

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2016 AT 6.30 P.M.

Present: Councillor J. Whitmore, Cathaoirleach
Councillors T. Fortune, N. Lawless, G. McLoughlin, D. Mitchell & G. Walsh

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager
Mr. R. O'Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer
Ms. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District Administrator
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

A vote of sympathy was passed to the family of the late Thomas James (T. J.) Hayden from Newcastle who died recently and a minutes silence was observed in remembrance of him.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor G. McLoughlin, seconded by Councillor G. Walsh and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 29th November 2016, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. PROGRESS REPORT ON GREYSTONES HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. S. Quirke, Director of Services, Wicklow County Council to the meeting. Mr. Quirke gave an update on the harbour development project and answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

It was agreed that the fishermen's representative would be advised that the moorings will cost in the region of €1,800 per annum and that the huts will cost in the region of €750 per annum for the large ones and €575 per annum for the small ones. There was a suggestion that these costs might make commercial fishing out of Greystones harbour unfeasible and that there would be additional issues with parking, 24 hour access and landing space as well as power and water supplies at the landing area.

Mr. S. Quirke informed the members that erosion at the north beach was monitored annually and that it would be inspected again in the spring. The members agreed that some artwork was needed on the wall at the harbour in addition to planters.

Following discussion it was agreed that Mr. S. Quirke would contact the fishermen's representative to enquire if the moorings and huts would be viable before any further action was taken in relation to them. It was also agreed that the monthly reports on the harbour development should be more comprehensive.

3. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER

A report outlining works carried out in the district was circulated to the members and the District Engineer answered queries from the members in relation to same.

All the members commended the District Engineer on his report and on the works carried out and following discussion it was agreed that the Engineer would consider options for improving the landscaping at the railway bank on La Touche Road.

4. NOTICES OF MOTION:

(a) Motion in the name of Councillors J. Whitmore:

“That Greystones Municipal District writes to Iarnrod Eireann and asks that Greystones train station be manned fully in order to enable access to the train to people with disabilities”.

Members stated that it was unacceptable that people who needed assistance with access to trains from Greystones station had to give twenty four hours notice. They referred to one incident where the required notice was given and there was no-one available to assist on the day. Members were also critical of the fact that children’s tickets could not be purchased from the ticket machines in the station and that the machines did not accept €50 notes. They suggested that the service to Greystones on Saturdays was very poor and they stated that the station should be manned full time. It was agreed to write to Irish Rail to highlight these issues.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator referred to a recent request by the members to meet with the Chief Executive in relation to the provision of a hotel in Greystones and she stated that Mr. Bryan Doyle had arranged to meet the members in his office in County Buildings at 1.30 p.m. on Monday 9th January 2017 prior to the County Council meeting if that date and time was suitable. This was agreed.
2. The District Administrator informed the members that the Protocol Committee of Wicklow County Council had requested that each Municipal District would contribute €10,000 towards the fund-raising efforts for the Wicklow Hospice. She pointed out that this was separate from the fund-raising event to be organised by the elected members in March or April 2017. Following discussion it was agreed that the Greystones MD would contribute €10,000 from their 2017 discretionary budget for the hospice.
3. The District Administrator updated the members in relation to the works being carried out by the Council’s Housing Section at Blackberry Lane in Delgany.
4. The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of a letter received from Margny-les-Compiègne in France seeking a twinning partnership with a town or village in County Wicklow. It was unanimously agreed that no further twinning partnerships should be entered into at this point in time.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Members asked that they be circulated with weekly planning lists as happened in the past.
2. Members congratulated Councillor Mc Loughlin’s son, Cathal O’Sullivan, on winning a County Wicklow Young Entrepreneur Award.

3. Framed certificates were presented by the Cathaoirleach to Mr. John Ferns and Mr. Anthony Byrne to mark their recent retirements from the Irish Coast Guard and the Greystones Fire Service respectively.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2017.