

MINUTES OF MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 26TH JULY 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
Mr. E. Forristal, Executive Engineer, Greystones Municipal District
Ms. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District Administrator
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

At the outset, the District Engineer introduced Mr. Eoghan Forristal, Executive Engineer, to the members. Mr. Forristal had taken up duty in Greystones MD at the start of the week.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor J. Whitmore, stated that she was proud to be elected in that role for the coming year and she thanked her fellow Councillors for electing her. She thanked her husband and family, the Council officials, and the people of the District, for their support and she looked forward to everyone working together for the benefit of all. She spoke about the gap between income from Local Property Tax paid in the District, and the amount of funding allocated to it, and she outlined plans to lobby for development of the IDA land which she said was very well serviced. She spoke about the need to communicate better with the people and suggested holding some of the MD meetings in other areas of the District. She also expressed a wish to engage more with young people through traditional and social media and suggested that a lot could be achieved if everyone worked together. She concluded by mentioning some of the projects that she would like to see completed including an inclusive playground and a wheelchair buggy to allow access for all to the beach.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- (a) It was proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor N. Lawless and agreed that the minutes of the annual meeting held on 28th June 2016, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.
- (b) It was proposed by Councillor D. Mitchell, seconded by Councillor G. McLoughlin and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 28th June 2016, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. Progress Report on Greystones Harbour Development

All members had been circulated with a report from Mr. Sean Quirke, Wicklow County Council, outlining progress on the harbour development.

Following discussion it was agreed to hold a special meeting, in committee, on Wednesday 7th or Tuesday 6th September 2016 to discuss the allocation of moorings and fishermen's huts and to invite Mr. Sean Quirke and the Council's Law Agent to attend, together with a representative from BIM. Members requested that they be provided with the following information in advance of that meeting:

- Guidelines for allocation and pricing of moorings and fishermen's huts and clarification on whether any income from these would be retained by Greystones MD or go to the County Council.
- Clarity on the queries raised by the fishermen's representative.
- Legal issues in relation to entitlement to fishermen's huts and possible compensation claims from those who previously held leases.
- List of previous holders of moorings and fishermen's huts and details of any communications between the Council and the leaseholders prior to the removal of same to facilitate the harbour development.

In addition the members stressed the need to have toilet facilities at the harbour and they asked for a pricing for relocating the APC from the La Touche Road car park to the harbour and for the demolition of the existing unused toilet block there. Some members expressed concern that the minimum parking charge at the harbour was €1 and not 20c as in other areas of the town. In conclusion, members spoke about the finish on the residential units and they suggested that an architectural assessment should be included as part of the Part 8 process for the next phase of residential development.

3. Allocation of Discretionary Funding – Greystones SMDW 2016

It was agreed to defer a decision on providing funding for banners for outside the railway station until the September meeting when Councillor McLoughlin would provide two additional quotes for same.

The District Administrator advised the members that the cost of providing twelve 'dog-fouling' signs similar to those displayed in Donegal would be €1,000. The District Engineer pointed out that the Environment Section of Wicklow County Council had provided stickers regarding dog fouling to be placed on bins in the district, together with some permanent signage, and following discussion it was agreed to hold off on purchasing additional signage for the present.

4. Report from Greystones Municipal District Engineer

A report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members outlining progress with NTA and other projects in the district. The District Engineer answered any questions from the members in relation to same.

Following discussion it was agreed to refer the following matters to Wicklow County Council for attention:

- Relocation of APC from La Touche Road car park to harbour
- Removal of broken signs from central median on Main Road in Newcastle village
- Provision of 'dog fouling' signs at Kilcoole beach
- Road markings on Sea Road, Kilcoole
- Repair of ramps at Kilcoole NS, Crow Abbey, Church Lane Greystones and elsewhere in the district
- Completion of fencing at Beechwood Park and Beachdale/Meadowbrook, Kilcoole
- Tree surveying/maintenance
- Maintenance of roundabouts – perhaps draw up guidelines so sponsorship can be sought.

In reply to a query from the members, the District Engineer outlined the details and requirements of the Local Improvement and the Community Involvement Schemes for having works carried out to local roads.

The District Engineer also made a slide presentation to the members that gave a real time explanation of how the traffic light system at the Donnybrook Fair/Tesco/R761 junction operated, and demonstrated how the lights changed. He pointed out that this was a very busy road at all times during the day with only a slight increase in traffic volumes at peak times in the mornings and evenings. He stated that the current light sequencing meant that traffic only had to stop at one set of lights and that the maximum waiting time should be no more than two minutes at any time. He stated that this was the best option for benefitting drivers, pedestrians and cyclists and he stated that the situation would be monitored.

5. Arrangements for Christmas Lights

The District Administrator circulated a copy of a letter that had issued to local businesses from the Community Affairs Committee. This letter informed traders that the two business women who had worked on their behalf for the past two years were unable to organise the Christmas lights in the town this year. The letter warned that if other business people did not become involved there would not be any festive street lighting in Greystones at Christmas.

Councillors Lawless and McLoughlin stated that only one business had responded to the letter so far but that business person was not in a position to organise the lights.

Following discussion it was agreed that members would talk to any business contacts they had to try to get people to come on board.

The District Administrator stated that if necessary, the Council's allocation for lights could be used to put up a Christmas tree in the town and to organise a visit by Santa Clause, etc.

6. Notices of Motion:

(a) Motion in the names of Councillors D. Mitchell & G. McLoughlin:

“What progress has been made on designing the Delgany to Blacklion Road and to request that the Council puts it forward for funding for the Infrastructure Grants for housing?”

The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of a report received from Wicklow County Council in relation to this motion. The report stated that this proposed road, the design of which was currently at tender preparation stage, would be included in the Council’s assessment of a number of potential projects to submit for funding under the Local Infrastructure Fund scheme.

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

“The Council should change the present 80 kph limit signs in the Templecarrick area for the new rural road signs which have no specific limit on them”.

The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of a report received from Wicklow County Council in relation to this motion. The report stated that a review of speed limit signage would be undertaken in conjunction with a speed limit review and if this, or any other road meets the criteria for the rural speed limit sign, it is proposed to seek funding and make changes to those signs in 2017 once the new speed limit bye laws are adopted by the members of Wicklow County Council.

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

“The Council should remove the earth bank from beside the south bound bus stop (no 4215) between Redford and Rathdown Parks to make it safer for large numbers of schoolchildren”.

The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of a report received from Wicklow County Council in relation to this motion. The report stated that Dublin Bus had applied to the NTA for funding to enlarge this and other bus stops.

As time was running out, it was agreed to extend the meeting until 9.45 p.m.

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

“That Wickow County Council gets the owners of the lands that is a right of way, as signposted by WCC, open from the Farrankelly Road to Drummin Lane, to allow access for walkers at all times, and to remove any barriers or locked gates immediately”.

The District Administrator informed the members that the Planning Section of Wicklow County Council were investigating this matter to determine if the works carried out needed planning permission, and to establish ownership of the lands.

(e) Motion in the names of Councillors G. McLoughlin & D. Mitchell:
“That Wicklow County Council reinstates the road markings at the roundabouts at the Delgany R762/N11 junction. They are practically nonexistent at present and as a result have become dangerous junctions”.

The District Administrator informed the members that the contractors for the N11 were currently awaiting results of skid resistance surveys and were planning to undertake road markings at this location in the coming months.

7. Correspondence

- i) The District Administrator informed the members that the Council would this week be issuing a Notice of Intention to include the La Touche Hotel on the register of Derelict Sites. She pointed out that this notice would give the owners an opportunity to make a submission and/or representations.

Following discussion, it was agreed to request an update on this matter for the September meeting.

- ii) The District Administrator informed the members that a request had been received from Margny in France seeking a twinning arrangement and it was agreed to consider this matter at the September meeting.
- iii) The District Administrator informed the members that she had received correspondence from Mr. Ger Kennedy stating that the open sea swim from Holyhead to Dublin which was planned for this summer, was now not taking place until 2017. She reminded the members that this event had been allocated €500 from the Greystones MD 2016 budget which would not now be required this year.
- iv) The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of a letter received from a resident of Rathdown Park complaining about the lack of maintenance of the St. Crispin’s Cell site.

The District Engineer stated that various works had been carried out by local residents at this site in the past that were detrimental to the heritage of the site and not in keeping with Wildlife legislation.

It was suggested that the Council should liaise with the local residents to advise on what works could be carried out at the site.

8. Any Other Business

1. The District Administrator advised the members that a number of complaints had been received in relation to camper vans parking in the La Touche Road car park. She stated that the barrier at this car park was left open to allow access to Irish Rail staff. She pointed out that the vans were legally parked and paid for their parking and that there was no evidence of litter being left by them. She stated that if the car park was locked, the vans would be legally entitled to park on the road.

Some members had received complaints about toilets being emptied into surface water drains and about washing being hung on private hedges to dry.

The District Administrator stated that the banning of overnight parking by camper vans could be considered in conjunction with the imminent review of the parking regulations, but that this would be hard to enforce, especially at weekends.

Following discussion the members suggested that a suitable site, with proper facilities, should be identified for camper vans to encourage tourists into the town and that in the meantime, the barrier on the La Touche Road car park should be locked.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS _____ **DAY OF** _____ **2016.**