

Meeting 19 April 1907

A meeting of the Wexford County Council, was held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse Wexford, on 19 April 1907.

Present:- Mr. M. A. Ennis, Vice-Chairman (Presided)

Also present:- Messrs E. Hore, D. Dempsey, M. Brown, John Cummins, Thomas Asple, M. Fodd, J. B. Heame, C. H. Pearcocke, M. Doyle, John J. Kehoe, J. Bolger, and James Fodd.

The Secretary, the Solicitor to the Council, and the County Surveyor, were also in attendance.

Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of last meeting were read and signed

Rates 1907-8

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Pearcocke and passed:- "That we hereby strike the Rate for General and Separate Charges as agreed to at the meeting of the Council on 12th February 1907, and allow and make same as assessed in the Rate Books, said Rate being in conformity with the valuation in force for the time being

That the allowance for said Rates as entered at the foot of each Rate Book, and signed by the Chairman of the meeting and two members of the Council present at this meeting be adopted, attested by the Seal of the Council and countersigned by the Secretary. That the Warrants of the Rate Collectors to collect the said Rates be sealed and signed in the same manner as the Rate Books.

That the demands on the Urban Districts of Ennisacorbhy, New Ross, and Wexford be duly sealed and signed, the amounts demanded from above Urban District Councils (after allowance for credit items in form 51) being:-

	County	Union	Separate
Wexford.	810 : 15 : 10	889 : 10 : 6	16 : 0 : 3
New Ross	398 : 17 : 4	754 : 18 : 6	22 : 4 : 2
Ennisacorbhy	404 : 11 : 10	613 : 13 : 6	2 : 8 : 9

Audit of Accounts.

The Local Government Board forwarded copy of Auditor's report on the audit of the accounts of the County Council for the half-year ended 30 September 1906 as follows:-

"I have the honour to report that I have audited the accounts of the County Council of Wexford for the half-year ended September last, and I forward, herewith, a certified Abstract thereof in pursuance of your Order in that behalf made and provided. The Accounts were prepared and submitted for audit in a very satisfactory manner, and no item of expenditure calls for any remark on my part."

The Local Government Board also forwarded copies of the reports of their Auditor in connection with the audit of the accounts of Enniscorthy Asylum, New Ross Rural District Council, and New Ross Union for the half-year ended 30 September 1906. And for Wexford and Gorey Rural District Councils, and Wexford Union for same period.

Compulsory Sheep Dipping

The recommendations of the Diseases of Animals Acts Committee relative to enforcement of Compulsory Sheep Dipping Order, were considered.

In connection with this matter the Diseases of Animals Acts Committee had referred to the Council, the question of providing dipping apparatus.

On the motion of Mr Peacocke, seconded by Mr Brown, the recommendations of the Diseases of Animals Acts Committee were confirmed.

Proposed by Mr Peacocke seconded by Mr Brown:-

"This Council considers it unnecessary at present to purchase dipping apparatus. That our Secretary be instructed to advertise for four Sheep Dipping Inspectors for the four Rural Districts of the County at a remuneration of £11 each for the dipping period

Courtown Harbour.

The following letter under date 6th April 1907, was read from Mr R. Freighton, Clerk Gorey Rural District Council:-

"The Gorey Rural District Council at their last meeting adopted the following resolution:- viz:- "That we request the County Council to employ an engineer to inspect and report on Courtown Harbour. 1st as to whether it is possible to make a fishing and trading port of Courtown. - and 2nd. The probable cost of same. as we are of opinion that the spending of small sums of money on this harbour is worse than useless, except for repairing and dredging."

"On the motion of the Chairman the following resolution was adopted:- "In reply to the resolution from Gorey District Council we desire to point out that Courtown Harbour is a fishery harbour. We consider we are responsible for keeping this harbour in proper repair to allow the fishermen to pursue their calling and we hope to be able to do so. But it is manifestly outside the jurisdiction of the Co Council to undertake any works towards developing Courtown for a trading harbour"

The meeting of the Courtown Harbour Committee held on 2nd April forwarded the following recommendation

"That we recommend the County Council to appoint Mr Alban Kelly, and Mr James Sinnott, to take the places of Rev. F. E. O'Rourke, and Mr. A. Hinsella, now the Courtown Harbour Committee, the two latter gentlemen having resigned.

"On the motion of Mr Cummins, seconded by the Chairman, the question of the new appointments to Courtown Harbour Committee was postponed till the 7th May; Rev F. E. O'Rourke, and Mr A. Hinsella, to be asked in the meantime to reconsider their resignations"

Farne Pier

Under date 2nd April the Board of works wrote (letter no 3336-07) that it had been reported that some damage had occurred to the head of Farne Pier, and requesting the County Council, to take the necessary

steps to have the damage made good during the coming season"

The Secretary stated that Mr. Webster County Surveyor, had brought before the Proposals Committee an application to have the damage repaired.

Dogs Act 1906

Order from the Diseases of Animals Acts Committee under Article 1 (1) of the County Wexford (Control of Dogs) Order of 1907 and requiring that all dogs should during the hours between sunset and sunrise be kept under control came up for confirmation.

The Secretary said he had forwarded to the Department of Agriculture, for confirmation, draft of the order adopted by the Dublin County Council, and had received a reply suggesting certain alterations.

The Secretary then read for the meeting the amended order, which was agreed to. "Dogs to be kept on the premises of owners or under effectual control, between the hours of sunset and sunrise, order to remain in force for the months of February, March, April and May"

"On the motion of the Chairman the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction were requested to sanction draft order"

Fethard Pier.

Under date 28th March the following letter (no. 1610-07, F.B.) was read, from the Department:-

"Adverting to previous correspondence relative to the provision of navigation facilities in the creek at Fethard, I have to state, for the information of the Wexford County Council, that, in the opinion of the Department, the least expensive scheme for constructing a sheltered channel with about 3 feet depth at low water would probably cost £4,000

The Department are not prepared to expend money on surveys, unless the prospect of obtaining the necessary funds for carrying out the plans is clearer than at present

Perhaps the Wexford County Council will see their way to indicate:-

- 1.- The objects they consider necessary to be attained
- 2.- The amount of money which they consider the attainment of such objects would be worth
- 3.- The amount of the local contribution in case the Department were in a position to render financial assistance
- 4.- The annual sum the Council would be willing to provide for maintenance."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman:- "That our County Surveyor be instructed to request the Engineer of the Department of Agriculture, to furnish him with the plans, etc. for the construction of sheltered channels at ^{Richard} ~~Ballyhack~~ Harbour, and that Mr. Webster report on this matter to the Council meeting on May 4th"

Ballyhack Harbour

On the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Hore the following resolution was adopted:- "That we again call the attention of the Waterford Harbour Commissioners to the State of Ballyhack Harbour, which is within their jurisdiction, and desire to be informed by the Harbour Commissioners, as to when they propose taking steps to have this Harbour put in proper condition, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary Waterford Harbour Commissioners, and the Board of Trade."

New Appointments - Recommendations of Committees

The County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction recommended that Very Rev N. J. Sheridan O.P. Ramagrange be appointed a member of their body vice Rev J. Dunne O.P. Kilavenny, resigned."

On the motion of Mr. Cummins, Seconded by Mr. Seacocks. "The name of Father Sheridan was added to the Committee"

The Ennisecorthy Rural District Council recommended that Messrs J. Bolger, J.P.M. & Co. Milltown Ferns; D.J. O'Callaghan Balindaggin; Thomas Cleary

Ballyvaughan Glenbrien; Arthur Gough, Ballycorley, Boolavogue, and Thomas Asple, M.C., Galbally Bree; to be appointed as the representatives of the County Council on the temporary Rural District School Attendance Committee."

On the motion of Mr. Dempsey, seconded by Mr. Cummins. "The above gentlemen were appointed."

Mr. R. Greighton Clerk Gorey District Council, wrote that his Council recommended the appointment of Mr. Boyan of the Railway Hotel Gorey, as a member of the Gorey Rural District School Attendance Committee, vice Mr. M. J. Redmond deceased.

"On the motion of Mr. Hort, seconded by Mr. Asple, Mr. Boyan's name was added to the Committee."

Piers and Harbours.- Dredging

Under date 4th April 1907 (letter no 3444/07) the following letter was read from the Board of Works:-

I am directed by the Commissioners of Public Works to refer to "your hiring of the dredger 'Sisyphus' for work at Buncannon and Arthurstown, and to state that it has become necessary to have her boiler cleaned out and a supply of fresh water filled in. As there will be poor tides between the 6th and 8th instant they propose to send the dredger to Waterford for this purpose, on the first named date. The process of cleaning and the journey will probably occupy three or four days, and a proportionate allowance will be made to you for the time lost."

The following letter under date 10th April 1907 (no 3882/07) from the Board of Works, was also read:-

In reply to yours of the 7th instant, relative to the hire of the "Sisyphus," I am directed by the Commissioners of Public Works to confirm the following telegram sent to you today:-

"You can keep dredger until Saturday the 27th."

"instant on condition that the County Council"

"pass resolution under sent at their meeting"

"on the 19th instant agreeing to conditions"

"of agreement for extended period"

The Board desire me to state that they regret they are unable to continue the hire of the dredger to you.

Council beyond the 27th instant, as the boat is under an engagement elsewhere from the first proximo, but they hope to be able to hire the dredger to the County Council of Wexford later on in the season if they should require it.

I am to ask you to kindly arrange that a telegram shall be sent to me immediately after the Council meeting on the 19th instant, stating whether they have passed the resolution above referred to."

The Secretary stated that at the Meeting of the Finance Committee on 6th April 1904 a letter was read from Mr Webster Co Surveyor, asking that the dredger should be retained for an extra week as owing to heavy seas she was able to do very little work. The Finance Committee recommended that Mr Webster's request be acceded to."

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Cummins the following resolution was adopted.

"That we agree to hire from the Commissioners of Public Works the dredger "Sisyphus" until 27th instant (on the terms of the agreement already signed) to complete the dredging of the Harbours of Duncannon and Arthurstown, and that the Corporate Seal of the Council be affixed to this Resolution, and to the copy of it to be forwarded the Commissioners of Public Works.

Government's Grants.

Mr. Cummins moved: - That Mr. Ennis be allowed to avail of the assistance of the Secretary, and Solicitor to the Council to look into the question of deductions from Government Grants by the Treasury in respects of the Land Acts of 1891 and 1903 and that our Secretary bring this matter to the attention of the Members of Parliaments for Wexford County

Mr. J. Bolger seconded the resolution, which was adopted

Error in Road Contract.

Mr Webster County Surveyor, mentioned that at a former meeting of the County Council, Joseph Cullen Ballyrannell, Ennis-corthy, Contractor for Road No. 307 had written that he was obliged to maintain a greater number of perches than appeared in the documents connected with the Contract. He (Mr. Webster) had had the contract measured by Mr. Brennan his assistant and found that the total number of perches in the Contract was 426, while the number in the contract was 384.

The Contractor would therefore be entitled to £1-1/- per annum extra, and £1-1/- would be the arrears due on the contract to 31st March 1907. He. (Mr Webster) would increase the amount of tonnage in proportion to the amount of extra perches in the contract."

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Peacocke the following resolution was adopted:- That the Local Government Board be requested to allow the County Council to fix the annual payment for road No 307 in Anniscorthy (Contractor Joseph Cullen) at £10-13-0 per annum instead of £9-12, and to further allow the County Council to pay Mr. Cullen £1-1 arrears on this Contract

Cloneranny Lane.

In connection with the claim made by Mr. Matthew Brien of Clones Upper for £10 for trespass in connection with the making of a new road at Cloneranny, and which had been referred to Gorey Rural District Council for their observations.

The following letter under date 1st April 1907 was read from Mr. P. Hughes D.C.:-

Matthew O'Brien stated to me, and Patrick Byrne, Senr., Blacksmith Clones on March 1906 that he had no objection to this angle (or Quick as he called it) being taken off his land. If you require more send me list of question

The following under date 6th April 1907. was read from Mr. Crichton Clerk Gorey Rural District Council.

"I submitted the resolution of the County Council re. Cloneranny lane to my Council and they desire me to inform you that Mr. Patrick Hughes D.C. has undertaken to collect all the evidence in the locality and to send it to you.

On the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Kehoe, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Mr. Elgee Solicitor, be instructed to deal with the claim of Mr. Matthew Brien, for alleged trespass in making new road at Cloneranny

Mr. Balfour and the Wexford County Council

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Cummins and adopted:-

That we request the Right Hon. Arthur J. Balfour M. P. in view of the serious accusations levelled by him at this Council in his speech to Unionist deputations on 19th ult., to favor us by specifying the grounds upon which he based his allegations that this Council has proved

itself unworthy of trust and has used the powers vested in it, not to further the administrative interests of the County of Wexford, but as a great Electoral Engine and machine for promoting party interests.

We desire to point out to M^r. Balfour that this great Catholic and Nationalist County contains a population of 95,435 Catholics and 8,669 non Catholics; that the Wexford County Council has since the passing of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 co-opted six Members, four of whom have been Protestant Unionist Landlords that the County Committee of Agriculture & Technical Instruction (nominated by the County Council) contains 20 Catholics and six Protestant gentlemen. And in face of these and other similar facts, we beg to enquire how M^r. Balfour proposes to justify the statements for which he has made himself responsible

That the copies of this resolution be forwarded Right Hon. A. J. Balfour M. P. the Prime Minister, the Chief Secretary for Ireland M^r. John E. Redmond M. P. and the Parliamentary Representatives of Wexford County

Acquiring Quarries.

Under date 13th April '07 the Clerk of Gorey Rural District Council forwarded the following resolution which had been adopted by the District Council at their Meeting on 10th April.

"That it is the opinion of this Council that it would tend to the more economical and improved upkeep of the roads of the district if the Ballyfad, Carriganeagh, Wicklow Gap, and other suitable hardstone quarries were purchased by the County Council and the material sold to the Contractors.

"On the motion of the Chairman the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the resolution from Gorey District Council in reference to acquiring further quarries be postponed until the County Council have had some experience of working Tara Hill Quarry.

Industrial Exhibition

Under date 12th April '07 the following communication was read from M^r. Walter Hanrahan, one of the Hon. Secs. of the Industrial Exhibition to be held in connection with the Annual Fair:-

I have been desired by my Committee to apply to Co. Council for the use of Wexford Goal on May 19th and 20th for the purpose of holding the Industrial Exhibition in connection with this year's Fair

Would you kindly bring the matter before the Council as soon as possible, so that in the event of permission being granted we may proceed to do any necessary decorating, cleaning etc, that may be required, and erect benches and stalls.

On the motion of M^r Ennis seconded by M^r Peacocke, the following resolution was adopted

That we hereby grant the use of the premises known as the Wexford Prison to the Industrial Exhibition Committee of the Co. Wexford. This for the exhibition to be held on 19th and 20th May. on condition that the Committee will be responsible for the safety of the premises, and undertake to make good any damage that may occur to the premises while in their charge.

Governors House - Wexford Prison

With reference to a proposal to rent the Governor's residence at the County Prison which was considered by the last Meeting of the Finance Committee, the Committee recommended that the premises should be let, provided they could obtain possession of the place within a month, rent to be £30 per annum.

M^r Elgee Solicitor wrote that he saw nothing to prevent the County Council letting the house on an agreement under which they could obtain possession on giving a month's notice.

The only difficulty was that if a tenant refused to give possession on the expiration of the month the Council would have to demand possession, and bring an ejectment before the County Court Judge, and this of course would take some little time in case the sessions did not come in handy.

On the motion of the Chairman the following resolution was adopted:-
That we agree to let to M^r Dwyer of the Wexford Post Office the Governors house and garden at the premises known as Wexford Prison for six months certain and after that they will agree that the premises should be held on a month's tenancy; rent to be £30 per annum. That M^r Dwyer be informed that the Industrial Exhibition of the Feis will be held at the Jail on 19th + 20th May.

Attending at Ballycullane Fairs by M^r Dobbins V.S.

In connection with a letter from M^r Dobbins V.S. Waterford asking for remuneration for attending Ballycullane fair the following resolution was read from the last meeting of the Diseases of Animals Acts. Committee:-

This Committee fail to understand why M^r Dobbins has made application for extra remuneration for inspecting stock exhibited at Ballycullane fair, in view of the fact that he has now to inspect three fairs per annum less than before the Ballycullane

fair was established. Besides he has now most convenient Railway facilities to inspect Ballycullane, while heretofore, he was obliged to drive from Ballyhack or New Ross to Nash and Tintern. The Committee believe that in Mr Dobbyn's own interests, it would not be wise to bring the question before the County Council, and hope to hear from Mr Dobbyn that he is prepared to fall in with their suggestion and inspect the fairs of Ballycullane which replace 12 fairs held in Tintern, and three fairs held in Nash.

Mr Dobbyn in reply to this resolution wrote under date 9th April that there was a misunderstanding as to the number of fairs, he had only received instructions to attend the fair held at Tintern on May 12th Nash on June 24th and Foulksmills on May 10th.

The Secretary explained that before the matter had been considered by the Diseases of Animals Acts Committee he had asked Mr Dobbyn if he attended the fairs at Nash and Tintern and had received a letter from Mr Dobbyn under date 16th March that he had always attended these fairs. It was this communication which led the Committee to believe that Mr Dobbyn inspected all the fairs in these places. He (Secretary) found from the minutes that Mr Dobbyn had been directed to inspect 15 fairs in his district, viz - 12 fairs in Ballyhack, and one each at Nash, Tintern, and Foulksmills, at the rate of £1-10 per fair.

If Mr Dobbyn was to inspect the fairs at Ballycullane there would be ten extra fairs for him to look after, and he proposed to carry out this work for £1-10 per fair or an addition of £15 to his present remuneration, It would be well to again refer to the matter to the Diseases of Animals Committee.

On the motion of the Chairman, the claim of Mr Dobbyn V.S. for inspecting Ballycullane fairs was referred to the Diseases of Animals Acts Committee.

Recommendations from Finance Committee

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Peacocke recommendations from the Finance Committee were adopted.

These included correspondence re Waterford Bridge inquiry and a direction to Mr Elgee to oppose any proposal to put a tax on County Wexford for this purpose; a recommendation that the Harbour Master at Courtown spend £2 for the repairing of the discharging boats, and oar poles at a cost not to exceed £1-10 and £12 for the purchase of Coal Bags for the harbour. Also recommendation that the Solicitor to the Council should take steps to see that waterpipes for New Ross Bridge to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor; and that the Governor's house at the County Jail be let at £30 per annum,

provided the Tenant will be satisfied to give up possession within a month.

Waterford Bridge Inquiry

With reference to the Waterford Bridge Commission letters were read from Mr. J. J. O'Donoghue, Waterford, relative to the furnishing an official transcript of evidence. for £62-10-0

~~On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, seconded by Mr. Peacocke, the question of adopting by laws.~~

On the motion of the Chairman, the following resolution was adopted:-
"This Council cannot see its way to purchase transcript of evidence given at Waterford Bridge Commission."

By-laws.

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, seconded by Mr. Peacocke, the question of adopting by laws for the County Wexford, was referred to the Finance Committee."

Women's National Health Association

"Circular letter from Lady Aberdeen, relative to formation of a Women's National Health Association for Ireland, and asking for the names of those likely to take an interest in the subject and work for the association were laid before the Meeting.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman
The Members of this Council have received with pleasure the intimation that the Countess of Aberdeen has decided to form a Women's National Health Association for Ireland. They will support the objects of the association and strongly recommend them to the favourable consideration of the ladies of the County. That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded the Countess of Aberdeen and Mrs. A. Rushton 58a Rathmines Road Dublin.

Hygiene and Temperance

Circular letter under the auspices of the Conjoint Committee of the Board of Hygiene and Temperance, the Hygiene and Temperance Committee of the Medical Profession and the Health Committee of the British Medical Association, relative to the holding on 23rd April of a conference on the subject, of the urgent need for the compulsory teaching of hygiene and Temperance; was laid before the Meeting

Marked "Read"

Resolutions

The following Resolutions came before the Council for consideration:
Resolutions from Catholic Graduates' and Under Graduates' Association -

I That the Government's scheme of Irish University Reform, designed to secure educational equality for Catholics through the foundation and endowment of a great college in Dublin as a constituent college of a remodelled Dublin University, merits our strongest support.

II That we urge the Government to carry their proposals into effect at the earliest possible date.

III That we call upon representative bodies through the country to support these proposals, since such provision of University facilities will promote the welfare of the entire nation.

The above resolution was proposed by the Chairman seconded by Mr Peacocke, and adopted unanimously.

Resolutions from County Borough Council of Limerick

Resolved - That in the opinion of this Council the policy of Irish Railways should be directed more towards developing the agricultural and manufacturing industries of Ireland than has hitherto been their aim.

To us it seems a grave injustice to Irish industry that Irish Railways should carry imported goods at lower rates than they carry similar Irish produce, which special treatment amounts to protection in favour of foreign manufacture.

That the Irish Railway Companies be requested to discontinue this policy and to give to home produce as low mileage rates as those at which they now carry imported goods.

That we believe the lowering of internal rates between stations in Ireland on all classes of agricultural produce would soon sensibly diminish the amount of such goods imported.

That there should be Through Rates to all stations in Ireland for Irish traffic of all descriptions.

That this being a comparatively poor country it is most desirable with a view to the more economical working of the several Irish Railways, that the unification of all the existing lines under one board of management should be brought about, and with effective State or Public control.

The above resolution was adopted unanimously, on the motion of Mr Peacocke, seconded by Mr Kehoe.

Resolution from Kilkenny Corporation

That we recognise the pressing necessity of combating the spread of consumption and are willing to join any public bodies of this county or adjacent counties, such as Waterford, Wexford, etc to provide a Sanatorium for persons in the incipient and more advanced stages of this disease, and are willing to make provision in our Poor Rate for a sum not to exceed One Penny in the Pound for the purpose.

The above resolution was postponed until Meeting of 7th May.

McEnnis

7. 5. 1907