

Minutes of Greystones Electoral Area Committee Meeting held in Civic Offices, Bray on Monday 22nd March 2010.

Present:

Cllrs G.Jones, T. Fortune, D.Mitchell, S. Harris and C.Maloney
Des O' Brien, Director of Services
Myra Porter, Senior Staff Officer
Eoin Heslin Senior Executive Engineer
Allyson Minion Senior Staff Officer
Phil O' Rourke. Administrative Officer

Following receipt of request from Cllr Harris, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders, to discuss the impact of the current dispute by officials.

1. Confirmation of Minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr Harris and seconded by Cllr Jones that the Minutes of meeting held on 18th January 2010, as circulated be confirmed and signed.

Suspension of Standing Orders.

Cllr Harris stated that he understands the concerns and angst in the public sector and respects the right of those who have endured pay cuts to protest, but stated that the current treatment of elected members is an attack on the democratic system and there is an obligation on Council management to address the matter. Cllr Harris requested that the Committee express its dissatisfaction, as elected members are unable to carry out their duties.

Cllr Mitchell stated that staff that are not carrying out their core activities should be removed from the payroll, as would happen in the private sector. He pointed out that Council members have also had their expenses cut. Cllr Fortune did not wish to be associated with any criticism of staff and did not agree with either Cllr Harris or Cllr Mitchell, stating that over 70 staff had lost their jobs in the Council. He had sympathy for the staff in dispute and was of the opinion that the current situation was inevitable having regard to pay cuts imposed. Cllr Jones stated that it was up to the Government to resolve the matter as this is a national issue and he urged all parties to resolve it as soon as possible. He did not agree with Cllr Mitchell's comments, stating that all disputes are eventually resolved and that members and staff must work together for the benefit of the community.

Cllr Maloney said that the current dispute was regrettable and advised that, as talks were ongoing at a national level, it would be best to await the outcome of same.

2. Status report on Planning in Kilcoole and Greystones.

Item Nos 2 was deferred until later in the meeting, pending the arrival of Des O' Brien, Director of Services

3. Housing Progress Report

Ms Allyson Minion joined the meeting and answered questions on the Housing Progress Report.

She updated members in relation to the recent problem in relation to sewage in Farrenkelly and the re-let works on 130 Kindlestown Park, 145 Kenmare Heights, 21 and 24 Bulford.

In response to members queries Ms Minion advised that there has been no interest from the private sector to provide houses, through the Social Housing Leasing scheme. Members were critical of this scheme, stating that it is not working in Co. Wicklow, as there are no surplus houses available for social leasing. Members stated that it is not appropriate for the Minister to promote this scheme as a viable alternative, it is not meeting the needs of vulnerable people and those in need of housing. Members requested an urgent meeting of the Council, including all relevant personnel and an official from the Ministers office to discuss the issue of provision of Social Housing, going forward. As Minister Michael Finneran will be in Greystones on March

30th for the official opening of the Library extension, it was agreed to request a meeting with the Minister and the Area Committee, to discuss the matter.

Members also expressed concerns regarding recent allocations, which appeared to favour those from outside of the area. Ms Minion advised that the Scheme of Letting Priorities determines allocations. Members advised that they would like to see more priority given to local people when the scheme is reviewed later in the year.

Members also raised concerns regarding the severe delays in processing and payments in relation to the Disabled Persons Grants. Ms Minion advised that a recent allocation of €2.6m is being used to process payments on previously approved applications.

4. List of works proposed and carried out in the area.

Eoin Heslin circulated his report and answered queries on same.

Members welcomed the new pedestrian crossing in Kilcoole, but raised concerns that it may not be accessible to wheelchair users, buggies etc., Mr Heslin agreed to examine same. It was also requested that consideration be given to the provision of a crossing in the vicinity of the Post Office, as motorists are not observing the speed limit. Members also raised concerns regarding the safety of the pedestrian crossings installed recently, speeding motorists are not stopping for pedestrians and some crossings are not very noticeable and do not have enough advance warnings, making it difficult for motorists to stop in time e.g. crossing in vicinity of St Patricks School. It was agreed to write to the Gardai to request speed checks in the vicinity of crossings and also in Kilcoole.

In response to members queries regarding road works at Crowe Abbey, Mr Heslin advised that it is intended that the road will be re-surfaced, he is awaiting confirmation whether funds are also available to lay water pipes on this road, improvements to Burnaby Heights junction may be possible if funding is forthcoming. Members were critical of the enforcement of the Parking Bye Laws stating that it is too punitive and requested that a representative from APCOA would attend a meeting to explain procedures, appeals, customer service etc.,

Members also made the following requests:

- Provision of mechanical street cleaning in Kilcoole
- Hedge cutting on approach roads to Kilcoole
- Examine sequence of traffic lights in Blacklion, especially during rush hour
- Write to Bray Town Council as there is no sequence to lights in the Bray
- Restore area at Sylvan Lawns, which contractor left in a bad condition
- Repair roads in Newcastle which are in a bad condition
- Re-open access which was recently closed at St Crispins Cell
- Request Dublin Bus to ensure that drivers pull in to bus bays in Transport Interchange, concerns that bays aren't big enough, cars parking are preventing buses from parking

5. Notices of Motion.

(a) Notice of Motion in names of Cllr. S. Harris, Cllr D. Mitchell & Cllr G. Jones.

“That this Area Committee supports a 3 tonne weight restriction for vehicles going through Delgany Village and urges the County Council to move to adopt such a Traffic Regulation Order”.

Cllr Harris advised the meeting that this has been an ongoing issue in Delgany for quite a while, his understanding is that there is no objection in principle and that a statutory process must be completed in order to implement a restriction. Members advised Cllr Harris that they previously agreed to this restriction on the understanding that it would be implemented once the Farrenkelly road was open. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Motion would be progressed through the roads authority.

(b) Notice of Motion in names of Cllr D. Mitchell, Cllr G. Jones and Cllr. S. Harris.

“That the Engineer provide a work plan for the road at Crowe Abbey, including the start and end locations and whether drainage and new water pipes are being installed. “

E. Heslin answered member’s questions on this matter at item number 4.

(c) Notice of Motion in names of Cllr D. Mitchell, Cllr G. Jones and Cllr. S. Harris.

“The Council should widen the footpath outside Cluain Muire opposite St. Kevin’s School.”

E. Heslin advised that there is a possibility that the path can be widened, members requested an update for the next meeting.

(d) Notice of Motion in names of Cllr. S. Harris, Cllr D. Mitchell & Cllr G. Jones

“That this Area Committee asks that Council officials would examine the Mill Lane, Killincarrig and see what can be done to improve the laneway for walkers in the area and report back to this Committee”

Cllr Harris asked that the engineer would examine the lane and come back to the members with suggestions for improvements. E. Heslin advised that hedges etc., cannot be cut back until September, due to the restrictions of the Wildlife Act, in relation to bird nesting.

6. Correspondence and items outstanding.

M. Porter advised members of the contents of letter received from the Kilcoole Residents and Community Development Association regarding previous Notice of Motion in relation to setting up a local forum in Kilcoole.

Following a discussion, it was agreed to write to and thank the Association for the work they are doing at local level and advise that local Councillors are available to work with them for the benefit of the community. It was also suggested that local councillors be invited to the AGM.

2. Status Report on Planning in Kilcoole and Greystones.

Des O’ Brien joined the meeting at this point and answered members queries on the previously circulated list. Councillors raised concerns regarding the proliferation of Nursing Home applications, stating that it was their understanding that it was necessary to provide 80 – 90 beds, in order to be viable and comply with legislation, such large facilities may not meet the needs of residents. Members also raised concerns that the number granted permission may be superfluous to requirements leading to requests for change the use, which may not be acceptable or appropriate. Mr O’ Brien advised that the current availability of tax breaks for nursing homes was giving rise to the increasing number of applications.

7. Correspondence and Items Outstanding.

M.Porter updated members in relation to outstanding queries on the list circulated with the agenda and agreed to circulate members with exact figures in relation to contributions received and outstanding in relation to the Holywell development in Kilcoole. It was also requested that

the engineer would contact the owner of the property on Sea Road, in relation to the acquisition of necessary land to provide a continuous footpath. Members requested an update on the structural faults in Burnaby Court houses and a progress report regarding the implementation of a speed limit in Templecarrig, for the next meeting.

8. Any Other Business

- Members requested that an urgent letter issue to the Gardai, regarding the increase in break-ins to property in the electoral area, as it does not appear that those responsible have been apprehended. Members are concerned that the presence of a shop in the locality, which accepts gold jewellery, may be giving rise to these crimes.
- E. Heslin clarified his comments at a previous meeting when he stated that he had not met with the owner of a house in the Harbour to discuss possible solutions to flooding, stating that he had met with the owner's wife. A formal notice is being prepared to serve on the owner of the apartments in relation to the blocked sewer.
- Cllr Jones requested that APCOA be contacted in relation to parking machines, which are out of order.

Members requested an update on the derelict site at Merville, Church Road.

This concluded the business of the meeting, the next meeting will be held in Greystones on Monday 17th May 2010.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Dated this **___ day of** _____ **2010**