

MINUTES OF MEETING OF GREYSTONES TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 30TH JULY 2013 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

At the outset, votes of sympathy were proposed for the family of the late Maureen Willis from The Grove; the family of Niall Patrick from Hillside; and for the family of Councillor Pat Cody from Enniscorthy all of who died recently. A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of the deceased.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) It was proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor G. McLoughlin and agreed that the minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held on 25th June, 2013, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

(b) It was proposed by Councillor C. Maloney, seconded by Councillor K. Kelleher and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Council held on 25th June, 2013, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

2. UPDATE ON GREYSTONES HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

Ms. M. Porter, A/Town Clerk, advised the members of some works being carried out at the site. She stated that both Sean Quirke and Sisk were on holidays at present, but that Sisk had agreed to meet with the members during August.

Following discussion it was agreed to request Sisk to meet the Council on Tuesday 13th August 2013 in the Civic Offices, Greystones at 6.30 p.m. It was also agreed that the meeting could take place on Wednesday 14th or Thursday 15th August if Sisk could not meet on Tuesday 13th.

3. REPORTS FROM WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

(a) Works Carried Out

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.

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

1. Speed cushions on Bellevue Road
2. Bins, markings and situation with one concerned resident at Marine Road.
3. Barrier at south beach arch
4. Topping of trees at 158 - 167 Hillside; 49 Upper Grattan Park and Tree Trout end of Mill Lane
5. Flooding at Killincarrig

6. Lidl to Harbour Cycle Lanes
7. Bins, seats and poles at Railway Station
8. Gulley clearing
9. Closure of lane at Beechbrook
10. Temporary sign for toilet at harbour

4. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The A/Town Clerk, Ms. M. Porter, advised the members of the contents of a letter received from the Greystones Arts Festival Committee thanking the Council for its support with this year's event.
2. The A/Town Clerk, Ms. M. Porter, advised the members that the 2014 European Parliament Elections would be held between Thursday 22nd and Sunday 25th May 2014. She also advised that, although a formal decision had not yet been made, it was expected that as on previous occasions, polling at the European Parliament and local elections would take place on the same day in May 2014.

It was agreed to consider notice of motion (d) at this stage as follows:

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

"That Wicklow County Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government requesting that the 2014 Local Elections take place on a Friday or Saturday to ensure that everyone has the greatest possible chance to vote".

Following discussion it was agreed to send this motion to the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government.

3. The A/Town Clerk, Ms. M. Porter, informed the members that she would circulate an email response from Deputy Simon Harris in relation to the issue of school places in the Greystones area.
4. The A/Town Clerk, Ms. M. Porter, advised the members of the contents of an email received from the Greystones Freemasons Lodge requesting permission to use the Greystones Town Crest on their logo. It was agreed to allow the use of the Town Crest by the Freemasons.
5. The A/Town Clerk, Ms. M. Porter, informed the members of the details of the forthcoming AMAI Annual Conference in Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 12th – 14th September 2013 – estimated cost per delegate €900. As Councillor B. Norman was unable to attend the conference it was agreed that only Councillor C. Maloney would represent the Town Council at same.
6. The Mayor, Councillor S. Stokes, sought approval for expenditure in the sum of €344.40 from the Tourism & Twinning budget to cover additional copies of the town map. This was agreed.

On the suggestion of Councillor K. Kelleher it was agreed to send a letter to Irish Rail to thank them for providing a lift at Greystones rail station.

5. LARGE SCALE PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN GREYSTONES

Councillor K. Kelleher informed the members of the current position in relation to the following planning matters:

1. The final report for the Greystones/Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plans
2. The Tidy Towns application for works at Burnaby Park

3. The McDonald's application at Blacklion
4. The application for additional classrooms at St. Laurence's School
5. The application for amendments to layout at Zoe House on Church Road/Hillside Road.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor S. Stokes:

"Greystones Town Council welcomes the new Real Time boards at Greystones railway station and encourages Dublin Bus to extend Real Time boards to other local transit hubs as soon as possible."

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed that the members would notify the office of the bus stop numbers at Charlelsand, Redford Park, Blacklion and Killincarrig where real time boards were required and that the motion would be forwarded to Dublin Bus. It was also agreed that the letter to Dublin Bus be copied to the NTA.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor S. Stokes:

"Greystones Town Council expresses concern at the disproportionately high train fares to Dublin city in comparison to other stations along the Dart line. It requests that Irish Rail undertake a review of the fare structures to give comparative fairness".

Following discussion on this notice of motion it was agreed to write to Irish Rail to request that they undertake a review of the fare structures on DART services to Greystones. It was also agreed that the letter to Irish Rail be copied to the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor T. Fortune:

"Having regard to: the unsightly condition of the harbour area and its impacts on the amenity of the community, tourism and the successful operation of the marina; the poor quality of the landscaping work undertaken in the area last year; the two year delay since the first announcement of the Primary Care Centre and the recent negative information with regard to its commencement received from Wicklow County Council; the Town Council calls on Wicklow County Council to immediately enter into negotiations with Sispar to: properly landscape the area; remove all unnecessary fencing and allow the public access to the marina basin (without compromising the security of the berth holders) and open up the North wall to the public. This work to be considered a temporary measure until such time as the outstanding aspects of the development (including all community facilities) be completed."

Following discussion on this notice of motion it was agreed to write to Wicklow County Council to request that the Council make immediate arrangements to put a plan in place to landscape and remove unnecessary fencing from the harbour area and to open up the north wall. It was also agreed to copy the letter to the County Council to Sisk.

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

"That Wicklow County Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government requesting that the 2014 Local Elections take place on a Friday or Saturday to ensure that everyone has the greatest possible chance to vote".

This motion had already been dealt with in conjunction with item (4) above.

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

"That Wicklow County Council provide an update on current staffing levels for the Greystones area and furnish a comparison for 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012".

The A/Town Clerk, Ms. M. Porter, gave a breakdown of indoor and outdoor staff numbers, which showed a decrease of 3 indoor and 8.5 outdoor staff members over the years in question. Ms. Porter outlined the consequences of the staff shortages during sick or annual leave.

Following discussion on the motion it was agreed that the Town Council should write to Wicklow County Council to seek details of management's proposals for staffing and resources for the new Municipal District. It was further agreed to discuss this matter again at the September meeting of the Town Council.

(f) Motion in the names of Councillors G. Mc Loughlin, G. Jones, D. Mitchell & J. O Sullivan:

"That Wicklow County Council as a matter of urgency re-instates the public toilets at the harbour until such time as a new toilet facility can be obtained at the Northern end of the town".

Following discussion on this notice of motion it was agreed to request Wicklow County Council to place signs at the harbour directing people to the public toilets at the south beach as a temporary measure. It was also agreed to seek information from Wicklow County Council and Bray Town Council on funding arrangements for their public toilets and to include the matter on the agenda for the September meeting of the Town Council for further consideration.

As time was running out it was agreed to extend the meeting by five minutes in order to complete the business on the agenda.

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

"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.

It was agreed to defer this motion for consideration at the September meeting and that a report from Ms. M. Hartnett, SEE Wicklow County Council in relation to the motion would be circulated to the members.

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

"That Greystones Town Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government seeking information regarding the structure, formation and operation of the new Municipal Authorities".

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to write to the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government asking that information regarding the structure, formation, funding and operation of the proposed new Municipal Authorities be made available as soon as possible.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Councillor K. Kelleher reminded everyone that the Americana & Roots Festival would take place in the town over the August bank holiday weekend and she wished it every success.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED:_____MAYOR

CERTIFIED:_____A/TOWN CLERK

DATED THIS DAY OF 2013.