

Minutes of Greystones Electoral Area Committee Meeting, held in Civic Offices, Greystones on Monday 20th September 2010.

Present:

Cllrs. G. Jones, T. Fortune, S. Harris
Joe Lane, Director of Services, Community & Enterprise & Greystones Town Manager
Des O'Brien, Director of Services, Planning
Eoin Heslin, Senior Executive Engineer
Myra Porter, Senior Staff Officer, Greystones Area office
Allyson Minion, Senior Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Estate
Apologies: Cllr C. Hayden, Cllr D. Mitchell

In the absence of Cllr Mitchell, it was agreed that Cllr Jones would chair the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fortune and seconded by Cllr. Harris that the minutes of meeting held on 19th July 2010 as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

2. Housing Progress Report.

Allyson Minion referred to the previously circulated Housing Report and answered questions from Members on same. Members were advised that the Council has recently advertised Affordable Houses for sale in Newtown.Mt.Kennedy and in Roundwood and are seeking applicants for same. In response to member's queries regarding the status of vacant houses in the area, it was agreed to circulate an update in relation to same within the coming weeks. Members were critical of government policy to provide social housing by way of long term leasing, as this option is not working in Wicklow as there aren't sufficient of empty houses available to meet the needs of those on the housing lists. Members referred to a forthcoming meeting in October, between Council officials and officials from the Department, with responsibility for social housing and requested that a case be made for alternative means to meet the housing needs of the county.

5. Update on Request for Speed limit at Templecarrig and weight restriction in Delgany.

As Des O' Brien had not arrived and Frank Clarke Senior Engineer was present it was agreed to proceed with this item. F. Clarke advised that a review of speed limits throughout the county was carried out in 2008 and did not recommend any changes in Templecarrig. A survey of speeds in Templecarrig was conducted in March 2010, which indicates that speeds are not excessive in the area; it is therefore not proposed to change the existing speed limit Bye Laws. Mr Clarke also explained that Department of Transport Guidelines advice that methods such as signage, road markings etc should be pursued before considering the introduction of a special speed limit.

Members did not accept this response and stated that the issue arose following a request from local residents in September 2009, following which the Area Committee passed a Notice of Motion requesting a special speed limit in Templecarrig, which has the support of the Garda Traffic Division. Members stated that there is a need to review speed limits in the area, particularly in built up areas and on the N11. F. Clarke advised that funding was not available to implement new speed limits. Members requested that the original Notice of Motion and a request to review speed limits, be submitted for the consideration of the Council.

In relation to the request for a 3 tonne weight restriction through Delgany, F. Clarke advised that a limit already exists for a short section under Barry's Bridge and that it would appear reasonable to extend this to prevent trucks leaving the N11 at the off ramp fro Delgany and at the Drumming junction. A survey of the number of HGVs using Delgany will be conducted and if a 3 tonne limit is warranted the extent of the area to be included will have to be determined and the statutory procedures followed.

Members requested that the Delgany Community Council be contacted to get their current views and to advise of the proposed survey.

6. Speed Limits in Greystones Electoral Area.

M. Porter advised the meeting that this item was on the agenda at the request of the Greystones Joint Policing Committee, following discussion, members requested:

- Traffic calming signs at the entrance to Kilcoole, advising motorists to slow down as they are approaching a built up area.
- Flashing speed advice signs on Rathdown Road.

- Contradictory speed limit signs on R761 between Bray and Greystones, sign appears to be missing and should be replaced.

E. Heslin requested members to email in any other particular queries in relation to speed limit signage. F. Clarke advised that grant funding might be available to implement low cost safety measures, E. Heslin to enquire and update members at next meeting.

7. Works Proposed and Carried out in the Area.

Eoin Heslin's report was circulated to members who raised a number of queries including:

- Request that the Council take immediate action to alleviate flooding problem at the harbour.
- Replace 2 bins in Kilcoole.
- Request that mechanical street cleaner visit Kilcoole occasionally.
- Cut hedges on approaches to Killincarrig, as they are encroaching on footpaths.
- Provide grit bunkers at strategic locations for use by local people during bad weather.
- Improvement works at St Laurence's School causing problems at entrance to Kenmare Heights.
- Blocked drains in Bellevue Lawns, particularly outside house number 8.
- Consider recent results on Tidy Towns inspections and tie in with maintenance proposals, include on agenda for next meeting.
- Seats at interchange need to be painted.
- Lights at Blacklion still causing problems with delays.
- Railings on South Beach need to be painted/maintained.
- Hold off on footpath works in Burnaby Park, as Chamber of Commerce are investigating outside funding to refurbish the park.

E. Heslin advised of the current situation in relation to the harbour flooding, an architect has made contact on behalf of the owner of the apartments to discuss remedial works, in the meantime the Council is pursuing legal proceedings. Bins have been ordered for Kilcoole, the location for it will be decided when they are delivered. The entrance to Kenmare Heights was altered to improve pedestrian safety and to slow down traffic. Blocked drains at Bellevue Lawns will be attended to as part of current gully cleaning works.

8. Notices of Motion

(a) Notice of Motion in the names of Councillors G. Jones, D. Mitchell and S. Harris

"That a report be given to the Area meeting on current staffing levels of the Greystones Area under the following headings, all levels of staffs to be included. Staff numbers - September 08, September 09, September 10, September 11 (projected)"

M. Porter circulated report outlining staff figures. Members stated that the original number of staff in 2008 was totally inadequate for the area, taking in to account the population in the area and the demand for services, the current situation is not acceptable, having regard to the reduction in numbers. Members stated that without the involvement of volunteers in local communities, the situation would be worse and requested the Manager to make a special case to management to replace staff in Greystones.

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

"That a report be provided to the area meeting on the estimates received for "private collection" of public litter bins in the Greystones Office Areas, and what is the proposed action of Council Management of this tender."

E. Heslin advised that the proposal submitted is under consideration by the Area Office and the Environmental Section, there may be procurement issues. It is intended to meet with the proposers to clarify some issues.

3. Update on Taking in Charge of Estates.

M. Porter circulated an update; members asked for a time frame for completion of taking in charge and details of whether cash bonds are held to ensure completion of development.

It was requested that a meeting be re-scheduled between area councillors and planning officials in relation to the taking in charge of Charlesland, as the previous meeting was cancelled.

4. Status Report on Planning in Kilcoole & Greystones.

Des O'Brien referred to previously circulated planning report and answered questions from Members on same. Members welcomed commencement of works at Coolnagreine and the relocation of the harbour vets practice, in view of the current economic downturn.

Members requested an update on the current Part 8 for the harbour, following completion of the public consultation. This could be provided at a Town Council meeting, if necessary, having regard to statutory time frames.

Mr. O'Brien referred to a report circulated to the Members by Sean Quirke regarding the Harbour Development, went through same and answered questions from the Members. Following a discussion regarding this proposal it was agreed that the Part VIII for this development should revert to the members of the EAC before going to a full Council meeting.

10. Correspondence and items outstanding from previous meetings.

- Members referred to the notices recently erected on Merville, Church Road and requested that statutory procedures be completed as soon as possible, having regard to the derelict and dangerous condition of the property.

11. Any Other Business

Members requested that a letter of congratulations issue the organisers of the recent Gourmet Greystones event.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is at 1.00pm on Monday 15th November in the Civic Offices, Bray.

Signed:

Chairperson

Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Date:
