

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

MINUTES OF MEETING.

HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER, 1923.

A Meeting of the Wexford County Council was held in the County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 8th October, 1923.

Present:- Mr. E. P. Foley Chairman (presiding) also Messrs M. Cloney, C. Culleton, R. Corish, M. Doyle, James Lawler, P. Hayes, James Hall, D. Kavanagh, John O'Byrne, Myles M. O'Donoghue, James Shannon and John Sinnott.

The Secretary, the Co. Surveyor and Mr Elgee ^{Solv.} were also in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

Presentation to the Chairman.

The Secretary reported that as arranged at last meeting of the Co. Council, the presentation of Gold Albert Chain with inscribed pendant to mark the occasion of his marriage was made to the Chairman of the Council (Mr. Foley) at the meeting of Finance & Roads Committee held on 27th September, 1923.

Junior Clerk Co. Council Office.

The Secretary reported that Mr. Stephen Hayes, Junior Clerk, Co. Council Office returned to duty on 17th September, 1923.

Inquiry Compensation Ex-Rate Collectors.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor reported that at the Inquiry before Mr Justice Wylie at 24 Upper Merrion Street, Dublin, into the Claims of Ex-Rate Collectors who had been dismissed for not carrying out the instructions of the Council, the Judge held that these ex-officers (with the exception of Messrs Day, Berry, & Fowler) were entitled to compensation either by pension or gratuity under the Local Government Act of 1919, according to service. He (Mr Elgee) had retained Mr Swaine K. C. to represent the Council, but when he

2
2

reached Dublin he received a telephone message from Mr Swaine that he could not attend, and had handed over his brief to Mr Blood K. C. The Judge held that what the Collectors had done in the way of not carrying out the orders of the Council was not such misconduct as would entitle the Council to dismiss them, Judge Wylie said he would have the figures of the various sums to be paid the Collectors made up and checked. He would send them to the Co. Council Office where they would be verified and would also report to the Ministry of Local Government. Until the latter had received and considered Mr Justice Wylie's report and issued an order thereon, there was nothing to go on as to who was to be responsible for payment, the Rates, the Irish Government, or the British Government.

The Chairman pointed out that all the members of the Council were clear on refusing to have the people of the County mulcted in this matter.

Under date 6th Oct, 1923, the following was read from Mr. M. Redmond M. C. C.

"Kindly place my resignation before your meeting on Monday as a protest against superannuation of dismissing Rate Collectors as treachery to Ireland seems to be the only qualification that is placed at a premium in this country at present. I feel the term of office of the present Council has been in vain.

Thanking you and members of staff for loyalty during trying period."

Mr J. Sinnott M. C. C. (who was present at the Meeting) handed in the following under date 8th October, 1923:-

"I hereby tender by resignation as member of the Co. Council as a protest against the decision to grant compensations to those officials of the Co. Council who by their action in the

3.

in the Anglo Irish fight attempted to strike a blow which had it been successful would have paralysed the administration of the Co. Council and thrown it into the hands of the British Government. "

The Chairman appealed to Mr Sinnott to withdraw his resignation for the present. If this huge amount of money was to be placed on the shoulders of the people of the Co. Wexford , the entire Council would resign in a body.

Several members present agreed with this view.

Mr Sinnott said the only chance they had to fight the matter was by giving the people a lead. Now was the time as he believed it was a foregone conclusion that the Ratepayers would be saddled with payment.

Mr J. O'Byrne believed they owed it to the people of the County to fight this matter to the last and resign only when it was found they could not do anything else.

Mr Shannon proposed that the resignations of Messrs Sinnott and Redmond be not accepted.

Mr Sinnott said the only thing that would make him consider the withdrawal of his resignation was that the Council should adjourn the present meeting and not sit again until they knew who was to be responsible for the payment of the Compensations.

The Chairman said if this sum was placed on the Ratepayers of the County Wexford the Council would take steps to resign in a body. Mr Sinnott and Mr Redmond would be well advised to co-operate with the other members of the Council, who felt just as much about this present matter. The Council had all been through the fight for freedom and they should not break at the present time. They should stand together and see this matter through. .

Mr Sinnott said he would withdraw his resignation only

on condition that the Council adjourn or resign now.

Mr Elgee (Solicitor) pointed out that as the law stood, the County would be liable for the payment of pensions and gratuities.

Mr Doyle said that at present owing to the slump in price of stock and Agricultural produce farmers were unable to pay their ordinary Rates or debts.

Mr O'Donoghue suggested the meeting should transact the urgent business and then adjourn. The Chairman suggested that the day's business should be disposed of and a special meeting called to deal with this important question of the payment in these cases.

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

"That a special meeting of this Council be called for 22nd Oct., 1923 at 11 O'clock a.m. to consider the position of the Council in view of the decision of Mr Justice Wylie awarding compensation to Rate Collectors who were dismissed by Co. Council. "

The following statement submitted by the Chairman for publication in the Press was approved of by the Council on the motion of Mr Corish seconded by Mr Shannon:-

T. Rule Rate Collectors.

The Inquiry into the applications of 15 ex-rate collectors for compensation under Local Government Act of 1919 was heard at Merrion street upper, Dublin, on 18th October, 1923, by Mr. Justice Wylie.

The case made by the collectors was that they were acting under the British Local Government Board, and owing to the threats of the latter as regards themselves and their sureties they were unable to comply with the directions of the County Council. They could neither be suspended nor dismissed without the consent of that body, and as a matter of fact suspensions imposed by the Council were removed.

Capt. William Redmond, B.L. (Counsel for Mr. Smith) based the application of his client particularly on the fact that Dail Eireann was an illegal body, and that the only recognised statutory authority at the time was the Local Government Board, Custom House, Dublin. The rate collectors could not be held to be guilty of misconduct so long as they obeyed the directions of that body and not those of the Council when in disagreement.

For the Co. Council it was pointed out that the rate collectors had first agreed to carry out the instructions of the Council, but through fear of the Local Government Board went back of their promise. The Co. Council offered to superannuate any collectors who resigned or to relieve their sureties. As a matter of fact this was done in the case of Mr. Smith, one of the applicants. The collectors were first suspended, and correspondence was entered into with them to induce them to stand by the Council, but they refused. They were then asked to give up their books, and refused. The Local Government Department of Dail Eireann (Mr. Cosgrave being then Minister for Local Government), and Mr. O'Higgins, Assistant Minister, had informed the Council that by a decree of 17th September, 1920, a complete break with the "enemy" Government in the Custom House had been decided upon, and any official who, at that juncture, could not accept the new departure should resign and apply for pension. Collectors should carry out the instructions of their Councils or resign and hand in their books. The circular from the Local Government Department (Dail Eireann) asked the collectors was it fair or reasonable to expect that they would be allowed to bring pressure on their employing Councils to break their mandate and their election pledges under threat of having local administration wrecked by a stoppage of rate collection. The position at the time was:—The Co. Council had publicly pledged allegiance to Dail Eireann. The British Local Government Board had instructed the rate collectors to lodge amounts of rates collected, in their own names. They had handed over the administration of the county to the "competent military authority." They had stopped all Government grants. They (enemy Government) had encouraged private individuals to garnishee rates to satisfy amounts of malicious injury decrees. The rate collectors were shown a way out of their difficulties with the Local Government by filling up a crossed cheque for amount of rates collected in their own names payable to the Council.

it was apparent that at the time, if rate collecting broke down, there was no means by which the Mental Hospital, the Boards of Guardians, the Rural District Councils and road contracts, etc., could be financed, and seemingly the whole work of local administration would be brought to chaos. Owing to the action of the fifteen rate collectors who refused to carry out instructions the Council had to appeal to the patriotic men of the county to guarantee amounts of at least £50 each to keep the ordinary machinery of the Council working. It will, therefore, be seen that so far as they possibly could the rate collectors, who were dismissed from office, did all in their power to hamper and injure the movement for the freedom of Ireland. Their action gave more assistance to the British than the forces of the Crown. Judge Wylie decided that under the Local Government Act of 1919 twelve of these men are entitled to compensation. Those appointed since 1919—three—were excluded, but their Counsel intimated they would bring action against the Co. Council under their "common law" rights. The Judge would not hold the collectors guilty of misconduct. His reading of the word was that "misconduct" was a personal matter, and in order to prove it a rate collector should be guilty of fraud or misappropriation of funds. They were dismissed because they had carried out the instructions of the Local Government Board. This was not misconduct. If they had obeyed the Council, not the Local Government Board, he would hold they would not be guilty of misconduct, and they were between the "upper" and the "nether" millstone. He awarded compensation according to the Civil Service Scale. In the Act of 1919 an officer on retiring can receive two-thirds of his salary and emoluments and must not receive less than the Civil Service Scale.

The Co. Council are naturally concerned with the question of payment. The gratuities and pensions (capitalised) will not be less than £10,000. Is there a particle of justice or equity in saddling the ratepayers of the County Wexford with this huge amount! Other Councils did not dismiss their collectors, and if Wexford Co. Council had not been so meticulously loyal to the Local Government (Dail Eireann) they could have made an arrangement with their collectors whose dismissal at the particular juncture was the greatest blow to the efficiency of local administration. They (collectors) are to be rewarded for their disloyalty by more handsome treatment than the Wexford Co. Council would afford its most faithful servants. This Council will not ask the ratepayers to bear the enormous burden. The President of the Government and Mr. O'Higgins instructed us to dismiss disloyal servants; it would be ironic if they will compel the ratepayers to contribute a rate of 8d. in the £ because their representatives, the Co. Council, "stood fast" to this advice. Provision has been made by the Government to compensate people who have suffered by the war for independence; surely the Government will not mulct those who carried out the instructions of present-day Cabinet Ministers! If the Government, by sealed order or otherwise, inflict this wrong on the people of the County Wexford we, as your representatives, must resist this tyranny as we resisted the oppression of our late masters, the British.

6.

Mr Sinnott said that in view of the motion for special meeting having been carried he would withdraw his resignation,

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr J. O'Byrne the following resolution was adopted :-

"That Mr Redmond M. C. C. be asked to withdraw his resignation as Co. Councillor and that our Secretary explain to him the position as regards payment of compensation to Ex-Rate Collectors."

Ex-Officers Co. Wexford Infirmary.

The following Minute of Finance & Roads Committee meeting of 27th September, 1923. :-

In connection with the award of compensation to the Ex-Officers late Co. Infirmary which had been referred to the Finance & Roads Committee, the Secretary stated that he had received the list of officers from Mr Kavanagh, the late Registrar, and in view of circular 53 from the Ministry of Local Government the following would appear to be the amounts of pension and compensation to which officers were entitled.

Dr. Furlong. Surgeon, 13 years service, six added for abolition of office - total 19 years. Salary £120. Award of salary nineteen-sixtieths = £38 pension per annum.

M. J. Kavanagh. Registrar, 14 years service, seven added for abolition of office - total 21 years. Award twenty one-sixtieths of forty pounds = £14.

Thomas Hayes. Porter 49 years service. Award two thirds of salary £40 and emoluments £39 total = £79. Pension = £52: 13: 4 per annum.

Mrs Elizabeth Hayes Female Searcher. 49 years service two thirds of £5 = £3: 6: 8 per annum.

E. H. Webb Apothecary 5 years service. Salary £12: 10 per annum. Compensation £37: 10.

"The other officers were appointed 1921-1922 and were therefore not entitled to compensation or pension."

"Mr John O'Byrne, Gorey proposed and Mr J. Sinnott seconded the following recommendation:-

"That the compensations of Officers of late Co. Infirmery as reported to this meeting be recommended to the Council and to the Minister of Local Government for sanction. "

The Recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed on the motion of Mr Shannon seconded by Mr Corish.

The ~~Chairman~~ said it should be pointed out to the Ministry of Local Government that Mr ^{M.} J. Kavanagh, late Registrar, Co. Infirmery, was not a "whole time" officer as he was acting for a considerable time past as Secretary to Co. Wexford War Pensions Committee.

Amalgamation of Union Scheme.

The following Minute of Meeting of Finance & Roads Committee of 27th September, 1923 was submitted:-

"Under date 25th September, 1923 the Ministry of Local Government wrote (P.33732/1923) and (P.33183/23 Wexford Co.) that in connection with the dispute between the Council and Messrs O'Sullivan and Kehoe Ex-Officials of Wexford Union re compensation for loss of employment, as these officers had several years unofficial service and as a new legislation was about to be brought into force providing for compensation to unofficail officers their cases ought to be deferred until it was seen how they would be affected.

"On the motion of Mr Hayes seconded by Mr John O'Byrne the following resommendation was adopted:-

"That pending legislation, the Co. Council be recommended to take no further action as regards fixing the amounts of Compensation to be paid Messrs D. O'Sullivan, Ex-Clerk of Wexford Union, John J. Fanning, Ex- Clerk of Gorey Union

Union, and Nicholas Kehoe, Ex- Assistant Clerk of Wexford Union. "

The recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was approved on the motion of Mr Corish seconded by Mr Cloney.

Rate Collection- Poundage.

The following application on behalf of the Rate Collectors under date 29th September, 1923 was submitted:-

"The Rate Collectors of the County have requested me to ask you to bring the question of Poundage fro Rates collected and lodged in the Bank before the next meeting of the Co. Council. Travelling expenses, cost of summonses etc are so high that most of the Collectors find it almost impossible to carry on the work. "

The following Minute of Finance & Roads Committee meeting of 27th September, 1923 was read:-

"The question of payment of Poundage on account to the Rate Collectors was considered."

"The Secretary stated that with the exception of the poundage on bank lodgements nothing would be due to the Collectors for poundage until after the close of the current half year."

"It was decided that the ~~Chairman~~ be requested to examine the bank lodgements and to make an adjustment between the various Collectors so that the matter could be cleared up.

The recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was approved on the motion of Mr Cloney seconded by Mr. John O'Byrne.

The Secretary stated that the Ministry of Local Government wrote recently that they would not agree to the payment of any further poundage to the Rate Collectors until the Collection was closed.

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

"That our ~~Chairman~~ be instructed to interview the Rate

Rate Collectors on 10th instant and ascertain exactly how each Collector stood. Also to make recommendations to the Council in case of each individual Collector. That Collectors be directed to close their Collections by the 22nd October and that if in the examination of Collectors a/cs by the Chairman, he should find an unreasonable amount outstanding allowing for Decreases and other deductions the Collector be suspended from office. The Collectors are reminded that they were already directed by the Council to proceed against all defaulters.

Collection District No. 12.

Under date 19th September, 1923 the Ministry of Local Government wrote approving of the appointment of Mr Patrick Donohoe, Coolatore, Ferns, as temporary Rate Collector for Collection District No. 12.

Collection District No. 2.

The following resolution appeared on Minutes of last meeting on 10th September:-

"That Mr James Quirke, Collector for No 1 Collection District be appointed to close the Rate Collection for No 2 District and for which the Collector is not available. "

The Chairman called attention to this resolution and asked if any letter had been received from the Ministry of Local Government in connection with the matter.

The Secretary replied in the negative.

The following resolution was then adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr John Sinnott:-

"That our Secretary be instructed to hand over the Collecting Books for No 2 Collection District to Mr Quirke Collector for No 1 District as he has been appointed by the Council to clear up the collection in No 2 District. "

Gorey Town Tenants and Poor Rate.

The following Minute of meeting of Finance & Roads Committee in respect of 27th September, 1923 was submitted. :-

" Under date 8th September, 1923 Messrs Huggard & Brennan Solrs., wrote that Gorey Rate Collector had issued summonses against a number of tenants for payment of two years rates. Some of these tenants are very poor and are unable to pay the amount due. They suggested that perhaps the Council would accept a small payment in full discharge."

The Secretary mentioned that the foregoing letter was before the last meeting of the Co. Council and was specially referred to the Finance & Roads Committee for consideration.

A letter was read from Mr Gannon, Rate Collector for the District pointing out that owing to Mr Brennan's application having been referred to the Finance & Roads Committee the District Justice had adjourned all cases of this description and had even made the same ruling in those cases, in which he had given decrees to previous Court Day."

" The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr John J. O'Byrne:-

"That Mr Brennan Solr be informed that the Finance & Roads Committee of the Wexford Co. Council have considered very carefully his application for remission of rates in connection with Gorey Town Tenants and regret they have no power to agree to same. "

The recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was adopted on the motion of Mr Kavanagh seconded by Mr Sinnott.

11.

Lieut.Col.Bryan and payment of Rates.

156

Under date 10th October, 1923 Loftus A. Bryan, Borrmount Manor, Enniscorthy wrote that he had been served with a summons at the suit of John Sinnott, Rate Collector for not paying £64: 19: 4d rates, his tenants had not paid their rents and thus he was unable to pay his rates. He pointed out that the Government are collecting from his tenants portion of these outstanding arrears and when he would receive payment he would be in a position to pay his rates to the Co. Council.

No order as Co. Council had directed Collectors to institute proceedings against all defaulters of payment of Rates.

The Ministry of Local Government and
Rate Collection.

Under date 21st September, 1923, (G.38337-1923 Wexford Co.) the Minister of Local Government referring to the Rate Collection wrote:-

"The Minister considers that the time has come when drastic steps must be taken to secure all outstanding rates, including those for current half-year, and he does not consider that any leniency should ^{now} be shown to unsatisfactory collectors. "

Bonds Rate Collectors.

Under date 5th October, 1923 the Ministry of Local Government wrote (G.39257-23 Wexford Co) that the provision of additional personal security bonds for Rate Collectors had been insisted on in other Counties, and no sufficient reason had been put forward why the Collectors in Wexford Co. should not provide such security. The penal sum in such bonds might not exceed £100. The Council could rest assured that the full obligations of such bonds will not be insisted upon in circumstances in which they

would not be justified.

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

"This Council are not adverse to having personal bonds for Rate Collectors in addition to Fidelity Guarantee bonds but consider if the latter cover fraud and embezzlement on the part of the Collector, the personal bond should apply only to default in lodgment of Collectors warrants."

Finance.

Under date 13th September, 1923 the Ministry of Local Government (B.3485/1923 Wexford County) wrote sanctioning the extension of existing overdraft obtained by Wexford Co. Council to a sum not exceeding £32,000 to the 31st Oct., next. It was to be trusted that by that time the Council would have made sufficient progress with the Rate Collection to obviate the necessity for a continuance of an overdraft.

Dail Eireann Loan.

Under date 5th Oct, 1923 the following was read from the Minister of Local Government:- (B.39252/23 Wexford County)

"With reference to the entry in the Council's Minutes on the 10th. ultimo relative to Dail Eireann Loan of £4,400, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government to state that he has communicated with the Comptroller and Auditor General on the subject who states that he is aware that permission has been given for an increase in the Bank Overdraft sufficient for the repayment of this Loan with Interest, and considers that as the matter has been allowed to drift too long already he must now press for payment."

It was decided to refer the matter to next meeting of Finance & Roads Committee.

13.

The Government Grants.

Mr M. Doyle T. D. forwarded the following letter under date 4th October, 1923 (2944/3.B.) which he had received from the Minister of Local Government:-

"With further reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo in regard to local taxation grants in the case of Wexford County I would like to explain that this matter is intimately bound up with the Guarantee Fund under the Land Purchase Acts, as all grants in aid of local taxation are required by Statute to pass through that Fund before reaching the Local Taxation account. Charges for interest and sinking fund arising from advances made for land purchase are payable out of tenant purchasers' annuities and where purchasers do not pay such annuities punctually the deficiency has to be met out of the Guarantee Fund by attachment of local taxation grants therein.

The present dislocation is due entirely to the large arrears of land purchase annuities, the amount outstanding on the 8th September totalling £800,000, of which a sum of about £20,000 was due by Co. Wexford. Steps are being taken to ensure a speedy collection of arrears and as soon as they are paid off the question of grants attached in the Guarantee Fund will be fully considered.

A distribution in respect of Medical and Educational Expenditure and Sanitary Salaries for the year ended 30th ultimo will be made soon, but the share of Co. Wexford will not be very large.

Grant for Trunk Roads, .

The following Minute of Finance & Roads Committee in respect of meeting held on 27th September was submitted.

"Under date 19th September, 1923 the Ministry of Local Government Roads Department (S. R. 1/1923) wrote that the approval of the Minister of Finance had been received, to the making of advances from the Road Fund. The amount of the advance Provisionally allocated for Co. Wexford is £3,510 and is restricted to expenditure on the improvement of Trunk Roads. They suggest that the supply of material for road rolling should be set by contract agreement with Co. Surveyor, tenders being invited for the supply of lots of some 200 to 300 cubic yards of broken stone.

It was an essential condition of the grant that preference be given to demobilised men of National Army."

The Co. Surveyor stated that he had intended doing two sections of trunk roads one between New Ross and Ballyann and the other Enniscorthy - Wexford Road but he would be able only to provide for two miles altogether. The New Ross Road would require 1200 cubic yards material per mile at 26/- per cubic yard.

"The meeting did not consider that the expenditure of over £3,000 on two short sections of roads mentioned by Co. Surveyor was a suitable way to expend grant. They directed the Co. Surveyor to prepare a report to cover a more extended mileage and to submit same to next meeting of Co. Council on the lines suggested by them."

The Co. Surveyor submitted the following:-

"I wrote to the Minister of Local Government in regard to the Roads Committees suggestion of more distributed work, but have not yet received reply. The minimum tonnage required to

15.

roll a 12 ft. wide centre of road I estimate at $2\frac{1}{2}$ c.y. per perch. For the Section from New Ross to Ballyanne (645 perches) this will amount to 1610 c.y. Towards this we could supply about 300 c.y. out of the maintenance proposal. The expenditure for this length would therefore be say £1850. The balance available £1660 would improve $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the road between Whitefort and Edermine. These two Sections I consider most in need of improvement. "

In reply to questions the Co. Surveyor stated it was proposed to carry out the work on four and a half miles of road. It was incumbent that the amount of grant should be spent on trunk road.

In connection with the question of haulage to Kilrane road the Co. Surveyor said it was cheaper to rail material from Kerlogue Quarry than to bring it by Co. Council lorry.

It was decided that the Co. Surveyor submit figures to next meeting of the Council showing cost of haulage by rail and by Co. Council lorry.

After considerable discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Shannon seconded by Mr Kavanagh:-

"That the proposals of the Co. Surveyor as to expenditure of road grant of £3510 for trunk roads be approved."

Ballyfarnogue Cross.

Mr Kavanagh called attention to the dangerous cross of Ballyfarnogue - (Wexford-Gorey Road) at which several accidents (one fatal) had occurred recently.

The Co. Surveyor was directed to take action to have the hedges at this Cross properly cut.

Working of Quarries.

The following was submitted by the Co. Surveyor:-

"I have prepared a schedule showing the cost of materials

in each quarry for the period 31/3/23 to 1/9/23. The average cost for the whole County is 10/3 per c.y. The cost excluding New-Ross District where cost is high, works out at 9/5 per c.y. With explosives and machine breaking the cost in New Ross can be brought down below 10/- per c.y.

All the Assistant Surveyors have made early visits to Quarries and found the work proceeding satisfactorily.

On August 22nd I visited Kerlogue Quarry at 8.10 a.m. and found the workmen idling. Two were standing on the road smoking and the others in the quarry were not at work. Only one had his coat off. The Quarry Ganger Moses Power was not present. I called at Power's house and brought him to the quarry and told the men that the County Council would insist on prompt timekeeping and that under the Direct Labour Scheme they would lose a halfday for not turning up at the proper time. I did not give them formal notice to cease work but on going to my Office later I wrote to the Ganger Moses Power to deduct half day's pay (copy of letter attached). The Ganger informed me he had been unwell and subsequently he wrote me he was under medical care and had to cease work. I have usually found Power a most satisfactory workman.

With reference to the County Council resolutions regarding Ballygarvan and Ballykelly Quarries I wish to point out that the work in these quarries was so costly that I believed I was in order in at once closing down and accordingly I notified Mr Jones by letter dated 3/7/23. In Ballygarvan the quarrying was costing about 6/8 per c.y. and the handbreaking 12/- per c.y. ; and in Ballykelly the handbreaking was costing about 10/6 per c.y. Mr Jones gave notice to the Chargehands on Saturday 7th July, giving the reasons for closing down. No protest was made by the Chargehands nor did they say anything

17.

about notice. Work ceased from that date. Now I contend that if notice was required the time would be only one week and not a fortnight. Though the men are paid only fortnightly their wages are fixed by the week and the whole system of payment for broken time depends upon the week. I have not yet dealt with the payment as the two County Council resolutions are inter-dependent and I ask for further directions. I submit a form showing terms of employment, which has been approved by Mr Elgee, and which I am sending to each workman. I shall submit particulars of the quarries not worked directly by the County Council".

As regards Kerlogue Quarry the Co. Surveyor had made a verbal report to the meeting of Finance & Roads Committee meeting of 27th September.

The following extract from Minutes of this meeting was submitted:-

"Mr. P. Hayes complained that altho' the men working at Kerlogue Quarry on the occasion referred to by the Co. Surveyor were stopped the half day, they worked from 8.10 a.m. until dinner time and he considered no stoppage of pay should have occurred. After some discussion it was decided that the Co. Surveyor furnish a written report to next Co. Council meeting as to his visit to Kerlogue Quarry and also that the men working there be paid for the half day which had been stopped from them as it was admitted that they had given their services for that time. "

Mr Gorish said the men at Kerlogue had no tool house and had to hide their tools 150 yards away from the Quarry.

The Co. Surveyor submitted copy of letter which he had written Mr Moses Power the Ganger of the Quarry, under date 23rd August, 1923 and in which he pointed out that if there was any

further complaint Power would be dismissed.

The recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee approving of paying the men for the half day for which they worked was adopted on the motion of Mr Shannon seconded by Mr Corish.

As regards closing down of Ballygarvan and Ballykelly Quarries the Co. Surveyor held that he should not be held liable for the wages to be paid in lieu of notice and, even if he were the period should be for a week not a fortnight.

Mr. P. Hayes said that as the men were paid fortnightly they were entitled to a fortnight's notice.

Mr Lawler proposed, Mr Sinnott seconded and it was passed:-

"That the Co. Surveyor issue to each member of the Council copy of proposed conditions of employment of Co. Council workmen and that these conditions be considered at next ordinary meeting of the Co. Council. "

Referring to the previous order of the Council holding him responsible for a fortnights' wages for the twelve men dismissed without notice from Ballygarvan and Ballykelly Quarries., the Co. Surveyor said if he were to be responsible he would only pay a week's wages as he believed this was all, legally, the men were entitled to ; of the twelve men whose services were then discontinued, four were now on the regular staff. He did not think he should have been held responsible for the wages at all. He found the work in the quarry was costing entirely too much, and he acted in the best interests of the Council when he gave orders to close down the quarry. Mr Cloney gave notice of motion to propose at next meeting that the Council pay a week's wages to the men in Ballygarvan and Ballykelly whose services were discontinued without notice and that Co. Surveyor be not held responsible for payment of same.

19.

Heaps of material on travelling surface
of Roads.

Mr Shannon said that owing to a motor car running up on a heap of stones at Scooby near Enniscorthy an accident was narrowly averted. There were other heaps similiarly dangerous on the road from New Ross to Enniscorthy- in fact there were general complaints of the way in which large heaps of material were placed on the roads.

It was decided that the attention of the County Surveyor be called to the matter.

Road Haulage by Donkey and Cart.

Mr Hayes asked what arrangement had been made by the Co. Surveyor to pay men who were using donkeys for haulage. The Co. Surveyor said the payment would approximate to about 7/- per week. A man should be able to spread 21 cubic yards per week which at 4d per cubic yard would work out at the 7/- per week. The amount was paid at the end of the spreading period, and in the meantime the worker was receiving his ordinary wages.

Kilmore Pier.

The County Surveyor reported:-

"I have arranged for the repair work at Kilmore Harbour, and have forwarded cement etc required."

Scarawalsh Bridge.

The Co. Surveyor reported:-

"On the 1st instant I wrote Mr Ennis to submit report of progress of repair work for the meeting.

The Co. Surveyor read letter from Mr Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, that he had taken a contract for the repair work at £43: 10: 0d. "

The Following Minute of Finance & Roads Committee Meeting of 27th September, 1923 was submitted:-

Mr Ennis, Assistant, Surveyor, explained in reply to queries that work would commence October 1st. When repairs are finished, bridge would have to be closed to the public for five or six weeks to allow the cement used in repair to settle properly.

New Ross Bridge.

The Co. Surveyor reported:-

"Arrangements have been made for putting in new mooring chains for the warping buoys and the commencement of work await the arrival of the chains."

Lighting Co. Offices.

The Co. Surveyor reported:-

"I have received a letter from the Wexford Town Clerk stating the Corporation regret that they cannot supply electric energy for the lighting. I have gone over the Gas instalation with the Gas Works Manager and he informs me there will be no difficulty in supplying all our requirements. We have fittings for most of the new lights and stoves required and it will only be necessary to run some new connecting pipes etc., provided the branch from the Street is in good order. I suggest that this pipe be examined at once and that a price be asked for the remainder of the work."

The Co. Surveyor was authorised to employ Gas Co. to examine the existing supply pipes and submit tender to next meeting of Finance & Roads Committee.

Secretary Tuberculosis Committee.

Under date 20th September, 1923 the Ministry of Local Government wrote (P.H.38656-23 Wexford County) that subject

21.

to ratification by the Wexford Co. Council he had approved of the re-appointment of Mr. N. J. Frizelle as Secretary to the Co. Tuberculosis Committee for year ending the 15th July, 1924, at a remuneration of £52 per annum.

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

"That we approve of re-appointment of Mr. N. J. Frizelle as Secretary to Tuberculosis Committee at salary of £52 per annum for year ending 15th July, 1924."

Courthouse Accommodation.

The following Minute of Meeting of Finance & Roads Committee of 27th September, 1923 was submitted:-

"Under date 18th September, 1923, Mr J. V. Fahy, District Justice wrote as follows:-

"I overlooked reminding the Council that the rent to be paid ^{for Sessions House} cannot exceed £10 per annum, but I expect that this will be altered shortly. At all events I anticipate that, that sum will be accepted by Fr. Maher for Oulart and by Dr. Dormer for Bunclody. The latter requests payment to be made to him of the arrears due to him. Would you kindly communicate with him?. He particularly requires to know the date on which the last payment was made to him.

"I have not yet got Ferns Hall nor a place in Taghmon but do not expect any trouble in either place. In Clonroche it seems ^{as} if I can get the use of the Hall during Military occupation - and the question of its rent ought to be left open for the present.

I have been written to by the Minister for Home Affairs on the question of Courthouses recently and have replied stating that your Council has extended me every possible

facility and courtesy."

The Secretary was instructed to communicate with Fr. Maher P. P. Oulart and point out to him that in the present state of the law the Council were precluded from paying a higher sum than £10 per annum for a Sessions Courthouse but that as the law on this point was about being altered they would be prepared to carry out their agreement with him to pay £12 per annum for use of village hall in Oulart when the law allowed them.

" A letter was read from Mr Fahy that the Caretaker, Technical School, Enniscorthy had been very helpful in regard to Courts held there for a considerable time past and he suggested that payment of £5 might be made to Caretaker in lieu of whatever remuneration was paid Courthouse Keepers in the past.

" Referred to next meeting of Co. Council."

" In connection with the proposed Courthouse at Bridgetown Mr M. Hassett wrote that he would be glad to let the Co. Council have use of the hall there at £6: 10 per annum."

" The Secretary stated that in his letter to the last meeting of the Co. Council, Mr Fahy, District Justice had pointed out that some repairs were necessary to the premises owned by Mr Hassett. Mr Barry, Co. Surveyor, had been directed to report as to the cost of these repairs. The Secretary also stated that he had asked Mr Hassett would he be prepared to carry out the repairs himself in the event of the Co. Council renting the premises but he had received no reply.

" Adjourned for report of Co. Surveyor as to cost of repairs."

The Co. Surveyor reported :-

"I interviewed Mr Fahy D. I. regarding furniture for

23.

for Ferns Court House and subsequently directed Mr Treanor and Mr Ennis, to get quotations in Gorey and Ferns. I have an offer also by a Wexford Firm. Mr Fahy asked to have the lavatory in Wexford Court House put in working order; also that an entrance be made to the Justices' room and Registrar's Office through the side door under the portico. The Cost of the sanitary work will be £9: 10: 0 and of the other work £15: 16: 6.

I inspected Bridgetown proposed Courthouse and consider it will be suitable. Small repairs to broken glass and cleaning out and distemping of the premises is all that will be necessary I estimate the cost will not exceed £3.

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

"That the Co. Surveyor be empowered to expend a sum not exceeding £9: 10: 0d in repairs to lavatory at Wexford Courthouse ; that the proposal to expend £15: 16: 6 on making new entrance to Justices' room be adjourned to next meeting."

The Secretary was instructed to ascertain from Mr Hassett, in the event of the Co. Council renting premises at Bridgetown for Courthouse. *if he will carry out the necessary repairs as suggested by the Surveyor.*

The following Minute of Finance & Roads Committee meeting of 27th September, 1923, was submitted:-

Under date 25th September, 1923 Mr D. Doran, Registrar of above Courts, wrote that Messrs Shannan & Culleton Committee of the Co. Council had agreed to take over as an office for the Registrar two rooms in Slaney Place, Enniscorthy at a rent of £26 per annum to cover cleaning and lighting of fires. No agreement was arrived at relative to supply of coal but if the Co. Council allowed ^{rent} (Mr Doran) £4 per annum for coal he would supply same and anything additional at his own expence. The Owner of the premises (Mrs Moore) would sell the furniture necessary

for the office at a valuation, it was also arranged that the rent should be payable from the 1st March last.

Mr John J. O'Byrne proposed and the Chairman seconded the following resolution, which was adopted:-

That the Co. Surveyor examine furniture proposed to be used for District Sessions Office in Enniscorthy, and report if he considered the price asked reasonable. The Committee would be prepared to approve of rent of £26 per annum but considered tenancy should begin only from date when premises were not occupied as a Labour Exchange also that the premises could be surrendered at any time on three months notice.

The Co. Surveyor stated he was under the impression when he went to examine the furniture in District Sessions Office in Enniscorthy that the premises consisted of one room only.

It was decided to adjourn the matter for a further inspection of the furniture by the Co. Surveyor.

A letter was read from Rev. J. Maher P. P. Oulart agreeing to the proposal of the Finance & Roads Committee to pay, for the present, £10 per annum for use of Oulart Village Hall for the purposes of a Courthouses.

In connection with the suggestion of Mr Fahy D. J. to pay £5 to the Caretaker of Enniscorthy Technical Institute, the Secretary was directed to ascertain from Mr Fahy what duties the Caretaker in question had carried ^{out} for what period and if a further payment would have to be made.

Poisons & Pharmacy Acts.

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

"That Licences under Poisons & Pharmacy Act be granted the

25.

following on condition that they pay the necessary fee 10/-
and that they sell and stock Irish made Sheep-dip only.

- P. C. Lett, Hotel, Ferns. ✓
- ✓ M. Hassett, Draper, Bridgetown.
- P. J. Hennessy, South Street, New Ross. ✓
- James J. Stafford, Stonebridge, Wexford. ✓
- James Sinnott, The Ballagh, Enniscorthy. ✓
- Alex. Kinsella, Main Street, Gorey. ✓
- John Redmond, Camolin. ✓
- Mrs Kate Somers, Coolgreaney, Gorey. ✓
- W. R. Reynolds, General Supply Stores, Gorey. ✓
- Percy S. Hutchinson, Merchant, Gorey. ✓
- Charles D. Hearn, South Street, New Ross. ✓
- Robert Butler, St Iver's, Broadway. ✓
- Patrick Codd, Merchant, Newtownbarry. ✓
- Laurence Codd, 26 Main Street, Enniscorthy. Enniscorthy ✓
- Co-operative Agricultural Society (M. F. Daly Manager) ✓
- ✓ Patrick Kavanagh, Adamstown.

General Council of County Councils.

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

"That Mr John O'Byrne (Gorey) be appointed a representative of this Council on the General Council of Irish County Councils, vice Mr Sean R Etchingham, deceased".

A letter was read from the Secretary, General Council of County Councils, stating that the Annual Meeting would be held on the 13th December, and a statement of any matters, which the Council desired to be discussed, should be forwarded by the 13th November.

The Minutes of Meeting of the General Council of County Councils, held on the 11th July, 1923, were submitted and approved as regards appointment of Advisory Committee to be consulted by Government, when legislation, dealing with local administration, was to be introduced; the necessity for nationalising Insurance; direct payment of Rates through Bank or Post Office when normal conditions have been reached; Voters' and Jurors' Lists to be compiled by the Civic Guard; formation of a scheme whereby occupants of labourers' cottages, built under Labourers' Acts, may become the owners of their houses and plots; formation of Advisory Committee under Section 22 (2) of the Ministry of Transport Act, 1919, consisting of 11 members - five representatives of Highway Authorities, five of users of Horse and Mechanical traction, and one representative of Labour; amendments to improve Compulsory School Attendance Acts, school age to be from 6 to 14; children in very backward districts to be conveyed to and from school (in Winter); nourishing drink to be provided for children at midday; playground accommodation to be provided. Funds should be provided for heating, cleaning and sanitation of school buildings and premises.

Great waste owing to lack of co-ordination in Primary, Secondary and Technical Education Departments. Commission should

27.

be appointed to deal with the matter and to make arrangements for trade apprentices and agricultural pupils to attend Technical classes.

The Recommendations of the General Councils, as regards establishment of Ministry of Health, were adjourned to next meeting.

Kerbside Pump in Gorey.

Under date 28th September, 1923, Messrs Bates & Son, Gorey, applied for permission to erect a kerbside petrol pump (Pratt's) on the kerb outside their premises on St Michael's Road, Gorey.

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

"That the application of Messrs Bates and Son for permission to erect petrol tank and kerb pump at their premises at St Michael's Road, Gorey, be agreed to, Messrs Bates to pay 2/- a year for same, and be responsible for erection or any accidents that may occur. That Mr Elgee draw up the necessary agreement safeguarding the Council, and that the permission now given be determinable by a month's notice in writing".

£450 Received from British Government.

Mr Elgee reported that the British Government had paid £450 towards expenses of Council in regard to commandeering of County Hall and removal to Wexford Workhouse.

It was decided to refer the matter to the Finance and Roads Committee.

Complaint re Bridges.

The following letter, under date 2nd October, 1923, was read from Mr Lawlor, M C C:-

Would you please place on the agenda for next meeting of the County Council that they consider the very serious condition of Ballinacoola (Templeshambo) Bridge. It was partly wrecked over a year ago, and the water is now flowing over the road, while what of the broken arch is remaining is very dangerous indeed.

Also, the very dangerous turns on the road at the crossroads of Coolyearney near the footbridge on the road leading from Ballindaggin to Coolree crossroads. Two or three accidents have occurred at this place.

Mr Lawlor said that a number of people in the district had called his attention to the dangerous condition of Ballinacoola Bridge; in fact, it was a miracle serious accidents had not occurred there.

The County Surveyor replied that no doubt the water, which overflowed the place, was a nuisance, but he was able to cross the bridge in his motor car ~~xxx~~ quite recently. He read a report from Mr Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, that the bridge was safe for a load but dangerous as regards side protection.

Mr Lawlor pointed out there were only nine inches to spare at each side of car-way.

The County Surveyor said that Mr Ennis had made arrangements a considerable time ago for the repair of this bridge by the men working in Ryland Quarry. As, however, he had about 300 cubic yards to obtain from the quarry, he did not like to disturb the quarry work until it was finished. The stones had now been got out and the repair of the bridge would be proceeded with. As regards the second bridge complained of by Mr Lawlor, he would bring a proposal before the District Council.

The statement of the County Surveyor was considered satisfactory.

Midwives (Ireland) Act, 1918.

Under date 25th September, 1923, a letter was read from the Central Midwives Board for Ireland, pointing out that it was mandatory on County Councils, etc., to pay the amounts apportioned against them under section 13 of the above Act. The share of Wexford was £15. 2. 3 out of a total of £433. 12. 6.

It was decided to adjourn the matter to next meeting of the Council.

Motor Car Acts Administration.

The following Minute of Finance & Roads Committee of 27th September, 1923, was submitted:-

"Under date 21st September, 1923, Circular M T/38, as to offences under Motor Car Acts, etc., was laid before the meeting. The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr J J O'Byrne (Cushinstown), seconded by Mr Hayes:-

"That Circular letter (M T/38), received from the Ministry of Local Government (Roads Department) be referred to Mr C H Richards, Local Taxation Officer, for his information, and that the County Council be requested to appoint the Finance and Roads Committee as a Committee under Article 36 (4) of the Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898, with full powers to deal with any cases for prosecution in connection with the registering and licencing of mechanically propelled road vehicles.

"Under date 22nd August, 1923, the following report was read from Mr C H Richards, Local Taxation Officer:-

"I understand from the County Solicitor that the cost of serving summons and proving service of same on persons residing outside the County for alleged offences would be from £10 to £15, and I would, therefore, be glad for the instructions of the Council in the matter.

"Penalties were inflicted some time ago on three motor owners at Enniscorthy District Court, but, up to the present, the District Justice has not issued warrants for collection of same.

"These cases were of a flagrant nature, particularly that of Messrs Collier Bros., Bunclody. This firm was using three or four vehicles last year and this year, and evaded payment of motor duty up to the present.

"I suggest that the Council instruct their Solicitor to request the District Justice to issue warrants without further delay".

"The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Sinnott:-

"That our Solicitor be instructed to call the attention of

the District Justice to the delay which has occurred in the issuing of warrants relative to the collection of Motor Duty and to request the Justice to have same issued for execution'".

The recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was approved on the motion of Mr Hall, seconded by Mr Shannon.

In reply to a query, the Secretary stated that the amount of Motor Tax collected from May, 1922, to December, 1922, was £2600:14:0, and for 1923 up to 28th September, £9,035:12:0, or a total of £11,636:6:0.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Culleton, seconded by Mr Kavanagh:-

"That, unless the Roads Department can see their way to make a substantial contribution to the salary of Mr Richards, Local Taxation Officer, no further Motor Duty be collected in this County. We believe that the suggested contribution of 5 per cent on all monies collected is a fair basis to adopt, any sums accruing over and above the salary of Mr Richards to go to the General Account of the County Council".

Mr T B Dunbar, Solicitor, Enniscorthy, forwarded a petition from Peter Redmond, Railway Road, Ferns, asking that the fine of £20 imposed upon him for not delivering declaration as prescribed under the Finance Acts and Roads Acts be reduced. The petition stated that, while the defendant was a motor driver in the National Army, the motor lorry, which was the subject of prosecution, was taken out and used by one of his workmen without his knowledge and permission.

Mr Richards, Local Taxation Officer, pointed out that Redmond was two months out of the Army before he was prosecuted. As a matter of fact, the lorry was used by his brother.

On the motion of Mr Hall, seconded by Mr Lawlor, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That we recommend the fine, imposed on Peter Redmond, Railway Road, Ferns, be reduced by the Ministry of Local Government to the appropriate amount of duty. That the action of the Council in this matter be not taken as a precedent".

Rathnure Weigh Bridge.

Under date 5th October, 1923, the following was read from Mr Patrick Doyle, Secretary, Rathnure Weigh Bridge Committee:-

"The Committee of the above wishes to make application for leave to build a wall at the weighbridge at Rathnure".

The County Surveyor stated he had inspected the place, and he would approve of permission being given, seeing that the structure would not in any way interfere with the road.

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

"That the Application of Rathnure Weighbridge Committee, submitted to this meeting, be approved".

Proposed Improvements, County Hospital.

In connection with proposed improvements at County Hospital, Wexford, which had been adjourned from last meeting of the County Council, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr J O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Lawlor:-

"That the question of obtaining loan for proposed improvements in County Hospital, Wexford, be referred to the new County Council".

The following resolution was read from the Rathangan and Cleariestown Branch of the Farmers' Union:-

"That we view with the utmost alarm the proposed action of the County Council in sanctioning the expenditure of the huge sum of £14,000 on improving the County Hospital and Doctor's residence at Wexford, and, in view of the financial difficulties of the ratepayers, owing to the great depression in trade, we hereby call upon the County Council to defer the whole scheme until after the next Local Government Elections, or abandon the project altogether".

In connection with the proposed purchase of Rosepark, Wexford, as a residence for Dr O'Brien, Surgeon, County Hospital, Wexford, the following was read from Mr George Daly, the vendor, under date 5th October, 1923:-

"I would be much obliged if you would let me know if the resolution passed by the County Council on 10th ult., which you advised me of, has been sanctioned by the Local Government Board yet.

"It is getting very late in the year and I would like to have all settled before the winter sets in".

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

"That we request the Minister of Local Government to sanction loan of £1,500, purchase money of Rosepark, Wexford, which it is proposed to utilise as a residence for the Surgeon of the County Hospital".

Beds, County Hospital.

The Secretary stated that the Secretary to the County Board of Health had reported to him that there was a number of old iron beds in stock at County Hospital, and which were obsolete and out of service. They had been put up to auction but withdrawn, as bids of only 1/- each were received. The stocktaker from the Ministry of Local Government had put a much higher value on them. Inquiries were being received for their purchase.

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

"That the Secretary of County Wexford Board of Health be authorised to dispose of the disused beds in the County Hospital to the best advantage".

University Scholarships.

The following Minute of Meeting of Finance & Roads Committee of 27th September, 1923, was submitted:-

"Under date 12th September, 1923, Mr Leo F Sullivan, 40 Selskar Street, Wexford, applied for extension of his University Scholarship for a further year to enable him to obtain a Diploma in Education.

33

"The following resolution was adopted:-

"That, owing to the many calls on the finances of the Council, the Finance and Roads Committee cannot see their way to recommend, for some time at least, any extension of University Scholarships'.

"A resolution was also adopted that the University Scholarships to Christopher Hall, 10 Cornmarket, Wexford, and John Mooney, Killanne, Enniscorthy, held over from last year, be re-instated."

The Secretary mentioned that an application for extension of University Scholarship had also been received from Miss Mary O'Rourke, Swan View, Wexford.

On the motion of Mr Lawlor, seconded by Mr Hall, the recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed, and the Secretary was instructed to convey the terms of this resolution to all applicants for extension of University Scholarships. It was further decided that all male scholarship holders, who are not residing in hostels, must furnish at once certificates from Dean of Residence, approving of their lodgings in Dublin.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Shannon, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That University Scholarships, awarded Messrs Christopher Hall, 10 Cornmarket, Wexford, and John Mooney, Killanne, Enniscorthy, held over for them from 1922, be now agreed to".

Under date 4th October, 1923, Miss Cathleen Power, St Kearns, Saltmills, wrote that she considered it most unfair that she had not been awarded the fourth scholarship, seeing that she had more marks than either Messrs Franklin or Hayes.

Mrs O'Dempsey, Parkton, Enniscorthy, wrote that, although according to the University Scholarship Scheme, a successful candidate should obtain Honours in two subjects, a scholarship had been awarded a candidate who did not comply with the conditions and who obtained Honours in one subject only. Her grandson, Mr A A Franklin, who had secured Honours in two subjects, had been passed over. She trusted she had only to

34

point out the injustice to have it rectified.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Culleton, seconded by Mr Lawlor:-

"That the subject of the award of University Scholarships be not re-opened".

Secondary Scholarship Scheme.

The following extract from Minutes of Finance and Roads Committee of 27th September, 1923, was submitted:-

"The following report of Scholarship Committee was laid before the Finance and Roads Committee:-

Secondary School Scholarship Scheme, 1924.

Meeting of Scholarship Committee.

"A meeting of above Committee was held on 22nd September, 1923, in County Council Chamber, Wexford.

"Present:- Very Rev Canon Dunne, P P, presiding; also:- Rev Br Fitzgerald, Christian Schools, Wexford, Messrs Hugh O'Byrne, N T, Ballindaggin, M O'Sullivan, N T, Camolin.

"The Secretary to the County Council and Rev W Harpur, President, St Peter's College, Wexford, were also present.

"The syllabus having been carefully considered, the following changes were agreed to:-

"That female pupils of National Schools in Bunclody and Gorey be deemed eligible for awards under this Scheme as the Secondary Schools in these centres do not make provision for the education of day pupils. A certificate from the Head Teacher that female pupils of the National Schools in Bunclody and Gorey have been on the Rolls of National School for at least two years must be supplied.

"That, as Scheme up to the present has made no provision for pupils residing within a two-mile limit of a Recognised Secondary School, the Committee consider that one of the Scholarships for boys should be discontinued, and the amount of same, viz., £40, be devoted to four bursaries of £10 each, two for boys and two for girls, tenable for three years, and to be offered for competition amongst pupils who reside within a two-mile limit of Recognised Secondary School, pupils under this head not to be

eligible for Scholarships.

Programme of Subjects.

1. Reading (To remain as for syllabus for 1923).
2. Arithmetic (" " ").
3. Grammar (" " ").
4. Irish (Fourth Standard of National School Programme). The Committee recommend this change in consequence of the backward condition of the language in Co. Wexford, and owing to the fact that of 21 pupils, who sat for examination, 9 failed in Irish.
5. History and Geography. The Committee consider that, ^{as} eleven pupils out of the 21 who sat for examination failed in this subject, the standard set must have been too high. They suggest that, if possible, the period should be from the time of St Patrick to the Act of Union, and standard should be lowered.
6. Any one of the following:- Algebra (syllabus as in 1923), (b) Geometry and Mensuration (as in 1923), (c) Plain Needlework (as in syllabus for 1923).

The Committee further recommend that Scholarships should be awarded for four instead of three years; also, that no definite minimum of valuation should be taken into consideration in deciding upon eligibility of students. They believe it would be more equitable if the circumstances in each case were considered and would point out that large numbers of Ratepayers, whose valuation exceeds £35 (the limit fixed by County Council for year 1923), are unable to provide Secondary Education for their children. Many of those, whose holdings exceed £35 valuation, and who have to carry on with hired labour, are not so well off financially as Ratepayers, the valuation of whose holdings would be within the limit, and who could calculate on the labour of their own families and who very often deal in cattle or some other secondary calling.

"The Committee further point out that it would be well if results of Examination were furnished to County Council by 1st August in each year to allow of awards being made and of pupils making the necessary preparations to enter Secondary School."

"The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of Mr John O'Byrne, seconded by Mr John J O'Byrne:-

"That the recommendations of the Secondary Scholarship Committee as to new syllabus be approved, except as regards Irish, for which subject we recommend the County Council to reinstate the fifth standard of National Schools Programme, instead of the fourth, as recommended by the Scholarship Committee.

"That the question of an extension of Scholarships from three to four years be considered when the finances of the Council are on normal footing"

The recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed on the motion of Mr John O'Byrne, seconded by the Chairman.

Reports as to progress, etc., of Scholars, holding Secondary School Scholarships for 1923, were submitted. They were in every case satisfactory.

Payments to Subsidiary Bodies.

Under date 27th September, 1923, Mr T D Sinnott, Secretary, County Board of Health, applied for £6, 247 on foot of Demand.

Mr O'Sullivan, Clerk, Wexford Rural District Council, applied for balance due by the County Council on foot of his Council's Demand to 30th September, 1923.

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

"That the Subsidiary Bodies, financed by the County Council, be paid as much as possible on foot of Demands, consistent with the present financial position of the Council".

Urban Council Demands.

Under date 26th September, 1923, the following resolution was received from New Ross Urban Council:-

"That a deputation consisting of the members present at this meeting:- Messrs James Murphy, Presiding Chairman, John Hand, Daniel Murphy, Martin O'Brien, and John Harney, meet a deputation of the local members, or any that may be appointed by the County

Council, in the Urban Council Offices, New Ross, to confer with them on the subject matter of their letter, at a date which may be suitable to the County Council members".

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Culleton, seconded by Mr Lawlor:-

"That New Ross Urban Council be informed, if they send a deputation to next meeting of the Finance and Roads Committee of the County Council, they will be received".

Exportation of Animals Order of 1923.

The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction forwarded copy of Exportation of Animals (Irish Free State) Order of 1923, providing for declaration as to sellers of cattle and ear tagging of animals after landing in Great Britain, and which was read for the meeting.

Application for Compensation - Personal Injuries, Etc.

Under date 25th September, 1923, Messrs M J O'Connor & Co., Solicitors, Wexford, wrote that Mr Patrick Hore claimed from the County Council £31 for injury to his wife, pony and harness, by reason of a badly filled trench at the "Parting Roads" on the Rosslare road.

Mr Elgee stated that he had made inquiries in connection with this application, and understood that the accident occurred a considerable distance from the trench.

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

"That the claim of Mr Patrick Hore, Upper John Street, Wexford, be referred to our Solicitor, Mr Elgee, with instructions to defend any proceedings which may be taken on foot of said claim".

38

Mountgarrett Bridge.

Under date 19th September, 1923, Mr T Drew, Secretary, Kilkenny County Council, wrote, asking to be informed when negotiations for loan of £5,000, Co. Wexford proportion of new bridge at Mountgarrett had been completed, and amount available, with a view to drafting of plans, specifications, etc., being put in hands.

New Ross Bridge.

Under date 18th September, 1923, Mr T Drew, Secretary, Kilkenny County Council, wrote that his Council had approved of the proposed expenditure of £222 by Wexford County Council for repairs to warping buoys at New Ross Bridge, one-half to be borne by his Council.

Weights & Measures Acts.

The following Minute of Finance and Roads Committee from meeting of 27th September, 1923, was submitted:-

Under date 11th September, 1923, (2100A) and 18th September, 1923 (2137A), letters were read from the Power Section, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, as to supply of Weights and Measures standards. It was proposed to complete four sets of sub-standards for the present, these sets to be installed at Enniscorthy, Gorey, New Ross and Wexford. The approximate cost would be about £200.

"Mr John O'Byrne proposed, the Chairman seconded, and it was passed:-

"That we recommend the County Council to arrange with the Power Section of Ministry of Industry and Commerce to procure four sets of sub-standards under the Weights and Measures Acts as referred to in the communications received from the Ministry".

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Cloney, seconded by the Chairman:-

"That the recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee in reference to procuring of sub-standards, etc., under Weights and Measures Acts be approved.

39

Credit Balances - Guardians' Accounts.

The Secretary reported that above had been lodged, except New Ross, in which an adjustment, as between Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford, must be made. When accounts had been audited, the adjustment would be carried out.

Deductions from Grants - Labourers' Acts Loans.

Notification was received from the Ministry of Local Government that the following sums had been deducted from County Wexford's share of Local Taxation grants, which were due to the Irish Land Commission by the Rural District Councils named, on foot of loans advanced for the erection of labourers' cottages:-

	£	s	d
Enniscorthy	452	8	0
Gorey	662	11	8
New Ross	221	0	0

Claims of Overseers.

The County Surveyor submitted certificates of payment to Overseers as follows:- Michael McEvoy, Kingsford, Barntown; John J O'Gorman, Ballyrhenel, Glenbrien, and J J Morrissey, Chesnut Cottage, Enniscorthy, £5:12:6, each, period from 1st November, 1922, to 31st March, 1923, at 5/- per week.

The above was approved on the motion of Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Shannon.

Caretaker, County Offices.

On the motion of Mr Culleton, seconded by the Chairman, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the duties of the caretaker of the County Offices, and the manner in which these are being carried out, be considered at the next meeting of the Finance and Roads Committee".

Washing out County Offices.

The following Minute was submitted from the Finance and Roads Committee:-

"The County Surveyor at a previous meeting of the Committee

40.

reported:- 'I have made arrangements for the washing out of the entire County Building and ask for your authority to make agreement for the regular periodic cleaning.'

"This report was referred to the Finance and Roads Committee of 27th September, 1923, who made the following recommendation, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr John O'Byrne:-

"We approve of the arrangements made by the County Surveyor relative to the washing out of the Offices, viz., 5/- per week, and also approve of his action in having the entire County Building washed down after the Council had entered into possession".

The above recommendation was confirmed on the motion of Mr Kavanagh, seconded by Mr Shannon.

Old Age Pension Claims. -----

The Secretary stated he had not received any reply to the following resolution, adopted at the last meeting of the County Council:-

"That copy of letter from Mr William Stafford, Clerk, Old Age Pension Sub-Committee No. 1, be furnished Supervisor, Customs and Excise, Waterford, and that he be requested to furnish explanation in connection with same".

The Secretary was directed to again communicate with the Supervisor, Customs and Excise, Waterford.

Complaint as to Report of Road Ganger. -----

Under date 5th October, 1923, James Barnes (Ganger) Rathquile, Adamstown, wrote that Michael McEvoy, Camross, worked under him for one week in Barmoney Quarry, and, during that time, he lost two mornings; on Tuesday, 21st August, he lost 2 hours; on Saturday, 25th August, he began work at 11 a.m.; on several occasions he put stones into the breaker which were too large; on Saturday, 25th August, he had to take his place at breaker and neglect his other duties.

Mr Culleton said that McEvoy repudiated these charges which he said were false.

It was decided that Barnes and McEvoy be summoned to next meeting of the Finance and Roads Committee.

Demonstration re Prisoners.

Under date 8th October, 1923, Messrs Lacy and Moran, Secretaries of Cathal Brugha Sinn Fein Club, wrote, inviting the County Council to send representatives to a Demonstration for the release of Mr De Valera and all T D's, who are political prisoners, to be held on Sunday, 14th October, in O'Connell Street, Dublin.

After considerable discussion, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Hayes:-

"That the Joint Secretaries of Cathal Brugha Sinn Fein Club, Wexford, be informed that the object of the meeting, to be held in Dublin on Sunday, 14th October, 1923, has our sympathy. We leave it to any of our members, who can do so, to attend. If we appointed special delegates, they might not be in a position to be present."

E. O'Keefe

afu/mv3