

Special meeting - 16th October 1907.

A special meeting of the County Council, summoned by instructions of the Chairman (Sir J. H. G. Esmonde B. M. P.) was held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford, on 16th October. - "to consider the report of the County Surveyor upon the County Wexford Piers and Harbours, and to make arrangements for the issue of County Stock."

Present: - Sir Thomas H. G. Esmonde, Bart., M. P. (Chairman) presiding.

Other members: - Messrs M. A. Ennis (Vice-Chairman) M. Brown, D. Dempsey, E. Hore, John Cummins, R. G. Murphy, G. H. Peacocke, James Codd, James A. Doyle, John J. Kehoe.

The Solicitor to the Council (Mr. R. W. Elger), the County Surveyor, and the County Secretary, were in attendance.

Vote of Condolence

On the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Dempsey the following resolution was adopted: -

"That this County Council expresses its sincere regret at the loss sustained through the demise of their colleague, Mr. Patrick Cleary, and offers heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Cleary and friends in the bereavement which they have sustained."

County Stock.

The following report presented to Sir Thomas Esmonde, by Mr. Webster, (County Surveyor) was read.

Dear Sir Thomas Esmonde,

The following are my estimates for improving some of the harbours of the County.

Courtown Harbour.

To extend the South Pier about 300 feet and erect dock gates. £ 10,700.

Blackwater.

To build training walls, excavate a dock, build two pair of sluicing gates, and a bridge and dredge the river. £ 3,500

(I do not feel even confident that this work would be a success without constant dredging).

Carne Pier.

Raise the existing structure for a length of about 76 yards and build an extension about 50 feet long.
£ 4,600

Fethard Harbour.

Extend the main Pier about 200 feet and build a Breakwater:-
£ 11,000

Duncannon Harbour.

Build a Breakwater about 800 yards long. £ 8,000
£ 37,800

Yours truly
Henry Webster.

Continuing Mr. Webster said that in addition to the amount set out in the report there would be about £200 additional, to be spent before any works could be undertaken, and which would go towards the cost of borings and soundings.

Mr. Cummins complained that no mention was made of improvements necessary at the piers of Ballyhack, Arthurstown, and Slade.

The County Surveyor said that he had not included these harbours as the Waterford Harbour Commissioners claimed jurisdiction over them.

The Chairman said that the fact of having noted certain piers in this scheme did not preclude other piers and harbours being assisted in time to come. The harbours mentioned in the report of the County Surveyor were those which, in Mr. Webster's opinion seemed to be the most important. He (Chairman) had been to Slade, which was a harbour that could be improved so that Mr. Cummins should not take it, that the adoption of this scheme precluded the possibility of the County Council giving assistance to any other piers. At Arthurstown the question was one of dredging, and in this scheme of County Stock, it was not proposed to deal with dredging, which was an annual charge, that should be met out of the Revenue.

In the course of the discussion the County Surveyor said, that the report which he had forwarded Sir Thomas Esmonde, was a very rough report, and the Council should not take it as furnishing a fixed estimate of what each individual harbour would cost, because before he could make a detailed estimate he should take borings etc. a good deal of trouble would have to be gone to before they could find the exact expenditure because one did not know how far the foundations would go until borings had been made.

The following resolution was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Cummins: - "That we require the sum of £40,000 for the execution of certain works, specified in our County Surveyor's report. We request the Local Government Board to authorise our creation of County Stock to that amount, to be issued in lots of £10,000 as required. and that our Secretary be directed to supply the Local Government Board with the information prescribed for that purpose. That we propose a sinking fund of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum, and that our County Surveyor be instructed to draw up the plans and specifications for the various works detailed in his report."

Mr. Hore proposed the rejection of the resolution and this motion was supported by Mr. Murphy. Mr. Peacocke proposed, and Mr. Kehoe seconded the following: - "That the subject of issuing County Stock for the purpose of improving the Piers and Harbours, be postponed to the next meeting of the County Council, and that the Secretary be instructed to send a synopsis of Sir Thomas Esmonde's scheme in connection with the issuing of County Stock, to the members of the County Council previous to next meeting."

A poll was taken on this amendment with the following result: -

For the amendment: - Messrs Browne, Kehoe, Bodd, Peacocke, Murphy, Dempsey, Doyle, and the Chairman -
 against: - Messrs Hore, Ennis, and Cummins - 3.
 The Chairman declared the amendment carried.

Special meeting - 24th October 1907.

A special meeting of the county council, was held in the council chamber, courthouse, Wexford; on 24th October 1907.

Present: - Mr. M. A. Ennis, vice-chairman (Presiding)
Other members: - Messrs E. Hore, C. H. Peacocke, John J. Kehoe, M. Browne, James Codd, James Donohoe, N. C. Murphy, M. Doyle, J. Asple, James Sinnott, John Cummins, and A. Kinsella.

The Secretary, and Mr. R. W. Elgee, Solicitor; were in attendance.

Co-option of a member.

On the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Doyle, the council co-opted Mr. Walter Forrestal Ballykelly, New Ross; as a member of the council, in the room of Mr. P. Cleary deceased.

Election of coroner.

On the motion of the chairman, the following recommendation of the Finance Committee was agreed to: -

"That the salary of coroner for North Wexford be fixed at £125 per annum, subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board."

On the motion of the chairman the following draft advertisement for coroner was agreed to: -

Wexford County Council
Election of coroner.

Notice is hereby given that the Wexford County Council will, at their meeting to be held at 3.30 p.m. on the 15th day of November 1907, in the county council chamber, courthouse, Wexford; proceed to elect a properly qualified person as coroner for the Northern Division of the administrative county of Wexford; comprising the following areas: - Baronies of Ballaghkun North, Ballaghkun South, Gorey, Scarawalsh, and the following parishes in the Barony of Bantry. - Blonmore, Killann, Killeaney, Rosdroit, St. John's, Templeudigan, and Templesooby.

"Properly qualified person" means, (a) one who is duly qualified to practice medicine, or surgery, and registered as such under the medical act of 1858, or any act amending the same; or (b) is a Barrister-at-law or (c) is a solicitor of the supreme court of judicature in Ireland; or (d) is a justice of the Peace of five years standing.

By the Standing Orders of the County Council of Wexford, candidates for the office are obliged to forward testimonials to me at least six days before the date of election to allow of their inspection by members of the Council.

Salary £125 per annum, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board.

Applications to be lodged with me on or before 10 o'clock, a.m. on the morning of the day of the above-mentioned meeting.

Courthouse, Wexford. N. J. Fuzelle
County Secretary

Proposal Committee meeting.

It was decided as recommended by the Finance Committee that the meeting of the Proposal Committee be held on November 15th at 2.30 p.m.

The late Dr. Murphy - vote of condolence.

On the motion of the Chairman the following resolution was adopted: - "That we tender to Mrs. Murphy, widow of the late Dr. Murphy, coroner for North Wexford, and daughter of our esteemed colleague Mr. Michael Hickey, Garryrichard, the expression of our sincere regret on the death under tragic conditions of Dr. Murphy, a faithful and valued official of this Council; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded Mrs. Murphy, and Mr. Michael Hickey."

Sealed Orders.

The Local Government Board forwarded the following Sealed Orders - Sewerage of Duncannon, New Ross Rural District Post Office Guarantee - Saltmills telegraph office; New Ross Rural District. Post Office Guarantee, Boolavogue telegraph office; Enniscorthy Rural District.

marked "Read."

New Rates of Interest

The Local Government Board forwarded minute of the Treasury, stating that on loans advanced out of the Local Loans Fund, the following new rates of interest would be charged:-

Not exceeding 30 years --- 3½ per cent.
 " " " 50 " --- 3¾ per cent.

"On the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Kehoe the Secretary, was directed to forward to Sir J. H. G. Esmonde, copy of Treasury minute."

Road Contract Tender Forms.

Under date 22nd August (letter No. 41350) the Local Government Board wrote that it would be well if the Council in order to avoid misunderstanding would strike out the following from Road Tender Forms:-

"In maintenance Forms, from the words "being as I estimate at the rate of... per perch or thereabouts, and in maintenance Bond, and in Bond for special works the word "Solicitor" where it occurred in eight line of Bonds"

The Secretary stated that he had sent a copy of the letter of the Local Government Board with copies of amended tenders and bonds to the clerks of the Rural District Councils.

"On the motion of the Chairman it was agreed that the words marked at "A" and "B" in bonds and tender be deleted from future tenders to be used by the County Council."

Public Health Act. - Provisional Orders.

Under date 30th September '07 the Local Government Board (letter No. 46880) forwarded letter and memorandum of instructions with regard to Provisional Orders. marked "Read."

Collection of Poor Rate.

Under date 21st August '07 (letter No. 42709) the Local Government Board wrote forwarding for the information of the Council copy of letter received from Major A. J. H. Meadows, relative to collection of poor rate in collector Rossiter's district, with a copy of their reply.

Major Meadows in his letter suggested that the rates should be paid at the offices of the County Council or lodged in bank, instead of being harassed by the Rate Collectors. Major Meadows complained that notwithstanding the fact that his agent Mr. John Molloy, informed Mr. Rossiter that he would pay the rates in a few days, the latter had served a six days notice on a member of Major Meadows' family.

In their reply the Local Government Board pointed out that payment of rates to the collectors was provided for by statute.

They considered it was essential that the collectors should make every effort to collect the rates as early as possible in each half-year, so that the County Council may have the necessary funds to meet the demands of the various local authorities in the County.

marked "Read"

— Advertisements Regulation Act 1907. —

Under date 18th October 1907 the Local Government Board, (letter No. 123 M) forwarded copy of Advertisements Regulation Act 1907, and called attention to the fact that the County Council is the local authority for the purposes of the act, except in Urban Districts containing a population of over 5,000.

"Referred to Finance Committee."

— Reports of Local Government Auditors —

The Local Government Board forwarded reports of their auditors in connection with the accounts of the following public bodies:- Wexford & Enniscorthy Unions, and Rural District Councils.

marked "Read"

— Petroleum —

Circular letter from Dublin Castle under date 9th September '07 was accompanied by Order in Council under date 7th May '07 directing that certain portions of the Petroleum Acts 1871 to 1881 shall apply to mixtures of Petroleum.

marked "Read"

Inspection of Fairs - Mr. Dobblyn's District.

The following letter under date 10th August '07 (No 4343-07) v.B., from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, was read:-

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your further communication of the 8th instant, and to state in reply that the Department hereby approve of the proposal of the Wexford County Council, as embodied in that communication, to grant Mr. Dobblyn, v.S., a sum of £37. 10/- per annum for the inspection of twenty-five fairs in his district, viz:- 12 at Ballyculland, 12 at Ballyhack, and 1 at Foulksmills."

marked "Read."

Telegraphic Line, Boolavogue.

Under date 30th September 1907 the Secretary of the General Post Office, Dublin, applied for permission to erect an overhead telegraphic line along the public road from a point near Milltown to Boolavogue.

The Secretary explained that an interim consent had been given by the Finance Committee.

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

"That we consent to the placing of an overhead telegraphic line along the public road from a point near Milltown to Boolavogue, as shown on plan accompanying this application, on the understanding that the Postmaster General is to make good any damage which may be done in the placing or maintenance of the line, which is to be erected to the satisfaction of the Co. Surveyor, and as to usual conditions for removal on request of County Council."

Pier & Watch-House at Fethard.

Under date 23rd September '07 the following letter (No 1434/07) was read from the Board of Works:-

"I am directed by the Commissioners of Public Works to refer to your letter of the 10th February last, relative to the Pier and Watch-house at Fethard, and to state that the Treasury have sanctioned the acceptance of your Council's offer of the sum of £5 for the Admiralty interest in this pier and watch-house. It is to be understood that the liability

for maintaining the pier will be transferred to the County Council."

marked "Read."

— Hulk at Duncannon —

Under various dates letters were read from the Secretary of the Waterford Steamship Co., asking the County Council to purchase the hulk etc., at Duncannon which had been used in connection with steamer service from Duncannon to Waterford lately abandoned.

Mr. Godbey (Wexford Agent of the Steamship Co.,) stated that the hulk was placed in its present position in 1890, at a cost of £600, and the company were prepared to dispose of it to the Council for £250."

The Chairman pointed out that the pier would be useless without the hulk.

Mr. Elgee said he had an idea that some years ago this very question, - to present a sum of money for putting a hulk at this place, or for purchasing one for it from the Waterford Harbour Commissioners, came before the Grand jury. The Grand jury were so doubtful about the point, that they went to the judge for his directions, as to whether he could fiat the presentment or not, and he held that the Grand jury had no power to pass the presentment for the purpose of buying the hulk, and as he refused to fiat the presentment the matter fell through.

The Chairman said the sum asked of the hulk by the Steam-ship Co., was perfectly ridiculous.

Mr. Donohoe proposed, and Mr. Kehoe seconded, the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:—"That the following Committee be appointed to examine the hulk at Duncannon, and report to the next meeting on 15th November:-

Messrs Ennis, Kehoe, Cummins, Peacocke, & Murphy, to be accompanied by the County Surveyor.

Committee to visit Duncannon on 30th October (Thursday) travelling from Wexford by train leaving at 7.46 a.m. to Campile Station.

That Mr. Elgee in the meantime look into the state of the law, and ascertain if the Council can legally purchase this hulk from the Waterford Steamship Co."

Ancient monuments.

Under date 6th September '07 (S 19206) the Secretary to the Estate Commissioners wrote forwarding copies of letters which had passed between his commissioners and the Local Government Board relative to the provision of any monies which would be necessary for the preservation and upkeep of ancient monuments vested in the county councils.

The following is copy of the query addressed by the Estate Commissioners to the Local Government Board:-

"Whether county councils are at liberty to expend out of their funds such sum as may be necessary for the preservation and upkeep of such ancient monuments."

The following letter under date 17th June '07 and no. 29819-07, was sent in reply by the Local Government Board:-

"The Local Government Board for Ireland, have had before them your letter of the 6th instant, relating to the Guardianship of ancient monuments in Ireland, and in reply I am to state for the information of the Estate Commissioners, that the Board are not aware of any difficulty in the county councils undertaking the Guardianship of such ancient monuments, and may, with their consent, be vested in them in accordance with section 14 (3) of the Irish Land Act 1903.

With reference to the expenditure incurred by county councils for the preservation and upkeep of ancient monuments in their care. The Local Government Board are advised that section 19 (2) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898, read with section 1 of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act (Ireland) 1892, and section 2 of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act of 1882, gives the county council power by necessary implication to incur the expenses involved in doing what these provisions authorise and require the council to do, and to raise and defray those expenses by means of the Poor Rate which is the ordinary mode in which co. councils obtain money for their expenses."

In connection with the proposal of the county council to take over the old windmill at Vinegar Hill as an ancient monument the following letter was read from Mr. R. W. Elgee:-

"I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday enclosing one from Mr. John Murphy as to the taking over by the County Council of the old windmill on Vinegar Hill as an ancient monument. I rather doubt if the windmill would be considered an ancient monument, but in any case, I find that it is on Lord Portsmouth's property, and that the land on which it stands is part of a farm let to a tenant, so that if the Council thought of taking it over, they would have to arrange with Lord Portsmouth and the tenant; as to it
marked "Read"

— Arklow Harbour & Mountgarrett Bridge Loans —

In connection with the proposal of the County Council to borrow a sufficient sum from the National Bank to extinguish loans from the Board of Works for Arklow Harbour and Mountgarrett Bridge the following letter was read from the manager, Wexford Branch of the National Bank, under date 4th October:-

"With reference to your letter of the 25th ult., enclosing copy of a letter you had received from the Local Government Board respecting the proposed loan of £5,000. to take up some existing obligations. I beg to send you herein a letter from Mr. Dunne, the Bank's Solicitor, who is of opinion the loan must be dealt with by assignment of the old Grand Jury mortgages.

Please to obtain the copies and resolutions he asks for, as well as reference to the sections of the acts, under which the original loans were obtained. Please note the final paragraph as to mode and period of repayment.

It seems to me that the L. G. Board by not sanctioning the loan as a fresh "advance" have placed some considerable trouble on all concerned."

In connection with the same subject the following letter under date 30th September, was read from Mr. Wm. H. Dunne, Solicitor, to the National Bank:-

"Referring further to yours of the 26th inst., you have no doubt observed that the L. G. Board will not give consent to the proposed advance, on the ground that if it be for paying off existing loans, the consent is not necessary.

Before I can advise, I must however have full copies of the existing mortgages, with copies of the resolutions of the Grand Jury, and referenc to the sections of the acts under which the original loans were obtained.

You must also bear in mind that if the matter be carried out in this way, the advance can only be repaid in the same way, and within the same time as the original loans."

The Finance Committee at their meeting on the 19th October, had made the following recommendation:-

"That we instruct our Secretary as soon as Mr. Elgee Solicitor, has procured copy of mortgages in connection with loans for Mountgarrett Bridge and Arklow Harbour, and when our Secretary has received from the Board of Works a certificate as to the amounts due for outstanding liability for principal and interest for these loans, to forward all particulars to Mr. Dunne, Solicitor to the National Bank with a view to having the amount necessary to extinguish these loans advanced by the bank as soon as possible."

"This resolution was confirmed on the motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Kehoe.

Poulduff Pier

Under date 23rd September the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction (Letter No. 4479-07 J.B.) wrote as follows:-

"Adverting to previous correspondence I have to state, for the information of the Wexford County Council, that the works of improvement at Poulduff Pier have now been completed. It is presumed that the County Surveyor will be instructed to inspect these works with the view of certifying for payment of the balance of the County contribution to the Department. Details of the total cost involved will shortly be forwarded."

The Secretary said that on receipt of this letter, he had furnished a copy to the County Surveyor, who wrote as follows under date 28th September '07:-

"I am in receipt of yours of the 24th inst., enclosing copy of letter from the Department of Agriculture with reference to the completion of Poulduff Pier.

I inspected the pier on the 20th inst., and found it has been extended for the stipulated length of 110 feet in a satisfactory manner, but there are a few things yet to be done before I could recommend the final instalment.

I wrote to the Engineer, Mr. Oliver, on the 21st inst., pointing these matters out, viz:- to remove accumulations of gravel and marl on the pier, also some wooden houses and concrete platforms.

Four wooden mooring posts should also be made good by the contractor where he sawed off the old ones."

"No action taken, pending further report from Co. Surveyor."

Industrial Conference.

A circular was received from Limerick Industrial Association stating that the annual Industrial Conference would be held this year in Limerick, and asking the County Council to appoint two delegates.

It was decided that the matter be considered at next meeting - November 15th.

Departmental Committee on Irish Forestry.

Under date 22nd October, Mr. Denis J. McGrath, Secretary of the Departmental Committee on Irish Forestry, forwarded circular letter asking to be furnished in writing at an early date with any observations the County Council might desire to make on the following.

- 1.- The extent to which the existing powers of County Councils in Ireland in the matter of (a) promoting the planting of trees, (b) preserving woodlands, have been exercised by your Council.
- 2.- Any suggested alterations in the present powers of County Councils in respect of the aforementioned matters.
- 3.- The area, location, condition, and tenure of land in the County which is at present lying waste, or only partially utilised for agricultural purposes, and which might be used for planting.
- 4.- The area, condition, and condition of existing woodlands in the County, and the extent, if any,

to which wasteful or harmful felling of timber is taking place.

It was decided that, ^{with} the issue of next agenda paper copies of the points on which the Forestry Committee desired information should be forwarded each member of the Council, with a request that they would give any particulars in their power to the Secretary to be transmitted to the Secretary of the Committee.

L. W. E. E. E. E. E.

15 Nov 1907.