

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING
TUESDAY 1st MARCH 2016 3 PM
TOWN HALL**

Present: Cathaoirleach Irene Winters, Councillors Daire Nolan, Shay Cullen, John Snell.

In attendance: District Manager Loraine Lynch, District Administrator David Porter, District Engineer Paul Byrne, Clerical Officer Caroline Lynch, Pat Casey (Former Cllr now elected T.D.).

Cathaoirleach Irene Winters opened the meeting at 3 pm.

The Cathaoirleach and the Members congratulated Pat Casey on his election to the Dáil. All the Members expressed their best wishes to him for the future.

Mr. Casey acknowledged that he is no longer a councillor. He enjoyed the 12 years as a public representative. He acknowledged the close working relationship with the staff. He recognised the Members do not make real decisions and this has to be addressed. Local democracy does not exist as it should. He undertook to advocate for some form of town councils to be reinstated. He thanked the public representatives for their support and best wishes.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON 25th JANUARY 2016**

It was proposed by Cllr. Shay Cullen, seconded by Cllr. John Snell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District meeting held 25th January, 2016.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

As Mr. Byrne had no emails from the Members, he decided to combine items 2 and 3 on the agenda.

- The Murrough:
Mr. Byrne advised the Members of an email from Marc Devereaux Senior Engineer, who has overall responsibility for this project. The OPW has submitted some queries in relation to the application for funding. The material is currently being sourced. There is a lead in time to production of the large concrete units as they take time to manufacture. The Members suggested writing to Simon Harris in an effort to speed up approval for funding. They also suggested that the Chief Executive might also write to Minister Harris.

Lorraine Lynch advised the Members that the OPW are pro-active however they have to go through the procedure.

- **Church Banks:**
Mr. Byrne advised that most of the trees have been removed from the river. A letter has been sent to the rectory advising of possible further land/mudslides. The Parish Council have engaged a geotechnical company to advise them. Mr. Byrne also advised he had examined the lease and it appears to be the Parish Council's responsibility.
- **Swimming Pool/Gym:**
Mr. Byrne advised that the roof should be completed by Friday and the pool re-opened at the weekend. He is not currently aware of any problems which would impede the work. The work on the interior is being carried out simultaneously with the work on the roof. The pool is being warmed up.
- **Market Square, Wicklow:**
Mr. Byrne advised that the tenders for the removal of the cobblestones and replacing with tarmac have been submitted. He has spoken with the management of the Gaol and they would prefer this work to be carried out in early May. He confirmed the work will take approximately one week with some disruption. The cobbles will be wrapped and stored to be re-used in the future.
- **Discretionary Fund:**
Mr. Byrne reminded the Members to submit any proposals for this fund to him by the end of the month. They discussed the matter of public lighting. Mr. Byrne advised it is more cost effective to install all the lighting in one area at the same time.

GLOR NA CASCA 1916 COMMEMORATION – DECISION ON MONUMENT SITE

The Members discussed the matter and it was decided to place the boulder at Leitrim Place, Wicklow on the far side of the river. It was agreed to check if Wicklow Tidy Towns were in favour of this site.

REMEMBRANCE GARDEN UPDATE

Paul Byrne advised the Members a meeting was held with himself, David Porter, the architect and committee members. The next phase of the project should be commencing shortly.

The Members raised and discussed the following issues:

- Can the corner bollards in the Market Square be removed as they are constantly being hit and broken especially by buses taking the corners?

- The delays in repairing public lighting faults
It was explained this is a national tender and contact should be made with Airtricity.
- Ballyguile/Hill View estates, Wicklow.
The Members asked if anything can be done to assist the residents clean up the area. It was suggested that a pedestrian entrance/exit be put in. Mr. Porter advised that letters were issued to the tenants of Belmont, Mountainview and Oceanview after a meeting with the Environment and Housing Sections. Moira Byrne the Environmental Awareness Officer will assist the residents organising a clean-up. Mr. Porter asked Paul Byrne to look at the option of pedestrianisation. It was suggested the letters be forwarded to the residents of Hill View and Springfield in Newtownmountkennedy. The members would like to encourage residents groups to get involved and take responsibility for their areas.
- New development in Ashford – enforcement proceedings.
- Contracts awarded for Brittas and Glendalough car parks.

CORRESPONDENCE

David Porter advised of a letter from Wicklow Twinning Association appealing for funding. They cannot set out their plans until they know how much money is available.

Mr. Porter advised that Vartry Rowing Club submitted photographs of proposed locations for the storage of their 40ft container.

Mr. Porter advised he had written to Breege Rooney in the EPA regarding the smells from Ballynagran landfill but no reply had been received.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

The following votes of sympathy were recorded at the meeting:

- Peter Keogh, President of GAA in Wicklow
- Eamonn Maguire, Dunbur, Wicklow

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 date for the next meeting was agreed to be held on 29th March, 2016.

The meeting closed at 4.34 p.m.

SIGNED: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: _____