

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING
MONDAY 25th MAY 2015 3PM
TOWN HALL**

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

In attendance: District Manager Loraine Lynch, District Administrator David Porter, District Engineer Paul Byrne, Deirdre Whitfield from Community Culture and Social Development, Clerical Officer Caroline Lynch.

Cathaoirleach Pat Casey opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON 27th APRIL 2015

Proposed by Cllr. John Snell. Seconded by Cllr. Irene Winters.

LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN

Deirdre Whitfield gave a presentation on the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). She advised that the LECP is part of the local government reform programme. It is a 6 year plan containing measures necessary to promote and support community and economic development in County Wicklow. The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has 17 members. The frame of the plan is very broad and generic and is made up of two elements – economic, which is prepared by the SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise and community which is prepared by Local Community Development Committee.

The next step is to have a public consultation with PPN, Municipal District, regional assemblies and key stakeholders.

Ms. Whitfield's hard work was noted by the Members. The Members agreed to hold a special meeting to discuss this plan. It was noted that 19th June is the closing date for submissions.

Ms. Whitfield left the meeting at 3.30 pm.

IRISH HORSE WELFARE TRUST UPDATE

Cathaoirleach Pat Casey updated the Members. He advised he had a meeting with the Chief Executive, Bryan Doyle and that Mr. Doyle is looking at a complete review of the

matter. Mr. Doyle will personally meet the residents affected. This was welcomed by the Members and it was agreed to hold off on the Section 139 until the files are reviewed.

ALLOCATION OF REMAINING DISCRETIONARY FUNDS €20,000

Cathaoirleach Pat Casey proposed adding another €10,000 toward footpaths, €5,000 towards promotion of twinning and economic development and €5,000 towards a community discretionary fund.

The Members discussed this. It was suggested that the overall discretionary fund figures be re-assessed with consultation with the engineer and officials. The Cathaoirleach explained that the discretionary fund is a provisional figure, an additional contribution to the planned works. It was remarked that the decision on the discretionary fund was made without proper consultation.

The Cathaoirleach asked if everyone was in agreement or if they wanted to take a vote.

It was suggested to wait until the engineer came back with more details on the footpaths. It was said that the engineer has a list of footpath repairs and the proposed €10,000 is an additional sum.

The Members took a vote on the allocation of the remaining discretionary fund of €20,000.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Daire Nolan	Pat Kavanagh		
Shay Cullen	John Snell		
Irene Winters			
Pat Casey			
TOTAL 4	TOTAL 2		

Cathaoirleach Pat Casey left the meeting at 15.58 and Cllr. Irene Winters took over the meeting as Chair.

COASTAL EROSION

David Porter advised that the submission has been sent to the OPW. Marc Devereaux is the engineer dealing with this.

The Members asked if The Council could obtain EU funding – Mr. Porter advised that EU funding is not currently available for this type of project.

The members requested that WMD write to Minister Simon Harris – Mr. Porter advised he had already emailed Minister Harris but would write to him also.

Mr. Porter advised that the revetment is part of the required works. He further advised that a cost benefit analysis was required as part of the application. The members asked if Iarnrod Eireann would contribute however Mr. Porter advised that they monitor the railway line on a regular basis and see no need to get involved at this time.

TAKING IN CHARGE OF ESTATES

David Porter distributed a spreadsheet listing estates and their status. He advised that the Planning Department have a team which deal with taking in charge and they assess the works to be carried out in each estate. The members raised 3 queries in relation to Greenhill Close, Bosun's Rest and a name on the report. All 3 queries are to be passed on to planning dept. for a response.

CLIFF WALK

Lorraine Lynch advised that they are still in discussions with the golf club with regard to access and possible solutions. The Cathaoirleach has agreed to meet with the golf club. Pat Mellon has been asked to look at the walk and advise on funding. Paul Byrne is to look at the option of the steps. She concluded by saying all options needed to be costed and the environmental impact of any proposed works need to be taken into account. The Members advised that the former Mayor had met with the golf club three years ago and Pat Mellon had also visited. Friends of the Murrough are happy to hand over the reports they had prepared.

TOWN HALL

David Porter advised that Joe Lane is reviewing all council property. There is no update until Mr. Lane carries out his review.

The Members asked if there was a timescale attached to the expressions of interest. It was suggested a decision had been made. Mr. Porter reiterated that no decision had been made. The Members remarked on the appearance of the building and asked if it could be painted. Mr. Porter advised that the flower boxes will be installed between the first and second week of June.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report.

- Emptying bins at Brittas Bay:
Paul Byrne advised that the staff are now full time. He confirmed this will not happen again.
- Toilet facilities at Black Castle:
Mr. Byrne advised this is cost prohibitive. It costs €33,000 to operate the toilet in the Town and the income is very low. This is not economically viable.

- Litter Bins at Bus Stops:
Mr. Byrne advised Alan Martin, Assistant Engineer had surveyed the bus route. 17 bins would be required at a cost of approximately €400 per bin that would total €6,800. There are also the costs associated with emptying the bins even on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. The Members suggested the budget is looked at to carry this out and they requested that bin provision is included as an item on the agenda.
- Annamoe Picnic Area:
Mr. Byrne advised that the provision of toilet facilities at this location is not economically viable. The Members suggested the Council purchase outright a unit. Mr. Byrne agreed to look at this option.
- Footpaths at Gaelscoil:
Mr. Byrne advised this is on the list for footpath repairs.
- Roundabout – GAA Pitch Ashford:
Mr. Byrne advised that this would cost €75,000 and there is also the issue of water mains and utilities.
- Tree to be trimmed on slip road – Garden Village:
Mr. Byrne advised the contractor on the N11 needs permission to trim this tree. He recommended Dermot Graham is the engineer in the Roads Section to refer this to.

The following issues were raised by the Members:

- Lack of toilet facilities at the Black Castle, Wicklow Town – a petition of 150 signatures was handed to Paul Byrne. The Members requested a copy of the current contract. It was remarked that the 20 year contract does not expire until 2023.
- Mr. Byrne and his staff were thanked for the road markings at Merrymeeting. A railing to direct pedestrians similar to the one in Ashford was requested.
- Tus workers not allowed to work in the Glenealy graveyard.
- Vacant shops – beyond remit of the District Engineer – asked it is put on for discussion.
- Glendalough cemetery - write to OPW to regarding clean up.
- Is funding available to tarmac roads in housing estates? In particular St. Joseph's Road in Newtownmountkennedy.
- The members noted that the container on Castle Street had been moved.
- Can the bin and 4 signs at the arches at the Black Castle be moved as they are detracting from visitors taking photos.
- Street cleaning at weekends – the members were unaware this had stopped. Paul Byrne advised that from a cost saving point of view the overtime at weekends was cut in the winter months. The Members asked for the street cleaning to be reinstated for the summer months.

- Rumble strips – Cunninghams Corner Mr. Byrne advised he will look at this in consultation with the Roads Section.
- Post Office in Newtown – gouge in the road
- Bus shelters in Garden Village.
- Safety Audit for Ballinalea – requested copy.

CORRESPONDENCE

David Porter advised of correspondence from Friends of the Murrough in relation to the Cliff Walk.

AOB

The Enduro biking event was remarked upon as being a great success and being of huge economic benefit to the area. It was suggested that a letter is sent from the Municipal District to the organising committee congratulating them on a fantastic event.

Bus Shelters – no update received from National Transport Authority.

Cyclists on rural roads are causing traffic to back up behind them particularly at weekends and motorists are taking risks. It was suggested that the Council put through a motion to make cycling bodies advise their members to take more care and respect motorists. It was suggested the Council write to the RSA.

Parking Data – David Porter advised he will have an update for the next meeting.

Road closure costs for St. Patrick's Day Parade – Mr. Porter advised that the only costs are the costs of placing the adverts in the newspaper.

Brittas Bay car park – keep on agenda.

Corpus Christi procession – work is undertaken in preparing this. The Local Rathnew Forum has been painting and decorating the area. The blessing of the graves is not just for Rathnew but the wider community.

Norton International Vintage Rally – this is due in Wicklow Town. The motorcyclists will be camping at the rugby club. They will parade through the town on Saturday morning at 11am.

Votes of Sympathy were passed for the following and a minutes silence was observed:

Eileen Dolan
Liam Cullen
Marie O'Shaughnessy

Cllr. Shay Cullen left the meeting at 17.18.

David Porter left the meeting at 17.23.

The Members raised the following matters:

GAA Feile – There are five clubs from the municipal district taking part in this competition between 26th and 28th June. It will promote Wicklow and the Members wish to make a financial contribution from the discretionary fund. It was agreed to discuss this further at the special meeting.

The meeting closed at 17.27.

SIGNED:

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

SIGNED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE:
