

MINUTES OF MEETING OF GREYSTONES TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Councillor S. Stokes, Mayor,
Councillors T. Fortune, G. Jones, K. Kelleher, C. Maloney,
G. McLoughlin, D. Mitchell & J. O'Sullivan

Also Present: Mr. J. Lane, Town Manager
Mr. E. Heslin, SEE, Wicklow County Council
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Town Council

Apologies from: Councillor B. Norman
Ms. M. Porter, A/Town Clerk, Greystones Town Council

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) To confirm minutes of monthly meeting held on 30th July, 2013

Councillor D. Mitchell asked that the minutes of the July meeting be amended to include that the members requested a report on the financial costs of operating the two public toilets in Greystones and this was agreed.

It was proposed by Councillor C. Maloney, seconded by Councillor K. Kelleher and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30th July, 2013, as amended, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

(b) To note minutes of special meeting held on 13th August, 2013.

The Mayor, Councillor S. Stokes and Councillor T. Fortune both stated that they had not been circulated with these minutes. Mr. J. Lane, Town Manager pointed out that the minutes were attached to the meeting agenda posted to all members on the 19th September.

It was proposed by Councillor J. O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor G. McLoughlin and agreed that the minutes of the special meeting of the Council held on 13th August, 2013, as circulated, be noted and signed by the Mayor.

2. REPRESENTATIVES FROM SISK AND UPDATE ON GREYSTONES HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

The Mayor, Councillor S. Stokes, welcomed Mr. J. P. Sisk and Mr. Brendan Sheehy from SISK and Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services, Wicklow County Council, to the meeting.

Mr. B. Sheehy circulated drawings showing SISKs proposals to provide a substantial additional green space adjacent to the existing car park at the harbour and to open it up for next summer as well as providing access to the north breakwater. He stated that they were in a position to commence this work immediately but pointed out that it might take some time to source the amount of topsoil required, and he stated that they planned to seed the area in February/March 2014 so that it would be ready for opening by April 2014.

Councillor T. Fortune presented the SISK representatives with a plan for the harbour drawn up by the local community, together with costings. He asked that this plan be taken on board by

SISK. The Mayor, Councillor S. Stokes, supported the community plan and there was some discussion on the cost of those proposals and whether or not they would require planning permission and/or a foreshore licence.

During the discussion on both sets of proposals members requested that SISK consider opening up the public square/plaza; improvements to the public slipway; landing or mooring facilities for three local fishermen and permission for the local Rowing Club to provide temporary covered shelter for boats. They also suggested that any access provided to the area must be controlled in some way to prevent illegal camping/trading and that consideration be given to providing a Dog Park within the development.

In addition members requested that the position in relation to the Primary Care Centre be clarified and that confirmation be provided that the contract between the HSE and Meret Healthcare has now been cancelled. They also asked that a long term plan be put in place by Wicklow County Council.

In conclusion it was agreed that SISK would examine the plan and costings put forward by the community and revert to the Town Council with their comments on same.

3. LA TOUCHE GATHERING AND 25TH ANNUAL LA TOUCHE SEMINAR

Councillor G. Jones informed the members that almost fifty members of the La Touche Family had arrived in Ireland for a Gathering and he outlined details of the programme for their stay. He invited the members to join them in Greystones Library on Friday 27th September at 11.00 a.m. for the unveiling of a plaque in honour of the family.

Councillor Jones went on to outline details of the speakers at the Seminar in Charlesland Hotel over the weekend and he asked for permission to allow Mr. Mike Nesbitt, Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, the Guest Speaker at the Seminar Dinner, to sign the official Visitors Book. This was agreed.

Various members commended Councillor Jones and the La Touche Legacy Committee for their work on this event.

4. REPORTS FROM WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

(a) Works Carried Out

It was agreed to consider notice of motion (d) as follows in conjunction with this item:

(d) Motion in the names of Councillors G Mc Loughlin, G Jones, D Mitchell and J O'Sullivan:

“That Wicklow County Council ensures that a pedestrian crossing is installed as a matter of urgency in Blacklion at the entrance to the schools and that the council management & Director of Services for planning pursue both the developers and the architects to ensure it is done”.

A report on works carried out had been emailed to all the members prior to the meeting. Mr. E. Heslin, SEE answered queries from the members in relation to same. He also advised the members of the contents of a letter received from Deputy Andrew Doyle, which stated that the pedestrian crossing at Blacklion should be completed by the end of October.

Following discussion it was agreed to refer the following matters to Wicklow County Council:

1. Speed cushions at Bellevue Road
2. Cutting of bushes at Mountainview Park
3. Bollards at Kindlestown Park - Kenmare Heights

4. Car counter at Blacklion
5. Cutting of trees at 158 - 167 Hillside and at 49 Upper Grattan Park
6. Clearing of road galleys, especially at St. Brigid's NS
7. Removal of graffiti at south beach playground
8. Pedestrian crossing at Blacklion

(b) Staffing in Greystones Area Office

Ms. K. Coughlan circulated a letter received from Mr. B. Doyle, Director of Services, Wicklow County Council, in relation to staffing in the Greystones office.

Following discussion it was agreed to write to the County Council to ask that allocation of funding for the new Greystones Municipal Authority reflect the amount of Local Property Tax collected in the area and take cognisance of the increase in population and density, as urban roads required more maintenance than rural ones as well as footpaths, lighting, drainage and gulley clearing, etc.

(c) Toilet facilities at the harbour, Greystones

Mr. E. Heslin, SEE, informed the members that they had asked the Environmental Services Section of Wicklow County Council about the possibility of moving the toilet from the La Touche Road car park to the harbour. There was general consensus that this might jeopardise the Blue Flag status of the south beach so would not be feasible.

Ms. K. Coughlan advised the members that the refurbishment of the toilets at the Seafront in Bray had cost €240,000 that had been raised by the members over a number of years. She pointed out that there were ongoing problems with maintenance and that it had been necessary for the Town Council to engage contract cleaners over the weekend of the Air Display.

Councillor G. McLoughlin gave details of discussions she had with JC Decaux and stated that they had agreed to offer a second hand refurbished superloo on a 20-year rental and maintenance agreement for €22,000 per annum (CPI index linked) plus a delivery and installation cost of €3,000. She stated that additional income could be raised from advertising on the unit.

It was agreed to seek a report from Wicklow County Council for the October meeting on the running costs of the toilets in Greystones to include details of income from usage.

As time had run out it was agreed to defer the following matters to the October meeting:

5. CORRESPONDENCE

6. LARGE SCALE PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN GREYSTONES

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion in the names of Councillors G. Mc Loughlin, G. Jones, D. Mitchell & J. O'Sullivan (deferred from July meeting):
 "That Wicklow County Council confirms their plans regarding the cycle lanes from Lidl to the harbour and no progress will be made without discussion with the residents of Mountainview Park, St. Kevin's School and final approval from the councillors".

(b) Motion in the names of Councillors G. Jones, G. McLoughlin, D. Mitchell & J. O'Sullivan:

“The Town Council request CIE to reinstate the ‘right of way’ to the beach at the side of the three trout stream in Charlesland. This right of way has been used since the existence of the Woodlands hotel as it formed part of the hotel deeds”.

(c) Motion in the names of Councillors G. Jones, G. McLoughlin, D. Mitchell & J. O’Sullivan:

“That the Town Council investigate installing on a pilot basis Wi fi /BB along the main shopping street (Church Road) of Greystones. This type of improvement would be in addition to what currently is being provided by shops and restaurants along this area and in line with what is being done in many progressive towns”.

(e) Motion in the names of Councillors K. Kelleher & B. Norman:

“That Greystones Town Council ask Wicklow County Council to improve communications between services providers so that newly surfaced roads or works are not dug up shortly after they are installed”.

(f) Motion in the names of Councillors K. Kelleher & B. Norman:

“That Greystones Town Council ask Wicklow County Council to improve their communications to residents when water supplies are going to be turned off”.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. It was agreed that a letter expressing best wishes for a speedy recovery be sent to the A/Town Clerk, Ms. M. Porter.

2. The Mayor, Councillor S. Stokes, informed the members that he would be travelling to Huntsville, Alabama, USA for St. Patrick’s Day 2014 at his own expense and that a group of tourists from there would visit Greystones during October.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED:_____MAYOR

CERTIFIED:_____A/TOWN CLERK

DATED THIS DAY OF 2013.