

Minutes of Greystones Municipal District Meeting held in Civic Offices, Greystones on Tuesday 27th January 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Also Present: Mr. J. Lane, Greystones District Manager
Ms. M. Porter, Meetings Administrator
Mr. R. O'Hanlon, Greystones District Engineer
Ms. K. Coughlan, Meetings Secretary

At the outset the members passed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Frank Doyle, Hillside Road, Greystones who died recently. A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of him.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor G. McLoughlin, seconded by Councillor J. Whitmore and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 9th December 2014, as circulated, be adopted and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. Mr. Declan Marnane, Wicklow County Council re Speed Limits in Housing Estates

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Declan Marnane from Wicklow County Council to the meeting to discuss speed limits in housing estates.

Mr. Marnane informed the members about a pilot scheme for special speed limits in housing estates that had been outlined in an email sent to them in December 2014. He answered queries from the members in relation to the scheme.

Following discussion it was agreed that the following six housing estates in the Greystones Municipal District be included in the scheme: Seacourt/Seamount Drive in Newcastle; Bramble Corner in Kilcoole; Farrankelly Close in Delgany; Charlesland Spine Road, Carrig Villas/Castlefield Terrace and Rathdown Park in Greystones.

3. Progress report on Greystones Harbour Development

Ms. M. Porter circulated and read a progress report on the Greystones harbour development.

Following discussion it was agreed that the members would meet with Mr. S. Quirke in Wicklow County Council on Monday 2nd February 2015 at 12 noon to discuss the provision of seasonal moorings. It was also agreed to request that two seats be placed on the pier together with a sign warning of its sloping surface. Members enquired about old bollards and granite wall capping that were placed in storage from the old harbour and were to be incorporated into the new development and they asked for a programme and details of the plans for clubhouses together with an update on the programme given to the members at their special meeting in September 2014.

4. St. Patrick's Day Parade

Councillor G. McLoughlin informed the members that it was planned to go ahead with the organisation of a St. Patrick's Day Parade in Greystones on 17th March and she asked for all the members' support.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Municipal District members would commit to providing funding for the parade and it was pointed out that help was needed with the organisation of the parade and especially with stewarding on the day.

Members enquired about People of the Year Awards and it was agreed that this matter could be discussed at the February meeting.

5. Report from Greystones District Engineer

Mr. R. O'Hanlon gave a progress report on NTA and Department of Transport projects as well as other works and he answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

During discussion on this matter, the District Manager informed the members that it was hoped to have the Municipal District Schedule of Works for discussion at the February meeting (following the allocation of government grants) at which time it would be appropriate to consider how discretionary funding in the MD budget should be spent.

6. Notices of Motion:

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

“That Greystones Municipal District allocates the following funds from the budget available to the following: Greystones Tidy Towns €5,500; Kilcoole Tidy Town €2,500 and Newcastle Tidy Towns €2,000”.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed that €5,500 be allocated to Greystones Tidy Towns; €2,500 to Kilcoole Tidy Towns; €2,000 to Newcastle Tidy Towns and €2,000 to Delgany Tidy Towns. It was also agreed that allocations to other groups would be decided at the February meeting.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor G. Walsh:

“That this Council examine the need for the introduction of traffic calming measures at Crowe Abbey, Greystones. There appears to be increasing evidence that this particularly narrow local access road is being used as a rat run by motorists intent on avoiding 'ramps' on the lower R762 road. Also, the bank at the eastern edge of this road has subsided significantly, at certain points, adding to the potential danger at this location and requires urgent attention”.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed that the District Engineer would examine the area to see if there was any cost effective way of resolving issues here.

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

“That a report be provided outlining the annual/monthly income derived from paid parking in Greystones, including the provision in tabular format the average weekly income broken down on an hourly basis; and that this report form the basis of discussions by the members of a revised paid parking scheme in Greystones”.

Ms. M. Porter circulated and read a report on this matter and outlined the implications of changing the operation time for the parking regulations.

During discussion on this motion it was pointed out that a county wide review of parking bye laws was being undertaken at present and that the Greystones MD Bye Laws would have to feed in to the Wicklow County Council regulations. The members were advised that any amendments to the Greystones Parking Regulations should be deferred until after that. It was also pointed out that any shortfall in the parking income, if it was decided to reduce same, would have to be made up out of the MD budget.

The members enquired if it was possible to introduce a mobile app to allow people to park by text and it was agreed that a report on this be provided for the February meeting.

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

“To request a reduction of the speed limits in the Templecarrig area, in recognition of the condition of the road, the increased traffic using the area, and the support for this which has been previously demonstrated by residents, Gardai and local Town Councillors”.

Following discussion on this motion, the District Engineer stated that there were national bye laws for speed limits in rural areas but that he would check out the position in relation to changing the road signs.

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

“That the Council report on the condition of the paths, roads and ramps in Redford Park and update the members on plans, if any, to address any identified shortcomings”.

The District Engineer informed the members that it was planned to remove the ramp at Redford Park as it was not needed. However, he pointed out that he did not have the resources to check all the paths and roads in this estate or in Hillside, Applewood Heights and other estates that were seeking similar inspections.

7. Correspondence

1. Ms. M. Porter advised the members of a request from Greystones Rugby Club seeking funding in the sum of €1,200 for their Greystones G7s Festival that will take place on 12th July 2015. It was agreed to consider this request when the schedule of works and budgets for the Greystones MD were being considered.
2. Ms. M. Porter advised the members that the Greystones Tidy Towns had made a request to meet with the members at their February meeting. This was agreed.
3. Ms. M. Porter advised the members that the DAG:T Group had requested a follow up meeting with the members following their deputation at the November meeting. It was agreed to invite the group to meet the members at 7.00 p.m. prior to the March meeting on 31st March.
4. Ms. M. Porter advised the members that the Forward Planning Section of Wicklow County Council would attend a meeting of the MD to update members on the County Development Plan. It was agreed to invite them to the meeting on 31st March 2015.
5. Ms. M. Porter advised the members that representatives from Irish Water would be available to meet with the members of Greystones MD on Monday 2nd February 2015 from 10.00 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. in County Buildings, Wicklow.
6. Ms. M. Porter reminded members to send all notices of motion and matters for the MD meetings to the GreystonesMD@wicklowcoco.ie email address rather than to her personal email so that these would be dealt with in her absence.
7. Ms. M. Porter referred to an email from the Parents Association of the Greystones Educate Together School in Blacklion that had been circulated to all members. She pointed out that officials from the Council have agreed to attend a meeting to be organized by the school with a view to improving the traffic situation.

Mr. R. O’Hanlon stated that recommendations that were included in the planning permission for the schools did not appear to have been complied with.

8. Any Other Business

1. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor T. Fortune, informed the members that the official opening of the newly renovated Kilcoole Community Centre and Youth Café would take place at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday 8th February 2014 and that everyone was invited to attend.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Signed: _____ **Cathaoirleach**

Signed: _____ **Meetings Administrator**

Dated: _____