**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 25th JULY 2017 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor G. Walsh, Cathaoirleach

Councillors T. Fortune, N. Lawless, D. Mitchell & J. Whitmore

Also Present: Ms. T. O’Brien, Senior Executive Officer, Wicklow County Council

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

Ms. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District Administrator

Mr. E. Forristal, Executive Engineer, Greystones Municipal District

Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

Apologies from: Councillor G. McLoughlin

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Prior to the meeting, framed certificates and flowers were presented to Sr. Kathleen Lyng and

Ms. Catherine Coveney to mark their retirements as Principals of St. Brigid’s NS and St. Laurence’s NS respectively.

Councillor J. Whitmore had submitted a request for a suspension of standing orders to discuss the parking issues at the harbour and it was agreed to consider this matter in conjunction with item 3 on the agenda.

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**
2. It was proposed by Councillor N. Lawless, seconded by Councillor J. Whitmore and agreed that the minutes of the annual meeting held on 27th June 2017, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.
3. It was proposed by Councillor D. Mitchell, seconded by Councillor J. Whitmore and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 27th June 2017, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

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1. **DEPUTATION FROM NEWCASTLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Michael Carey, Mr. Hugh O’Rourke and Ms. Jacky Noonan from the Newcastle Residents Association. They spoke about their future proposals for the village arising out of a recent public meeting where residents raised various issues. They stated that a plan was being prepared for Newcastle which would be forwarded to the MD when completed and they sought the assistance of the MD members in having that plan implemented.

The members and officials commended the group on the work they did which they said was evident around Newcastle and they looked forward to receiving the village plan. They agreed to assist the residents in any way possible.

1. **UPDATE ON GREYSTONES HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT**

A report outlining progress on the harbour development was circulated to the members. Members welcomed progress to date and the fact that a date had been agreed for a meeting between the Council, fishermen’s representative and BIM officials. They spoke about conflicting versions of events that they had received from the Council and the fishermen’s representative and they stated that the matter of moorings for fishermen needed to be sorted once and for all. They requested a copy of the contract between Wicklow County Council and Sispar in relation to management of the harbour and sought clarification on who was in charge of keeping the harbour clean and tidy and to what standard. Members also asked that the signage for the re-routing of the Cliff Walk through the harbour works be improved as there was a lot of confusion at present.

Members also requested that arrangements be made to have the smaller fishermen’s huts allocated in September while holding off on allocating the three larger ones until such time as a decision was made on the commercial moorings. They also asked that a copy of the Arup report on coastal erosion at the north beach be circulated to them as promised.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

Members discussed the blocking of the slipways at the harbour by parked vehicles and the problems that this would cause if the Coast Guard needed to launch their boat in an emergency. They requested that a yellow box, together with adequate road markings and signage, be provided at the top of the slipways to deter parking. They stated that following the implementation of these measures, any vehicles parked there should be towed away.

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

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

Following discussion it was agreed that the following issues be referred to Wicklow County Council:

* Resurfacing of footpaths in the cul de sac at Seamount Drive, Newcastle
* Defining of the cycle lane at Killincarrig.
1. **PROJECT FOR FUNDING FROM TOURISM GRANT**

The members were circulated with a list of the suggested projects for this funding and the District Administrator advised them of three additional heritage projects in Kilcoole which were submitted just prior to the meeting. The District Engineer suggested that these three projects might be more suitable for heritage grants.

Following discussion it was agreed that signing and improvements to the heritage trail from Greystones through Kindlestown to link Greystones DART station with the Wicklow Way via the Sugarloaf be submitted to the CCSD Strategic Policy Committee for approval for the tourism grant funding of €10,000.

1. **REVIEW OF BURIAL GROUND POLICY**

A copy of the Burial Ground Policy Review document had been circulated to the members with the agenda. Members sought clarification on why it was proposed to only allow the erection of memorials between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday. They also enquired about the cost of plots in Springfield cemetery and why they were different from other areas, and why plots in Manor Kilbride, Castlemacadam and Rathbran were subject to VAT while others were not.

Following discussion it was agreed that the members would submit their comments / suggestions on each item in the policy review document within the next two weeks for summarising and forwarding to Wicklow County Council.

1. **NOTICES OF MOTION:**
2. Motion in the names of Councillors G. McLoughlin & D. Mitchell (deferred from June meeting):

“That Wicklow County Council provides an update as to what is being done to remove people who have illegally moved caravans into The Rocks as it is over three weeks since they arrived and this site is a protected area.  In addition there are serious health and safety issues emanating from this trespass”.

The District Administrator advised the members of the contents of a report received from Wicklow County Council which outlined the position in relation to the encampment at ‘the Rocks’.

Members were extremely concerned that the legal proceedings regarding this matter would not be re-visited until October. They stated that local residents had reported that the occupants were urinating and defecating in public view as well as lighting fires which were a danger to nearby houses.

They acknowledged the temporary injunction issued by the High Court but requested that Wicklow County Council use other powers available e.g. environmental legislation, to pursue the Health and Safety and Fire Hazard issues on site.  The members did not accept that the temporary injunction in place prevented the Council from taking any action, having regard to the activities on site.

Following discussion the members requested that the Council take immediate action in this case based on the photographic evidence submitted by local residents.

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

“The Council should write to Irish Rail to ask them to ensure that diesel carriages they are about to order can have a selection of doors only open at short platform stations as in other commuter railways. This will enable longer diesel trains to serve Greystones and double the Wicklow train capacity which is standing room only at rush hour”.

As time had run out, this motion was deferred to the September meeting.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**
2. Ms. T. O’Brien circulated a list of groups in the Greystones Municipal District that were recommended for funding under the Community Facilities Scheme 2017. She stated that these had already been approved by the LCDC but also needed to be approved by the members of the Municipal District.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Whitmore, seconded by Councillor N. Lawless and agreed that the groups circulated be approved for funding.

Ms. O’Brien stated that there was a very low application rate from the Greystones district for this funding, even though the scheme was advertised extensively.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

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

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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

 **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

 **DATED THIS\_\_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2017.**