**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 30th APRIL 2019 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor N. Lawless, Cathaoirleach

Councillors T. Fortune, G. McLoughlin, D. Mitchell, G. Walsh & J. Whitmore

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager

Mr. R. O’Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer

Ms. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District Administrator

Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

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1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor G. McLoughlin, seconded by Councillor G. Walsh and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 26th March 2019, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1. **PRESENTATION BY COLIN MC CARTHY, PHOENIX MOTORHOME CLUB**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Colin McCarthy from the Phoenix Motorhome Club to the meeting.

Mr. McCarthy gave a slide show presentation on the requirements for a camper van park, i.e. facilities to empty toilet cassettes, disposal of grey water and a fresh water supply. He stated that these facilities did not need to be directly adjacent to the camper van parking area as long as there were satellite navigation directions to them from the park. He pointed out that there was generally a fee of €8 - €10 per night for parking and a limit of two nights parking. He stated that the parks in most areas were regulated by bye-laws and the use of deck chairs and other items outside the vans was prohibited. He pointed out that many camper van parks were covered by CCTV and that this was very important to van owners.

During discussion on the matter members stated that a camper van park would be very popular in Greystones and very good from a tourism and economic aspect, but they expressed some concern about past experience where vans parked on the seafront for a number of weeks during the summer and residents complained.

Following discussion, the members suggested that Mr. McCarthy arrange to meet with the District Engineer to identify suitable sites around the town before progressing further.

1. **UPDATE ON GREYSTONES HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT**

The District Administrator circulated a report from Wicklow County Council which outlined progress with the harbour development to date.

Members requested that the monthly harbour reports be accompanied by a map going forward.

1. **REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER**

A report on proposed works, and works carried out, was circulated and the District Engineer answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

Following discussion it was agreed that Wicklow County Council address the following issues as soon as possible:

1. Road markings on Kimberley Road, Greystones
2. Road markings and signage at Lott Lane, Kilcoole
3. Road markings at Church Road, Newcastle
4. **UPDATE ON DELGANY TO BLACKLION ROAD & REDFORD JUNCTION**

The District Administrator informed the members that the tender process for these works was completed and a Consultant had been chosen to look at the whole scheme and at doing a design for the whole road.

The District Engineer pointed out that the design brief was to take the project to CPO ready stage.

During discussion members expressed disappointment that the scheme was taking so long. They suggested that the whole scheme should be completed together, preferably over the summer months, and they stressed the need to have the work carried out as soon as possible.

1. **GREYSTONES SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS FOR 2019**

The members had been circulated with a copy of the Greystones Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2019 in advance of the meeting.

The District Administrator informed the members that following the failure of trials of beach buggies for disabled users on Greystones beach, the Sports Partnership Office had looked into other suitable alternatives and it was now proposed to provide a roll out mat that would extend 100 m onto the beach and 25 m to either side of the entrance at the south beach. She stated that this would require a sum of €6,500 from the GMD discretionary budget and that the Sports Partnership office would provide additional funding. This funding was agreed by the members.

During discussion on the SMDW members were critical of the fact that there was no funding included for various works that had been requested in the district such as the Part 8 works in Delgany and the provision of a Lifeguard at the Cove. They spoke about the inequitable way that the Council funds were distributed each year and they pointed out that the Greystones MD got considerably less funding per capita than all the other districts. They agreed that it was unfair to compare Greystones, which was an urban area, to the other rural districts, and they suggested that the Greystones MD should be on a par with Bray MD. They spoke about the development levies and the LPT that was collected in the Greystones MD district and they were of the opinion that the bulk of these monies should be retained for works within the district.

The District Manager advised the members that Wicklow County Council only received 80% of the LPT collected in the county and that this funding was spread around the county. He said that similarly, levies collected in the district were distributed for projects countywide. He informed the members that they would not get any additional funds if they chose not to adopt the SMDW as the overall budget had already been adopted by Wicklow County Council.

Following a vote, all councillors present i.e. Councillors T. Fortune, N. Lawless, G. McLoughlin,

D. Mitchell, G. Walsh and J. Whitmore, voted not to adopt the Greystones Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2019 and they requested a re-evaluation of how Council funds were distributed across the districts.

1. **2019 GREYSTONES PEOPLE OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

The District Administrator reminded the members that the People of the Year Awards Presentation Dinner would be held in Greystones Golf Club on Thursday 9th May and she requested all members to attend at the Golf Club at 7.15 p.m. for photos.

She advised the members of the names of the winners in each category and she requested that they did not disclose same until such time as the photos had been published in the following edition of the Wicklow Times.

1. **UPDATE FROM GREYSTONES 2020 AND ANNUAL MARKETING/MANAGEMENT OF GREYSTONES.IE WEBSITE**

Councillor G. McLoughlin, who is Chairperson of Greystones 2020, circulated the Greystones 2020 Project Plan in relation to the upkeep and marketing of the Greystones.ie website and she requested that the members agree to the allocation of €3,000 per annum for this contract. This was agreed.

Councillor McLoughlin also invited the Cathaoirleach of Greystones MD to attend all meetings of Greystones 2020.

1. **NOTICES OF MOTION**
2. Motion in the names of Councillors D. Mitchell & G. McLoughlin:

“The Council should produce an integrated plan for a linear park & walk along the Three Trout Stream from Greystones to Delgany instead of designing sections independently with each development”.

Following discussion on this motion, it was agreed to request Wicklow County Council to produce an integrated plan for a linear park and walk along the Three Trout stream from Greystones to Delgany.

1. Motion in the names of Councillors D. Mitchell & G. McLoughlin:

“The Council should do a traffic, road & parking plan for Greystones in advance of the next Development Plan”.

The District Administrator informed the members that Planning Officials had advised that a traffic, road and parking plan for Greystones would be done in advance of the net Development Plan.

1. Motion in the names of Councillors D. Mitchell & G. McLoughlin:

“The Council should use its land or IDA land to attract a hotel to Greystones”.

Some Councillors suggested that the old Council depot site or the IDA lands would be suitable for a hotel and that the Council should actively pursue this, while other Councillors felt that a co-working/shared employment hub would be more suitable for that site.

Following discussion it was agreed that both a hotel and a shared working space were required and that both should be pursued by the Council.

1. Motion in the names of Councillors G. McLoughlin & D. Mitchell:

“The Council should list how many outdoor staff are employed in Greystones and each of the other 4 Municipal Districts”.

The District Administrator advised the members that there were 12 outdoor staff in the Greystones MD compared to 26 in the Arklow MD, 42 in the Baltinglass MD, 30 in the Bray MD and 28 in the Wicklow MD.

During discussion on this motion the members stated that the staffing levels in Greystones MD were ridiculously low and should compare to the staffing levels in Bray MD. They agreed that a letter should be sent to the Chief Executive requesting this.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**
2. The District Administrator informed the members that the Greystones Outdoors group had sought the use of one of the fisherman’s huts at the harbour, as had been agreed last year, so that they could commence operations this season. The members agreed to this on the same terms as agreed last year.
3. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
4. Councillor J. Whitmore referred to the recently announced plan by the ESB to rollout an upgrade to electric car charging points and she stated that there were no such points in this district. Following discussion it was agreed to write to the ESB and the Minister to request that car charging points be provided. It was further agreed to write to the oil companies to enquire about their plans for electric car charging points at filling stations in the district.
5. The Cathaoirleach thanked all the staff and her fellow Councillors for their support during her year in the chair and she paid tribute to Councillor G. McLoughlin, who was not standing for re-election, for her hard work and commitment during her years as a pubic representative.

Councillor McLoughlin stated that it was a privilege to serve on the Council and she expressed the hope that all her fellow Councillors would be re-elected. She thanked the Councillors, the staff and the press for their work.

The District Manager, on behalf of all the staff, paid tribute to both the Cathaoirleach and Councillor McLoughlin and stated that they had worked hard and were model Councillors.

1. The District Administrator wished all the members the best of luck in the local elections.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

**SIGNED:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**CERTIFIED:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATED THIS\_\_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2019.**