

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

=====

MEETING 22ND SEPTEMBER, 1930.

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MINUTES.

FORTVIEW,
WEXFORD.

N.J. FRIZELLE,
SECRETARY.

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INDEX

Baldwinstown-Killabeg Road.....	Page(s) 10
Blackwater-Wexford Road.....	23-24
County Surveyor's Report.....	1- 3
Camblin Road.....	6
Corner at Tullycanna.....	8
Condition of Wexford-Duncannon Road.....	10-11
Complaint of workman.....	17-22
Coast Erosion at Rosslare.....	24-25
Disposal of screenings.....	8- 9
Erection of Shed.....	30
Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors.....	30-31
Gorey-Courtown Road.....	4- 6
Gorey Hill Quarry.....	28-29
Insurance and Carriage of gelignite.....	9
Injury to Ganger.....	26
Old Jail Reconstruction.....	9
Painting of iron posts.....	11
Prisoners dock in new Courthouse.....	27-28
Proposed entertainment hall at Duncannon.....	29-30
Proposed pensions to necessitous widows and orphans...	31-32
Railway Company and Overline Bridges.....	6- 7
Rate Collector Donohoe.....	11-17
Road Grants.....	23
Slade Harbour.....	9
Trimming the sides of roads.....	11
Wexford-Rosslare Road.....	4
Wexford Harbour Board and Danger Signs.....	8

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1

A meeting of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 22nd September, 1930.

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

The Secretary, County Surveyor and six Assistant Surveyors were also in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

COUNTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The following was submitted by the County Surveyor:-

"The spreading of tarred stones and spraying with Bitumen on the Rosslare Road is now nearly completed, and I believe, will prove a satisfactory job.

The laying of the cement-bound macadam on section of the New Ross Road is in progress, and the rolling on the section nearer New Ross is well advanced.

The Contract work on the Gorey-Courtown Road is proceeding, and with reference to this I consider that the Council should make further representations to the Local Government Department asking for a Grant to complete the work as arranged when the Chief Engineering Inspector was before the Council.

As directed by the County Council I certified payment to Messrs Hull for the Wexford-Ferrycarrig Road, and have letter from them stating that they are accepting this payment "under protest". There is a difference between us in regard to Quarry and Machinery Charges which they state should not be deducted from their Contract sum, but I am satisfied in this matter. Further they state that it must be clearly understood they are reserving their rights to claim damages for loss caused by delays etc.

2

The rolling in of the tarred stones on the Camblin road is now completed, and the spraying with Bitumen is in progress.

I have received letter from the Railway Company asking if any decision has been come to in regard to the maintenance of over-bridges in Wexford and Enniscorthy Urban Areas. This matter was adjourned on former occasions awaiting any general agreement that might be come to with the General Council of County Councils. Personally, I think the offer made is reasonable and should be accepted.

I have received application from the Wexford Harbour Commissioners for danger signs to be erected along the Quays at the Crescent. You will understand that this main line through the Town is specially excluded from the Main Road Scheme by the Local Government Department, and, consequently, the County Council have no control of it. However, by request of the Local Government, the County Council undertook the carrying out of the Grant work on the Quays, and they since authorised me to do small repair work for the Harbour Board. Possibly, under these circumstances, the Council might supply the signs if they would be erected by the Harbour Board.

As directed by the Council I inspected the reported nuisance from road water in Clough, and consider that proper concrete channel should be constructed. This matter should not be put in hands until we are considering next year's Estimate.

In last Road Works' Scheme a small proposal was approved of for easing a corner on road No. 883 at Tullycana. The owner of the land is making some alterations to gateway at the place, and, under the circumstances, this work will not be required, and I ask for authority to use the money for easing a bad corner near Duncormick Railway Station, on road No. 906. The amount is £2.

The Committee appointed to deal with the disposal of screenings in several quarries was summoned, but no member at-

3
tended.

I have had complaint of the present condition of Slade Harbour, and beg to report that there is need to have a quantity of sand and gravel removed to have the harbour satisfactory. The complaint also refers to depressions on the Quay surface, and I am having this matter attended to.

The construction work at the Old Jail is now almost completed. A start has been made in laying the jointless flooring, and the Painter has also commenced work.

I have had correspondence with the Insurance Company with reference to covering possible claims in the event of explosion of gelignite in transit, and hope to have satisfactory arrangements made shortly."

4

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

"That report of County Surveyor, submitted to this meeting, be received and considered."

Wexford-Rosslare Road

The Chairman said there was something like about a mile of this road which had to be repaired. To his mind the portion done would not be a very lasting job and there were some potholes showing already and the water was standing in a good many places that morning.

The County Surveyor said that the work was of a temporary nature only.

The Chairman said the coating of stones was so light that it was only waste. If only half of the road was done and it was done right they would have had a much better job. The road is in good condition but he (Chairman) did not think it would hold.

The County Surveyor said it would be admitted that the light patches of indifferent stones with cold tar had lasted well for a couple of years and he would expect that what had been put down with good stones and with a fairly heavy coating of boiled tar should last well. Some of the places which had been previously treated were uneven and, of course, they got lighter treatment.

Chairman - Where you had only two inches of stones I don't think it is going to last very long. The road from Jones Cross down to Tagoat was treated with sea gravel but there is not an ounce left - it is all gone over the ditch.

Gorey Courtown Road

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Keegan:- "That we again request the Department of Local Government to provide the small amount of grant which is needed to finish this road. Owing to the necessity for change in amount of sand to be used in mix the work is more

costly and the Co. Council have no funds available. In the circumstances we request the Department of Local Government to furnish the small amount necessary to complete the road. It would be very unsightly to leave portion of the road ~~un~~completed."

Mr. Keegan asked who was responsible for the Boleany Road at the moment. It was ⁱⁿ a bad way owing to the carting of sand in six ton lorries which were cutting the road to bits. It was almost impassable at Boleany Hill and at the Ardamine Rectory. This all occurred in a fortnight and he wished to know who was responsible as by and by the ratepayers would be saddled with the cost of repair.

The County Surveyor said that the road was getting very bad and he had discussed with Mr. Treanor, Assistant Surveyor, as to what was best to be done.

Mr. Keegan asked why provision had not been made for the carting of the sand. It was the lightest material to be dealt with.

The County Surveyor said there was no provision in the specification for repair of Gorey Courtown road for the Contractor to be responsible for injury to by-roads.

Mr. Keegan contended that the breaking up of six miles of a by-road should not have occurred. The County Surveyor should have foreseen the position and had a provision in the specification for the carting of the sand.

The County Surveyor said they were getting the sand from the sea at Courtown. The original intention was to have it taken from a pit but by arrangement it was obtained from the sea which was much superior.

Mr. Keegan asked if there was not a good sand pit at Ballyowen. County Surveyor - There is no sand equal to suitable sea sand.

In reply to the Chairman, the County Surveyor said that the Contractor had not done anything which he had no legal right to do.

Mr. Keegan said the repair of the by-road would cost £500 or £600 and this could have been avoided.

6

The Chairman said the Council could not have it both ways. When the Rosslare Road was under repair the by-road was cut to pieces but it could not be helped.

Mr. Keegan held that the County Surveyor should have taken steps to prevent this happening.

The County Surveyor said the first time he was drafting a specification for such work he inserted a clause that the Contractor should be responsible for injury to the by-roads but the Local Government Department struck it out and said they would not get anyone to tender if this was to be made a responsibility of the Contractor.

Mr. O'Byrne said there was ~~abus~~ on this road four times a week and it required repair.

The County Surveyor said they would have the road done and all bad holes filled.

Mr. Keegan proposed that a Committee of the County Councillors for Gorey Electoral area should visit the road and report to next meeting of the Council.

Mr. Cummins seconded.

Colonel Gibbon pointed out that the whole thing arose because the Council had no power to prohibit heavy traffic using by-roads which were unfit to bear it in certain weather conditions

Colonel Quin moved that they proceed to the next business.

The resolution of Mr. Keegan was then put and passed, County Surveyor to arrange as to date, place and time of meeting of Sub-Committee.

Camblin Road. In reply to Mr. Cooney, the County Surveyor said that the Camblin Road had been done to Slaght Cross but no money had been left over. They had a proposal to repair the road from Slaght Cross on by the quarry which had been damaged.

Railway Co., and Overline Bridges. The County Surveyor submitted the following letter from the District Engineer, Great Southern Railways:-

7

"It is, I think, clear, that the Company are not bound to maintain the approaches of Overbridges in a state of repair now considered necessary for Motor Traffic. The Wexford County Council, on the other hand, are no doubt anxious that all the roads within their boundary should be in a condition now considered desirable, and if so, it does not seem unreasonable that they should be willing to bear the difference in the cost between the standard obligatory on the Company and that demanded by the Motorist. The Company would, therefore, be prepared on this basis to agree to a final commuted charge based on 4d per square yard for the roadway and footpaths of the 3 Bridges afore mentioned or a present charge of these rates based on present rates of pay to Wexford County Council Labourers with provision for varying the charge with variations in rates of pay based on the assumption that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cost of maintenance is labour.

'I may say that the Company have recently entered into a number of Agreements with other Authorities on these lines, and I shall be glad to hear from you in due course if the County Council would be prepared to enter into such an Agreement.

'I give you below the area, for the maintenance of which the Company is responsible on each of the 3 Bridges:-

<u>Overbridge at Wexford</u>	Roads and Footpaths	990 sq. yds.
<u>Overbridge at Millpark road, Enniscorthy.</u>	" " "	778 " "
<u>Overbridge at Island road, Enniscorthy.</u>	" " "	2688 " "

The County Surveyor recommended the acceptance of the proposal.

Mr. O'Byrne proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Shannon and adopted:-

"That we accept from Great Southern ^{Railways} a commuted charge based on 4d per square yard for the maintenance of road-way and approaches of the following railway bridges:- Overbridge at Wexford; do Millpark Road, Enniscorthy; do Island Road, Enniscorthy."

8

Wexford Harbour Board and Danger Signs

The Chairman said this was a responsibility of the Harbour Board and he did not think the County Council should shoulder it. The Harbour Board should look after their own work.

Mr. Gaul said he thought the Harbour Board would be prepared to erect the signs.

It was decided the Harbour Board be informed that the County Council could not see their way to take action in this matter.

Corner at Tullycanna

Mr. O'Byrne proposed, and Colonel Quin seconded, the following resolution:- "That the £2 voted for corner on Road 883 at Tullycanna be applied to cost of easing corner near Duncormack Railway Station."

Disposal of Screenings

Mr. Armstrong said it was not correct to say no member of the Sub-Committee turned up. He was present at the pit for an hour and a quarter.

Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, said he had summoned the meeting for Clohamon and he did not know that Mr. Armstrong was present until it was too late to do anything.

The County Surveyor said they were not going to dispose of any more good quality sand.

Mr. Armstrong said what he wanted was that there should be an arrangement to sell the second quality sand.

The County Surveyor said that if they were to separate the dirt from the sand the cost would be too high. It was cheaper to dump this stuff.

Mr. Ennis said that what they proposed doing was to keep the good sand and not to separate the rest and sell it at 1/- a yard.

Mr. Cline moved that the Committee appointed to consider the question of the sale of screenings be again summoned, County Surveyor

Surveyor to fix date, place and time of meeting.

Mr. Shannon seconded.

Colonel Gibbon proposed that the proposal of Mr. Ennis be accepted. Mr. Culleton seconded.

A vote was taken with the result that Colonel Quin was the only Councillor who voted for the amendment.

Those supporting the resummoning of the Committee were:- Messrs Armstrong, Clince, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Gibbon, Hall, Keegan, McCarthy, Murphy, O'Byrne, Shannon, Smyth and the Chairman.

Mr. Culleton did not vote and Miss O'Ryan, Jordan, D'Arcy, Hayes were not present when poll was taken.

Slade Harbour

It was decided to refer the matter to the County Surveyor to make the best arrangements possible in the circumstances.

Old Jail Reconstruction

Colonel Quin - When will it be ready ?.

The County Surveyor said it was supposed to be ready by November, but it certainly ought to be ready by Christmas. The contractor had not in any way wasted or lost time, and had gone ahead as quickly as he could. If he was outside the time at all it would only be by a couple of weeks.

Mr. Murphy - Is he giving satisfaction ?.

County Surveyor - Oh, yes; he is doing good work.

Chairman - If you are going to give him two months longer who is paying the clerk of works ?

County Surveyor - We are. I wasn't going to give him any more time. I was only mentioning the way the work is shaping.

Chairman - If he is wanting time let him apply.

Insurance and Carriage of Gelignite

The County Surveyor said the matter was complicated because they were partially covered. When he had complete information he would submit it to the Finance Committee.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Colonel Quin:-

"That the report of County Surveyor submitted to this meeting be and is hereby approved."

BALDWINSTOWN - KILLAG ROAD

Colonel Gibbon said he had been requested by a resident to ask the County Surveyor what was being done with the road between Baldwinstown and Killag.

Mr. Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, said he did not know that there was anything wrong with that portion of the road. There was a good deal of pot-holes further down.

Colonel Gibbon - Have you been over it lately ?.

Mr. Kehoe - Less than a fortnight ago.

Colonel Gibbon said that since the very heavy rains the road had deteriorated enormously, because there was no way of getting the water off the road.

Mr. Kehoe said he would see the road, but he was not aware that there was anything wrong with it.

CONDITION OF WEXFORD-DUNCANNON ROAD

Mr. Gaul said he wished to again draw attention to the Wexford-Duncannon road. He thought that anyone who travelled over it at present would agree that it wanted attention.

The County Surveyor said that the Duncannon road was getting very badly pot-holed at present, and if it were to be properly maintained there would have to be more money for it next year.

Mr. Colfer - Is there any possibility of getting a grant for that road ?.

The County Surveyor said that at present he was preparing a Scheme but he did not know if anything would come out of it.

Mr. Cooney - People make out that the roads down there aren't attended to half as well as they should be, and they say the people in the north of the County are getting more of the jam,

11
though they have to pay their share.

Mr. Colfer proposed that the Council should ask the Department for a grant for the Wexford-Duncannon road.

Mr. Cooney seconded, and the proposition was passed.

Painting of Iron posts

At the suggestion of Colonel Gibbon it was decided that iron posts which had been used at eased corners should be tarred or painted.

Trimming the sides of Roads

Mr. Culleton said that on every road over which he had travelled for the past fortnight men were employed trimming the sides and he considered they could have been at more useful work. Three men were at this work between Wexford and Curracloe and this was nonsense when the very bad condition of the surface of the road was taken into consideration.

The Chairman said in a great many cases Mr. Culleton's complaint held good and he (Chairman) believed that it would have been better to employ the men to put out material.

The County Surveyor said he had notified the Assistant Surveyors to limit the amount of money spent on this work.

The matter dropped

RATE COLLECTOR DONOHUE

In connection with the suspension of Collector P. Donohoe (No. 12 District), the following, under date 19th September (G. 67805/1930 Fa) 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 your letter of the 16th instant transmitting ~~in~~ a copy of the resolution of the Wexford County Council of the 8th instant suspending Rate Collector Donohoe (District No. 12) from Office.

"An examination of Rate Collector Donohoe's record shows that he has been a most unsatisfactory officer. The Minister

12 ✓

directs me to state that he hereby confirms the suspension of Collector Donohoe, and removes him from office pursuant to Article 99 of the Public Bodies Order, 1925.

'The Minister recommends that the County Council should explore the possibility of amalgamating District No.12 with adjacent districts in which there may be efficient Collectors. If this course is not considered feasible the terms of the necessary advertisement for the filling of the position should be submitted for consideration with the least possible delay.'"

The following motion stood in the name of Mr Hall:-

"That resolution adopted on 8th September, 1930, suspending Patrick Donohoe, Rate Collector, be rescinded and that Minister for Local Government & Public Health be requested to consent to termination of suspension."

The Blackwater branch of the Farmers' Union wrote stating that they had seen by the Press that Mr Pat Donohoe, Rate Collector, had been suspended, and they regretted it very much, as he was a very hard-working man for the Council. On the other hand, the ratepayers found it impossible at present to meet the demand, and times were very hard, and money could not easily be got. Numerous times he had to go to some places without avail. It was the due performance of the duties of his office in a clear honest and straightforward manner that entitled the members of the branch to appeal to the Council to remove the suspension from an over worked Rate Collector.

Mr Hall said he would propose the adoption of his motion, and would ask the Council to give it their careful consideration. The resolution passed by the Finance Committee was a very hard one to comply with, considering the time it was passed in - in the month of August. It was the worst month of the year to get in money in any district. The resolution passed by the Finance Committee meant a collection of about £25 a day - a very considerable amount to collect at that time of the year. He had been collecting, roughly, eight or nine years, and during that time there were no complaints against him of not serving demand notes or calling for rates. The Committee complained of the backwardness of the Collection, but a great many people depended on the sale of corn and potatoes, and the members all knew how hard it was to make money out of corn or potatoes last year, and, therefore, he thought it was nearly impossible for Donohoe to be any better with his Collection than he was. He remembered the time when they were very glad to have Donohoe for a Collector. Donohoe came to the Council's assistance when other collectors were not allowed

14

to collect. He came to the Council's assistance when they were in a very bad way for money, and he went and collected the money. Therefore, he would ask the Council to give Donohoe's suspension their very best consideration, and he proposed that they should ask the Minister to remove the suspension, and if Donohoe could be put on probation for a period of three or six months.

Mr Cummins seconded.

Mr Jordan said he thought the order made by the Council in Donohoe's case was too drastic altogether. He believed that an order was made for Donohoe to lodge £150 a week, and he thought that anyone who knew the state of the country would realise that it was very hard to expect Donohoe to collect £25 a day. As a matter of fact, he did not know how any Collector had the face to go for rates under the circumstances. Potatoes were rotting, corn was in a bad state, and the price of pigs was low, and he supposed that, perhaps, Donohoe had not the heart to go and seize a man's cow. The order was too drastic altogether. The Council were not supposed to force the people out of their homes, or put them into lunatic asylums. If they wiped out altogether the people they were collecting from, where were they to get money next year ? The Council would have to go a little bit steadier. They were a little bit too severe on the people, and they should give them time to make their harvest. When the people had the money they would pay, and when they had not the money they could not pay.

Mr Keegan said he believed that those who signed the communication from Blackwater district would not do so if it was not true. If the members went through Blackwater District and saw the state of the corn in the fields, and the price of pigs, they might realise the state of affairs. They could not take the money out of a farmer's pocket when he had not got it.

Colonel Quin said he understood that the Collector was a man who over several years had been continually gingered up. He was sorry about the people in the district, but it did not

15

improve the position with regard to the Collectors for them to be told they cannot collect rates.

Mr O'Byrne said that he was at the meeting of the Committee that made the recommendation, and the reason it was made/^{was} that they were going into the Collection fortnight after fortnight, and two Collectors were persistently on the bottom of the list. A recommendation was made that one Collector should collect £200 a week, and that Donohoe should collect £150 a week; the other Collector practically collected the £200 a week, but Donohoe did not make the effort that the last man on the list made, as he collected the £200. The members were expected to try to get in the rates, and they knew as well as any other one the hardship of the country, but he did not see the difference between one district and another. He did not see that the recommendation was hard or impossible when a man who was asked for a higher percentage collected it.

Mr Hall said that one would think by Mr O'Byrne that it was all the fault of the Collector. One would think by Mr O'Byrne's statements that Donohoe was going from bad to worse, but that was not really the case. On the day he was suspended his position was better than that time twelve months.

Mr O'Byrne - He was the worst of the Collectors. I am not saying he was going from bad to worse.

Mr Culleton said that another reason for the backward state of Donohoe's collection was the road from Wexford to Blackwater. Ratepayers in the district refused to pay rates, finding that the Council repaired the streets of Blackwater and not the road. He thought they were justified.

Colonel Gibbon said he did not like the suggestion in the discussion that it was very hard to get rates, and that it was quite legitimate for the Collectors not to collect. He admitted that the farmers had not got the money, but the first duty of the Council was to strike a rate that the farmers could pay. He hoped that Mr Jordan, as Chairman of the Health Board, was tak-

ing steps to cut down the estimates of the Health Board in accordance with what the farmers could pay for the next year. He (Colonel Gibbon) had endeavoured to cut down the road rate. What was happening at the present time was that in a year like this the farmers were in a frightfully bad position, but certain rates had been struck, and had to be raised, but the Council would have to strike a rate that they could pay.

Mr Jordan said that the County Health Board was the one board that consistently cut down their estimates.

Mr Culleton - Col. Gibbon voted here a couple of months ago to put £1,000 more on the County by appointing a County Medical Officer of Health.

The Chairman said he believed that it was on the advice of the Rate Inspector that the Committee made the recommendation. There was a second Collector even worse than Donohoe and he was chastised too and ordered to get in £200 a week, and he did not think the Finance Committee could be blamed very largely. He quite agreed with Mr Jordan that they wanted to be humane under present circumstances. They had as much thought, he believed, for Collectors as anyone else had, and the Finance Committee knew the state of the country as well as any other body. He thought they had not dealt severely in any case in which they could do otherwise, but when they continually found people at the bottom of the list, and saw others who were recently appointed, and not in any better districts, collecting much larger amounts than people who were a long time at it, he did not think it could be said that the Committee dealt harshly with anybody. However, in face of the communication from the large body of Blackwater rate-payers he was quite prepared to fall in with Mr Hall's motion. He regretted that the Minister had been so quick in his decision in the case, and he would feel glad if the Collector got a chance. He was not casting the least aspersion on the Collector. He believed there was a good deal in Mr Hall's statement that it was the worst month in the year to collect money.

17
Mr Hall added to his proposition:-

"That the Collector be put on probation for six months."

Colonel Quin - It isn't only for this occasion that he has been checked. I understand he has been consistently bad for several years. It isn't on account of one month in the year, but on account of his conduct for several years past.

Chairman - But eventually at the end of the Collection he managed to close as well as anyone else probably.

Mr Jordan - You also have men consistently worse than he, and they are not suspended.

Colonel Gibbon - I do think the time has come when we have got to reduce the rates in every direction we possibly can.

Mr Shannon said that he was present at the Finance Committee Meeting, and he saw the necessity for making the order, but he had learned since that Donohoe was in a very awkward position at the moment, or at least he was at the time the order was made. He was a big farmer, and he (Mr Shannon) believed that if he could get his crop together he would make a rush to collect the rates. He would be in favour of giving Donohoe six months probation in the belief that if he got that chance he would make a good Collector in the future.

Mr Corish - I think what Mr Hall stated about the Collector ought to be put before the Minister. After all some years ago one found it very hard to get Collectors, and Donohoe came to our assistance.

A poll on Mr Hall's motion resulted as follows:-

For - Messrs Clince, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Culleton, Cummins, Gaul, Hall, Hayes, Jordan, Keegan, McCarthy, Murphy, O'Byrne, O'Ryan, Shannon, Smyth and the Chairman - 18.

Against - Mr Armstrong, Colonel Gibbon and Colonel Quin,

Mr D'Arcy was not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

COMPLAINT OF WORKMAN.

Under date 3rd September, 1930, George Roche, Sinnottstown,

18

Drinagh, wrote:-

"Relative to above case which was before your Council at their last meeting, I have been advised to send you a statement of facts with a request that you be kind enough to have the matter brought before the next meeting of your Council. This statement is similar to the one made to Mr Gaul and signed by me but which was not produced at your last meeting. I approached Mr Gaul for that statement but he stated he must have burnt it, hence this present one.

Statement.

After being idle for over 12 months, and after repeated requests for Council work, I was successful in securing work on the Wexford-Rosslare road, starting as night Watchman at Rocklands, on June 29th. After working for five nights I was stopped as there was a shortage of tar. Eventually the tar arrived and I was re-engaged on Monday 28th July at the Forge, Kilmacree, mixing stones and tar for three days - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Wednesday night I was again started as night watchman and continued so until the following Wednesday morning. On Wednesday evening whilst getting ready for work I received a message that I was not to start until Mr Boggan called, and thinking that perhaps the men were working later than usual I remained at home waiting for Mr Boggan to call. Mr Boggan called and I asked him what time I was to start and he said "You are not to start at all. You're finished." I asked him the reason and he said that the tanks were not up. This was the first and only time he ever complained to me about the tanks, the only exceptions being when Mr Boggan requested me not to have the tanks too high in the morning. This was on Friday night 1st August. When starting on this work Mr Boggan's instructions were that I was to have the tanks up to 300° and I have always had them up to that heat.

I am willing to go before your meeting when I can answer any questions put to me concerning the delay in starting work etc."

19

In a second letter Roche complained that there was a balance of 12/5 due to him.

Roche came before the meeting and made a verbal statement similar to that submitted by him in writing. He alleged that he was dismissed in order to shield another employee on the road. He had the tar boilers heated to the required temperature when he ceased in the mornings as night watchman. When speaking to Boggan on one occasion he asked him what time he was to resume work. Boggan told him that he was done working, as the tar boilers were not up. When he asked for his books Boggan told him to go to the County Council office. He came and told Mr Birthistle who would not listen to any complaint about Boggan. When he asked Boggan why he was not paid in full Boggan stated that the payment was not short, and that Mr Birthistle only allowed for ten hours working as a night watchman.

In reply to the Chairman, Roche stated he didn't know that ~~the~~ 7s. 1d. was in the County Council office for him. The amount due to him was 12s.5d.

Mr J. Murphy - Do you hold you were "sacked" for nothing ?

Roche - I hold I was sacked to shield another man.

Mr Birthistle stated that Roche was not ten minutes ~~le~~ left the office when Boggan came with the money. Boggan was acting on his instructions. Boggan was responsible for getting Roche employed, stating that he was a man with a large family. Boggan also asked him on occasions to continue him.

Mr Keegan - Is that a definite statement that this man was not satisfactory ?

Mr Birthistle - Yes.

Mr P. Hayes stated that if Roche's statement were true, he didn't see any reason for dismissing him.

Mr Birthistle explained that Roche had not included his payment for insurance in calculating the amount due to him. He was being paid at a rate which was higher than that for a watchman on the Urban area.

20

Chairman - Was he notified that the money was in the office?

Mr Birthistle - No, on account of the attitude he adopted. He suggested by his attitude that I was in collusion with Boggan. I think the Council know me well enough to see that I have never been in collusion with anyone, and if I lose my temper the rate-payers benefit by it.

In reference to a suggestion of Roche, that a carter who was also employed on the job was late in going to his work, Mr Birthistle said he never knew of the man being unpunctual.

Colonel Gibbon - This man alleges he never received any warning that his work had been unsatisfactory. Did he get any notice?

Mr Birthistle - He received no personal warning from me. It was on my instructions the man was sacked.

Mr Keegan - I hold the man was entitled to at least a week's notice.

County Surveyor - All the men at the job are employed only by the hour.

The Ganger, William Boggan, was brought before the meeting and before he made his statement ~~xx~~ the County Surveyor stated that the material used on the road was bitumen and not tar, and that the former required to be of a higher temperature than tar before it could be used on a road.

The Chairman addressing Boggan stated that Roche alleged he had been dismissed and the Council desired to hear his (Boggan's) statement as to whether Roche was dismissed without notice and why he was dismissed.

Boggan stated he first recommended the employment of Roche being a man with a large family. He asked Mr Birthistle to give him work. Mr Birthistle directed him to give Roche a trial as a nightman. He was set to work as a night watchman on June 29 and he (Boggan) went with him to the tar boilers and stopped with him for a while having explained the nature of the work he had

to carry out. He also came to Roche at 4 o'clock on the following morning and stopped with him until eight o'clock. He did his utmost to make him conversant with his work and Roche seemed to be afraid of the boilers. After five nights his employment as night watchman ceased owing to a shortage of bitumen, and he was then put on day work. On the first day he had to chastise Roche for standing idle and on the next day he came out with a pair of gloves (laughter), and stated that his hands had got sore from using the shovel mixing the tar and gravel. He was useless at the day work, and he put him back on night work again. While on night work he had not the tar boilers ready in time for men to start work in the morning, and Mr Birthistle chastized him (Boggan) about it. He told Mr Birthistle what happened, and Mr Birthistle instructed him to terminate Roche's employment. He (Boggan) would not like to do harm to any man, but Roche was absolutely useless, and he had to report him to Mr Birthistle.

Mr Keegan - Therefore you are responsible for taking him on and indirectly for sacking him ?

Boggan - Yes. I did my best to make him do his work right.

Chairman - Did you actually tell him that he was unsatisfactory ?

Boggan - I did on several occasions.

Mr Hayes - Roche states that he did not get any notice.

Roche - I got no notice whatever. He only asked me on the Friday night to keep the tanks going.

Mr Birthistle - Boggan notified me on four or five occasions at least that he was unsatisfactory at the tar boilers. If there was any undercurrent I am not aware of it. I don't believe there is any undercurrent.

Mr J. Cummins - Why didn't you give the man his money ?

Boggan - I called at his house and I couldn't find him, and I then brought it in here. When I left the money in the office I was done with it.

Mr Keegan - Did you notify him about the money ?

Boggan - No.

Chairman - Why did you press on Roche's son to sign the pay sheet when you were not very far from his house?

Boggan - The boy came up to me for the money and I was not done working.

Roche - He was finished working; it was after eight o'clock.

Mr Murphy proposed that the action of Mr Birthistle be upheld, which was seconded by Mr D'Arcy.

The Chairman said he was of the opinion that there was something lacking on the side of the Council in the matter in so far as the money was concerned. There was a small unbusinesslike method in regard to it. It should have been settled.

Mr Murphy's proposition was passed unanimously.

ROAD GRANTS

Under date 9th September, 1930, the Department of Local Government wrote (R/RG/131) that authority had been received from the Minister for Finance to the making of a grant not exceeding £1000 to the Wexford County Council for the surfacing in reinforced concrete of King Street Wexford. The work was to be carried out by arrangement between Wexford County Council and Wexford Corporation. The Scheme submitted by Wexford Corporation had been approved by the Minister and the conditions as regards the employment of men in respect of previous grants also governed this grant.

Under date 11th September, 1930, the Department of Local Government wrote (R/RG/79) that he had received the authority of the Minister for Finance to the making from the Road Fund to the County Council, on behalf of Enniscorthy Urban District Council, a grant, not exceeding £6,000, towards the cost of resurfacing in concrete certain streets in this Urban District; the Enniscorthy Urban Council to contribute £4300 towards the cost. The Scheme submitted by the Urban District had been approved. The conditions as regards the employment of men notified in respect of previous grants governed this grant

BLACKWATER-WEXFORD ROAD

Under date 9th September, 1930, Mr. G. J. Morris, Hon. Secretary, Wexford Development Association wrote:- "I am instructed by the above Association to ask that the Blackwater-Wexford road be put in a proper state of repair. As this is a main road into Wexford it is a great hardship on people wishing to come to town to have to use it in its present state."

The County Surveyor said he had nothing to say to the letter. He was doing the best he could with the money available. The only thing could be done would be when allocating money for roads next year to allocate more to Blackwater.

24

It was decided that Mr. Morris be furnished with the statement of the County Surveyor.

COAST EROSION AT ROSSLARE

Under date 15th September, 1930, the Department of Industry and Commerce wrote (M.S.1447):-

"With reference to your letter of the 9th instant relative to the application for an Order prohibiting the removal of sand and gravel from the foreshore at Rosslare Strand, I am to inform you that the Minister for Industry & Commerce has appointed Messrs E. J. Smyth, B.L., and A. Hassard, M.A.I., A.M.Inst. C.E., to hold a Public Inquiry into the matter on Monday, the 29th inst., at Rosslare.

'A draft notice of this Inquiry is enclosed and I am to request that it may be inserted, by and at the expense of the Wexford County Council, in an early issue of the "Irish Independent" and one local newspaper, and that copies of these papers containing the advertisement may be forwarded to this Department.

'I am also to request that posters worded as in the enclosed draft advertisement may be exhibited at different places in the locality where they are likely to be seen by persons interested.

'I am further to state that it will be necessary for the County Council at their own expense to obtain the use of some convenient room at Rosslare and that the situation of this room should be communicated to the Department and specified in the Notices of Inquiry.

'The Department also desire that the County Council will at their own expense engage the services of a competent shorthand writer to take notes of the proceedings at the Inquiry and will furnish the Department with a transcript of the shorthand notes, for retention in the records of the Department'

The Chairman and Miss O'Ryan held that the Council applied for an Inquiry into the question of the removal of sand and

25
and gravel from the foreshore at Rosslare Strand but not for an Order prohibiting same.

Mr. McCarthy, the proposal of the resolution applying for the Order said they had been informed by Mr. O'Dwyer of the Local Government Department (who was present at the meeting) that a private individual had applied for a prohibition Order which was likely to be granted. He (Mr. McCarthy) pointed out it would be very invidious if the County Council could be ordered off the strand at the instance of a private individual and for that reason he proposed the resolution asking for the Order and in the ensuing discussion it was decided to request the Department to have the Inquiry in order to clearly prove if the removal of sand and gravel was responsible for the erosion of the coast.

The Secretary bore out this statement and pointed out that according to the report in the Press the resolution of Mr. McCarthy asking for the Order with the addendum requesting the Department to arrange for an Inquiry had been passed.

After further discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Corish, seconded by Colonel Gibbon:-

"That as regards our application for Order, relative to removal of sand and gravel from Rosslare Strand, we desire to make it quite clear that our position is that this application is for an Inquiry as to whether the said removal of sand and gravel is injurious to the foreshore but on this point we reserve the right to enter upon the Inquiry with an open mind"

Colonel Quin proposed and Mr. O'Byrne seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That Mr. J. F. Heffernan, "Free Press" Wexford, be appointed Shorthand Writer in connection with the forthcoming local Inquiry at Rosslare into application for Order prohibiting removal of sand and gravel from the foreshore - remuneration to be at usual scheduled rates"

INJURY TO GANGER

The following report from Mr. T. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor, under date 1st September, 1930, was submitted:-

"On Saturday last, 30th ultimo, James Broaders, Sparrowsland, Bree, Ganger of Bree Section, had his right hand badly injured by the explosion of a detonator. It appears he was frightening crows off his garden with a detonator and fuse. He was removed to County Hospital, Wexford, on Saturday evening, and I think his right hand has been amputated."

On the motion of Colonel Quin, seconded by Mr. Murphy, it was decided to consider the matter in Committee.

The County Surveyor said the incident had been reported to the Insurance Company but they - very properly in his opinion - had disclaimed liability as Broaders was not engaged in County Council work when the accident happened. The County Council were obliged to get special permits from the Civic Guards to allow certain gangers to hold explosives for use in quarries and the action of Broaders in using gelignite for his own purpose might affect the attitude of the Guards and considerably hamper the preparation of road material. Besides Broaders might be advised to take proceedings against the Council though at the time undoubtedly he was not doing Council work.

Colonel Quin proposed, and Colonel Gibbon seconded the following resolution which was passed unanimously:-

"That the report of Mr. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor, relative to injury to Ganger Broaders be referred to Mr. Elgee for his advice and with directions to defend any proceedings which may be taken by Broaders against the Council."

Colonel Gibbon said it might strengthen the position of the Council if Mr. Elgee proceeded against Broaders for stealing the gelignite.

The County Surveyor said this did not arise as Broaders had a permit from the Civic Guards to hold a certain amount of explosives.

27

PRISONERS DOCK IN NEW COURTHOUSE.

Under date 10th September, 1930, the following was read from Mr M.J. Dwyer, County Registrar:-

"I give below an extract from a letter received from the Circuit Judge with reference to the situation of the Dock in the new Courthouse.

"There must be direct communication to the Dock without the prisoner coming in contact with the public either coming on going. I think the only way this can be affected is to have the Dock at the side of the Court. The front of the dock should face the Bench and the jury Box, that is, it will be at an angle."

The County Surveyor said if there was to be direct communication to the Dock without the prisoner coming in contact with the Public it would mean that an extra stairs would have to be provided. When the matter came up before he said it would cost about £50 but he had since gone into the figures more closely and found it would run to more. As a matter of fact he had a quotation for the work at £68.

Colonel Quin proposed the following resolution:-

"That prisoner's dock in New Courthouse, Wexford, be erected so as to provide direct communication to same without contact with the public, cost of work not to exceed £68. That the Council/endeavour to recover this amount from the Ministry of Justice as the work is being carried out at their request.

Mr McCarthy seconded.

Miss O'Ryan asked if there was any section in any Act of Parliament compelling the County Council to carry out this alteration.

The County Surveyor said that the award of compensation was for the construction of a Courthouse and if the work was not done to the satisfaction of the Department of Justice, portion of the award would probably not be paid. They had to satisfy the Department of Justice as to Court and Offices and if they

failed to do this the Department might not sanction the place as a Court.

Mr Keegan proposed the following amendment:-

"That we carry out the work at Wexford Courthouse according to the plans and specifications submitted by this Council and approved by the Ministries concerned. We consider if any alterations are required they should be paid for by the Government."

Miss O'Ryan seconded.

A poll was taken with the following result.

For the amendment - Messrs Armstrong, Clince, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, D'Arcy, Gaul, Gibbon, Hayes, Keegan, O'Ryan, Smyth and the Chairman - 13.

Against - Messrs Culleton, Cummins, Hall, Jordan, McCarthy, Murphy, O'Byrne, Quin, and Shannon - 9.

The Chairman declared the amendment carried.

On being put as the substantive motion it was adopted nem con.

GOREY HILL QUARRY.

The following under date 16th September, 1930, was read from Messrs Huggard, Brennan and Godfrey:-

"Your letter of the 13th instant received.

We are rather astonished at the contents of this letter as since our previous letter has been written our client has been here and she informs us that she was speaking to the Foreman who is conducting operations in the Quarry and he stated that it was a matter entirely for the County Council. He gave her to understand that the Pioneer Road Construction Company were employed by the County Council and if damage was done, the County Council were responsible.

Matters at present are intolerable for our client, her property and even her own life are in danger. It is therefore important that something should be done at once. As a matter

29

of fact only yesterday, stones thrown up from the blast fell about our clients' premises and on the out-offices and Dwellinghouse.

With regard to the statement of the County Surveyor we beg to say, that on the hearing of this case Mr Treanor stated as follows:- One days' blasting was sufficient in the Quarry and further Mr Treanor stated that he ~~had~~ undertook not to carry out blasting if the field was under grain or corn but to postpone the blasting until the Spring or Autumn and in justice to Mr Treanor we may say that since the hearing of this case until the recent blasting has started this arrangement was carried out.

Under these circumstances we are rather surprised that your County Surveyor made the statement he did."

The County Surveyor said he had an indemnity as regards any damage in working the Quarry from the Pioneer Road Construction Company. The statements in the letter of Messrs Huggard, Brennan and Godfrey were disputed.

Mr D'arcy said that no one in Ireland would stand what was going on at the place. Fences were broken down and stones were flung into the crops. Something should be done in the matter. What was the position of the Council if anything went wrong there ?

The County Surveyor said that the Council were primarily responsible but they could then recover against the Contractor.

Mr Keegan said that there was certainly a grievance on the part of the Misses Palmer whose property was being injured. Notice had been given them of a blast but it was not carried out then, and when it subsequently took place no notice was given.

Mr Corish proposed and Mr D'Arcy seconded the following resolution:-

"That letter from Messrs Huggard, Brennan and Godfrey, as to injury caused to the premises of the Misses Palmer, be referred to Mr Elgee, County Solicitor."

Passed.

PROPOSED ENTERTAINMENT HALL AT DUNCANNON.

The following under date 25th August, 1930, was read from Mr B. Downes, Duncannon:-

"I beg to apply for your Council's permission to erect an Entertainment Hall at Duncannon banks at the village side of my dwelling house and shop, size of proposed building about 80 feet by 30 feet."

The Secretary stated that Mr Downes had been informed on 26th August, 1930, that his application could not be considered until he had submitted plan showing the position of proposed Hall in relation to the public road.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Quin seconded by Mr D'Arcy:- "That application from Mr B. Downes as to proposed erection of Entertainment Hall at Duncannon be adjourned until Mr Downes submitted plan showing the position of Hall in connection with public road adjoining site."

ERECTION OF SHED.

The County Surveyor submitted the following from Mr John Moynihan, Ferns:-

"I own two fields adjoining the County Road adjacent to Ferns, and wishing to erect a shed thereon I wish to know if I could substitute the road ditch by a concrete wall, the height of the fence.

If you would kindly refer the matter to Mr Ennis, he could easily see it any day when surveying the road repairs being carried on in Ferns."

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

"That application from Mr John Moynihan, Ferns, relative to proposed erection of shed be adjourned until a proper plan showing distance of shed from public road etc be submitted to the Council"

FEDERATION OF CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the Conditions of contract for works of Civil Engineering Construction received from Federation

36

of Civil Engineering Contractors be handed to County Surveyor for his information in connection with the preparation of engineering works."

PROPOSED PENSIONS TO NECESSITOUS WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

Booklet furnished by Mr J.P. Dunne, Hon Secretary, Irish Mothers' Pension Society, 35 Dawson Street, Dublin, was explained to the meeting.

Mr Corish said that in principle the necessity for these pensions had been agreed to by the Dail inasmuch as a Committee had been set up by the Departments concerned. But no report from this Committee had been submitted to the present. He urged the Council to adopt a resolution in favour of these pensions. It was a deplorable hardship on a decent woman whose husband had died suddenly or had been carried away by a disease like pneumonia that she had to be dependent on charity for the rest of her life. If the finances as to amounts paid in poor relief and from other sources were adjusted it would cost the State a very small sum to provide these pensions. He proposed the following resolution:- "That this Council is in favour of the establishment of State pensions for necessitous widows and orphans and that the Government be requested to take the necessary action in the matter."

Mr Cummins seconded.

The Chairman said it was not very feasible to ask the taxpayers particularly those of the County Wexford to become responsible for any further burdens. Mr Corish had referred to recoupment. All these expenses were being always recouped but the recoupment never materialised. If they took old age pensions and all the rest of it he did not think that home help was a penny the less.

A vote was taken with the following result:-

For the resolution - Messrs Armstrong, Clince, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Hayes, Keegan, McCarthy, O'Byrne, O'Ryeh, Shannon, Gibbon and Quin - 15.

Against - Messrs Culleton, D'Arcy, Hall, Jordan, Murphy,
Smyth and the Chairman - 7.

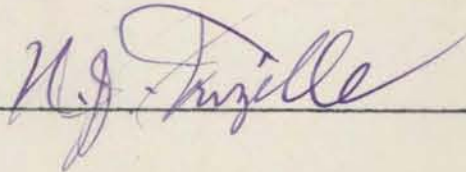
The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

Michael Doyle

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a correct
record of the Minutes of Proceedings of Wexford County
Council in respect of meeting held on 22nd September, 1930.

(Signed) _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Fuzille', written over a horizontal line.

Secretary Wexford County Council.

26th September, 1930.