

MINUTES OF MEETING OF GREYSTONES TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7.30 P.M.

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

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

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Councillor B. Norman requested that the January minutes be amended at item 2(2) to include the following: "That clarification be sought on alternative proposals for the site for the Primary Care Centre at the harbour. This was agreed".

It was then proposed by Councillor C. Maloney, seconded by Councillor G. McLoughlin and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28th January, 2014, as amended, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

The Mayor, Councillor S. Stokes proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Josephine O'Connor from Greystones who died recently. A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of her.

2. UPDATE ON GREYSTONES HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

Ms. M. Porter, A/Town Clerk, notified the members of the contents of a report received from Wicklow County Council in relation to the Greystones harbour development.

Following discussion it was agreed to seek clarification on the proposed temporary limited access to the breakwater and to ask that the amended draft Bye Laws be circulated to the Town Council for comment prior to adoption by Wicklow County Council.

3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2014 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Councillor K. Kelleher advised the members of the details of this year's St. Patricks Day Parade and urged all groups and organisations to participate.

4. ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2014 PEOPLE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The A/Town Clerk, Ms. M. Porter, outlined the details of the 2014 People of the Year Awards and she urged groups to submit nominations for the Awards.

5. REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL NOMINEES TO OUTSIDE AGENCIES

(a) Wicklow 200

Councillor D. Mitchell reported on the details of the Wicklow 200 cycle event that will commence at Shoreline Leisure later this year. He stated that representatives from the

Chamber of Commerce were considering ways to bring the participants and their supporters into the town centre.

(b) AMAI

Councillor C. Maloney informed the meeting that the AMAI had accepted that it was too costly and uncertain to challenge the new legislation for local government.

He stated that the AMAI would cease to operate once the new local government structures were in place. He pointed out that he and Councillor V. McElheron from Arklow had proposed that any funds the association had on disbanding should be divided between all the member Town Councils. He pointed out that a meeting would be held shortly to decide this issue and that if his proposal was not adopted, the money would probably go to the Local Authority Members Association.

(c) Tourism & Twinning

The Mayor, Councillor S. Stokes, stated that the town map sponsored by the Tourism & Twinning Sub-Committee was very popular. He also pointed out that the seven delegates from Holyhead who were coming to Greystones for St. Patrick's weekend had expressed the wish to stay for two nights and could be accommodated in the Slievemore Guesthouse at a cost of €630. He also sought approval to provide a meal for the group on the Sunday night. This was agreed.

(d) Wicklow County Tourism

Councillor T. Fortune stated that Wicklow County Tourism was developing tourism offices around the county where tourists could come in and look at computer screens to see what was on around the area. He stated that they were also developing an app for smart phones as part of their programme for the year.

(e) Heritage Forum

Councillor K. Kelleher stated that Ms. Deirdre Burns, the Wicklow County Council Heritage Officer was currently working on a budget for the coming year. She pointed out that Built Heritage Grants were available and that the County Wicklow Heritage Plan would be reviewed shortly. She also pointed out that there was an excellent Wicklow heritage website. She stated that there was not much involvement from Greystones and she urged people to come forward with suggestions.

Councillor G. Jones informed the meeting that the La Touche Legacy Committee had decided to run a World War 1 Road-show for this year's event at the end of September and that it would have a local content.

(f) Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Councillor K. Kelleher stated that a lot of the work of this SPC last year involved the completion of the new Development Plan. She paid tribute to the excellent planning staff in Wicklow County Council.

6. REPORTS FROM WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

(a) Works Carried Out

A report on works carried out had been circulated by email to the members.

Following discussion, during which the members paid tribute to the Council staff for their work before, during and after the recent storms, it was agreed to refer the following matters to Wicklow County Council:

1. Pothole repairs around the town
2. Fallen tree at Bellevue Lawns, Delgany making wall unsafe
3. Laneway at Beechbrook
4. Hedge cutting in the town
5. Clearing of gulleys on Killincarrig Road, especially at Eugenes Newsagents
6. Ponding on La Touche Place outside La Touche Wine Shop
7. Leak at 135 Kenmare Heights
8. Trees on Church Lane
9. Speed cushions on Bellevue Road
10. Traffic light displaced at Donnybrook Fair

In response to queries from the members, Mr. E. Heslin SEE, stated that the Greystones Tidy Towns, in partnership with the Council, proposed to place a bronze memorial sculpture on the Seafront. A picture of a similar sculpture was shown to the members.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) The A/Town Clerk, Ms. M. Porter, advised the members of the contents of a letter received from the HSE which stated that they were seeking suitable alternative locations for a Primary Care Centre in Greystones. The letter stated that once a site had been secured, the HSE would be happy to meet with the Town Council.

Following discussion it was agreed to write back to the HSE to express total dissatisfaction with this letter and to ask if they had a site in mind or a practitioner lined up.

- 2) The A/Town Clerk, Ms. M. Porter, advised the members of the contents of an email received from Mr. C. Hayden seeking support from the Town Council in setting up a meeting between interested parties with regard to attracting boat owners from north Wales to visit Greystones harbour. This was agreed.

8. LARGE SCALE PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN GREYSTONES

Councillor K. Kelleher advised the members that planning permission had been granted for the replacement of an administration building at St. Kevin's National School. She also advised that permission had been sought by Cornerpark Estates for 187 houses at Blacklion. Councillor D. Mitchell stated that this planning application included building a road from Blacklion to the top of Applewood Heights which would help resolve traffic problems at school times.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) Motion in the name of Councillor S. Stokes (deferred from the January meeting):
 "Greystones Town Council requests clarification from Wicklow County Council on provision of a dog park for Greystones. It welcomes that the "Campaign for Greystones Dog Park" is willing to fundraise the start up costs, and largely just needs a piece of land provided by Wicklow County Council."

The A/Town Clerk, Ms. M. Porter, advised the members of the contents of a report from Wicklow County Council which stated that this matter could be considered if a suitable site and resources became available.

Following discussion it was agreed to refer the motion back to Wicklow County Council for consideration.

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

"That the Town Council requests WCC to consider extending the "free parking" that is normally in place for the Saturdays prior to Christmas to the two weeks prior to Christmas Day".

The A/Town Clerk, Ms. M. Porter, advised the members of the contents of a report received from Wicklow County Council which stated that this matter would be considered next November when the issue of free parking prior to Christmas was being considered.

(c) Motion in the names of Councillors G. Jones, G. McLoughlin, D. Mitchell & J. O'Sullivan (deferred from the January meeting):

"That we write to the Banks and others who provide cash to the "Cash machines network" requesting that they change their current policy of only dispensing €50 notes to smaller amounts".

Following discussion, it was agreed to refer this motion to the banks and other providers.

(d) Motion in the names of Councillors G. McLoughlin, G. Jones, D. Mitchell & J. O'Sullivan (deferred from the January meeting):

"That the Town Council contact an Post for (a) an update on their plans for their Greystones sorting office and (b) in view of the blocking off of post box outside "Eugene's" that they preserve the old post box in view of the history and heritage attached to all these old Post boxes in the Town".

Following discussion it was agreed to write to An Post in relation to these matters. It was also agreed to write to Wicklow County Council's Heritage Officer in relation to the post box.

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

"That Greystones Town Council be given details of roadworks in the Greystones Town Council area that will be covered by the tendering invitation published 15 January and the Special Speed Limit Order published 15 January, both in the Bray People".

The A/Town, Ms. M. Porter, informed the meeting that tenders were invited annually for roadworks as part of the procurement process and that the special speed limit order related to the continuation of the reduced speed limit at Greystones harbour.

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

"That Wicklow County Council repair, as a matter of urgency, a section of footpath on the north side of Bellevue Road just at the turn into Tesco Greystones and beside the street light and a tree. It is raised by approximately two inches and a serious danger as a pedestrian recently had a bad fall and was injured".

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to request Wicklow County Council to repair this section of footpath.

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

"The road to the Charlesland Creche and Community Centre should be changed so that it goes past the car park entrance, making Charlesland Grove a cul de sac".

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to write to Wicklow County Council's Director of Planning to ask that this proposal be considered.

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

“The Council should write to the Department of Education to ask them to urgently build a Primary School in Charlesland as the Department’s policy of putting schools at the opposite side of the town to the children is deluging the town in traffic and this will get worse as the schools fill up”.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to write to the Department of Education and Science to ask them to build a primary school in Charlesland.

As time had run out it was agreed to defer the following motions to the February meeting:

(i) Motion in the names of Councillors J. O’Sullivan, G. Jones, G. McLoughlin, & D. Mitchell:
“The Town Council should ask Eircom to the next meeting to explain the eFibre rollout together with a timetable”.

(j) Motion in the names of Councillors G. McLoughlin, G. Jones, D. Mitchell & J. O’Sullivan:
“That Greystones Town Council as a matter of urgency installs yellow box lines on the road out of Grattan Park as there is a serious traffic flow problem at this junction”

(k) Motion in the names of Councillors B. Norman & K. Kelleher:
“That Wicklow County Council examine with haste the need for the re-sequencing of the pedestrian lights and the installation of a yellow box at Donnybrook Fair”.

(l) Motion in the name of Councillor S. Stokes
“Greystones Town Council welcomes plans for 'Swiftway' to shorten Dublin Bus commute times. It requests that Greystones also be considered. It notes that 84x journeys can take well over an hour. Greystones Town Council expresses concern at overcrowding on the 84x with many commuters being turned away. Greystones Town Council believes there are too many stops between Loughlinstown and Leeson street. An 84x leaving Dublin City at 6.10 pm is urgently needed to bridge a 40 minute gap. Greystones Town Council also seeks clarification on plans for the 184. It would express concern if changes were to exclude passengers with travel passes, and commuter tickets. Greystones Town Council would welcome Dublin Bus to a meeting with Greystones Town Council.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED:_____MAYOR

CERTIFIED:_____A/TOWN CLERK

DATED THIS DAY OF 2014.