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WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

MONTHLY MEETING 12th DECEMBER 1938

MINUTES

County Hall,
WEXFORD.

N. J. FRIZELLE,
Secretary Wexford County Council.

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The monthly meeting of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 12th December 1938.

Present:- Messrs. J. J. Bowe, Patrick Colfer, Richard Corish, Christopher Culleton, Raymond Doyle, W. P. Keegan, John P. Kelly, William Kinsella, James Lawler, Thomas McCarthy, Sean Murphy, Sean O'Byrne, Miss N. O'Ryan, Michael Redmond, Thomas Redmond, Patrick Ronan, Myles Smyth, Malachi Sweetman and James E. Walsh.

ABSENCE FROM MEETING

Under date 8th December 1938, Mr. Allen, T.D., Chairman of the Council, wrote that he had been laid up for the previous fortnight with Sciatica and would not be able to attend the meeting.

Col. Quin wrote that he was recovering from an attack of Influenza but not sufficiently to allow of his attendance at meeting.

The Secretary reported that the County Surveyor was suffering from an attack of Influenza which prevented his attendance at meeting.

On the motion of Miss O'Ryan, seconded by Mr. Ronan, the Chair was taken by Mr. McCarthy.

After confirmation of Minutes Mr. Corish, Vice-Chairman, attended and presided for transaction of the business.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Notes for £24577. 5. 5d were examined and signed.

VOTES OF CONDOLENCE

THE LATE MRS. JORDAN, BALLYHAMILTON: On the motion of Mr. O'Byrne seconded by Miss O'Ryan a vote of condolence was adopted to Mr. Michael J. Jordan, Ballyhamilton, Ferns, on the death of his wife. Mr. Jordan was for several years a

member of the County Council and Chairman of the County Board of Health, also T.D.

The Secretary, and County Solicitor associated themselves with the proposal.

The Chairman, in putting the resolution, said he knew Mrs. Jordan very well. She was a fine type of lady, daughter of the late Mr. Patrick O'Neill, Enniscorthy, who was a member of the Council for many years, and who gave great attention to the public business of the County. They sympathised exceedingly with Mr. Jordan in the death of his wife at a comparatively early age.

THE LATE VERY REV. CANON O'BRIEN, NEWBAWN: Mr. McCarthy proposed a vote of sympathy with the relatives of the late Canon O'Brien and also with the Clergy of the Diocese in his loss. He was the oldest priest in the Diocese and had always displayed the greatest possible interest in the people of his parish.

Mr. M. Redmond seconded the proposal and stated that as one who had known Canon O'Brien for very many years he could say without hesitation that the Diocese and his own immediate district had suffered a very severe loss by his death.

The Secretary also joined in the tribute to Canon O'Brien who he stated was beloved by the people of Newbawn and by all who had the happiness of his acquaintance.

Both resolutions were passed in the usual manner.

TENDERS COMMITTEES MEETINGS

The following dates of meetings of Tenders Committees were agreed to on the motion of Mr. Kelly seconded by Mr. Colfer:-

Enniscorthy, Tuesday, 14th February at 12 noon.

Gorey, Saturday, 11th February at 10.30 a.m.

New Ross, Thursday, 16th February at 11.30 a.m.

Wexford, Saturday, 18th February at 11 o'clock a.m.

CONFIRMATION MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING 25th NOVEMBER 1938: The Minutes of this meeting
were submitted as follows:-

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The fortnightly meeting of Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 25th November 1938.

Present:- Messrs. P. Colfer, W. P. Keegan, John P. Kelly, Thomas McCarthy, Sean Murphy, Sean O'Byrne and Miss O'Ryan.

Miss O'Ryan was moved to the Chair on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne seconded by Mr. Colfer.

After the confirmation of the Minutes, Mr. Coish (Vice-Chairman) attended and presided for the remainder of the business.

VOTE OF CONDOLENCE

On the motion of Miss O'Ryan, seconded by Mr. O'Byrne, a vote of condolence was adopted to Miss Norton (County Surveyor's Department) on the death of her aunt, Mrs. Margaret Boyle.

The Secretary associated himself with the vote.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £6835. 13. 5d was examined and signed.

RATE COLLECTION

STATE OF: The state of Rate Collection to date was submitted as follows:-

Percentage of Warrant Collected.

1.	S. Gannon	48.0
2.	P. Nolan	46.4
3.	M. Kehoe	46.4
4.	E. J. Murphy	46.0
5.	J. Curtis	45.2
6.	J. J. O'Reilly	45.1
7.	D. Kenny	44.6
8.	A. Dunne	42.8
9.	J. Cummins	42.3
10.	J. Deegan	42.2
11.	M. McCarthy	40.4
12.	P. Carty	40.0
13.	P. Doyle	39.0
14.	W. Doyle	38.6
15.	J. Flood	38.1

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16.	J. Quirke	38.0
17.	W. Cummins	35.6
18.	J. J. Sinnott	<u>34.3</u>

Average 41.8.

The Secretary stated that at the corresponding period last year the percentage was 44%.

RATES ON BANTRY COMMONS: Mr. McCarthy mentioned he had been approached by Mr. Brennan, Newtown, Grange, Killanne, as to the County Council receiving a deputation representing the ratepayers concerned in Banty Commons and he informed Mr. Brennan he would submit the matter to the Finance Committee.

It was decided to inform Mr. Brennan that the Finance Committee would receive the deputation at meeting of 9th December 1938 at 3 o'clock p.m.

PAYMENT OF POUNDAGE: The following under date 17th November 1938 (G.3043/12/38) was read from the Department of Local Government and Public Health:-

"With reference to your letter of the 9th instant regarding payment of poundage to Rate Collectors, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that the general trend of rate collection this year should be one of improvement and he therefore considers that the moiety and arrears should be closed not later than 30th instant. This is the latest date fixed in similar Schemes in other Counties. While there is little reason, therefore, for a first interim payment owing to the short period between now and the end of the month the Minister will raise no objection on this occasion to such a payment being made.

The date for the third interim payment should be the 28th February.

Subject to the above amendments the Minister agrees to the continuance of the Scheme for the current financial year. The collectors should, however, be informed that for the future no scheme of this kind will be considered unless it is

submitted before the warrants are issued."

The Secretary stated that according to the communication from the Department the following were the particulars of the lodgments required:-

1st Interim Payment.	Lodgment by 15th November 1938 of 60% of first moiety of Current Warrant along with total arrears applicable to assessment for 1937/38.	75% of Poundage.
2nd Interim Payment.	Lodgment by 30th November 1938 of sum equivalent to first moiety of current Warrant along with total arrears applicable to 1937/38 assessment.	Full Poundage
3rd Interim Payment.	Lodgment by 28th February 1939 of sum equivalent to 75% of current warrant along with total arrears applicable to 1937/38 assessment.	80% of Poundage.
Final Payment.	Subject to Warrant being satisfactorily closed.	

The Secretary, in reply to the Chairman, said that the date for lodgment etc. of first interim payment was the same as for last year; for the second interim the date was advanced from the middle of December to 30th November and for the third interim from the middle of March to 28th February. The final payment was subject to the Warrants being satisfactorily closed.

Rate Collectors J. M. Gurtis, M. McCarthy and J. J. O'Reilly attended as a deputation from Rate Collectors relative to the dates of Interim payments set out in letter of Department.

Mr. O'Reilly (who acted as spokesman) said that as regards the payment of second interim, Rate Collectors would not be able to comply with the Department's proposal. Very few of them qualified within the time last year and the Collectors suggested that the period for second interim payment should be extended to 31st December next. In regard to the third interim the Collectors asked that the period for lodging the sum equivalent to 75% of warrant with arrears for 1937-38 by 28th February should be extended to the 31st March.

Mr. Keegan, M.C.C., proposed and Mr. O'Byrne seconded the following:-

"That the concessions of dates of lodgments of rates to qualify for second and third interim payments as requested by deputation from Rate Collectors be recommended to County Council for approval, subject to the sanction of Minister for Local Government and Public Health."

Collector O'Reilly pointed out that last year only eight Collectors qualified for payment of second interim payment within the specified time and the practice of the Department as regards Collectors who lodged after the stipulated time was to cut the poundage by a percentage. The Collectors believed that with the extra period they would be able to obtain the necessary amount of rates to qualify.

Mr. Curtis, Rate Collector, referred to the serious financial position of a Collector who was solely dependant on his remuneration as Rate Collector. This was one of the worst years they had met from the point of view of the rate-payers. People who, up to this, paid punctually, were not now able to do so and had nothing to meet their rates until they were paid for their corn and beet. Rate Collectors who, like himself, had families to support, found it almost impossible to carry on pending payment of Poundage Fees.

After further discussion Mr. Keegan altered his motion to read:-

"That with the approval of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health Rate Collectors who lodge a sum equivalent to first moiety of current warrant with arrears applicable to 1937/38 by the 31st December be entitled to second interim payment of poundage. That consideration of date for lodgment of sum equivalent to 75% of current warrant with arrears of 1937-38 to qualify for third interim payment of poundage, be adjourned for further consideration."

Mr. O'Byrne seconded. Passed.

PAYMENT FIRST INTERIM POUNDAGE: The following resolutions were adopted on the motion of Mr. Keegan seconded by Mr. O'Byrne:-

"That first interim payment of poundage fees be made to Collector W. Cummins who had the requisite lodgment made at Enniscorthy Branch of the National Bank on 15th November 1938 the amount (13. 2. 8d) being credited in the Council's Bank Pass Book on 16th November 1938."

"That as lodgment of Collector J. J. Sinnott was only £5. 2. 11d short of required amount on 15th November and as this sum was lodged by Collector on 21st November 1938 we approve of 1st interim payment being made in his case."

LISTS FIRST MOIETY RATES OUTSTANDING: In connection with supply of lists of outstanding rates Mr. O'Reilly said there was a good deal of work entailed in their preparation and in order that the Collection would not be held up the Collectors asked that the time to furnish these lists should be extended to 15th December.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Murphy, it was decided to accede to the request of the Rate Collectors.

COURT MESSENGER AND RATES

The following relative to rates due by Thomas Neville, Ballynabola - Arrears £36. 4. 1d and Current Rate first moiety £15. 3. 5d. - was read from Collector E. J. Murphy (No. 15 Collection District):-

"I wish to inform you that I have repeatedly called on the Auctioneer, Mr. John Doyle of North Street, New Ross, during the past 3 months for payment of above. He refused payment unless credit is given for £4. 0. 0 against the amount now due, which sum of £4. 0. 0 was paid to the Sheriff's Officers on the 20th July 1934 and the receipt for same is in the offices of Messrs. Colfer & Son, Solicitors, New Ross. Mr. Doyle holds that credit should be given for this amount.

I am of opinion that if action is taken against this estate it will probably revert to its original position when no rates will be recovered. Considering when I am getting the Current Rate and an instalment ^{of} arrears it would be very advisable to get in touch with the Registrar, Mr. O'Dwyer, and get this matter settled in view of the circumstances that have arisen."

The attention of County Registrar was called to the matter and the following from him under date 16th November 1938 was read:-

"Yours of the 15th instant with enclosure herein received. This item is one of default on the part of Court Messenger Earle, and his case is still under consideration by the Department to whom I have sent copy of your letter."

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

"That, in view of the fact that default in the matter of Rates of T. Neville, Ballynabola, was made by Court Messenger in 1934, the County Registrar be asked to request the Department of Justice to have the matter dealt with as soon as possible."

VALUATION OF HOUSES OF GOREY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

Under date 18th November 1938 the following letter (S.R.6816-S/M) was read from the Secretary, Valuation Office, 6 Ely Place, Dublin:-

"With reference to your letter of the 18th ultimo enclosing copy letter sent to the Department of Local Government and Public Health, I am directed by the Commissioner of Valuation to state that, having issued his decision on the Appeal to him he is precluded from further reconsideration of the case and a review of the valuations in question can only be made by the Circuit Court.

The Town Commissioners, as you are aware, have already
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appealed to that Court and the case will be listed for hearing in due course."

CARETAKER'S PREMISES - GOREY COURTHOUSE

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Colfer seconded by Mr. McCarthy:-

"That payment of 7s. 6d per week to Thomas Dwyer, Caretaker, Gorey Courthouse, in lieu of residence be continued until such time as County Surveyor certifies that the caretaker's premises at this Courthouse are fit for occupation on completion of repairs at present being carried out."

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACTS

DENIS KAVANAGH, CRONECRIBBON, INCH: applied for Loan of £125 for house estimated to be value for £300. Applicant was a carpenter by trade.

The following resolution was adopted:-

"That County Council be recommended to approve provisionally of loan of £125 to Denis Kavanagh, Cronecribbon, Inch, subject to sanction of Minister for Local Government and Public Health."

JAMES O'CONNOR, BALLINACREE, CASTLETOWN: applied for loan of £270 on house estimated to be valued at £400. Applicant is a farmer.

It was decided that Mr. Allen, T.D., Chairman of the Council, be requested to make a recommendation to the Finance Committee regarding the application.

JAMES KENT, ROCHESTOWN, FOULKSMILLS: Mr. Elgee, County Solicitor, wrote under date 22nd November 1938 enclosing copy of reply of Land Commission as to the re-investing in applicant of the plot of ground on the estate of Leigh Minors (Rosegarland). The Land Commission wrote it was not

possible to state when the re-investing would take place.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Colfer seconded by Mr. Kelly:-

"That Mr. Elgee, County Solicitor, communicate with the Land Commission and point out that the Finance Committee were of opinion that the re-investing order in the case of James Kent, Rochestown, Foulksmills, should issue without delay. This is most important as unless the matter be dealt with at once Mr. Kent may be unable to proceed with the erection of house under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts owing to the fact that unless new legislation be enacted in the meantime Government Grants towards the cost of erection of such houses will not be available after 31st March 1939."

The Chairman (Mr. Corish) said he would call to the Land Commission about the matter.

ELIZABETH SWEETMAN, BALLYNABOLA: Under date 9th November 1938 Mr. Elgee, County Solicitor, wrote forwarding copy of letter from Messrs. Colfer & Son, New Ross, Solicitors for Mrs. Sweetman under date 8th November 1938 that they were proceeding to put her title in order.

It was decided that Mr. Elgee inform Messrs. Colfer & Son that the County Council cannot take any steps as regards advancement of loans until Titles have been approved by him.

THOMAS DOYLE, GURTEEN, TEMPLESHAMBO: Mr. Elgee wrote under date 12th November 1938 enclosing letter from this applicant stating that as he believed the cost of taking out Administration was prohibitive he was not in a position to furnish title though he was badly in need of a house.

It was decided that application in this case be cancelled

LAURENCE DOYLE, BALLYGILLIESTOWN, DAVIDSTOWN: Under date 9th November 1938 Mr. Elgee forwarded letter from Messrs. J. A. Sinnott & Co., Enniscorthy, Solicitors for applicant,

that the latter did not intend availing of proposed loan for erection of house.

It was decided that application be cancelled.

WEXFORD BRIDGE

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

"As the County Surveyor has informed Finance Committee he will be in a position to start repair work at Wexford Bridge next week, he be empowered to employ Captain Harvey, B.E., Bargo Castle, as Clerk of Works, remuneration £5. 5s. per week, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health."

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS AT FETHARD HARBOUR

Under date 24th November 1938, the following was read from Mr. John C. Hearne, Fethard-on-Sea:-

"The fishermen of Fethard read the account of the Council meeting on Monday, 14th instant, and have agreed that an extension from the present pier is the only improvement possible to the existing harbour or dock.

This proposed extension will enable us to land our catches at all times of tides and make our anchorage in the bay much safer.

It was suggested at the meeting on 14th that the expenditure would not be justifiable owing to the amount of fish caught here; that is problematical for there would be more men and probably better boats fishing from here had we a safe harbour.

Large well-equipped boats come to fish on our grounds and get good catches while we can only get small amounts as we have no place to keep a decent size boat to compete with those from Kilmore and Dunmore East.

The best fishing grounds on the South of Eire exist round Fethard and ^{we} cannot work them owing to our lack of

docking facilities.

We respectfully ask you again to get this extension built for us and give us a chance of working under ordinary conditions."

Mr. Colfer said that about eight or ten months ago, the Chairman, Mr. T. Redmond and himself, with the County Surveyor and Mr. O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor, had inspected the dock at Fethard. The fishermen held that if the dock were cleaned out a number of rocks would be exposed on which their boats might be broken up. Mr. Bird, one of the oldest fishermen in the place and who was familiar with it for a great number of years, believed the only useful work which could be carried out was an extension of the dock. The County Surveyor had stated that this extension would cost about five or six thousand pounds which was rather startling. But, he (Mr. Colfer) pointed out that if the work could be done a certain amount of land on the Fethard side would be saved from flooding as the current would be turned. He was also of opinion that eventually more and better boats would be provided to develop the fishing industry in the district.

On the motion of Mr. Corish seconded by Mr. Colfer, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the County Surveyor be directed to furnish detailed report as to proposed extension of Fethard dock, to be considered at next meeting of Finance Committee."

SANCTION LOAN - ROSSLARE-CARNE PIER ROAD

The following under date 14th November 1938 (S. Loch Garman) was read from Department of Local Government and Public Health:-

"With reference to your letter of the 4th ultimo in regard to a proposal of the County Council to raise a loan of £2,100 for the purpose of Improvement Works on the

Rosslare-Carne Pier Road, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that he has sanctioned the raising by the Council of a loan of £2,100 for the purpose; the loan to be obtained from the Council's Treasurer and to be repayable over a period of five years with interest at the usual rate.

A signed duplicate of this sanction is enclosed for the information of the Treasurer."

BALLYCONNIGAR QUARRY

Under date 8th November, 1938, the following was read from Mr. M. Murphy, Knocknasilloque, Blackwater, Hon. Secretary Cumann Fianna Fail:-

"With reference to the opening of quarry at Ballyconnigar I am instructed by my Cumann to ask the County Council to have steps taken to open the quarry at Ballyconnigar on the lands of Mrs. Cullen. There was about twelve months ago material taken from this quarry for some Relief Grants on Laneways and its situation is only a few yards from the Roadway. Little alterations would make it possible for anything to get into it.

The quality of material there, we believe, is well above the standard at Edenvale and would be suitable for 3rd and 4th Class Roads in the Districts. The Council are already aware of the Prevention Order or Prohibition Order by the Department against removal of Beach Material which was always used on roads in the District and which Order has compelled Road Contractors in this Area to give up their Contracted Roads because of no material available only at a price which would not make their time and work at Roads remunerative to them. On the other hand, those Roads which will now be vested in the work of the Council/Road men will be faced with similar circumstances with the result that those Roads will be only getting about one fourth material

they would require and consequently they will become worse each year. If the Council would open this quarry for the supply of all local roads 3rd and 4th Class it would give a great deal of employment in this locality and we are convinced would return material cheaper for those Roads. We request the Council to give the matter their fullest consideration and instruct their County Surveyor to make an inspection of same as a good opportunity now presents itself to see the Rock that exists in this quarry with a view to having same opened as early as possible."

Adjourned for report of Mr. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor.

DUMPING GROUND AT COURTTOWN HARBOUR

The following under date 23rd November 1938 from Courtown Brick and Tile Company was forwarded by Mr. Treanor, Assistant Surveyor for the district:-

"Re your recent visit to us about using the Quarry at Courtown as a dumping ground.

We beg to say that on no account will the Firm allow the Quarry to be used as a dumping ground. They are prepared to sell the Quarry for the sum of One Hundred Pounds (£100)."

The County Surveyor said he regarded the proposal as prohibitive. He believed the quarry would never be worked in the future.

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

"That the County Council be recommended to offer the Courtown Brick and Tile Company the sum of £20 for Quarry at Courtown Harbour for use as a dumping ground."

WORKING OF MUNFIN GRAVEL PIT

The following under date 15th November 1938 was read from Secretary, Irish Transport & General Workers' Union, Enniscorthy Branch:-

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"My members in the sand pit at Munfin, Ballycarney, wish to draw the attention of the Surveyor to the fact that only five men are employed there. There was always ten and the amount of money is the same.

Perhaps you will be good enough to have this grievance looked into."

The County Surveyor said there were as many men employed in this pit as the amount of work warranted.

The following was read from Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor for the district:-

"I have as many men in Munfin as I require. Since the money for the third class roads was cut down a much less quantity of gravel is required."

It was decided to adjourn further consideration of the matter for report from County Surveyor as to the number of men who worked in the quarry in 1936, 1937 and 1938, with amount of expenditure for the working for each of these years.

PRINTING ABATEMENT FORMS ETC.

Three tenders were received for the printing of 8,000 Abatement Forms and 5,500 Post Cards (Relief of Agricultural Rates):-

The People £10. 19. 6d.

The Echo and Redmond Brothers £12. 10s. each.

On the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Kelly, the tender of the People was accepted.

PRINTING RATE BOOKS

The only tender for the printing of Rate Books was received from Messrs. Redmond Brothers, Enniscorthy, amount £37. 0. 0.

This was accepted on the motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. O'Byrne.

PRINTING INDEX CARDS LOCAL TAXATION OFFICE

Requisition for supply of 3750 Index Cards in different colours, was received from Local Taxation Officer. The People Newspapers Ltd., Wexford, quoted to supply at £5. 2. 6d. The Local Taxation Officer, Cork, in a communication to Mr. C. H. Richard, Local Taxation Officer, stated that the firm who supplied his Council were Messrs. Hickey & Byrne, Cork, and the total cost at the rate charged by the latter firm (viz., £1. 18. 6d per 1,000) would be £7. 4. 5d.

Mr. Colfer proposed and Mr. Kelly seconded the following which was adopted:-

"That the quotation of the People at £5. 2. 6d for printing 3750 Index Cards for Motor Taxation Office be accepted."

REGULATIONS RE LIVE STOCK ETC. POUNDS

The following under date 23rd November 1938 was read from County Solicitor re above:-

"I have gone carefully through the above regulations and considered same as far as they relate to the Duties and Liabilities of the County Council thereunder, and I find:-

(1) Under Regulation 2 (d) the Local Authority (that is the County Council) will have to supply to the Pound-keeper, a Record Book, in which the Pound-Keeper has to keep a record of the animals or chattels impounded and the Pound fees and Trespass Rates received by him as Pound-Keeper. The form of this Record Book is set out in the 1st Schedule to the Regulations.

(2) Under Regulation 8(5) the Pound-Keeper shall keep a copy of the 2nd Schedule to the Regulations which sets out the fees to be charged for animals or chattels impounded, affixed in a prominent position on or near his pound, presumably the County Council will have to supply copies of the Schedule to the various Pound-Keepers.

(3) Regulation 7 provides that if any animal requires the attention of a veterinary surgeon, while impounded, the Pound-Keeper may, with the approval of the County Registrar, engage such surgeon and (a) the fee payable to the Surgeon shall be paid by the County Council (b) If the animal is sold, such fee may be deducted from the proceeds of such sale, and paid over to the Council (c) If the County Council is not recouped as aforesaid for the amount of such fee, the fee may be recovered from the owner of the animals as a simple contract debt.

(4) Regulation 9(1) provides for the destruction of certain animals and Regulation 9(3) provides that the expenses of the destruction shall be borne by the County Council."

It was decided to adjourn consideration to next meeting of Finance Committee.

FLOODING AT CLONJORDAN, MARSHALSTOWN

The following under date 21st November 1938 was read from Mr. Thomas Warren, Clonjordan, Enniscorthy:-

"Would you kindly bring before the notice next meeting of the County Council, the very deplorable state of the river, across the road near my place. There was nearly a foot deep of water 30 yards along the road; it overflowed and the two pipes were not half able to carry the water. No one could get across only by car. If I wanted to go to Church or to see my stock I would have to get a horse and car to get through the flood water across the road.

I have written about this very urgent matter several times but nothing seems to be done."

The County Surveyor said they had put in a pipe gullet at the place and, if necessary, he would be prepared to put in a further pipe but the level was the same above and below..

The down stream gullet required cleaning.

Adjourned for report from Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor for the district.

NUISANCE AT BALLYKEROGUE

The following under date 18th November 1938 was read from the County Board of Health and Public Assistance:-

"Your letter of the 18th ultimo on this subject was before a meeting of the Wexford Board of Health on the 31st idem.

It was decided, that in view of the fact that the Board were not in a position to undertake the repair or improvement of roads, that the matter be referred back to your Council, with a request that something be done at an early date."

The County Surveyor said that the nuisance referred to was on a laneway over which the County Council had no control and no responsibility. The County Council could not spend a penny of the money raised in Rate in the repair of the ~~thoroughfare~~ in question. The only hope of doing anything was through a Minor Relief Grant.

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

"That application as to repair of laneway at Ballykerogue under Minor Relief Schemes Vote be made to the Office of Public Works."

SHEEP DIPPING ORDER

The following under date 17th November 1938 (L.4715-38) was read from the Department of Agriculture:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Agriculture to refer to your letter of the 7th instant in the matter and to state that no objection will be offered to the payment to the Sheep Dipping Inspectors of the full remuneration - £20 each for the past dipping period provided the Local Authority are

satisfied that each Inspector carried out the work devolving on him in a satisfactory manner."

The meeting expressed the opinion that the Lay Inspectors had carried out their duties in a satisfactory manner and it was decided on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Miss O'Ryan, that the full remuneration of £20 be paid to each Inspector.

In connection with report of Patrick Ormonde, Ballyellis, Carnew, Inspector under the Order, that four sheep owners in his district had not applied for notices of dipping, letter under date 21st November 1938 was read from Mr. Ormonde that Patrick Donnelly, one of the persons concerned, had dipped his sheep but he had no information as to what happened in the cases of Joseph Doyle, William Somers and Annie Tyndall.

The Secretary stated that Mr. Ormonde had been instructed to make further enquiries.

The matter ~~was~~ adjourned pending their receipt.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Notifications as to proposed committal to Industrial Schools of the following children were received and referred to County Solicitor:-

Margaret Allen, Railway Cottage, Enniscorthy. 6 years.
 Patrick Michael Connors, Killabeg, Ferns. 8 years.
 Abraham Murphy, Ballina, Blackwater (Six years and seven months) illegitimate child of Johanna Goodison.

In connection with the latter case it was decided that the County Solicitor should ascertain the circumstances of the child's mother.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Colfer, seconded by Mr. Kelly:-

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 25th November 1938, be received and considered."

WEXFORD BRIDGE: Mr. Culleton stated that it would seem peculiar to the outside public that the position of Clerk of Works on Wexford Bridge was not advertised, though he was aware that Captain Harvey, who was selected for the position, was one of the most efficient men they could secure.

Miss O'Ryan pointed out the Finance Committee recognised that advertising would have been advisable in this matter, but as the County Surveyor said he wished to start repairs to the bridge the week after the meeting of the Finance Committee it was not possible to advertise.

In reply to Mr. Keegan, the Chairman stated that Captain Harvey had been Clerk of Works on Ferrycarrig Bridge and also on Mountgarrett Bridge and had given every possible satisfaction.

Mr. Culleton agreed that it would be difficult to get a more suitable man than Captain Harvey. If the position had been advertised and he was one of the applicants he (Mr. Culleton) would certainly have voted for him. He was glad he had raised the matter because the outside public would understand why it was that the position had not been advertised.

MUNFIN GRAVEL PIT: Miss O'Ryan said that it would not be wise to tie the hands of the Surveyors by specifying that a particular number of men should be engaged in each quarry.

Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, stated that years ago they obtained from this pit 50% more gravel than now, because at that time the main road was metalled by material

taken from Munfin, now it was concreted, and in consequence, the material from the Pit was cut down. It was true that he usually had 10 men in the quarry previous to the concreting of the main road and he had a fluctuating number now. As a matter of fact he had as many men now as for any year during the last seven or eight. The reference in the application would be really applicable to the year 1929 and previous to that.

FLOODING AT CLONJORDAN: Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, said that the place at the down stream side was all choked up, and if the farmers concerned would clean it up in the summer the flooding would be obviated; it was not a County Council job at all. The water at the upper side was as high as that at the lower side so that it could not get away. The County Council, although a road be flooded, had no power to interfere with a natural stream.

Mr. Lawler said the road was flooded practically twice a week, recently every wet day.

Mr. Elgee bore out what Mr. Ennis had stated. Unless a man interfered in some way they could not compel him to clean up a natural stream even though it flooded the road.

The Chairman questioned this and suggested that a couple of County Councillors from Enniscorthy district should visit the place and report; at present they were discussing it in the dark.

Mr. Ennis said that it had been explained to the people concerned it was a matter for themselves.

Mr. O'Byrne said it was a ridiculous position that a man could flood a road and that the County Council had no power to prevent him. They should look for the power.

Mr. Lawlor contended that the pipes were not sufficient to take the water.

The Chairman said they could write to Mr. Warren and

explain to him that in the opinion of the Council all the farmers concerned should combine and clear up the stream as the County Council had no power to enter on the land for that purpose. When they ascertained what effect this would have on the flooding the matter, if necessary, could be reconsidered by the Council.

He then put this suggestion forward as a resolution.

Mr. Bowe seconded and the proposal was adopted.

Mr. Doyle asked if it was not possible for the people who suffered from the flooding to take action against the man from whose land the water came down.

Mr. Elgee said this could be done in respect of an artificial stream but not for a natural one as they were dealing with in the present instance.

On the motion of Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Colfer, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Minutes of Finance Committee of 25th November 1938 as submitted to this meeting be, and the same are, hereby confirmed and approved except in so far as same may have been altered or amended by resolution adopted at this meeting."

MEETING 9th DECEMBER 1938: The Minutes of this meeting were submitted as follows:-

The fortnightly meeting of Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 9th December, 1938.

Present:- Mr. R. Corish (Vice-Chairman) presiding; also, Messrs. W. P. Keegan, John P. Kelly, Thomas McCarthy, Sean Murphy, Sean O'Byrne and Miss O'Ryan.

The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, County Solicitor, and Rates Inspector were in attendance.

The Chairman (Mr. Allen, T.D.) wrote that he would not be able to attend the meeting owing to illness.

It was also reported by Mr. D. Radford (Chief Clerk, County Surveyor's Office) that the County Surveyor was ill with influenza.

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £3784. 6. 8d was examined and signed.

NEXT MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was decided, on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. McCarthy that next meeting of Finance Committee be held on Wednesday, 21st December, 1938, at 2 p.m. to enable employees of the County Council to receive their wages in time for Xmas; payments to be the only business dealt with at this meeting.

REPLY TO VOTE OF SYMPATHY

It was decided, on the motion of Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. O'Byrne, that the following acknowledgment of vote of sympathy to Miss Norton (County Surveyor's Department) in the death of Mrs. Boyle, Wexford, her aunt, be inserted on the Minutes of the day:-

"Please convey to the members of the County Council my sincere thanks for their kind vote of sympathy in the recent death of my Aunt, R.I.P.

I wish also to thank you personally for your own kind remarks."

RATE COLLECTION

STATE OF: The state of Rate Collection to date was submitted as follows:-

<u>Name of Collector.</u>	<u>Percentage of Warrant Collected.</u>
1. J. Curtis	51.7
2. S. Gannon	50.8
3. M. Kehoe	50.0
4. P. Nolan	48.3
5. J. J. O'Reilly	48.2
6. E. J. Murphy	47.4
7. P. Carty	47.3
8. A. Dunne	46.5
9. D. Kenny	46.4
10. J. Deegan	46.3
11. J. Cummins	45.2
12. M. McCarthy	44.7
13. J. Flood	43.1
14. P. Doyle	42.1
15. W. Doyle	39.7
16. J. Quirke	39.6
17. W. Cummins	39.5
18. J. J. Sinnott	38.5

Average 45.2

The amount collected was 1.9% below the amount for the corresponding period last year.

PART PAYMENT OF RATES: The following under date 26th November 1937 (G.22355/5/38) was read from the Department of Local Government and Public Health:-

"With reference to your letter of the 5th instant and previous correspondence regarding the continuance of the system of acceptance of part payment, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state this system has been given a fair trial and, as already shown, no advantage to the Council's funds has accrued from its operation nor is there any evidence that any benefit will arise

from continuing it as heretofore. In the Minister's opinion it should be either brought to an end or be definitely limited to the cases coming within the category mentioned in the Department's letter of 17th September, 1938. In view of the Council's wish to continue the system in its present form until the close of the current year's collection and on the understanding that in any event it will not be prolonged if the powers of the rate collectors with regard to recovery of rates are strengthened the Minister has waived his objection and sanctioned for another year the arrangements as existing heretofore for the acceptance of part payments of arrears of rates."

PREPARATION OF AMALGAMATED LISTS AND ABATEMENT FORMS: It was decided, on the motion of Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Kelly, that for above work the following be employed:- P. Beary (Charge Hand), Wexford; Frances McCoy, Oylegate; Thomas O'Rourke, 16 John Street, Enniscorthy; Thomas Wafer, Wexford; James Brennan, Chapel Lane, New Ross; James Whelan, Nennery Lane, New Ross; John Warner, 4 Michael Street, Wexford; T. O'Leary, 4 Lower John Street, Wexford; rate of remuneration 1s. 1d per hour. Rate for Charge Hand, P. Beary, 1s. 3d per hour.

It was also decided that if any of the men mentioned are at present in employment they are not to be taken on for County Council work.

For the printing of Amalgamated Lists forms the Secretary stated that all the local firms were asked for quotations but only two had furnished figures, viz.:- "The People" at £21. 9. 0d and "The Echo" at £24. 9. 6d.

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

"That the tender of "The People" Newspaper for the printing of Rate Abatement Forms and forms for Amalgamated

Lists under date 30th November 1938 at £21. 9. 0 be accepted, it being the lower tender."

RATES THOMAS NEVILLE, BALLYNABOLA: In connection with the resolution adopted by the Finance Committee at last meeting the following letter was read from County Registrar under date 3rd December 1938:-

"I wrote my Department about this matter. They have informed me that the amount involved will be recouped when the authority of the Ministry of Finance has been obtained. I have to point out however, that the sum in question is £3. 12. 9 and not £4. 10. 9."

PAYMENTS OF POUNDAGE: Under date 25th November 1938 (G.3043/13/38-Loch Garman) the following was read from the Department of Local Government and Public Health:-

"With reference to your reply to this Department's letter of the 17th instant relative to payment of poundage to Rate Collectors, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that arrears in relation to second interim payment are those applicable to the 1937/38 assessment.

"First Moiety and arrears" may be construed as "the equivalent of the first Moiety and arrears".

The following letter from Department of Local Government and Public Health under date 8th December 1938 (No.G.3043/14/38 Loch Garman) was read:-

"With reference to your letter of the 30th ultimo, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state he sanctions payment of interim poundage as proposed to Collectors W. Cummins and J. J. Sinnott."

TOURIST TRAFFIC DEVELOPMENT

Letter under date 29th November 1938 (Circ. No. 106/1938) from the Department of Local Government and Public Health was submitted. This pointed out that the Government had under consideration measures for the development of tourist areas through a Tourist Board, while the Irish Tourist Association would still continue to be the approved central body for carrying out publicity work designed to develop tourist traffic generally. It was very desirable that this Association should be in the position to undertake publicity more intensely and on a wider scale than had been possible heretofore owing to limited funds. Additional contributions from local Authorities would be of valuable assistance to the Association in extending this work and the Minister suggested that local Authorities in preparing their estimates for the coming financial year should give the matter favourable consideration and where it was permitted by the financial position, provision be made for increased contribution to the Tourist Association. In the allocation of special Grants for roads etc. the Minister would continue to have regard to the assistance given by various local Authorities in the development of tourist areas. It was also likely that when the Tourist Board were making allocations for the improvement of Tourist resorts they would give prior attention to these areas, which have shown and continue to show an active and practical interest in the new campaign by helping to ensure publicity on an adequate scale.

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

"That the County Council be recommended to provide as a subsidy to Tourist Development Association the same amount as agreed to last year, viz., the equivalent of one farthing rate on the County at Large including Urban Districts."

LECTURES - MEDICAL TREATMENT GAS CASUALTIES

Under date 28th November 1938, the Department of Local Government and Public Health wrote (P.H.2869/33/38 Ilgh(H)):-

"With reference to previous correspondence on the subject, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that he has approved of the proposal to send the undermentioned Medical Officer for a course of instruction in the medical treatment of gas casualties.

I am to state that the course of instruction will be held at the Civilian Anti-Gas School, Griffith Barracks, South Circular Road, Dublin, and will commence on Monday, the 12th December, 1938, and conclude on Friday, the 16th idem. The lectures will start each day at 9 o'clock a.m. and finish at 5 o'clock p.m. No fee will be charged for the course of instruction. In view of the fact that the course of instruction is somewhat strenuous it is essential that the medical officer undergoing instruction should not be suffering from a disability which might be aggravated by the exertion entailed. It is accordingly requested that a medical certificate duly completed on the attached form may be presented by the Medical Officer on arrival at the Anti-Gas School at 9 o'clock a.m. on Monday, the 12th proximo.

It is assumed that arrangements will be made by the Local Authority to pay the necessary travelling expenses and subsistence allowance on the usual scale to the Medical Officer attending the course.

Name of Officer to attend course of Instruction.
Dr. McDonald, Acting County Medical Officer of Health, Wexford."

The Secretary stated that copy of this communication had been forwarded Dr. McDonald, Acting County Medical Officer of Health and to the County Board of Health. The copy of draft medical certificate had been forwarded to Dr. McDonald.

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

"The County Council are hereby recommended to agree to the payment on the usual scale, of travelling and subsistence allowance to Dr. McDonald."

DRAINAGE COMMISSION

The following under date 25th November 1938 (Ref. E.9.) was read from Drainage Commission:-

"I am in receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, enclosing copy resolution passed by your Council on the 14th instant.

Your letter with its enclosure will be placed by me at the earliest opportunity before the Commission.

In the meantime, I think it well to inform you that the Commission is anxious to obtain in the first instance the official views of interested Government Departments, County Councils and other local authorities and existing Drainage Boards and Trustees on the various matters included in their Terms of Reference, and with this object in view all these bodies have been asked to submit written statements of evidence.

As it is not quite clear from the resolution what course your Council wishes to pursue in this matter, I would be glad to know, for the information of the Commission, whether the object of the advertisement is to enable the Council to collect and prepare suitable evidence to be incorporated in the official statement of evidence which the Council proposes to furnish to the Commission, or whether the object is that farmers and other persons concerned in drainage districts in the County should themselves prepare evidence and submit it direct to the Commission."

It was decided that Miss O'Ryan (who is a member of the Drainage Commission) with the County Surveyor and County Secretary consider the question of preparing the draft of evidence to be offered to the Drainage Commission on behalf of the County Council, and that said draft, when available, be submitted to the County Council.

EMBANKMENT AT KILMANNOCK

The following letter under date 24th November 1938, from Mr. J. Clancy, Kilmannock, Campile, re above was read:-

"I wish to report to you that as the result of storm on Tuesday night last, the 22nd instant, several very serious breaches were caused to the above.

The responsibility for the repair of this embankment is with your Council. The Deed of Trust originally signed by the tenants was transferred to the County Council some time subsequent to the introduction of the Drainage Scheme and funds, as you are aware, have been allocated for the maintenance of the Embankment with the Public Trustee.

The damage done is so serious that in the event of another gale at High Water an area of about 500 acres would probably be completely submerged.

The County Council Engineers should, in my opinion, visit the lands without delay as I consider that immediate action should be taken if further serious damage is to be avoided.

The Secretary stated that the County Surveyor had the matter in hands.

RATES ON BANTRY AND BLACKSTAIRS COMMONS

The following, as a deputation from Ratepayers who are rated in respect of above Commons, came before the meeting:-

Messrs. James Brennan, Newtown, Grange, Killanne; William Conran, Grange, Rathnure; Joseph Rowe, Rathduff, Killanne; John Doolan, Grange, Rathnure, and David Creane, Grange, Rathnure.

The Secretary stated that the Arrears to March last were £106. Twenty-eight ratepayers out of 70 were paying their assessments, all small sums, as total amount received was only £2. 19. 3d.

The members of the deputation stated they never used the Commons and some of them lived miles away from it. They

considered it unjust and inequitable to be compelled to pay rates without some corresponding benefit.

The Chairman pointed out that so long as the ratings appeared in the Valuation Lists the County Council had no option but to make the assessments. It would be necessary for those concerned to be able to prove to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Valuation that they should be exempt from this rating.

After a long discussion the members of the deputation agreed to forward to the General Valuation Department a memorial signed by the Ratepayers who were not recognising payment and who were not using the Commons, setting out the exact position.

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACTS

NICHOLAS CARR, KILLANNE, ENNISCORTHY: Under date 25th November, 1938, Mr. Elgee, County Solicitor, wrote submitting letter from Nicholas Carr asking for loan of additional £30 to the loan of £90 already granted. Mr. Carr pointed out that he believed he would have been able to get house built for £160, amount of grant and loan, but found now that the erection of the building would cost at least £190.

It was decided to ask a further report as to the value of house in this instance from Assistant Surveyor for the district.

MATTHEW J. McDONAGH, 13 MAIN STREET, GOREY: Under date 29th November 1938, Mr. Elgee, County Solicitor, submitted letter from Mr. McDonagh stating that owing to unforeseen circumstances he had decided not to avail of ~~loan~~ granted by the County Council for erection of house under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts.

DANIEL SULLIVAN, BALLYELAND, DAVIDSTOWN, applied for additional £50 to loan for a similar amount.

On Sullivan's behalf Mr. J. P. Kelly, County Councillor, wrote that it took over a year ~~for~~ Sullivan to secure Title to the plot on which house was to be erected and in the meantime, the cost of building materials had gone up 30%. This was his reason for making application for additional amount.

It was decided to ask Mr. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor for the district, to revalue the house.

CHARLES DOYLE, GURTEEN, INCH: applied for loan of £300 on a £300 house.

The Secretary stated this man was not rated, his wife, Mrs. Mary J. Doyle, being the owner of their holding. She applied for a loan some years back but had not been able to submit a clear title in view of a mortgage for £60 or £70 on the land by Agricultural Credit Corporation.

It was decided to reject the application.

Mr. O'Byrne said that a certain portion of this land had been released from the Mortgage to allow of the building of a labourer's cottage by the County Board of Health and Mrs. Doyle was under the impression that a similar release might be made for a plot on which her husband proposed erecting the house.

It was decided to inform Mrs. Doyle that she could make application on her own behalf and which would be considered when she was able to satisfy the County Solicitor that her title was in order. Also that the maximum loan which could be granted for a house valued over £300 was half the value of house as certified by Assistant Surveyor.

JAMES LAMBERT, FARMER, CURRAGRAIGUE, BALLINDAGGIN, applied for loan of £100 on house valued at £260. The applicant holds a farm of 72a. 3r. 19 ~~perches~~ with a valuation of £22. 5s.

The following recommendation was adopted on the motion

of Mr. Kelly seconded by Mr. McCarthy:-

"That application of James Lambert, Curraghagraigue, Ballindaggin, for loan of £100 be provisionally approved, subject to satisfactory report from Assistant Surveyor as to value of house and to Mr. Lambert submitting to County Solicitor a clear title."

JAMES O'CONNOR, FARMER, BALLINACREE, CASTLETOWN, applied for loan of £270 on a £400 house.

The Secretary stated that the maximum loan in this case would be £200. Applicant held only two acres of land and his valuation was £2. 10. 0.

The Chairman (Mr. Allen) was making enquiries in this case and it was decided to adjourn further consideration of the application until a reply had been received from Mr. Allen.

JOHN O'CONNOR, HACKNEY MOTOR OWNER AND LABOURER, GLENTUBBER, MOUNT ST. BENET, GOREY, applied for loan of £100 on house estimated at £315.

The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Miss O'Ryan:-

"That loan of £100 to John O'Connor, Glentubber, Mount St. Benet, Gorey, under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, be provisionally approved, subject to favourable report as to estimated value of proposed house from Assistant Surveyor for the district and to the submission to County Solicitor of clear title."

WAITING FOR CONTRACTORS: Under date 26th November 1938, Mr. Treanor, Assistant Surveyor for the district, wrote that he had been unable to secure a definite answer from John Byrne, Pearse Street, Gorey, and John Nolan, William Street, Gorey, if they intended proceeding with the building of houses for which loans had been granted under the Small

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Dwellings Acquisition Acts. Both stated they had been unable to obtain Contractors.

FLOODING AT TACUMSHANE

Under date 25th November, 1938, the following from Mr. F. Boxwell, Butlerstown, Ballycogley, was read:-

"On behalf of the occupants of six Cottages situated by the water's edge of the lake of Tacumshane near Lings-town, who are in distress owing to the abnormal height of the lake water, I write to ask whether you could see your way to having a local inspection made.

Their road is now submerged along a considerable distance, and when dry, is in a dangerous condition for wheeled traffic. In the circumstances, the above mentioned occupants naturally resent having to pay their rates. They have to find their way across fields on sufferance of the owners.

I understand that representations have been made by deputation, etc. but that no action has been taken."

It was decided to secure report from County Surveyor for consideration at a future meeting of Finance Committee.

TINRAHEEN LANE

Under date 28th November, 1938, Mr. W. Murray, Tinraheen, The Ballagh, wrote re above:-

"I would be obliged if you would kindly bring this communication to the notice of the Chairman and members of the County Council at their next meeting.

Re state of laneway leading from public road at Tinraheen to B.O.H. cottage in which we live. I am anxious to know if Council would be good enough to supply broken stones from Ballymurray Quarry to repair same. The laneway is about 300 yards long. We have done all we possibly can with it in regard to putting field stones on it. It is thoroughly sound but beyond rough. It would take a lot to level it out and out but I would be glad if Council would

give even 18 or 20 loads or even give 10 this winter and 10 next. There being no available stones in locality suitable and as field stones would require to be broken over and above fine to take any bond, I am compelled to make this application in hopes that it will receive favourable consideration. As Mr. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor, has travelled this lane several times he will be able to give full information about same.

There is also another matter in connection with repairs to lane, namely, putting in two gulleys where water crosses it. Nine 9" pipes would do the two, five in one and four in the other. This is in my opinion the most necessary part as after heavy rain the floods cut away the surface making it more unlevel still.

Now, I hope your Council will not consider this application unreasonable and as I am prepared to do the work myself I trust they will grant my request. Assuring them that any offer of help will be appreciated and thanking them in anticipation."

The Secretary stated he had explained to Mr. Murray that any repairs to the lane as to laying down gulleys etc. could only be done through the medium of the Minor Relief Schemes Vote.

To this, Mr. Murray had replied under date 1st December 1938 as follows:-

"Yours of 29th instant to hand. I quite understand your view as to the getting of lane done but this is an exceptional case as there is no house on it only the one in which we reside and that being a B.O.H. cottage I consider it would be only fair that we get some help towards its upkeep. As I pointed out in my application we have done our best with the only material available and would continue to do so if there was suitable material obtainable but there is not. We have been paying rent and rates for this cottage

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for 48 years and making laneway as well, so I think we are entitled to some allowance. As regards a Relief Scheme I never thought of one in connection with this matter, but if it could be so arranged it would provide a few weeks much needed work for the eight or ten unemployed men in this area.

I leave it to the members' discretion and trust they will do their best to oblige."

It was decided to refer the matter to the County Surveyor for report.

BALLINLAW FERRY ROAD

Under date 29th November 1938, Mr. N. J. Murphy, Kilmannock, Campile, wrote that the above road in Great Island leading to Ballinlaw Ferry was in a very bad condition, some of the potholes being fully a foot deep.

It was decided to refer the matter to the County Surveyor for report.

FLOODING AT FISHERSTOWN AND GREAT ISLAND

The following under date 30th November 1938 was read from Very Rev. Canon Redmond, P.P., Horeswood, Campile:-

"I am - as you know - Parish Priest of Fisherstown and Great Island, 98 statute acres of which have been continually under water since 1935 and therefore absolutely useless to the tenants. I shall be grateful to you to bring these conditions before the notice of the County Council with a view to showing the Council how inequitable - and I might add unjust - it is to ask rates for land that has been so long useless to the tenants and this through no fault on their part.

Two tenants who have approached me and asked me to bring before the County Council their sad and unbearable position are Richard Ryan and Thomas Whitty.

I trust that the County Council will act in an equitable and humane manner and not ask taxes for this land until it

is restored to a condition to which it can be used by the tenants."

It was decided to ask County Surveyor for a report in the matter.

GULLET AT MARSHALLSTOWN LANE

The following under date 5th December 1938 and signed by seven ratepayers, was referred to County Surveyor for report:-

"We, the undersigned ratepayers, wish you to draw the attention to the Councillors at their next meeting, for a Gullet or Bridge over the water at the end of Marshalstown Lane leading to Marshalstown Church. This Lane has been repaired about three years ago by Minor Relief Grant. It was never finished. We would like it finished at the first opportunity as it is impassable at present."

EDENVALE MILL

The following under date 7th December 1938 from Shortle Bros., Castlebridge, was referred to the County Surveyor for his report:-

"We have to again complain of damage done to our property at Edenvale Mill as a result of the activities of the County Council. This thing has been occurring for over forty years, and possibly we failed to proclaim our grievances frequently or loudly enough to merit the serious consideration of the Council. We trust they will now look into the matter."

It was also decided that the County Surveyor communicate with the Insurance Company in the matter.

TINNACREE LANE

The following, under date 6th December 1938, was read from M. J. Sinnott, Tinnacree, Kilmuckridge:-

"Will you please bring before your County Council or Finance Committee next Friday the matter of the proposed roadway to my farm at the above Townland. This roadway was the matter of discussion at a recent meeting of the Council.

I will be very pleased if you will have a further discussion on it and let me know the results. At the moment, I have my corn ready to thresh and cannot get any of the engine owners to come to do the job. Trusting you will be so kind as to do your very best for me."

The Secretary was instructed to call the attention of the Land Commission to the letter of Mr. Sinnott and to point out that the Council had a considerable time back called the attention of the Land Commission to the plight of Mr. Sinnott who had no road into his holding although it was understood this would have been provided by the Land Commission.

GILES CORNER - ROAD 44 M

Under date 26th November 1938 Mr. Treanor, Assistant Surveyor for the district, wrote that in connection with this corner he had discussed the matter with Mr. G. Langley-Taylor, Agent for the Courtown Estate, who informed him that as Trustee he could not possibly give the piece of ground for widening road at Giles Corner free of charge to the County Council but was prepared to accept a sum of £5 for the site.

It was decided to adjourn consideration of this offer until the County Surveyor was able to attend Finance Committee meeting.

ADVERTISING CONTRACT 1939

Quotations were received under date 25th November 1938 from "The People", "Free Press" and "Echo" offering to insert advertisements of County Council and County Committee of Agriculture for year 1939 at £140 each.

The Secretary stated that this figure was the same as

obtained for 1938.

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

"That the County Council be recommended to accept the quotations of "The People", "The Free Press" and "Echo" for the insertion of advertisements of County Council and of County Committee of Agriculture for year 1939 at £140 each."

MOTOR TAX OFFICE

The following under date 6th December 1938 was read from Local Taxation Officer:-

"I beg to apply for the usual clerical assistance in connection with the issue of Road Fund Licences for the coming year.

The audit of accounts of this Department has been completed to 31st March last, and vouchers to that period must be filed. This work would take about five days for two assistants.

The assistants - Messrs. Thomas Wafer and Michael Kirwan - employed on above work in previous years - were satisfactory, and I suggest they be appointed, if available."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Miss O'Ryan:-

"That application of Local Taxation Officer for the service of two temporary Assistants for filing work for period not exceeding five days and for rush period in connection with issue of 1939 licences be agreed to, remuneration to be at the rate of 1s. 1d per hour. Period of employment not to exceed the period for similar work last year.

That Messrs. James Sinnott, Newtown, Clonevan, and Michael Kirwan, Enniscorthy, be employed provided they are not at present in employment."

EXAMINATION FOR CLERICAL POSTS

At the meeting of Wexford County Council held on 14th November 1938 the following resolution was received from the Irish Technical Association:-

"That the Civil Service Commissioners, The Department of Industry and Commerce, Local Government and other Departments of State concerned, also Local Authorities be requested to amend regulations and syllabuses of their several examinations for Clerical Posts in such manner as to offer a reasonable opportunity to students trained in the Commercial Classes under the control of Vocational Committees to compete for and obtain these positions."

The following resolution was adopted by the Council:-

"That the Irish Technical Education Association be requested to furnish further information as regards their resolution re examinations for clerical posts. The Wexford County Council do not regard the present proposal as sufficiently clear to take action thereon and request the Technical Education Association to clarify the position."

Under date 2nd December, 1938, the following was read from Mr. G. J. T. Clampett, Hon. Secretary Irish Technical Association:-

"In reply to your letter of 30th ultimo, I have to state in connection with the examinations for entry to the clerical service of Local Authorities, it is not the wish of this Association that the existing standard in general education should be lowered.

The intention of the resolution is to draw attention to the position under existing procedure (see circular letter 69/36 issued by Department of Local Government and Public Health) whereby boys and girls attending Vocational Schools are practically excluded from competing for Junior Clerical Posts in the service of Local Authorities, owing to the fact that in most cases such ~~pp~~ posts are confined to Secondary

School students, or the examination programme is suitable only for such students.

This Association urges that entry to the offices of Local Authorities should be by competitive examination open to all boys and girls in the State, subject of course to such local conditions concerning age, etc., as may be decided upon. It also suggests it is reasonable to expect Clerical Officers to have some knowledge of Business and Office Routine, Book-keeping and perhaps Shorthand and Typewriting, and therefore these subjects should be included in the examination programme.

As you are aware the Vocational Schools are financed and controlled to a large degree by the Local Authorities and in many of the schools training for clerical occupations is a part of the school activity. It is felt, therefore, that students attending the Vocational Schools, by reason of their specialised training, are especially suited for clerical work and at least they should be given equal opportunity with students from other schools.

You will be interested to learn that at the moment the Dublin Corporation and the Cork County Council have an examination scheme which conforms very closely to the terms of the resolution of this Association. It is probable that many other Local Authorities also have a similar examination scheme.

I shall be happy to furnish you with any further information on this subject which you may require."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Miss O'Ryan seconded by Mr. Murphy:-

"That the Irish Technical Association be informed the Wexford County Council have found it a satisfactory procedure to draft their own syllabuses for vacant clerical posts as the latter arise from time to time and they see no

reason to depart from this practice. The Council have not arranged for any examinations under the direction of the Local Appointment Commission for minor posts."

APPLICATION COMPENSATION ALLEGED CRIMINAL INJURY

Application for £10 compensation for injury to lavatory in the Strand Hotel, Rosslare, was received from Mr. N. J. Kelly, Proprietor, and referred to Mr. Elgee, County Solicitor.

EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF OVERDRAFT

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

"That the Minister for Local Government and Public Health be asked to extend the period of overdraft of £35,000 from 1st January 1939 to 31st March 1939."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Colfer seconded by Mr. Kelly:-

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 9th December, 1938, be received and considered."

DRAINAGE COMMISSION: Mr. Smyth said there was a small drainage area in Cahore in which there were only six or seven tenants interested and it would not be fair to expect them to send a representative to give evidence before a sitting of the Commission in Dublin and to bear the expense of three or four days in Dublin for the purpose. He thought that the remedy was to have sittings of the Commission in each County.

Miss O'Ryan said that so far, County sittings had not definitely been decided on, but she thought it was the intention of the Commission to hold such sessions.

The Secretary suggested that the Council pass a resolution asking the Commission to hold sittings in each County or to send a Sub-Committee to each County to take evidence.

On the motion of Mr. Smyth seconded by Mr. Redmond, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That, in view of the expenditure that would be incurred by tenant farmers for drainage areas anxious to offer evidence to the Drainage Commission and many of whom are not in a position to incur such expenditure, this County Council invites the Drainage Commission to arrange for sittings in each County or, in the alternative, to appoint small sub-committees of their body to visit each County, for the purpose of taking evidence."

FLOODING AT TACIMSHANE LAKE: Mr. Murphy said this was a matter in which the responsibility certainly lay with the

Land Commission. Most of the members knew what caused the flooding. It was one of the cases in which the tenants came off much worse under the native government than under the former government; they were in a worse position under the Land Commission than under the old rack-renting landlords. In the time of the landlords, the farmers and landlords paid the cost of the drainage between them. The problem was urgent for the past six years in Tacumshane and about two years ago he wrote to the Land Commission and all he got was an acknowledgment on a postcard. It was only when he got notice on Form 40 that the Land Commission wanted to take up this place to divide it, and an Inspector from the Land Commission came down to inspect the place that he found he was coming to divide a big area of water (laughter) for which he (Mr. Murphy) was paying the Land Commission so much a gallon. At the present time, he had about 40 acres under water, and there were three houses flooded to a depth of two feet. He expected they would be flooded to a depth of seven feet before the end of the year. About $5\frac{1}{2}$ square miles drained into the place, and there were 32 farmers affected by the flooding, some more and some less than himself. Nobody could realise the loss the flooding caused unless they were living in the district and he would like some of the members to see the place. The last Inspector they had was Mr. Scully, one of the heads of the Department and a tentative scheme was put forward, but nothing had been heard of it for the last six months. That scheme was to put a cutting out at Ballyhealy. The proposed work could be started at any time, and he proposed that the County Council ask the Land Commission what they intend to do. The proposals as to drainage had been hanging on for six years.

Miss O'Ryan said the repairs of the road at Lingstown

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depended on the Tacumshane drainage scheme, and the County Council could do nothing with the road until the drainage was done.

The Chairman suggested sending a strong protest to the Land Commission against their inaction.

Mr. Doyle said that the drainage at Lady's Island Lake was in much the same position as Tacumshane.

The Chairman said they should deal with Tacumshane first as it came before the meeting from the Finance Committee.

Mr. Culleton said that Mr. Murphy was obliged to keep a gate into his haggard barricaded because his own children might be drowned. There are other people who have to take the same precautions, and some of them are cut off altogether and they are all paying rates for water instead of for land. The water is covering the land. No step would be too drastic to take, if we can get them some relief from the conditions they are under.

Mr. Doyle agreed it was the primary duty of the Land Commission to deal with Tacumshane. There is an enormous amount of land flooded. The farmers affected are all tenant farmers, and there is no reason why the Land Commission should not do something.

Mr. Smyth said he was speaking to an Inspector from the Land Commission who was in Tacumshane. In former years the owners of property were responsible for a certain amount of upkeep of drainage on their farms in conjunction with their tenants, but when the Land Commission took over the land the tenants were more or less let down by the Land Commission in this connection. The Land Commission were supposed to keep back a certain amount of the purchase money to do this drainage, but, in many instances, amounts in some years previous to the sale of land by the landlord were small as the latter kept the expenditure down to a minimum when he

knew his estate would be taken over.

Chairman - There would be no drainage problem only for the ridiculous position taken up by the Land Commission. I think we should express our dissatisfaction with the neglect of the Land Commission in connection with Tacumshane drainage, and say that we understand that a tentative scheme was proposed to obviate the flooding six months ago and that the County Council cannot understand why it is not proceeded with.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Murphy seconded by Mr. Culleton:-

"That we express our grave dissatisfaction with the neglect of the Irish Land Commission in connection with obviating the flooding at Tacumshane Lake. We understand that a tentative scheme was drafted about six months ago and in view of the plight of the tenants affected the Council fail to understand why it has not been proceeded with.

In the opinion of the Wexford County Council the question of the drainage of Tacumshane Lake requires special treatment and cannot be dealt with under the Land Act of 1928."

Mr. Bowe said that if the Land Commission were only going to do as much as the old landlords did in the past, the Council should ask them in the resolution to go further. After all their talk and boasting about patriotism from every platform there should be some improvement made and the Land Commission should be prepared to go a little further for the improvement of agriculture than the landlords did.

The Chairman considered Mr. Bowe's remarks inopportune at the moment. The Land Commission could inform the County Council they were acting according to law.

Mr. Doyle said that about 35 years ago the Government that ruled the country at that time sent surveyors to both Lady's Island and Tacumshane and a scheme was arranged to

cut a canal from Tacumshane lake into Lady's Island, and then through the low lands into Carne which would give permanent benefit. That was why he had mentioned including Lady's Island flooding in the Tacumshane resolution, because he believed the scheme put up by the British Government engineers 30 or 35 years ago was the only effective one. It was not carried out because of the war stopping all such schemes.

Mr. Murphy said that if the two lakes were mentioned it would delay the whole thing.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Bowe seconded by Mr. Doyle:-

"That the General Council of County Councils be requested to draw the attention of the Government to the necessity for doing something financially for the upkeep of drainage schemes more than the old landlords did and that the General Council of County Councils be requested to press the Government to introduce legislation to have this proposal made operative."

Mr. Murphy said that some years ago he wrote to the Land Commission putting before them the matter of the two lakes mentioned by Mr. Doyle and the Land Commission turned it down. He had no objection to its being brought up again. Any scheme that will get rid of the flooding was welcome.

Mr. Doyle - The scheme of 30 years ago was a very big scheme and it is the only effective way to drain the two lakes. The farmers are put to very heavy expense every March to move thousands of tons of sand off the land.

Chairman - At the same time it is not for us to suggest what way the work should be done because if we begin to argue with them it will give them an opportunity to delay the remedy further.

Mr. Bowe's resolution was then put and passed.

FLOODING AT FISHERSTOWN AND GREAT ISLAND: Mr. T. Redmond said that the tide came into a man's yard, into the well that supplied him with water. The area under water was more than half his farm.

Miss O'Ryan - Could they apply for re-valuation?

Mr. Redmond said that the Council had sent recommendations and appeals from the people to the Land Commission and everyone they thought would be interested. Mr. O'Neill (Assistant Surveyor) could tell them exactly how the position was down there. Two years ago part of the road was taken away.

The Secretary said he thought the opinion of the Board of Works was that when they carried out any works down there, the tenants were to maintain them.

Mr. Redmond said they did not carry out any works. Work was started about eighteen months ago, and the men struck for 1s. or 2s a week extra and the increase was refused. The usual rate of wages - 25s. - was given. Men on the opposite side of the river were getting 27s. a week. The owners of the land were contributing a portion to the cost of the re-building of the bank.

Miss O'Ryan said the point they wanted to bear in mind was that an attempt was made to do the work, and the only thing holding up the attempt was a dispute about wages - that there was actually money raised to have it done, and the whole thing was a question of wages.

Mr. Redmond said he thought that if the attempt to repair the bank was genuine, whoever allocated the money to do it, the dispute about 2s. a week to seven or eight men should not have stopped the work. There was another area - the Camblin marshes - and there was far more land involved. The tannery wall was stopping the tide to-day. Two miles of marshes were flooded. There was an attempt made to remedy that, too. A certain amount of money was allocated,

and the people who allocated it were told over and over again that it was not sufficient. If they had given £100 more there might have been a decent job done.

The Secretary said that what the people should do with regard to trying to cut out rates was to write in applying for revision and pointing out that land was under water and no use to them. He did not think that they wrote any application to the Council stating that their lands were temporarily under water.

The Chairman said it would be well to have the matter up to date. If the tenants applied again the Council would help them. He suggested that the Council ask the Secretary to write inquiring why the work was stopped and when a re-start was going to be made.

The Chairman said he presumed that the commission that was to sit would take cognisance of all those things.

Mr. Gulleton said that what puzzled him was how it was that County Wexford men were expected to work for less than men in County Kilkenny.

Chairman - I don't suppose the County Council can go into that and settle it.

Mr. Gulleton - I think it is a matter for the County Council. I think it is right for the Council to see that County Wexford men be paid the same as other men.

Chairman - If the Land Commission answers us, then we may be able to discuss it. While we might be anxious to get the men wages, it is not our function at present.

Mr. Gulleton said the regulation was that the local rate be paid, and everyone knew that the rate in County Wexford was lower than in other places, but now the Counties were grouped there was a flat rate outside Dublin.

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

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"That the Land Commission be requested to state why the drainage work at Banks of River Barrow at Fisherstown and Great Island was abandoned and what steps would be taken to again proceed with this work."

MARSHALLSTOWN LANE: Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, said this was not a County road. They carried out work there five or six years ago under Minor Relief Scheme and he did not think the proposal made was necessary; it was used by a small number of persons only.

Mr. Lawlor said the whole side of a country used the lane to attend Mass.

Mr. Ennis said there were many other places more urgently requiring attention.

The matter dropped.

GILES CORNER: In reply to Mr. Keegan Mr. Treanor said that the piece of ground on the Courtown Estate offered by Mr. Taylor was a useless piece of land in fact the site of an old house.

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

"That Mr. Taylor, as Agent for the Courtown estate, be offered 5/- per perch for amount of land necessary to provide easement at Giles corner on Courtown-Gorey road."

On the motion of Mr. Kelly seconded by Mr. Colfer, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Minutes of Finance Committee of 9th December 1938 as submitted to this meeting be, and the same are, hereby confirmed and approved except in so far as same may have been altered or amended by resolution adopted at this meeting."

WEXFORD BRIDGE

The following notice of motion stood in the name of Mr. Corish:-

"That, in view of the fact that Wexford Bridge is incapable of carrying present day traffic, a new bridge be constructed from Wexford Old Courthouse to Ferrybank on site of former bridge."

In moving his motion Mr. Corish said that when the matter was previously before the Council he had submitted data and details showing the new bridge would cost 2¹/₃ in the £ if a loan were obtained for 35 years. Both Mr. Barry, County Surveyor and Mr. Delap, Consulting Engineer, pointed out to the Council that the repairs proposed to be carried out to the existing bridge really gave them only time for preparation of plans etc. for a new bridge. It was against the best interests of the town of Wexford and of the people living beyond the bridge along the sea-board, that they were dependant upon the present defective structure. The Engineers concerned were positive that it was not possible to put the present bridge into a condition that would bear modern traffic. If a new bridge were erected considerably more than half of the ratepayers would be called upon to pay less than £1 per year and the most of them would have to pay a much smaller sum. Unless a bridge capable of carrying modern traffic was provided he feared the malting industry in Castlebridge, controlled by Mr. Nunn, would suffer very seriously. When the matter was under discussion previously the Chairman of the Council (Mr. Allen) said that if the Wexford Harbour Scheme was out of the way the Council would be inclined to consider more favourably the proposal for the erection of a new bridge. There was no prospect of the harbour being developed and as an alternative the Harbour Board were endeavouring to procure a dredger without the help of the County Council. Seeing the financial support

of 2½d in the £ which the Council were prepared to give to the Harbour Scheme was not now required, he considered they should pass his resolution for a new bridge unanimously. Even if they agreed to that to-day it would take four or five years before the new structure would be open for traffic. He also pointed out that the new bridge would provide a bus service for a large area of the country which was at present cut off from transport facilities.

Mr. Kinsella seconded the resolution and believed the only portion of the proposal which should be held up for further consideration was as to the site of the new bridge. Under present conditions people living on his side of the bridge were greatly handicapped and a number of merchants were obtaining their supplies direct from Dublin cutting out Wexford Wholesalers entirely. This was a big loss to Wexford. Though it was a bad time from a financial point of view to bring forward such a motion, he had not heard any objection to it from the people of his district.

Miss O'Ryan agreed that the new bridge was urgently needed and from other points of view as well as that of Mr. Nunn, who was an excellent employer. She was referring to a much bigger interest, that of the farming community. Some of the farmers beyond the bridge contended that they could not grow beet and certain other crops because their transport facilities were handicapped by the condition of the present bridge. Regarding the site of the new bridge, she suggested that Mr. Elgee, County Solicitor, be asked to look into the position of the various interests involved in connection with the Old Courthouse end of the bridge.

The Chairman said he did not disagree with that. It would be a matter also for the engineers. In proposing that site he had in mind the advantage that direct communication with Ferrybank Strand would be to the poor people of the town in Summer.

Miss O'Ryan said she would be delighted to see the bridge there as it would such an addition to the town. The interests involved would be the Harbour Board, the Corporation and the Railway Company, and they would have to be consulted.

In reply to Mr. Keegan, the Chairman said he was sure if the Corporation had the legal power they would be prepared to levy a special rate towards the cost of the erection of a new bridge, but even if this were not feasible they would be paying at the same rate as the other ratepayers of the County.

Mr. McCarthy proposing an amendment that the matter be adjourned for twelve months, said the Council had just committed themselves to an expenditure of £2,600 and the Government would be contributing another £2,00 towards the repairs of the old bridge. He did not think the ratepayers would view with satisfaction the action of the Council if they passed the Chairman's motion. A new bridge would possibly not be required for the next ten years. Mr. Delap said the repaired bridge would be serviceable for five years but they all knew how conservative engineers were in such matters.

Mr. Doyle seconded Mr. McCarthy and said it was not a matter of opposing the new bridge but a matter of finding the best time to build it. Everyone was aware of the extreme distress in agriculture and the stagnation of shop-keeping and all other business that depended on agriculture. To pile further expense on the ratepayers at present was a very serious matter and as they were going to spend £5,000 to make the old bridge serviceable for the next five years, it would be better postpone the decision to build the new bridge for another year. Mr. Doyle added that he regarded the sum of £100,000 mentioned as the probable cost of the new bridge as a theoretical price and said that when engineers began to build they had a fashion of discovering

snags. The river current may be faster and the bottom is not where they thought it was and while in theory the price may be about £100,000, in practical work, it may go to £135,000. All the members knew of the heavy armament programmes going on and the demand for building materials. If they began now to buy materials for the new bridge they would be walking into the lion's mouth as regards prices. Also they would probably get only inferior material. Possibly, by delaying the decision to build the bridge for twelve months they would save £30,000 or £40,000.

Mr. Kinsella contended nothing would be saved as the Council would have to spend another £5,000 on the old bridge in five years time.

Mr. Bowe supported the amendment and said that according to the Engineers the old bridge would scarcely carry a County Councillor but it was carrying heavy lorries and motor cars etc. He thought it should be good for another ten years. By waiting people would probably be in a better position to pay.

In reply to Mr. Keegan the Chairman said his motion involved the immediate appointment of an engineer to prepare Estimate for a new bridge. He did not rule out their own engineers as he had ample confidence in the County Surveyor.

Mr. Walsh considered that before the Council took definite action they should ascertain the result of the proposed repairs. Carrying out these would take practically a year which would be a reasonable time to give the Council to consider the matter.

Mr. Doyle contended that as there was a general feeling that lorry loads would be confined by law to three tons the present bridge, if repaired, might give satisfactory service for a long time.

Mr. Culleton said the arguments put forward against the erection of a new bridge were the same as in 1920 when he

supported a similar motion. These arguments were against any project that might benefit the poor. It was useless to consider anything if they decided upon waiting until materials and labour reverted to pre-war level, as such a condition would never happen again in his opinion. It was unfair for the Council to shelve their responsibilities which perhaps might be the cause of a big disaster to life later on, when the County Council would go to their graves in disgrace. He believed the general public were in favour of a new bridge.

Mr. T. Redmond said that in view of the period which would elapse before the proposal to erect a new bridge would mature, they would not involve themselves very seriously by passing the Chairman's motion. A new bridge was necessary now and it would be more necessary in five years' time.

Mr. Sweetman contended it would be much better to ascertain how far the present repairs would make the old bridge servicable before committing themselves to any further expenditure.

The Chairman said that everyone seemed to see the necessity for the new bridge. Regarding the cost of the bridge he could see as well as anyone that some ratepayers were unable to carry the present rates burden, but it was essential that the bridge be built within the next five years and in their plans for the repair of the old bridge it was obvious that both Mr. Barry and Mr. Delap visualised a new bridge at the end of that time. They also said that the present bridge could never be fitted to carry present-day traffic. The Chairman then quoted from a letter of Mr. Delap to the Council in which he pointed out that 4-ton loads strained the bridge 50 per cent beyond the safety point and the bridge had become very dangerous. It was never suggested that the repairs to the present bridge would make it capable of carrying present-day traffic. So far as the price of materials is concerned at the moment

the price of steel was lower than for some time past. Judging by the huge expenditure on re-armament there was going to be a war in the very near future in which event the price of materials would be far beyond the capability of the Council. Regarding Mr. Doyle's comment about the engineering snags, he (Chairman) had more faith in engineers than that and he would hesitate to think that this would be increase over the estimate of $33\frac{1}{2}$ per cent with the modern methods of judging the current of the river and sounding ~~day~~ depth which would make it absolutely impossible that such extras would arise. He suggested that the present time was the most favourable for the project, because the tendency would be that the price of steel, iron and other material for the bridge would be dearer in the future. The time had not arrived for the appointment of an outside engineer, but Mr. Barry could be asked to explore the possibilities and Mr. Elgee to ascertain the position of the interests involved. When Mr. Barry had given then an approximate cost an outside engineer could be brought in. Before that was done the Finance Committee could discuss it and the Council could make the appointment at the proper time. He believed that the engineers had changed from metal plates to Scotch fir in the old bridge repairs, because they were satisfied they could not make the bridge safe for modern traffic and that they visualised a new bridge at the end of three or four years.

The Chairman then amended his proposition to read:-

"That, in view of the fact that Wexford Bridge is incapable of carrying present-day traffic a new bridge be constructed on a site to be agreed upon, and that Mr. Barry and Mr. Elgee be instructed to proceed at once to investigate the possibilities and cost of the project."

After further discussion a vote was taken on Mr. McCarthy's amendment with the following result:-

For: Messrs. Bowe, Doyle, Lawler, McCarthy, O'Byrne, Michael Redmond, Ronan, Smyth, Sweetman and Walsh.- 10.

Against: Messrs. Colfer, Culleton, Keegan, Kelly, Kinsella, Murphy, O'Ryan, T. Redmond and the Chairman. - 9.

The Chairman declared the amendment carried.

It was subsequently put as the substantive resolution and passed nem. con.

ROAD WORKS SCHEME

Mr. Bowe proposed and Mr. Walsh seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That allocation under Road Works Scheme as agreed to at meeting of Wexford County Council on 14th November 1938, be confirmed as follows:-

	£.
Main Roads	31,759
Third Class Roads	15,899
Fourth Class Roads	5,546
Improvements Main Roads	3,214
do. County do.	1,764
Contingencies Fund and Relief Vote	<u>6,173</u>
	£64,355.

This means £2600 increase, necessary to cover the County Councils portion of the repairs on Wexford Bridge."

BANN BRIDGE, CROGHAN. ROAD NO. 79

The following under date 10th December 1938 was read from Mr. T. Treanor, Assistant Surveyor for the district:-

"As the result of abnormally heavy floods during and after storms on 9th instant, above Bridge has been practically demolished. I made an inspection today and as I considered place absolutely dangerous I gave instructions causing this part of road to be closed to traffic and to have watched and lighted so as to safeguard against accidents.

The whole of the bridge will have to be rebuilt. It

is double arched, each span about 16' feet; width to outside of parapets about 25 feet and height about ten feet."

Mr. Murphy proposed and Mr. Colfer seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That in view of report of Mr. Treanor, Assistant Surveyor under date 10th December 1938, relative to damage to Bann Bridge, Croghan, we direct that the road leading thereto (No. 79) be closed to public traffic and that the Minister for Local Government and Public Health (Roads) be requested to issue the usual Order temporarily closing this road, pending repair to Bann Bridge. That as it has been reported to the County Council that construction of adjacent water works Scheme is partly responsible for damage to the bridge, Mr. Treanor be directed to make inquiries on this particular point."

LOAN - IMPROVEMENT WORKS ROSSLARE-CARNE PIER ROAD

On the motion of Mr. Kelly seconded by Mr. R. Doyle, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That pursuant to letter of sanction from Minister for Local Government and Public Health, dated 14th November, 1938, S. Loch Garman, the sum of £2,100 be borrowed from the National Bank Ltd. for the purpose of Improvement Works on the Rosslare-Carne Pier road, said sum to be repaid within five years with interest at the rate of one half per cent, under the Irish Banks' Rate varying subject to a minimum of £4 per cent per annum as in said letter of Sanction provided. And it is further resolved that the Seal of the Council be affixed to the necessary Mortgage over the rates to secure said loan."

SEALING AGREEMENT - PATRICK CONDON

Mr. Culleton proposed and Mr. M. Redmond seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

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"That the Seal of Wexford County Council be affixed to Agreement fixing compensation to be paid to Patrick Condon under the provisions of Workmens Compensation Act in respect of fracture to left forearm whilst at work for the County Council at the amount of £130, in addition to £10. 10s. for medical expenses and £14. 14s. for costs."

FLOODING AT ORRISTOWN AND RATHMACKNEE

The following, signed by ten ratepayers, re above was read:-

"We, the undersigned, would be thankful if you would request your County Council to appoint a committee of the local Councillors and some of the landowners affected by the flooding of their lands, caused, we believe, by the cleaning of the river through Rathmacknee.

We believe that an inspection and report by such a Committee, would convince your Council that something should be done to abate the flooding of right-of-ways and lands which never occurred until this work was done in the early part of this year.

Thanking you in anticipation."

It was decided that an inspection of the flooded lands be made by Messrs. Corish, Culleton and S. Murphy, with the County Surveyor and Mr. Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor for the district, and that they report to the Finance Committee as soon as possible.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

The following resolution from Limerick County Council was submitted:-

"That the Executive Council be asked to introduce legislation to amend the law so that the Old Age Pension be paid at 65."

The adoption of this resolution was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. O'Byrne.

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Mr. McCarthy expressed the opinion that some indication should be given to the Council as to how this extra money for Old Age Pensions would be provided. The present outlay on Old Age Pensions was something about £3,000,000 per annum and in order to make it feasible to pay pensions at 65, a very huge addition would have to be made to this allocation. Probably three or four millions more. There could be no objections to providing pensions at 65 on a contributory basis. He opposed the adoption of the resolution on financial grounds as he had stated.

Mr. Sweetman considered the matter was one for An Dail.

As an amendment Mr. Doyle proposed and Mr. Walsh seconded the following:-

"In view of the fact that the resolution from Limerick County Council to provide Old Age Pensions at 65 would entail the provision of a very large sum, we request Limerick County Council to inform us of the financial direction in which it is proposed to secure the amount necessary to meet its proposal. And that further consideration of the resolution of Limerick County Council be adjourned pending receipt of the information asked for."

On a show of hands, 11 voted in favour of Mr. Doyle's motion which the Chairman declared carried.

GRANTS FOR HOUSING

With reference to resolution of County Council asking the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to extend the period for which State Grants for Housing will be available the Department of Local Government and Public Health wrote under date 22nd November 1938 (H.10419-5-1938-Loch Garman) that the matter was receiving attention.

W. H. G. ' 9.1.1939.