

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.30 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
Mr. E. Forristal, Executive Engineer, Greystones Municipal District
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

At the outset, Councillor T. Fortune requested a suspension of standing orders in order to discuss alleged recent leeching from the old dump site at the harbour. It was agreed to discuss this matter in conjunction with the report on Greystones harbour development.

Votes of sympathy were passed to the families of the late Jimmy O' Toole and Farrell Conroy who died recently and a minutes silence was observed in remembrance of them.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor G. McLoughlin, seconded by Councillor N. Lawless and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 27th September 2016, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. UPDATE ON HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Cathaoirleach welcomed, Mr. Joe Lane, Director of Services, Ms. Breege Kilkenny, Senior Engineer and Ms. Shelly Barrett, Architect from Wicklow County Council to the meeting. They circulated copies of plans for two one-bed apartments at Druids Brook, Kilcoole and for two one-bed houses between Ard na Mara and Beech Court Avenue in Kilcoole. They answered any queries from the members in relation to same and assured them that public consultation was taking place.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the housing officials for attending the meeting.

3. PROGRESS REPORT ON GREYSTONES HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

Members were circulated with a report outlining progress on the Greystones harbour development. They welcomed the news that renewed discussions were taking place with the Coast Guard. Members were critical of the lack of information in the report and after some discussion they requested a more comprehensive report going forward to include the following items which should be updated on a monthly basis: Guidelines for letting of fishermen's huts and moorings; Plans for artwork on Buildings; Timeframe for development phases and construction of boardwalk; Updates on environmental impact of erosion at north beach and Progress with new Coast Guard Station. In addition the members requested a meeting with Mr. Sean Quirke to discuss issues, and that a meeting of the Harbour Liaison Committee be arranged to include the new representatives previously agreed.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillor T. Fortune expressed concerns in relation to alleged leaching from the old dump at the north beach at Greystones harbour and advised that recent works were carried out on site as a result of the leaching. Members requested that they receive a full report on the matter by Monday 31st October, 2016 to include details of the alleged incident, implications of same and what, if any, works were carried out to address the issue.

4. 2016 SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS FUNDING AND CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN FOR 2017

A copy of the 2017 Draft Budgetary Plan for the Greystones Municipal District had been circulated to the members with the agenda, together with a table showing the overall General Municipal Allocation across the five Municipal Districts and a letter from the Chief Executive outlining the procedures. Following discussion the members agreed the allocations.

The members were also circulated with an update on amounts spent to date from the 2016 discretionary budgets together with various suggestions on how the remaining sum of circa €47,000 could be spent.

In relation to the provision of toilet facilities at the harbour, it was agreed following discussion that a sum of €5,000 be allocated to prepare a brief to invite expressions of interest from developers for the existing toilet block there and that this brief be available for the November meeting.

It was further agreed that the remainder of the monies be allocated as follows: €15,000 for provision of bollards at Blacklion; €18,000 for footpath repairs on Lott Lane, Kilcoole; €5,000 for the replacement of trees on Bellevue Road; €2,000 for a Christmas Market at the harbour and €2,000 for a 'Battle of the Bands' competition to be organised by Greystones2020.

There was some discussion on the Greystones2020 organisation as some members were not familiar with it. Councillor G. McLoughlin pointed out that Greystones2020 was non-political and was set up following on from the Greystones Strategy meetings when a group of local business people and organisations got together in the absence of a local Chamber of Commerce. She stated that the group had planned on launching later in the year but had now agreed to undertake to organise the Christmas Lights in the town this year, in conjunction with the Community Affairs Committee of the Greystones Municipal District, as no other group was prepared to facilitate that.

5. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER

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

6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN GREYSTONES

Councillor G. McLoughlin informed the members that the Christmas Lights would be switched on in the town on Saturday 26th November at 4.00 p.m. She pointed out that Bridgedale had agreed to sponsor new lights this year and that local businesses were being asked to fund the cost of having them erected. She thanked Elaine Willis for collecting the money for the lights, and everyone involved in the process, and she pointed out that Paul Byrne from the Greystones Guide would act as Master of Ceremonies on the day. She stressed the need for stewards and she asked that anyone willing to help on the day would get in contact with the committee.

7. UPDATE ON REVIEW OF PARKING BYE LAWS

The District Administrator informed the members that a presentation on the countywide review of parking bye-laws in Wicklow would be made at the County Council meeting scheduled for 7th November 2016. She pointed out that it was intended to have one set of bye laws for the county with individual schedules for each of the municipal districts. She stated that members would have a two week period to consider the revised draft bye laws before they went on public display from 28th November 2016 until the 10th January 2017 following which submissions would be considered and brought back to the Municipal District meetings in February 2017 and to the full County Council in March 2017.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION:

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor J. Whitmore (deferred from September meeting):

“That the Council review Church Lane, Greystones to ensure both pedestrian and driver safety, including the condition of the ramps and potholes, ensuring that hedgerows at the top are cut back to allow access to the path, the possibility of putting double yellow lines the length of the lane (one side only), and installing a yellow-box at the entrance to the R761”.

The District Engineer informed the members that the limited funding available for such works should be used for other regional roads rather than for this secondary road. He pointed out that this whole road needed an overall strategy and that it would be very costly to do. He stated that he was in discussion with the Tidy Towns Committee about improving the junction with the R761 and that he hoped to do some improvement works at the junction with Church Road.

(b) Motion in the names of Councillors G. McLoughlin & D. Mitchell (deferred from September meeting):

“That Wicklow County Council places a bin beside the bus stop in front of the Farrankelly estate on Mill Road”.

The District Engineer informed the members that he would look at the possibility of placing a bin at this location.

(c) Motion in the names of Councillors G. McLoughlin & D. Mitchell (deferred from September meeting):

“That Wicklow County Council either remove or gets the Charlesland Management Company to remove the waste that is dumped into the river (fridge, sofa etc) between Burnaby Lawns and Charlesland Wood”.

The District Engineer informed the members that he would ask the Litter Warden to check this waste for evidence of ownership before having it removed.

(d) Motion in the names of Councillors D. Mitchell & G. McLoughlin (deferred from September meeting):

“When will the road surface at Blacklion be improved and is some issue of surface water drainage holding repairs up”.

The District Engineer stated that there was no issue with surface water at this location but that Irish Water may be looking at alternative routes for sewerage. He stated that improvement works were delayed because of the Harbour to Lidl NTA Scheme which was put on hold and that he would talk to the Senior Engineer about progressing this.

(e) Motion in the names of Councillors D. Mitchell & G. McLoughlin (deferred from September meeting):

“The road markings on the pedestrian crossing on Church Road in the town centre need repainting”.

The District Engineer stated that the current budget for road markings was almost spent but that he would look at the possibility of having this ramp marked out.

(f) Motion in the names of Councillors G. McLoughlin & D. Mitchell (deferred from September meeting):

“That Wicklow County Council implements, as a matter of urgency, plans for Delgany that include a reduction of the speed limit, upgrade of the roads and footpaths and appropriate signage for the village”.

Members discussed the need to have improvement works carried out in Delgany but were not all in favour of the one way system that the NTA had proposed. Following discussion they asked that the Council improve the road markings, cut back hedging and remove the unused bin while awaiting progress on the NTA scheme.

(g) Motion in the name of Councillor J. Whitmore:

“That measures be considered to address speeding and road safety on the new Blacklion road, particularly on the approach to the 3 schools in Blacklion. These measures should include speeds signs”.

The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of a report from Wicklow County Council which stated that there was no recorded evidence, nor any correspondence from the Gardai, in relation to speeding on this road and that the road would not become a public road until such time as the taking in charge process was completed.

Following discussion the District Engineer agreed to carry out speed counter checks and to look at the possibility of providing signage on the public road at this location, as well as providing bollards on the lower section to prevent parking.

(h) Motion in the name of Councillor J. Whitmore:

“That the Council examine the causes for the bad smell in the commercial premises at the south end of the town (particularly when tides are high) and offer possible solutions to this”.

The District Engineer informed the members that if this was a sewerage issue on private properties then it should be reported to Irish Water by the individuals involved. The District Administrator agreed to email Irish Water also.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator informed the members that a sum of €8,000, to be spent before the end of the year, was available from the Housing Section for grant aid for local authority residents associations in the district. She stated that the Housing Section would advertise to invite applications for same in the near future.

Following discussion and on the recommendation of the District Engineer, it was agreed to ask the Housing Section if this money was going to be available every year and if so, if it would be possible for the Municipal District to use it for grass cutting in housing estates going forward.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____ DATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2016.
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR