**MINUTES OF MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD REMOTELY BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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**Participants: Councillor D. Mitchell, Cathaoirleach**

 **Councillors M. Crean, T. Fortune, J. Neary, L. Scott & G. Walsh**

**Also: Mr. M. Nicholson, District Manager**

**Mr. R. O’Hanlon, District Engineer**

 **Ms. M. Porter, District Administrator**

 **Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District**

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The District Administrator stated that two requests had been received to suspend standing orders

1. from Councillor D. Mitchell, Cathaoirleach, to discuss the secondary school admission problem and to send a letter to the Department of Education asking them to solve it urgently and
2. from Councillor L. Scott to discuss the recent approval of the SHD in Delgany and the forthcoming application of an SHD in Coolagad and the severe shortfalls in school places and infrastructure in general in the area

 It was agreed to discuss these at 8.30 p.m.

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**
2. Councillor M. Crean requested that an additional sentence be included in Item two, paragraph four on page one of the draft minutes of the December meeting as follows: ‘They also felt that social housing could be provided on a more suitable site nearby’. This was agreed.

It was then proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor M. Crean and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 15th December 2020, as amended, be confirmed and signed.

1. It was proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor L. Scott, and agreed that the minutes of the special meeting held on 8th February 2021 as circulated be confirmed and signed.
2. **Update on Greystones harbour development**

The District Administrator stated that there was no further update since the email sent by Merlin Ovington to members on 10th February 2021.

Members queried the costs circulated for remedying the dog park which they suggested were excessive and they were critical of the fact that the dog park was not widely used because of its condition although some dogs seemed to like it. Members questioned why the playground was not accessible for wheelchair users and suggested that the Council should have a policy to ensure that all community facilities in future developments were fully accessible.

Following discussion it was agreed to seek clarification on whether the dog park and the playground were built in accordance with the Part 8 plans.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had objected to the current proposals for ‘Block D’ at the harbour because they did not include outdoor space in front of the retail units. He also confirmed that the first boat being used for work on the Wind Farm proposals off the coast of Greystones was now operating out of Greystones harbour.

1. **Naming of public park at the harbour**

The members had been circulated with a list of the suggested names for the park prior to the meeting.

The District Administrator and the District Engineer both spoke about the requirement to choose names for developments that had a link to the history of the site and they suggested that this be borne in mind when choosing a name for the park. They also suggested that the members should decide on the name themselves as putting suggestions out to public consultation might be counter-productive.

Following further discussion the members agreed unanimously that the park be named ‘Darcy’s Field’. They suggested that this name would link the older parts of the town with this newer development.

1. **Report from Greystones Municipal District Engineer**

Members had been circulated with a report from the District Engineer which outlined works carried out and planned in the district. They were also circulated with a report on the submissions received in relation to the proposals for Killincarrig village.

The District Engineer went through the list of grants received and gave details of the works proposed in each case. He answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

Members welcomed the provision of funding to have studies carried out and were hopeful that actual works would proceed before too long.

It was agreed to defer consideration on the report on proposed Killincarrig village works until the March meeting.

**Suspension of Standing Orders / Update on Greystones harbour development**

**Secondary school places:**

The Cathaoirleach stated that although land was zoned for two schools in Greystones sixteen years ago, the Department of Education had completely failed the people of the area as many had no secondary school place for their children this September. He asked that a strongly worded letter be sent to the Department.

Members were supportive of writing to the Department of Education but felt that it might be a waste of time as school principals, local TDs and Councillors and Wicklow County Council had already been in contact with Department officials. They stated that the Department officials were already aware of the numbers of pupils in local national schools so should have been prepared and they suggested that the temporary interim measures proposed were not satisfactory. They were critical of the situation with the new primary school built but unoccupied in Charlesland and the fact that the sale of the land for the new secondary school had not been completed yet.

Members stated that current Government policy was to blame for the ‘crisis management’ situation now being faced. They suggested that the SHD process should be abolished as it led to a lot of unsustainable development and no services.

Following further discussion it was agreed to write to the Department of Education in this regard.

**SHD in Delgany:**

Councillor L. Scott stated that there was a lack of other infrastructure in the area as well as schools and that many people were disappointed at the report from An Bord Pleanala in relation to the recent SHD approval for the convent lands in Delgany. She stated that the shortage of public transport and cycle paths meant that residents in this new development would be car-dependent and she highlighted the lack of community facilities as well as playgrounds and youth services. She suggested that the members should meet with senior Wicklow County Council officials and carry out an audit of what was needed before any new SHD applications were considered.

Members agreed that many SHDs were approved by An Bord Pleanala although they were not recommended by the local authority and contravened the County Development Plan as national policy over-ruled everything else. They pointed out that there was a huge community submission against the Delgany SHD but had no effect.

Following further discussion the District Manager stated that he would advise the Chief Executive of the members’ concerns and that he would arrange for an audit of community facilities and requirements in the area to be carried out.

As time was running out, it was agreed to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.

1. **Update on Community facilities at Glenheron development**

The District Manager informed the members that the Chief Executive and Council officials would meet with representatives from Glenheron on 25th February and would raise the issue of the timeframe for provision of community facilities. He pointed out that there was no time limit included in the planning permissions already granted but that this would be addressed in all future developments.

1. **Notices of Motion**
2. Motion in the names of Councillors M. Crean & T. Fortune:

“That this Municipal District Council calls on the Government to allow a full, open and democratic debate and Dáil vote on CETA before it is ratified”.

Councillor M. Crean stated that she was not opposing CETA but just asking for more debate on it at national level as it will have a huge impact on communities. Members expressed support for the motion and following discussion it was agreed to forward the motion to all Oireachtas Committees and the party leaders.

1. Motion in the name of Councillor D. Mitchell:

“The Council should request TII to examine placing a wildlife bridge across the N11 in the Glen O' Downs as part of the current study on this road in order to encourage Biodiversity”

Following discussion the members agreed to request TII to examine the possibility of placing a wildlife bridge across the N11 in the Glen O‘Downs as part of the current study on this road.

1. Motion in the name of Councillor D. Mitchell:

“The Council should assist the Delgany community turn the wasteland area between Blackberry Lane and Priory Road into a park and also to use the Band Hall”.

The Cathaoirleach stated that this land was scrubland at present and possibly part of an extended flood plain. He stated that the Delgany Community Council wanted to create a park on it and to use the old band hall. He asked that Council Officials consider this request and give their views and options for the site.

The District Engineer stated that this would be a matter for the Council’s Corporate Estate section rather than for Greystones Municipal District. He pointed out that the land was zoned residential and so was a valuable site and he stated that there was a previous planning application for housing for the elderly on the site. He stated that he would not be averse to this proposal as it could link in with proposals for a green route but he suggested that it might be a bigger issue.

Following discussion it was agreed to follow up this matter with Wicklow County Council officials.

1. Motion in the name of Councillor D. Mitchell:

“Ask for a progress report on implementing the Greystones Public Realm Plan”.

The District Administrator informed the members that the Public Realm Plan was commissioned by Greystones 2020 and supported by Wicklow County Council. She stated that the plan was not a statutory plan but rather a vision for the town. She stated that implementation of the objectives of the plan was dependent on developments as no funding was provided for works. She pointed out that one objective of the plan was to remove parking from Church Road and that this was now being trialled as part of the Covid works there.

The District Engineer stated that the objectives of the plan were included in all works approved for funding and it was used as a guide for proposals that had already gone through a public consultation process.

1. **Correspondence**
2. The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of an email received from former Councillor Grainne McLoughlin stating that she was stepping down as Chairperson of Greystones 2020. She stated that she would circulate a copy of the email to members.

Members paid tribute to Grainne for the work she had done for the benefit of the district and they asked the District Administrator to write to Grainne to thank her and they spoke about the need for business and community representatives to get involved in any restructuring of the group.

1. **Any Other Business**
2. The District Administrator referred to the recent presentation on proposals for Council owned lands on Mill Road and she stated that only one member had provided feedback to the Council officials involved. She stated that the HSE were anxious to progress the acquisition of a site for a Primary Care Centre and she enquired if the members had any objections to the sale of the identified site to the HSE. In response to a query from the members she pointed out that the new primary care centre would provide community services whereas the current medical centre nearby was a private practice.

Members suggested that a timeframe for completion of the Primary Care Centre should be built in to the conditions of any sale so that the site was not left undeveloped. Members also sought details of what services were proposed to be provided in the new primary care centre.

The Cathaoirleach expressed the view that the Primary Care Centre should be sited on other Council owned land closer to the bottle top factory and he stated that he would inform the Council officials of his opinion.

1. The Cathaoirleach requested that the issue of dog fouling be placed on the agenda for the March meeting for discussion.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

 SIGNED:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_CATHAOIRLEACH

 CONFIRMED:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_DAY OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2021

aHanlon, District HHH

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