surveyor 1932-33	:Allocated: :by County: :Council :1931-32	Increase over Allocation.
£32162	Main Roads	£35,466	£25933	£9533
28742	County Roads 3rd Class	32,151	£15981	£16170
5556	Co. Roads 4th Class	5,605	4281	1324
2971	Improvement Works(Main)	3,137	1444	1693
1963	Improvement Works (Co.)	2,438	586	1852
1000	Contingencies (Main)	1,000	660	340
1000	Contingencies (County)	1,000	1115	115Dec.
£73394		£80,797	£50,000	£30,797

The Secretary read for the meeting Circular letter of the Department of Local Government (Roads) - (RGM - 201/31 - 30th October, 1931) relative to road estimates and which is set out on Minutes of meeting of County Council on 9th November, 1931,

Paragraph No. 2 stating that if the estimates of the Council show that a reasonable sum is proposed for the upkeep of all roads the upkeep grant of the Department for 1932-33 in respect of main roads would be calculated on the basis of 40 % of the sum proposed .

The County Surveyor said as he recognised the present economic depression he had made up his estimate on the minimum to keep the roads in reasonable condition. Last year his estimate was cut and some members were erroneously under the impression that he was trying to make up for last year's deduction in the present estimate. With the ex-

4

ception of Leitrim - one of the poorest counties in the Saorstat Wexford had the lowest priced roads. This year Leitrim had increased their estimate and the Wexford roads were now absolutely the lowest in the whole country. The figures of the estimates represented a sum of £20 per mile for the County Roads which was an extremely low figure. Of course the cost of main roads was naturally higher but the average price over the whole County, including improvement works etc was £25 per mile.

Col. Gibbon said that instead of talking about the roads and what they were going to raise they should begin at the other end and see how much the County in view of present economic conditions could afford, to pay. Last year he had proposed that the road expenditure should be £40,000. Subsequently this was increased to £50,000 but as £10,000 of this was provided from State funds the increase made no difference in the Rates. If the £40,000 was the best they could do last year they should realise that the financial position of the County was now much worse. He then referred in detail to the lower prices now obtained for live stock and agricultural produce as compared with the corresponding period last year. Feeding stuffs which the farmer had to buy had gone down something in price since last year, but within the last month they showed a rising tendency. Coming at the end of the most disastrous year for farmers that he had known was not the time to talk of spending £30,000 more on the roads over what was provided for the current financial year. Last year he had proposed £40,000 as the maximum expenditure and he did not see they could do with less for the coming year. He was not going to recommend anything above that figure and proposed that £40,000 be the limit for their road expenditure and he proposed that figure for acceptance by the Council. The main roads were good enough for the ratepayers - in fact in some cases they were

too good as farmers could not bring their horses on them. What was wanted was a little more expenditure on some of the by roads which were of real significance to the farmers. He considered the County Surveyor should be instructed to draw up a minimum of work on the trunk roads and which would maintain them without absolutely seriously breaking up. The remainder of the money should be spent on the by roads. Ratepayers in every corner of the County were asking the Co. Council to take over private roads and if the Council agreed the extra expense on the County would ~~be~~ be enormous. It would be a great mistake to hold out the hope that the Council was going to take over a whole lot of these private roads. They could not possibly consider improvements in road expenditure until agriculture was again put on its legs. It would be absolutely wrong of the Council to try and find large sums for the roads during this year and until they saw how the proposed plans for regenerating agriculture would work out. The Council were elected to look after the interests of the ratepayers and to strike an excessive rate for roads now would not be in the general interest. They would have to put up with the roads as they are. What was the good of striking a rate that could not be collected. The £40,000 was the maximum which the Council was able to set aside for maintenance for the next financial year.

Mr Culleton seconded.

Colonel Quin said that every single year they were told that the roads would go to pieces unless they agreed to the figures in the County Surveyor's estimate but as a matter of fact they had become steadily better every year for the last six or seven years. The by roads were no worse. He would object to bad roads but personally he had no grouse about the matter ^{and} compared with ten years ago the roads were enormously improved.

Mr Shannon proposed and Mr O'Byrne seconded the following resolution:- "That a sum of £50,000 be provided for all

6

road expenditure for financial year 1932-33 provided that the state grant for main roads be not less than £10,000."

Miss O'Ryan said that if every member was satisfied with the adoption of a low road rate it was all right. Last year many of the members of the party who asked for a low rate came afterwards to the Council to get money for their own roads. If every member now agreed that he was satisfied with the state of the roads they would be quite in order in passing a low rate but she was afraid that before the expiration of three months they would have different members complaining of the roads and trying to get money for them. This would not be fair to the people who genuinely accepted the condition of things as they are.

Mr Roche said that last year they agreed that a certain amount should be taken from the Main roads and spent on by roads. He proposed that no expenditure be incurred on the trunk and on the main roads except for maintenance of water tables and other work which could not be neglected.

Mr Cummins asked if the Council passed the resolution of Col. Gibbon to spend £40,000 on the roads next year would the Council be entitled to the Government Grant.

The County Surveyor said he did not know. But what happened last year was that the Council decided to spend £40,000 on the roads but they were told they would get no grant on that figure. After correspondence with the Local Government Department the Council decided they would spend £50,000 on condition they would receive a grant of £10,000 from the Government. The amount raised in rates was of course only £40,000.

Mr Keegan held that the by roads had depreciated by from 25 to 30 per cent and if they kept depreciating to the same extent every year they would soon be impassable. After another year they would have to raise a very much higher figure. Although it was a very bad time with the Country it was false economy to cut down the road estimate below a reasonable figure.

Mr D'Arcy said the County Council were making some roads

7
so good they were driving the farmers off them.

Mr Corish objected to Col. Gibbon's resolution. This went to cut down the road estimate by a wave of the hand. If they desired to cut down the estimate they should proceed in a regular way and appoint as Committees the members of each Co. Electoral area to examine the amount to be spent on each individual road in their districts and make recommendations to a general meeting. He saw in the estimate that with the reduction proposed by Col. Gibbon the amount which would be available for the maintenance of main roads in Wexford Urban District would be £325 and it would be impossible to maintain the main roads for this amount. Since he had arrived at the use of reason he had heard year after year complaints of rates being too high.

Col. ^{Quin}~~Gibbon~~ held that if Committees were appointed the members would endeavour to get the highest allocations for the roads of their own districts and the interests of the County as a whole would suffer.

Mr Hall said that their third class roads could not be in a worse condition. There was little use in striking a rate which could not be collected. They had only half the present ^{rate} collected and he could not see where the balance was to come from. They were spending over £8,000 in road supervision, practically £4 per mile in gangers and this could be saved by substituting a well devised system of piece work. They were spending too much on their main roads many of which could not be used by farmers who were compelled to make a long detour over very bad roads to get in and out of their market towns.

Colonel Gibbon said they could not make any reduction in the estimates for Board of Health, Mental Hospital or General Services. Their only chance of keeping the rates down was in the roads. They should be satisfied with their

8
condition for a year or two to see in the meantime what relief would be given to agriculture.

Mr Hall said the estimates of Mental Hospital and Board of Health would be up considerably for next financial year.

Mr Shannon contended that the reduction proposed by Col. Gibbon would mean that the Council would be obliged to spend double the amount on many of their roads in the following year and this was essentially bad business.

After further discussion a poll was taken on the amendment of Mr Shannon with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Hayes, Keegan, McCarthy, O'Byrne, O'Ryan and Shannon - 11.

Against:- Messrs Brennan, Culleton, D'Arcy, Doran, Gibbon, Hall, Jordan, Meyler, Murphy, Quin, Roche, Smyth and the Chairman - 13.

Messrs Cline, Cooney and Walsh (3) were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion lost.

A poll was then taken on Col. Gibbon's motion to fix the expenditure on roads for financial year 1932-33 at £40,000, with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Brennan, Culleton, D'Arcy, Doran, Gibbon, Hall, Jordan, Meyler, Murphy, Quin, Roche, Smyth and the Chairman - 13.

Against:- Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Hayes, McCarthy, O'Byrne, O'Ryan, Shannon - 10.

Messrs Cline, Cooney and Keegan and Walsh (4) were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

Col. Gibbon proposed and Mr D'Arcy seconded the following resolution:-

"That the Provisional Road Works Estimate be referred back to the County Surveyor with instructions to allocate

9

amounts for each road to fit in with the amount of money passed by the Council at this meeting." *Passed*

Mr O'Byrne contended that some of the roads which the County Council had, during the year, agreed to take over should be considered now. One particular matter which had been recommended by a Committee was the small sum necessary to put into repair Moteybower Lane. He proposed this should be considered now. The local people were prepared to do a good deal themselves. The County Council had agreed to spend £100 for the repair of this lane. The other portion of the lane which was in Co. Wicklow was being repaired by the County Council of that County.

Mr D'Arcy said that the repair of this road would be a great convenience to the people of a very large district.

Mr Corish asked what was the amount which would be available for this class of work for next financial year.

The Chairman held it would be better for the County Surveyor to make the various allocations before considering matters of this nature.

Mr Hall proposed:- "That consideration of amount to be set aside for new works for next year be adjourned to the meeting of the County Council to be held on Monday 14th December, 1931."

Mr Culleton seconded. *Passed*

A deputation consisting of Messrs John Breen, Joseph Doyle, Patrick Doyle and Thomas Butler came before the meeting to urge the necessity for taking over Mountainmuck Lane near Whitechurch, Glynn. The lane was about three-quarters of a mile in length and £80 for its repair had been included in the Road Works Scheme.

Mr. J. Breen said there were eight families representing over 50 persons living on the lane. The people concerned were prepared to widen it to the specified figure. There was only one corner on it and this would be eased to the satisfaction

10

of the County Surveyor.

Mr Murphy suggested that the deputation should arrange for the transport of the necessary material.

Miss O'Ryan suggested that if the deputation would arrange for carting half the material the Council should agree. This lane if put in repair would serve the whole district as it would save the very heavy draft on Ballinclay hill.

Further consideration was adjourned to the meeting of County Council on 14th December.

It was also arranged at the instance of Mr Hayes that deputation as to repair of Gurtins lane, Cleariestown, should be heard at next meeting.

In connection with proposed repair of Rathfarden lane a memorial in favour signed by 32 ratepayers was read .

The memorial pointed out that the lane linked up Forrestalstown with Rathfarden and if it was taken over by the Council and put in proper repair it would be a great advantage to all the people of these two townlands as well as to the five people who lived on it and who had no decent way of going to their homes.

Mr Shannon having referred in detail to the great convenience which it would be to a large section of the community to have the place put into repair proposed that the lane be taken over and repaired by the Council provided the local people carry out the work promised by them to the Co. Council committee.

In reply to Col. Gibbon the County Surveyor said that the Council since he came to the County, had taken over about 15 miles of lanes. In 20 years there had been about one mile taken over every year.

A deputation concerned with Rathfarden Lane and consisting of Messrs Maurice Murphy, John Hendrick and Joseph Leary came before the Council.

Mr Murphy who acted as spokesman said the local people

11

would remove the corners, and widen the lane.

Mr O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor, said that it was proposed to put 160 yards of material on the lane. The quarry was six miles away. If they could procure local material the cost would be reduced.

The County Surveyor said he understood the local people were to ^{haul} have the material.

Mr. M. Murphy suggested they would bring half the material only.

The County Surveyor considered the local people should haul it all.

The Chairman said if they took over this road it was going to be a burden on the County for all time. The Council were asked to spend £50 and after that it would cost them something yearly.

Mr Shannon proposed that the lane be put in repair, and taken over by the County Council provided the local people widen the lane, remove the corners and draw all the material, to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor.

The Chairman objected to having this proposal put. They had adjourned consideration of similar applications to their next meeting and he was of opinion that all such applications should be considered on the one day.

It was decided to adjourn further consideration to next County Council meeting.

Mr Corish called attention to the flooding of Castle-bridge road. Winter after winter the people were cut off from Church and School.

The County Surveyor said a proposal to deal with the matter had been before the Council and had been turned down.

Mr Culleton said that if a hand rail was erected along the Church side of the road it would meet the difficulty.

Mr Gaul referred to an occasion when four motor cars had to be towed out of this place. The only remedy would be

12

to raise the road.

Mr Corish proposed and Mr O'Byrne seconded the following resolution which was adopted:- "That the County Surveyor be instructed to examine into the flooding of road at Castlebridge and report to next meeting."

In connection with proposed erection of wall at Burrow, Rosslare, the following was read from Mr. P. Bent:-

"It is regretted that owing to the inclemency of the weather only a few ratepayers of the Burrow, Rosslare, could meet those members of the County Council who came to discuss with the ratepayers concerned, the merits of rice grass that was proposed to be ^{put} down as a protection against the tide which frequently hampers our passage on the Strand. The ratepayers carefully considered the matter since; and I beg to state that it was unanimously agreed that the sowing of rice grass would be no means or remedy to secure what we are looking for and demanding as our right, viz., a clear unobstructed way or road to and from our homes. We believe that it is very doubtful if the sowing of rice grass would ever take root; and supposing it did grow it would be years before it would have any effect. That would be a hope that no sane man could expect us to entertain. We cannot wait for experiments whilst we and our families have often to encounter a flooded muddy strand. Again if the rice grass grew it would produce a conglomeration of mud which would worsen the position and thereby aggravate the way to and from our homes. Moreover if rice grass were grown and fructified, it would obstruct the launching and hauling up of our boats. Surely you do not wish to add to the hardships under which we have to earn our livelihood. The planting of rice grass therefore, is out of the question, and instead of being any help or cure for our troubles, it would but increase the difficulties and dangers that burden us. The only remedy

for our grievance is to build a wall which we demand as a right. We want, and are entitled to as ratepayers, a clear unobstructed way to and from our homes, and that cannot be effected unless a wall be built. We have already given reasons to show why we have a right to a road or way. It is unnecessary to repeat those arguments. We ask you, therefore, Members of the County Council, to do your duty towards us and our families and so redress our serious grievance. Our case is urgent. We ask you to bear in mind that although we are poor, the health and lives of us and our families ought to be more valuable than a few paltry hundred pounds."

After some discussion it was decided to adjourn further consideration to next meeting of the Council.

It was also agreed that Messrs Corish & Jordan T.D.'s should approach the Land Commission and ascertain if anything would be done to help the tenants in the locality.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Murphy seconded by Mr D'Arcy:- "That when Roads Works Scheme for next financial year has been approved finally the County Council agrees that during the financial year no further proposals for the taking over of private roads or works of a like nature be considered."

COUNTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT

The following Report was submitted by the County Surveyor:-

"The two contracts for the laying of concrete roads are still in progress, though the period for completion has expired. In regard to Messrs Lee's Contract on the Bunclody-Enniscorthy Road the concrete slab has been practically completed, and it only remains to deal with the sides. The Contract of the Pioneer Road Construction Company on the Wexford-New Ross Road has still lengths of the concrete slab to be completed, and in this case also long lengths of the

14
sides remain to be dealt with.

I have not yet been able to arrange with the Kilkenny County Surveyor in regard to proposal for New Ross Bridge repair, but this will come before you at a later meeting, when you are dealing with Public Works' Estimate.

On the 20th instant I made a thorough inspection of the defective abutment and bridge end at Ferrycarrig in company of Messrs Delap and Waller. We have found the matter very difficult to deal with, and later, I shall report more in detail when I have a further communication from Messrs Delap and Waller.

As directed by the Council I shall arrange with Lord Fitzwilliam for a deputation to wait on him in regard to Courtown Harbour improvement.

The adjourned inquest on late Mr Robert Reck, one of our workmen, who was unfortunately killed whilst proceeding to work, has not yet taken place, and, at the instance of the Insurance Company, the County Council Solicitor has the matter under observation."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That the report of County Surveyor to this meeting be received and considered."

Concrete Roads: The County Surveyor said that both Contractors were only very little behind. Mr Lee would have finished last week but for the wet weather. Last time he (County Surveyor) saw the Enniscorthy-Buncloody Road Mr Lee had only 40 yards of slab to do. Of course there was still all the side work but he did not mind that much as it was the time the slab was finished which influenced the opening of the road. The Wexford end of the New Ross-Wexford Road should be finished within a fortnight and the New Ross end before that.

Mr Cooney said the sooner this road was finished the better. Mr Walsh and himself struck in a flood at Polehore, and there were two other motors there which looked as if they

15

would not get through until the flood went down.

Mr Walsh said he had raised at last meeting the question of the flooding of this road but nothing had been done.

The County Surveyor said he would see that the culverts were working .

Mr Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, held that the flood at this particular place was due to flooding from the land and from the high tide. He would be prepared to swear it was not caused from the road culverts.

It was decided that Mr Birthistle should inspect the flooded road at Polehore and take steps to mitigate it, if possible.

As regards completion of work on concrete roads the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the County Surveyor serve notice on Contractors for Concreting Roads (1) Enniscorthy-Bunclody and (2) Wexford to New Ross calling attention to penalty clauses in the Specification and that the County Surveyor report to next meeting how the works have progressed in the meantime."

Ferrycarrig Bridge: The following under date 18th November, 1931, (M.S.2829) was read from the Department of Industry and Commerce:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Industry and Commerce to refer to your letter of the 31st ultimo and previous correspondence relative to the substitution of a fixed span for the existing opening of Ferrycarrig Bridge. The Department have received representations from the Wexford Harbour Commissioners, the Wexford Corporation and the Enniscorthy Urban District Council protesting against the proposed change on the grounds that trade between Wexford and Enniscorthy might be seriously prejudiced by reason of the effect which the closing of the bridge would have on the development of traffic on the River Slaney.

The Department would be unwilling, in view of these objections, to sanction any project which would result in closing the Slaney to river traffic, without first being satisfied that the action contemplated by the County Council is justified by the conditions and is not calculated to have an effect inimical to the interests of trade in Enniscorthy and Wexford.

It has been suggested that a Local Inquiry be held at Wexford to receive the views of persons interested in the matter and the Department are willing to hold such an Inquiry on condition that the incidental expenses are defrayed by the County Council.

I shall be glad to be informed whether the County Council will agree to the holding of an Inquiry on the conditions stated."

Mr O'Byrne proposed and Mr Hall seconded the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:-

"That Wexford County Council do not desire any steps to be taken as regards local inquiry in connection with opening span of Ferrycarrig Bridge. They have arranged for investigation and report by expert and when this has been considered they will communicate further with the Department of Industry and Commerce in reference to their letter of 18th November, 1931 (M.S.2829)."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That Report of County Surveyor as submitted to this meeting be and is hereby approved."

TRANSFER ROAD A/C'S

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That as requisitioned by Mr Cullen, Assistant Surveyor, £70 be transferred from a/c 10M to 9 M and £50 from a/c 50 M to a/c 39 M."

17

INJURY TO KILMORE HARBOUR

The following report under date 21st November, 1931, was submitted from Mr Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor:-

"I beg to report that on the night of the 13th November a vessel leaving Kilmore Pier damaged the breakwater rather badly, and also the railing on the Pier. I am inquiring as to the name of the vessel, and will send you further particulars. The breakwater is in a rather dangerous condition, and I will have to start repairing it at once."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Brennan:- "That Report of Mr Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor relative to damage caused to Kilmore Harbour on 13th November, 1931, be referred to Mr Elgee, County Solicitor, to take the necessary action to recover cost of repair."

In the course of further discussion re Kilmore Pier a direction was agreed to that Mr Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, should consult Mr Wm. Furlong, Beake, Kilmore, relative to a gap in his field caused by repair work at the Harbour and a further direction to the Harbour Master as to testing new Harbour lamp.

BRIDGE AT LOGGAN

Mr D'Arcy reported that Loggan Bridge was in a bad way and was in danger of collapsing if something was not done to it.

Mr Treanor, Assistant Surveyor, for the district, said the bridge should be attended to at once.

It was decided on the motion of Mr D'Arcy seconded by Mr O'Byrne that the County Surveyor should have the necessary repairs at Loggan bridge carried out as soon as possible.

WALL AT KILLEGNEY

Mr Brennan proposed and Mr O'Byrne seconded the resolution calling the attention of the Co. Surveyor to a road wall at Mr Michael Cullen's, Killegney, which was slipping into the river.

18

SLIPPERY ROADS

Mr D'Arcy forwarded for consideration of the meeting the following memorial:-

"We, the undersigned ratepayers, beg to draw the attention of the County Council to the dangerous condition of the Enniscorthy Newtownbarry road from ~~Moyday~~ ^{Moyeadey} to Newtownbarry due to the slippery condition.

"No man using a horse drawn vehicle can go this road in safety and the danger is all the worse if such a vehicle has a heavy load up. This latter condition nearly always prevails in the case of farmers going to market their corn or going to the local Mill and then again bringing home their manures. There are several accidents after happening and not very long ago a poor woman got her arm broken as the result of her animal falling on this tar bound road and pitching her on to the ground.

"We, as farmers and ratepayers, are surely entitled to be let travel in safety on the public roads. Further this matter of complaint is becoming general and we feel that the Wexford County Council will not be lacking in helping the plain people in their difficulties.

"We respectfully ask your immediate attention to this road. We only want a margin of both sides of the road left suitable for horses and cattle to travel on. We may mention that there are hundreds of tons of suitable material in Clohamon gravel pit which is quite convenient."

On the same subject the following was read from Messrs Thomas Dormer & Son, Bunclody:-

"We regret to find that some of our valued customers experience great difficulty in coming to our mills owing to the slippery state of some of the tarred roads. We think the Council should give more consideration to road users employing horse haulage."

Mr D'Arcy said something should be done to put those roads into such a condition that they could be used by the

19

farming community.

He suggested that both sides should be treated with chippings.

Mr Ennis said that this road was no more slippery than any other tarred road in his district. This was the first complaint made in reference to it. He had arranged to put chippings on it and had been dressing the two hills on it with chips from time to time. But as they would not stay on the road they were of little use. Whereas in other counties where margins had been left it was cut up terrifically so that in the end it was found necessary to tar the whole road.

Mr D'Arcy proposed and Mr Brennan seconded a resolution which was adopted directing the County Surveyor to provide for surface dressing with chips of both sides of this road.

In reply to Mr Corish the County Surveyor said he had interviewed Mr Philip Pierce (Messrs P. Pierce & Co.) about the manufacture of a gritting machine. Mr Pierce did not say exactly that he would be prepared to manufacture such a machine: he promised to write the County Surveyor further.

It was decided that in the event of Messrs Pierce declining to provide gritting machine the County Surveyor interview other firms in connection with the matter.

ERECTION OF BUILDING

The following under date 18th November, 1931, was read from Michael Bolger, Ballybeg, Ferns:-

"I am enclosing a sketch of roads and plan of building etc. in Ballyduff, according to your directions, or at least as far as I was able to comply. Hoping this will suffice and thanking you for your kindness in supplying information. If possible, would you kindly get through with the Council on Monday next, as I am ready to start work at once and oblige."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of

20

Mr Cummins seconded by Mr Doran:-

"That the County Surveyor examine and report to the next Co. Council meeting on application of Michael Bolger for erection of house at Ballybeg, Ferns."

ANALYSIS OF MILK SAMPLE

The following under date 19th November, 1931, was read from Miss Phyllis Ryan M. Sc., Co. Analyst, 12, Dawson Street, Dublin:-

"I desire to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of the 13th instant with which was enclosed a copy of a report of Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, re the case of Garda Driscoll v Mr. G. Devereux.

"In answer to the request of your Finance Committee for my observations on Mr. Elgee's report I can only draw your attention to what is clearly proved by the said report.

The Analysts' figures were as follows:-

Mine	2.45% fat (Corresponding to 18.33 % fats abstracted).
Mr. Devereux' Analyst	2.86% fat (Corresponding to 4.66% fats abstracted).
Government Analyst	4.55% fat (No fat abstracted).

The Total 9.86 which divided by 3 gives 3.28 % fat
(Average).

Result milk above the legal standard.

"When the three parts of the sample of milk taken for analysis, were separately analysed, two of these parts were found below and one above the legal standard. But adding the three separate results together a satisfactory whole is obtained because the two poor samples were fully compensated for by the richness of the third in the whole content of the milk.

"It is, therefore, obvious that one Analyst got the creamy top of the milk and the other two analysts milk deprived of this cream and therefore deficient in fat, approximating to what is called "Skim-Milk".

"Further proof is not needed to show that the milk was not sufficiently mixed before being divided into samples. I may

21

say from my abundant experience that occurrences of this sort are common. For instance, I receive samples of milk, from time to time, containing 8 to 10 per cent of fat, such as no known cow has ever produced.

"A point worth bearing in mind is that if the food Inspector sends the top of a bottle of milk to the County Analyst, the chances are that no further enquiries will be made respecting the remainder. If on the contrary, the bottom of the bottle of milk, or a portion not mixed with the cream, is sent, the chances are the County Council will be rushed into an investigation not always necessary.

"With regard to the other points mentioned in your letter may I say that when samples are sent to me in great numbers in the third month of each quarter I am afraid I cannot guarantee to have them all, always, analysed in ten days."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Murphy seconded by Mr Gaul:- "That copy of letter of County Analyst as to analyses of sample of milk taken from Mr. G. Devereux, Ballyfinogue, be furnished the Chief Superintendent, Garda Siochana, for his information."

GOREY GARDEN CITY SCHEME -----

The following motion given by Mr. Sean O'Byrne on 8th October, 1931, and circulated to members of the County Council on 9th October, 1931, was moved by him:-

"That the Wexford County Council consents to the borrowing by the County Wexford Board of Health and Public Assistance of a sum of Nine Thousand Pounds (£9,000) at 5 per cent from the Royal Liver Insurance Society for the purpose of completing Gorey Garden City Housing Scheme."

Mr Gaul seconded the resolution which was adopted.

Mr O'Byrne said he hoped the members of the Co. Board of Health would do all they could to have the work started without delay.

22

HOUSING AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS BILL

Mr Corish said this Bill was at present before the Dail and although it might be suitable to abolish slum property in the large cities he thought better terms should have been made available for rural housing. The Bill proposed to lend money at 5 per cent for 35 years with a subsidy of 20 % for loan charges. If they took a house in a rural area as costing £200 - which he thought was a very low figure which would mean a rent of 4/7d per week - an impossible sum for a rural labourer to pay. With depreciation, rates, Insurance and other incidental charges the rent would be 6/- per week, and no one could suggest that a labourer in the country could pay such a figure. The discussions on the Bill hinged round the financial provisions. All the deputies who spoke and especially those representing rural constituencies condemned this clause. He suggested the County Council should adopt a resolution asking for better terms for rural housing and proposed the following:-

"That in our opinion the help offered to provide houses in rural districts is inadequate and in order to secure tenants who will be able to pay the rent for such houses it will be necessary for the Government to increase their subsidy/very considerably."

Mr D'Arcy seconded the resolution which passed nem con.

The Chairman said that the Health Board would not take up any scheme of housing which would entail rents being fixed at 6/- per week.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE OF RATES INSPECTOR

The following of which he had given previous notice stood in the name of Mr D'Arcy. It was in accordance with Standing Orders supported by the names of four other members viz., Messrs Brennan, Murphy, O'Ryan and Smyth:-

"That resolution of Wexford County Council passed on 9th

23

November, 1931, giving Mr. S. O'Kennedy (Rates Inspector) £50 per annum increase of travelling allowance be rescinded and that the increase be £25 per year in lieu of £50."

Mr D'Arcy in moving his motion said that the heaviest portion of the travelling occurred in Mr O'Kennedy's first year of office and he thought that £125 was ample to cover all the necessary travelling at the moment.

Mr Smyth seconded the resolution.

After a long discussion a poll was taken with the following result:-

For Mr D'Arcy's motion:- Messrs Brennan, D'Arcy, Jordan, Murphy, O'Ryan, Roche, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman - 9.

Against:- Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, Doran, Gaul, Gibbon, Hayes, Hall, Keegan, McCarthy, Meyler, O'Byrne, Quin and Shannon - 16.

Messrs Cline and Culleton (2) were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion lost.

ROAD GRANTS

The Secretary reported the receipt since last meeting of £8,498 (Improvement Grant) and £6,715 (Road Maintenance Grant) from Local Government Department:-

TELEGRAPHIC LINES

Applications for consent of the County Council to the erection of the following telegraphic lines was received from Department of Posts and Telegraphs:-

- (a) Overground telegraphic line John Street, New Ross.
- (b) Do across Church Street,
at Post Office, Gorey.
- (c) From Urban District Boundary New Ross to Woodville Lodge, New Ross.

The County Surveyor said he had no objection to any of the applications but he considered the line for C which according to the plan was to run on the right side of the road

74

from New Ross Urban to Woodville should go on the footpath side.

c The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the Council has no objection to the erection of telegraphic lines in accordance ^{with} applications submitted at this meeting from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. In the case of proposed line from New Ross Urban Boundary to Woodville we suggest that the line should be run on the footpath side of the road."

HOLIDAYS OF COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:-

"That as unanimously recommended by the Co. Wexford Board of Health we hereby agree to Dr. C. Bastible, Co. Medical Officer of Health, being allowed three weeks' holidays as from 22nd ~~Dec~~ember, 1931."

CINEMA LICENCE

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That Cinema Licence be issued to Patrick and Walter Doyle for premises at Bridgetown, provided Co. Surveyor and Garda Siochana approve of the suitability of the premises. That the sliding exit doors are made to open outwards and to the payment of 10/- fee."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE COMING WINTER

The following resolution from Donegal Co. Council was adopted on the motion of Mr Hayes seconded by Mr Hall:-

"That the Council be asked to focus attention on the serious aspect of unemployment during the coming winter. They can, as the elected representatives of the County, in unison with similar bodies, urge upon the Government the necessity of making a serious effort to mitigate the hardships of the working people in Rural and Urban Districts who are unable to find employment."

25
VOTE OF CONDOLENCE

Mr Cummins proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Mr Corish and passed in silence:- "That we desire to place on record the expression of our heartfelt condolence with our esteemed and popular colleague, Mr John Murphy, in the death - during last week - of his two aunts, Mrs Flanagan, Coolerin, Campile, and Mrs Nolan, New Ross. Mr Murphy has, in his double bereavement, the whole hearted sympathy not only of the members of the Co. Council but of everybody connected with it.

"That copy of this resolution be furnished the relatives of the deceased."

Michael Doyle