

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING
MONDAY 19th OCTOBER 2015 3 PM
TOWN HALL**

Present: Cathaoirleach Irene Winters, Councillors Daire Nolan, Shay Cullen, Pat Casey, John Snell (arrived 3.25 pm)

Apologies: Cllr. Pat Kavanagh

In attendance: District Manager Loraine Lynch, District Administrator David Porter, District Engineer Paul Byrne, Clerical Officer Caroline Lynch.

Cathaoirleach Irene Winters opened the meeting at 3.10 pm.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON 28th SEPTEMBER 2015**

Proposed by Cllr. Daire Nolan. Seconded by Cllr. Pat Casey.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report. He advised he had received 3 lists of queries on Friday. He will respond directly to Cllr. Kavanagh.

- Cllr. Daire Nolan's queries – Traffic Calming:
Paul Byrne advised that he will look at this. He will arrange a survey and costings. If possible these works will be carried out next year.
- Street Cleaning in Newtown especially Seasons Park:
Mr. Byrne advised he will arrange for this to be done.
- Cllr. Shay Cullen's queries – Street Light near the Scout Hall, South Quay, Wicklow:
Mr. Byrne advised this has been referred to Declan O'Brien who has contacted Airtricity. He envisages this will be fixed shortly.
- Stop Sign at Blackhill:
Mr. Byrne advised this will be done.
- Can a private road sign be placed at the entrance to Tom Delahunt's farm on the old road to Rathnew, near the Beehive. – drivers are mistaking this entrance for the Beehive exit and Mr. Delahunt has had people calling. Is this the responsibility of the Municipal District or the NRA.

Mr. Byrne advised that this is the land owners responsibility. However the Members remarked that the signage is covered under the N11 works. Mr. Byrne agreed to discuss the matter with Dermot Graham and to inform Cllr. Cullen.

Coastal Erosion at The Murrough:

Mr. Byrne advised the Members that funding of €135,000 has been approved from the OPW for the coastal erosion works. A letter was received last week. He will liaise with the Roads Section regarding the procurement of a contractor. The money must be drawn down by April 2016. It is hoped that contractor would start work by Christmas and would take approximately 6 to 8 weeks to complete. The Members asked if this is the tapered works previously agreed. Mr. Byrne confirmed this is the case and added there is also some repair works.

Cycle Path, The Murrough:

Mr. Byrne advised that he met on site with Senior Executive Engineer Transportation and Roads, Margaret Hartnett. She is in favour of the cycle path going through the fairground area. There are two options, one to go around this area and the other to go through it. The Members commented that the cycle path will be closed to facilitate the funfair in the summer months.

Mr. Byrne advised that the work will be undertaken by the direct labour crew and expects to finish the work before Christmas.

Update on public lighting projects:

Mr. Byrne advised Executive Engineer Transportation and Roads Declan O'Brien had obtained costs for the following projects – Belard Manor, Glenealy, Rathnew Cemetery, Ballinahinch, Ashford. He advised the costs of installing 6 lights at Coillte would cost €20,000 plus VAT. The cost of installing one infill light at Ballinahinch is €500. There are two options for Belard Manor, the first being the installation of one light at a cost of €4,500 plus VAT. Option two is for six lights at a cost of €13,600 plus VAT. There are also two options for Rathnew Cemetery, one light costing €2,500 plus VAT or three lights costing €5,000 plus VAT.

The Members asked if public lighting should have been installed in Belard Manor as part of the planning. The estate is taken in charge and the developer is no longer in business. Mr. Byrne advised there is no power at Belard Manor and they would need to cross the railway and bring it from the back of the estate.

The Members asked if Glendalough could be considered for public lighting. Mr. Byrne advised that special fixtures are required making it an expensive job. He estimated a cost of €30,000 for the stretch of road from Laragh to Glendalough. He feels there is no point going forward with this job this year. It was suggested by the Members to do it in sections.

The Members discussed carrying forward the discretionary fund of €25,000 allocated to public lighting to next year or proceeding with some of the projects outlined by Mr. Byrne. It was proposed to proceed with Belard Manor, Ballinahinch and Rathnew Cemetery and carry forward the balance to next year. The Members indicated that work should be carried out in Newtown and Glendalough in 2016. The Members were happy

to proceed with this. Mr. Byrne remarked it was contingent on ESB being ready to start the work.

The issue of hedge cutting was raised. In particular at the “Leg of Mutton”, Wicklow where a minor collision between a bus and oil tanker occurred recently. As the hedges had not been cut there was no space for both vehicles to pass. It was asked if the Council had pursued the land owner?

Mr. Byrne advised that the Council send an initial letter and then a subsequent warning letter. The Members asked about the possibility of including money in the budget to cut hedges. They expressed concern over this issue as it could lead to serious injury and fatalities. It was agreed to leave the matter with Mr. Byrne.

TOWN HALL

David Porter advised that he had spoken to the Chief Executive and he confirmed that one section from Wicklow County Council will move to the Town Hall. He did not have a timeframe for the move. The Members asked if Wicklow Municipal District will still use the Town Hall for its meetings. Mr. Porter advised it was unlikely. The Members want to ensure all historical items in the Town Hall are looked after appropriately. Mr. Porter advised that the Council’s archivist had already removed pictures and historic documents which are stored and documented in County Buildings. The Members asked if the outside of the building could be painted.

REPORT ON ASSEMBLY HALL

David Porter distributed a list of users of the hall. He advised that along with the regular users the hall is used for one off events like the Regatta, Taste of Christmas etc. He told the Members the Council receives a lot of enquires however not all proceed to hire the hall and often no feedback is received.

It was asked why more parties are not held there. It was compared to the soccer club hall in Rathnew which hosts parties. It was remarked these are not similar venues.

The Members had also requested a report on the Parochial Hall however as the Council has no involvement in this hall no report was available. Mr. Porter advised that Cllr. Kavanagh is on the committee and deals with the bookings.

It was agreed that the Assembly Hall is underutilised and suggested the Council promote the hall more by advertising on the Council website etc.

UPDATE ON WMD PROJECTS

David Porter advised the Members that the funding from the OPW for the coastal erosion works was very welcome.

He informed the Members that the playpark in Rathnew should be finished in two weeks and may even be open for the mid-term break. The playpark in Newtown is nearer completion however an issue has arisen in relation to a retaining wall which may delay the opening for a short time.

ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY FUND 2015 – ALLOCATION €6,000

Mr. Porter advised that Cllr. Cullen sits on the Environment SPC. They were recently advised of a sum of €60,000 to be divided between the Municipal Districts for projects like dog control, the provision of bins and removal of graffiti.

The Members discussed the provision of litter bins at bus stops. A survey was carried out by the Engineer. It was noted that it is not just the cost of providing the bins but also a cost for emptying them. It was remarked that the area around litter bins attracts dumping and on occasions where the bin has been removed, the dumping has ceased.

The Members raised the issue of dog fouling particularly on footpaths. It was stated that provision was made in the budget for two additional dog foul bins along the Port Access road. This is to be checked.

It was noted that the money must be spent before the end of December and it was suggested that the Members each decide what to spend the money on and email Mr. Porter or Mr. Byrne and to finalize the decision at the Budget Meeting.

AGREE DATE FOR MEETING TO DISCUSS DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN

Lorraine Lynch advised there is no change to this process. The plan must be sent to the Members seven days in advance. This meeting must be held before 13th November, before the full Council meeting. The Members agreed to hold this meeting on 3rd November at 3 pm in the Town Hall.

CORRESPONDENCE

David Porter advised the Members he had received the list of estates in relation to the reduction of speed limits in estates on Friday and it was too late to include on the agenda. He had distributed a copy prior to the meeting. He advised the Members they could formally approve it today or wait until the next meeting. It was proposed to agree the list of estates by Cllr. Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr. Pat Casey.

Mr. Porter advised that the OPW had responded to his letter regarding the residents cleaning up the graveyard at Glendalough. The OPW have provided contact details if the committee wish to organise a clean up. They should email permissions@opw.ie for approval.

Mr. Porter informed the Members that he had written to NTA, Bus Eireann and Wexford Bus in relation to the closure of bus stops at The Beehive, Ballinacor and Jack Whites.

A reply was received from the NTA which indicated they had no power to change Bus Eireann's decision.

The Members requested a civic reception for the under 14 St. Patrick's GAA team who won the Feile and most recently the All Ireland. It was remarked that An Tochar GAA club won division 3 and Newtown GAA won division 5. It was suggested a civic reception would be held for all three clubs. Mr. Porter agreed to look at this.

The Members congratulated all the Tidy Towns committees in the district on their results in this year's competition. It was noted Wicklow Tidy Towns received a bronze medal and increased 5 points. It was suggested a letter be forwarded to all committees in the district congratulating them.

Funding for Rathnew Forum was raised. Mr. Porter advised no amount had been agreed. The Members indicated that €4,000 should be paid to Rathnew Village Active Forum.

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The following votes of sympathy were recorded at the meeting:

- 10 members of the travelling community who died in the fire at Carrickmines, some of whom were from Bray.
- Garda Anthony Golden from Co. Louth.

The Members and those in attendance at the meeting stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the deceased and their families.

The meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.

SIGNED:

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

SIGNED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE:
