

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN COMMITTEE IN CIVIC OFFICES, GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2014 AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillor T. Fortune, Cathaoirleach
Councillors G. McLoughlin, D. Mitchell, N. Lawless, G. Walsh & J. Whitmore
Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D.
Mr. John F.F. O'Brien
Mr. Joe Lane, Greystones Municipal District Manager
Ms. Myra Porter, District Administrator
Ms. A. M. Roberts, Assistant Staff Officer, Greystones Municipal District

Apologies: Ms. Stephanie Anderson, Representative of Simon Harris T.D.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Members, Deputy Stephen Donnelly and Mr. John F.F. O'Brien to the meeting. He expressed regret and disappointment that Sean Quirke, Wicklow County Council and Sisk were not present at the meeting. He circulated a chronological fact sheet on the harbour development to date and read through its contents.

The points listed hereunder are the items that were raised and responses to same.

- Members queried the Planning status of the Community Plan (CP). Mr. O'Brien advised that most of the proposals in the plan did not require permission as they were of a temporary nature and that it was a very flexible plan for discussion with the contractor.
- Members enquired whether the District Manager was aware of any further plans or information regarding the harbour. Mr. Lane stated that there were no other plans that he knew of.
- At the request of the members, Mr. O'Brien went through the Community Plan and outlined its contents as follows:
 - Provision of bins and benches.
 - Provision of beach sand for the inner harbour area.
 - Cliff Walk and improvements to same.
 - Provision of a temporary tarmac access road to north beach/pier for emergency services.
 - Improvements to Landscaping.
 - Planting of furze bushes and heathers to make Cliff Walk more aesthetically pleasing, if moved closer to the sea.
 - Provision of public lighting especially on north pier.
 - Provision of public toilets.
 - Provision of extra parking facilities.
 - Coastal protection.
 - Facilities for local fishermen.
 - Public slipway – lack of disabled access to boats.
 - Public bandstand – if possible - may require planning permission.
 - Emergency vehicle access via level crossing from Gap bridge would be desirable.
- Mr. O'Brien informed the Meeting that the cost of implementing the full CP would be approximately €504,000. He pointed out that some of the works were proposed under the permission originally granted.
- Members pointed out that there was now a fully functioning harbour in place and 60% of the community facilities had been provided. They wished to see the whole project completed sooner rather than later and felt that the provision of facilities for the various clubs was a priority, followed by the public square.

- Some Members disagreed with points on the Fact Sheet - in particular item no.s 11 - 14 - and requested that Sean Quirke be asked for a comment on same prior to the meeting on 23rd of September.. They stated that consideration must be given to what works in the CP were feasible having regard to the fact that a large section of the site was still to be developed and access will be required through lands included in the community plan. Mr O' Brien stated that agreement should be reached with Sisk in relation to carrying out of improvement works while the development is progressing.
- In response to queries from members as to whether the public park could be opened, Mr. O'Brien stated that the area of the public park would most likely be a 'burrow pit' for the duration of the works but that it would be possible to open a section of it. Members stated that the opening of the park and also the provision of bins and benches would make a huge difference to the community. Mr. O'Brien drew attention to the large amount of infrastructure to be installed including mainline sewers and pumping stations stating that this work could be carried out over the forthcoming winter months.

Members agreed that the meeting had facilitated constructive ideas and debate. Mr. O'Brien stated that he was in attendance at the meeting in a professional capacity to discuss the Community Plan prepared by his company. Ms. M. Porter clarified that Mr O' Brien was invited to represent the GUBOH group, following a resolution put forward by Cllr. Fortune and agreed at the last meeting of the Municipal District.

Deputy Donnelly stated that his priority would be improvements to the Cliff Walk access from the harbour. He enquired about the possibility of reversing the planning decision for 34 housing units on part of the site, or rezoning this land, and he questioned the practice of transferring public land to private companies. He also asked if alternative community facilities – perhaps a community centre – could be provided instead of a public park and if it was possible to provide mixed use commercial and residential development in place of the Primary Care Centre. He suggested that the terms of the contract would allow the County Council to have the project completed diligently by Sisk.

Members thanked Deputy Donnelly for his input and for the points he had raised.

It was then proposed by Cllr. Fortune that Mr. O'Brien and Deputy Donnelly be invited to the next Special meeting on 23rd September 2014. Ms. M. Porter stated that this was a matter for the members to decide, but reminded them of the contents of the letter from Sisk, previously circulated, which advised that they would not attend a meeting with third parties. Cllr. Fortune's proposal was not seconded.

Members expressed their thanks to Mr. O' Brien for his input and attendance at the meeting. . Mr O' Brien advised that he was available to answer any questions Members may have in advance of the meeting on 23rd September.

It was then proposed by Cllr. Whitmore and seconded by Cllr. Fortune that the TD's be invited to the meeting on 23rd September. This was agreed.

The Cathaoirleach thanked everybody for their input and attendance at the meeting and said that he would liaise with Ms. M. Porter regarding the agenda for the meeting of the 23rd of September. Members requested that representatives of the Marine operators and ARUP consultants also be invited to this meeting.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Signed: _____ Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____ Meetings Administrator

Date: _____