

Meeting 27 September 1900.

A meeting of the County Council was held in the Council Chamber, Court House, Wexford on September, 27th 1900.

Present:- In the Chair: Mr Edmond Hore, Vice Chairman
Other Councillors, Messrs J. B. Hearne, Mr J. Redmond,
J. J. Walsh, Mr Whitty, J. Cummins, James Codd, Dan.
Dempsey, C. H. Peacocke, James Sinnott, Patrick Ryan
P. O'Connor, Owen Doyle, Michael Browne, James Donohoe,
and Lord Maurice Fitzgerald.

Capt Rigott, Secretary to the Council, H. Webster, County Surveyor, & R. M. Elger Solicitor to the Council, were also in attendance.

The minutes of last meeting were read and signed

Collectors' Security

Letter No 47, 262: 1900 Wexford County, from the Local Government Board, pointing out that under Article 9 (3) of the County Poor Rate Collectors' Order 1899, the County Council could accept in lieu of, or in addition to personal security, the guarantee of an Assurance Company was read.

advertising vacancy - Rate collector.

The Secretary said he had advertised the vacant poor rate collectorship, stating in the advertisement that candidates would be required to give the security of a Guarantee Society, that would be approved by the Local Government Board.

The Secretary reported that Mr Kehoe, Clerk Wexford Union in his report of the attendance of the collectors to have their books checked had made the following observation:

"Mr R. O. H. Walsh, appears to have taken the law altogether in his own hands, and will attend only at any time when asked"

Complaint of collector
N. O. H. Walsh

Mr Hearne proposed that Mr Walsh, and his sureties be communicated with, and informed that in the event of any further report of neglect of duty on the part of Mr Walsh, the Council will seriously consider the advisability of dispensing with his services.

Lord Maurice Fitzgerald, seconded the resolution, which was passed without dissent.

vacancy of Co Councillor

Letter from Local Government Board, No 51,046-1900 Wexford County in reference to the procedure to be

followed in filling the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Bryan Bolger, a member of the Council was read.

On the same subject Sir Thomas H. G. Esmonde, Bart. M.P. and Chairman to the Council, wrote as follows to the Secretary- With reference to the co-option of a member of the County Council in the room of our late lamented colleague Mr. Bolger, which is one of the items I notice on the agenda paper, may I suggest to the Council that it would be a graceful act to co-opt his brother Mr. John Bolger, to fill the vacancy."

On the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Sinnott, it was decided, that Mr. John Bolger, be co-opted to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his brother Mr. Bryan Bolger.

The motion was supported in warm terms by Messrs. Redmond, Donohoe, Owen Doyle, and Peacocke.

Evicted Tenants Committee

On the motion of Mr. Browne seconded by Mr. Redmond, it was decided with reference to a meeting of the County Council Evicted Tenants' Committee that the day of meeting be left to Sir Thomas Esmonde to fix.

Appointment - Mr. John Kehoe

With reference to the resolution of the Council proposing to retain the services of Mr. John Kehoe, Assistant County Surveyor, for a further term of six months the Local Government Board wrote (Letter No 47, 262, 1900. Wexford Co.) that Mr. Kehoe might attend the next examination of candidates for Assistant Surveyor, but that any salary paid him until he obtained a certificate of qualification would not be a legal charge on the rates, and would be liable to disallowance by the Auditor.

On the same subject a circular letter was received from the Local Government Board stating that an examination for candidates would be held on 3rd Oct. and following day, and requesting that intending candidates should be informed of the approaching examination.

The Secretary said that he had forwarded a copy of this circular to Mr. Kehoe who had written expressing his intention of presenting himself for examination at the office of the Local Government Board.

Road Overseers

On the motion of Mr. Browne it was decided that Mr.

Elgee be instructed to ascertain what powers the County Council had to appoint road overseers.

Secretary's Security

Letters were read from the Local Government Board with reference to the bond to be entered into by the Secretary to the Council.

The following is a copy of Letter N^o 56,217: 1900 (Wexford County) from the Local Government Board, under date, Sept. 26th 1900. With reference to previous correspondence on the subject I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to return herewith; the bond entered into by the Secretary of the Wexford County Council: and I am to state that the Local Government Board approve of the security given in this case.

"The Bond should be placed in the custody of the County Treasurer."

Ordered: - That the Bond of the Secretary be placed in the custody of the Treasurer of the County."

Auditor's Report of Asylum

Letter N^o 47, 121: 1900 (Wexford County) forwarding the report of J. A. Baker Esq., Local Government Auditor, on his audit of the accounts of the Enniscorthy District Lunatic Asylum was read.

The following letter under date, August 13th 1900 was read from M^{rs} Bridget Bolger, Ferns.

I hasten to acknowledge the telegram of sympathy which you were good enough to send me from County Council on the day of my dear Husband's death.

I have read in the newspapers the report of that meeting. All I can say is that I am overwhelmed with the great kindness shown by all my husband's colleagues on the Council of which he was so proud to be a member. In an especial manner I am indebted to Sir Thomas Comonde to Messrs J. Sinnott, Owen Doyle, John Cummins, and James Donohoe, for the kind words to which they were good enough to give utterance on that occasion. My grief has been largely assuaged by the kind actions of the whole Council; Pray convey to the Council on the earliest opportunity the assurance of my heartfelt gratitude and kindly accept for yourself the expression of my sincere thanks.

Kilmore River Committee

The following report of the Kilmore River Committee meeting of

the 12th Sept 1900. was read.

Lord Maurice Fitzgerald presided, and there were also present Messrs Walsh, Healy, Mr. Walker, Parle, Rockford, Barry, Joyce and Broune.

It was recommended that Mr. Webster make an application before the Spring meeting for £30. to clean up a narrow passage into the harbour. It was recommended that the County Council at their next quarterly meeting formulate a scheme for a graduated County charge for the maintenance of piers and harbours on similar lines to the charge for County bridges.

Store Licences - Mr. Alpine & Sons.

Messrs M'Alpine & Sons, Railway Contractors applied for two licenses to store mixed explosives at Ballylannon and Ballingly.

The Secretary stated that the applications were made out in accordance with the orders in Council, and Acts of Parliament, and the police had reported that the proposed stores were suitable for the purpose.

On the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Hearne it was decided that the licenses be granted, and the seal of the County Council affixed thereto.

Appointment of Revisor of Valuation

A circular letter was read from the General Valuation Office, Dublin, stating that Mr. P. J. Moran, had been appointed to make the annual revision of the valuation of the several Rural Districts in the County, and that same would be commenced about the 12th Sept 1900.

The recommendations of the Finance Committee Meeting of the 27th inst. were then considered.

Loan £370

1- With reference to the proposed loan of £370 for the purchase of land for the Enniscorthy District Asylum, the Board of Works wrote that the Application should in the first instance be made to the Local Government Board. The following is an extract from the letter of the Board of Works.

"It is necessary to state that the question whether the Board have power to make a loan for the purchase of land for an 'asylum', is at present under the consideration of the Board's legal advisers. As it is possible that the opinion may be adverse, it would not be safe to take any steps involving liability in anticipation of a loan from this Department for the present."

Letter No. 48.575.1900. (Wexford County) from the Local Government Board. forwarding form of queries to be answered in respect of the proposed loan was read.

The form of queries was filled up and recommended for adoption to the County Council.

On the motion of Mr Peacocke seconded by Mr Cummins a resolution was adopted authorizing the Chairman of the Meeting to sign the form in question on behalf of the County Council, and instructing the Secretary to forward same to the Local Government Board.

Compensation - Mr. W. Kehoe.

2. The following letter under date 13th August 1900 from Mr Nicholas Kehoe, clerk to the Wexford Guardians and District Council was read.

"In reference to your communication of the 9th August last enclosing copy of resolution asking me for copy of minutes increasing my salary, and to give detailed statement of my claim for bringing the Act into force, I have great pleasure in forwarding both, which I trust your Council will now see the reasonableness of. I also enclose you copy of resolution proposed by Mr A. Ennis Esq JP and seconded by Mr William Sears as also copy of amendment proposed by Mr E. A. Peacocke JP. Seconded by Mr Jas Bodd JP at a meeting of my Council on Saturday last.

"At a meeting of the Wexford Rural District Council held on the 11th August, Mr A. Ennis proposed and Mr Sears seconded the following resolution. "That with regard to the query of the County Council re Mr Kehoe's claim for loss of salary and emoluments we are of opinion that no such claim should be entertained, as Mr Kehoe's total emoluments in the dual office of clerk of the District Council, and clerk of the Union now totals over £70 a year more than he previously had. With regard to Mr Kehoe's claim for payment of £54 for extra work for bringing the Local Government Act into force we admit the fairness of his claim, and recommend it to the consideration of the County Council.

"Mr Peacocke JP proposed and Mr James Bodd JP seconded that the Board took into consideration at the meeting of the 12th August 1899, the diminution and increase of work caused by the recent Local Government Act, the increase of salary voted to the clerk, was to cover all work created by the

Act from the date of its being put into force and we do not consider he is entitled to any special remuneration for bringing the Local Government Act into force. There voted for Mr Peacocke's amendment 28 and for Mr Ennis's resolution 13.

Letter no 55, 568:1900. from the Local Government Board asking what been done in connection with the claim of Mr Kehoe's for bringing the Act into operation, was read for the committee.

Mr Ryan proposed that the claim of Mr Kehoe be favourably considered Mr Cummins seconded and the proposition was passed, Mr Peacocke dissenting. Messrs Browne and Codd, were not present at the meeting of the committee when the vote was taken.

The items furnished by Mr Kehoe were then considered at the following alterations made.

no 3. was altered from 10/- to 5/- no 4 & 5 disallowed 6, 7, 8, 9, changed from £2 each to £1.10/10, from £11. to £7. 11, from £2.10/- to £1, 12 from £2.10 to £1, 13 was allowed to stand, 14 allowed to stand, 15 & 16 for £5 each were struck out; 17 for which £2. was charged was allowed at £1. 18 was altered from 15/- to 10/- and 19 from £14 to £5. The total amount allowed came to £21.10/-

Mr Walsh proposed and Mr Ryan seconded that this amount be allowed. In favour of the resolution were Messrs Walsh, Cummins, Ryan, Browne, and the chairman 5. Against - Messrs Peacocke, and Codd.

The chairman declared the proposition carried Lord Maurice Fitzgerald proposed that the recommendation of the Finance Committee be confirmed Mr Owen Doyle seconded.

Mr Peacocke requested a poll, and the following was the result:- For confirming the recommendation of the Finance Committee - Messrs Ryan, Browne, Owen Doyle, Walsh, O'Connor, Cummins, Donohoe, Hearne, Lord Maurice Fitzgerald, and the chairman - 10.

Against - Messrs Redmond, Peacocke, Dempsey, and Codd - 4. Declined to vote - Messrs Sinnott, and Whitty.

The chairman declared the resolution of Lord Maurice Fitzgerald carried.

Extension of time - Rate collection

3- Messrs J. Banville, J. L. Doyle, M. M'Grath, J. Barron, and James Barron, Rate collectors for the New Ross District forwarded the following letter under date 17th Sept 1900.

"We, the undersigned Rate collectors most respectfully request an extension of time to close our collection of the present rate until the 20th Oct. next being only three weeks from the date of closing. We ask this extension for the reason that it will be impossible for us to close by the 29th inst on account of scarcity of money with the ratepayers, they being unable to make any at present. If the time asked for is granted us we undertake to close our collection by the time mentioned viz:- 20th ult (?)

Mr Peacocke proposed that the application be refused. Mr Walsh seconded the resolution which was passed.

Mr M'Grath Rate collector came before the meeting of the County Council, and pointed out that owing to the very high special rate on one of his divisions, Ballyhack, and the fact that at the commencement of his collection an attempt was made to organize a movement against the payment of rates in his District he would be unable to close by the appointed day, but if the time asked for in the letter was given him he would lodge the full amount of his warrant by that date.

The Secretary opposed any time being granted and pointed out that Mr M'Grath would run the risk of losing the full amount of his poundage.

Mr M'Grath said he was prepared to take the risk.

Mr Donohoe proposed "That having Mr M'Grath's application for an extension of time, and the statement he had made in support of it we accede to the application and grant him until the 20th Oct. to close his collection on the understanding that he takes the whole responsibility for the loss of his poundage, should the Local Government Board not sanction the action of the Council. That with reference to the other collectors, the recommendation of the Finance Committee be confirmed.

Mr Owen Doyle seconded the resolution which was confirmed.

Compensation - Mr P. A. Pope.

4- With reference to Mr Pope's claim it was decided by the Committee on the motion of Mr Peacocke that the Secretary again write Mr Pope and request for a detailed statement as to his claim for bringing the Act into operation similar

to that submitted by Mr Kehoe. Mr Codd seconded. Passed.

On the motion of Mr Dempsey seconded by Mr Codd, the recommendation of the Finance Committee was confirmed

Postal arrangements.

5. No action was taken by the Committee beyond a reference to the whole Council, of a letter from the postmaster-General regretting that he could not see his way to transfer the post offices in the barony of Shelburne, transferred from the Waterford to the Wexford Postal District.

"Mr Cummins proposed that no further action be taken in this matter for the present, and the proposition was taken as an order of the Council."

Remuneration - Mr F. W. Taylor. B.S.

6. Recommended by the Committee that the application for increase of remuneration for inspection of fairs and steeple-lairs received from Mr F. W. Taylor. B.S. New Ross, be referred to the Diseases of Animals Act's Committee, was confirmed on the motion of the Chairman.

Ferryarrig Bridge - Contractors

7. The following letter under date. 5th Sept. from Messrs P. J. O'Flaherty & Sons, Solicitors was read.

"We are instructed by Mr Richard Fortune, Donnooney, Adamstown to send you the enclosed application for payment of the amount due to him £38. 15/- on foot of contract on Ferryarrig Bridge and we must request you will be good enough to have cheque made out and signed for him at next quarterly meeting and oblige.

Recommended that the County Council inform Messrs O'Flaherty & Son Solicitors that under the Local Government Act the Council would pay the amount only on the certificate of Mr Webster, Co. Surveyor. as demonstrated by section 26 of the Adaption of Irish Enactments Order 30th January 1900.

On the motion of Mr Donohoe, seconded by Mr Hedrne the recommendation of the Finance Committee was confirmed.

Ferryarrig Bridge - Repairs

8. The report of Mr Webster Co. Surveyor with reference to repairs necessary to Ferryarrig bridge was read. Mr Webster estimated that the repairs he had specified would cost about £25.

Recommended on the motion of Mr Peacocke that the matter be referred to the County Council to ascertain from Mr Webster

why this work should not be carried out as ordinary maintenance, as the Committee consider it should come under the specification for the repair of the bridge.

Mr Webster having explained that he was not aware that the full specification asked for at the last meeting would be required before the next quarterly meeting of the Council Mr Peacocke proposed that Mr Webster in his report to the Quarterly Meeting of the Council, should specify the amount of work that had been done for this sum of £38. 15/- and give a detailed statement as to the exact conditions of the bridge when this has been done, as well as to prepare a full specification, as to what work (if any) would be necessary to have the bridge put into perfect order, after the expenditure of the £38 odd.

Mr Dempsey seconded the resolution which was passed without dissent.

Lord Maurice Fitzgerald proposed that the Ferrycarrig Bridge Committee meet and inspect the structure on some convenient date prior to the 6th Nov^r the day of the quarterly meeting.

Mr Dempsey seconded the resolution which was unanimously adopted.

60. Court Keeper's Salary.

9- Mrs Richards, Court-Keeper, Wexford applied for increased remuneration, and stated she would be satisfied with £5 a year, and 1/6 a week for cleaning the rooms of the Courthouse, when the temporary clerks were employed.

Recommended to the Council that the Committee having gone into the matter before refuse to re-open it.

Mr O'Connor, Solicitor appeared before the Council, and having made a statement in favour of Mrs Richards' claim Mr Cummins proposed that the recommendation of the Finance Committee be confirmed.

Mr Dempsey seconded the resolution which was adopted.

10- With reference to a claim for 10/6 for travelling expenses incurred in connection with the examination of portion of the body of man Murphy it was recommended on the advice of Mr Elger, Solicitor to the Council that the matter be referred to the Local Government Board for their decision.

The recommendation of the Committee was approved of unanimously.

Main Roads. New Ross Urban.

Mr Webster reported "As regards the cost of maintenance of the New Ross Urban main roads, as set forth in a letter of the 21st June 1900. I beg to state that the schedule of prices was submitted to me by the Urban Council for my opinion, and I notified that I considered the proposed prices fair with the exception of the Road from New Ross to Waterford No. 716. for which I was of opinion that 5/- per perch would be ample, as the Railway Co. would have to look after the road for some time to come. I also pointed out that the quay was included in the list of main roads. On the motion of Mr Bearn it was decided that this report be postponed to enable Mr Elgee to look up the point as to the liability of the Railway Co. to keep the deviations made in this road maintained.

Sewer - Michael St. New Ross.

With reference to the minutes of the Proposals Committee of the Council postponing the consideration of contributing half the cost to the making of a sewer in Michael Street, New Ross, until Mr Webster be satisfied that the proposed work is for surface drainage, Mr Webster reported that he was satisfied the proposed drain would facilitate the surface drainage of the street. The report was adopted.

Reports of Mr Webster with reference to neglect of duty on the part of two road contractors, were referred to the Proposals Committee.

Auditor's Report.

The following report of Capt^m Gibson Auditor of the Local Government Board, accompanied Letter No 55 718: 1900 Wexford County from the Local Government Board.

Rosoree.

20th September 1900

Gentlemen.

I have the honour to report that I have audited the accounts of the County Council of the County of Wexford for the half year ended the 31st March 1900, and beg to forward Abstracts of the same duly declared and certified, in which will be found fully detailed statements of the Receipts and Expenditure under the several heads of service.

I ascertained that all sums received were properly brought to account, and that the several items of expenditure

were supported by adequate vouchers.

As regards the collection of the rate, as it was not struck until the 8th January last, and as the warrants were not in hands of the collectors until the 16th of the same month the collection could not have been possibly closed prior to the 31st March so that the carrying forward of arrears was practically unavoidable. The time for completing the collection was therefore extended, and the amounts of the warrants was then lodged in full by all the collectors respectively.

Having had occasion at my last audit to comment on the unsatisfactory manner in which collector Doyle had discharged his duties, I regret to have to state that this officer appears to be still deserving of censure, as the accounts laid before me on the present occasion, show that at the close of the half year the very large sum of £ 910 " 15 " 10. (out of the total amount of his warrant of £ 1041 " 4 " 9) was returned by him as outstanding. I desire therefore to call the special attention of the Council to this very serious matter as being one which should receive a most carefully investigation.

Some of the Receipts for irrecoverable rates which were allowed by the Council were not produced by collector Blake. On receiving from him an explanation however I consider it unnecessary to make any disallowance in respect of them, more especially as in every other respect he has discharged his duty most efficiently, and I have no doubt that he will be more careful in future.

With reference to a paragraph in my last report dated 1st March 1900 stating that neither the Grand jury nor the Lunatic Asylum Balances had been apportioned, I have now to report that this has been done, and that both amounts have been dealt with in strict accordance with the Instructional Memorandum as to the keeping and closing of bounty accounts dated February 1900.

The amount for which the Court House is at present insured appears to be altogether inadequate, and it is almost unnecessary for me to point out that this is a matter which should receive consideration from the Council, as otherwise considerable loss might result at any time to the ratepayers.

I felt it my duty to strike out of the accounts, and disallowed the sum of £ 1 " 19 " 5. an expenditure on printing

and posting resolutions adopted by the Council which do not appear to have any connection with its business.

The amount in question was duly recouped prior to the close of the audit. I consider it my duty to impress on the Council that the keeping of a petty cash account by the Secretary is unauthorized, and should be at once discontinued, as otherwise the members of the Council sanctioning the payment of any sums to be so expended by him, will render themselves liable to be surcharged.

I have to remark that the Finance Committee has not hitherto met regularly, and it may not be out of place for me to bring under the particular notice of the Council, that in order to carry out the business of the County in (as I am sure it would desire) a thoroughly satisfactory manner, it is absolutely necessary that it should in future hold its meetings on fixed dates and discharge its duties strictly as prescribed.

The Bonds of the several accounting officers were duly submitted for my inspection and were found to be in every respect correct. It appears however that Mr Donohoe Assistant in the Secretary's Office has not yet been required by the Council to give any security. It is due to the Secretary to state that the various Books & Accounts have been kept with care and accuracy and were submitted by him and his Staff for Audit in a highly creditable manner.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your Most Obedient Servant
W. Gibson.
Auditor

With reference to the paragraph in the report of the Auditor dealing with Mr Doyle Rate collector, on the motion of Mr Peacocke it was decided that a copy of the paragraph in question be forwarded Mr Doyle and his successors.

Insurance - County Court Houses.

Mr Hearne proposed, and Mr Dempsey seconded that the question of the insurance of the County Court Houses be referred to the Finance Committee.

The Secretary said the following comprised the items

disallowed by the Auditor - Postage on Evicted Tenants' resolution, 10/- 2/- on National Assembly Resolution 14/5. Printing same 15/- Total £1 19-5.

Mr Cummins said the Council would not see their Secretary, who had paid the money at any loss through his action in the matter.

Petty's Cash A/c.

The questions of the keeping of the petty cash account and the meetings of the Finance Committee had been considered by the Committee.

Recommended that all payments formerly paid out of the petty cash account, be now paid out of the subsidiary account, that the Council fix dates of regular meetings for the Finance Committee, and that the Council pass a resolution authorizing the Finance Committee to pay the salaries of the clerical staff, postage and other small items of necessary expenditure from the subsidiary account as the Committee may consider urgent.

The recommendation was unanimously adopted on the motion of Mr Hearn seconded by Mr Dempsey, with a rider that the meetings of the Committee be held every alternate Saturday, the full business to be disposed of by the Committee to be set out on the agenda paper for each meeting, and no other business transacted.

Security of Mr Donohoe.

On the motion of Mr Donohoe seconded by Mr Cummins it was decided that Mr Donohoe Assistant in the Secretary's Office enter into security in the sum of £100.

Mr Donohoe named as his sureties Messrs William Hutchinson coal merchant and Mr Richard Richards Parnell St Cattle dealer. These names were unanimously approved of.

Sticking the Rate

The Secretary submitted his estimate of rate for general and separate charges for the half year, ending March 31st and a rate similar in all cases for general charges to that adopted for the half year ending Sept 30th 1900. was approved, on the motion of Mr Peacocke, seconded by Mr Hearn.

Mr Peacocke proposed that the rate for general & separate charges as submitted by the Secretary be approved and agreed to, and the proposition was seconded by Mr Hearn and adopted without dissent.

