

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING
MONDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2015 3 PM
TOWN HALL**

Present: Councillors Daire Nolan, Shay Cullen, Pat Casey, John Snell

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

Leas-Cathaoirleach John Snell opened the meeting at 3.11 pm.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON 19th OCTOBER 2015**

Proposed by Cllr. Shay Cullen. Seconded by Cllr. Daire Nolan.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report. He advised he had received 2 emails from Cllrs. Casey and Nolan.

- Cllr. Daire Nolan's queries – Manhole cover at Mountainview Drive, Newtownmountkennedy:
Paul Byrne advised that there is a crew currently working in Newtownmountkennedy and they will look at this.
- Drains cleared in Seasons Park, Newtownmountkennedy:
Cllr. Nolan informed Mr. Byrne that the drains were not fully cleared. There is still a lot of debris. Mr. Byrne advised he will arrange for the crew currently working in Newtownmountkennedy to look at this. He cannot have this done on an ongoing basis.
- O'Neill Park, Newtownmounkennedy:
Mr. Byrne advised he will have the sweeper do this. The sweeper is in the area once a week.
- Estate sign for Bramble Glade and O'Neill Park:
Mr. Byrne advised the signs are ordered and will be installed before Christmas.
- Season Park & St. Joseph's resurfacing. Mr. Byrne said these works will be given consideration in 2016.

- Blocked gullies/shores at Springfield Heights, Newtownmountkennedy
Mr. Byrne advised that this could be a matter for Irish Water. He will arrange for the roadsweeper to clear the drains and if the smell remains he will refer it to Irish Water. It may take a few weeks for this work to be completed.
- Cllr. Pat Casey queried – drainage in Annamoe:
Mr. Byrne advised funding will be available next year, work may start as early as next spring.
- Hedge cutting at Marlton Road, Wicklow:
Cllr. Casey clarified that this road serves three estates and is perplexed why it is the residents association's responsibility to cut the trees. Mr. Byrne advised he receives many requests however the policy is not to cut private hedges. The trees/hedges should be maintained each year. If he hires a tree surgeon it may cost a minimum of €1,000. However, he agreed to look at the matter.
- Ballyronan Road:
Mr. Byrne advised a hedge cutting notice was issued. Cllr. Casey remarked there is rubbish left behind. Mr. Byrne advised he will follow up on this.
- An update was requested in respect of the application for Bus shelters.

The Members raised the issue of work on the cycle lane at Leitrim Place and through the railings on the walkway. They have received numerous enquiries and the issue was raised on social media. Some members were not aware of the decision which was made by the Town Council. They remarked that at 4 meters it is wider than the main road. Mr. Byrne advised that NTA approved the works and provided the funding. The 4 meters is to include the cycle lane, footpath and grass verge. It was agreed it may look better when fully completed. Mr. Byrne has been assured it will be finished by Christmas.

UPDATE ON THE MURROUGH

Mr. Byrne advised the Members that the money has been allocated. There is a meeting with the consultants tomorrow. There is a possibility of using direct labour for these works and Engineer Pat Clarke is getting detailed prices for materials etc. The work is proposed to start after Christmas, weather permitting. He warned the Members that the heavy machinery will tear up the area however it will be restored afterwards. Mr. Byrne confirmed that it is a continuation of the boulders for a length of 55 meters and will taper to a finish. The work must be completed by 30th April. He also advised a traffic management plan will be put in place. The Members suggested the works and disruption are advertised. David Porter advised that there is a notice informing the public of the proposed works. He also advised that the soil from the cycle track will be re-used. The Members asked if these works will cause the problem to move up the coast. Mr. Byrne has been advised it will alleviate the problem or delay it for a number of years. The Members asked if funding provided in the budget for coastal protection could be used towards the overall cost. Loraine Lynch agreed to look into this.

BRITTAS BAY AND GLENDALOUGH

David Porter advised that he had spoken to the Environment Section. The tender for 2016 has not been awarded yet. He has explained the Members position on the matter. The Environment Dept. indicated it is not viable to open the car parks all year round. The Members raised the point that Glendalough car park was opened at weekends on a trial basis some years ago and now it is open 7 days per week all year round. The Members suggested the car parks could be opened at the weekends on a phased or trial basis. They remarked there are no facts and figures to support the unwillingness to open at weekends. Loraine Lynch stated that Environment feel it won't make money for the operator. David Porter advised the budget may have to be increased to cover the costs of emptying the bins and keeping the beach clean etc. The Members advised that the operator of the Glendalough car park maintain the toilets and the food outlet maintain the bins. The Members asked if they could get figures in relation to the maintenance costs. They do not accept Environment's stance on the matter. Paul Byrne pointed out the various maintenance costs associated with the beach e.g. the toilets are not fit for purpose, the removal of rubbish. There is one employee on a permanent basis during the summer driving a quad bike to clean the beach. The grass verges are cut by the direct labour crew also. The lifeguard huts are in need of repair and Mr. Byrne has sought prices to repair these.

The Members commented that the general public are not aware of the work the Council does. Loraine Lynch advised that the Council are trying to deal with this and are issuing more press releases, using twitter, facebook and Countywise magazine. The Council are looking at the options for improving the PR service provided.

The Members agreed to keep this issue on the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

David Porter advised the Members he had received an email from Brendan Martin in relation to the 2016 Commemoration. A decision must be made on the location for the memorial garden. He advised the cost of a flagpole would be €260 plus an additional €255 to install it. A light would cost €60. The 7 trees are to be sourced locally. The proclamation would be more expensive. The Members asked if more than one memorial could be erected. Mr. Porter advised one memorial per district. The decision must be made before Christmas. Ms. Lynch advised the budget is €1,000. The Members suggested a site in Roundwood however they are very aware that Wicklow is the county town and the gaol should perhaps be incorporated. The Abbey Grounds was also mentioned however this is private property. Mr Byrne commented that the Council should be mindful of where the trees are planted.

Mr. Porter advised that a copy of the draft flood maps from the OPW have been advertised and emails were sent to Bridge Street Books and the Bridge Tavern pub notifying them if they wish to make submissions.

Mr. Porter informed the Members Wicklow Municipal District have sponsored a prize of free parking for a year in the traders big Christmas competition.

The civic reception for the juvenile GAA teams was discussed.

Lorraine Lynch advised the Members that the Housing Section are in discussion with Simon and HSE in regard to setting up a cold weather initiative. A number of buildings are being considered.

Ms. Lynch also advised that Director of Housing, Joe Lane will present details of a Part VIII prior to the next meeting.

The Members raised the issue of lack of information between the Members and the different sections. They asked if regular reports could be issued from Housing in particular.

The meeting closed at 4.14 p.m.

SIGNED: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: _____