

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.30 P.M.

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

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

At the outset the Cathaoirleach extended sympathy to Councillor J. Whitmore on the recent death of her father.

1. Confirmation of minutes

It was proposed by Councillor N. Lawless, seconded by Councillor G. Walsh and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 28th July 2015, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. Progress report on harbour development

There was no further update on the harbour development since the special meeting held on 28th September 2015.

3. Town Twinning

The Cathaoirleach referred to the recent visit by representatives from the Holyhead Twinning Committee and meetings that took place during that visit with the Tourism and Twinning Committee, Greystones Rugby Club and Greystones United AFC. She thanked everyone involved in entertaining and meeting the delegates.

The District Administrator stated that Holyhead Twinning Committee would be requested to provide contact details for other groups and organizations in Holyhead whose counterparts in Greystones had expressed an interest in developing links and that a further meeting should take place with these groups when the information is supplied.

4. (a) Report from Greystones Municipal District Engineer.

The District Engineer circulated a report which included an update on projects funded from the Greystones MD discretionary budget and outlined the current position in relation to works in the district. He answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

Following discussion the members requested the District Engineer to consider the following:

1. Tidy up works in Grattan Park
2. Repairing and repainting of ramp at pedestrian crossing outside Kilcoole NS
3. Road safety issue at (no.s 9 and 10) Lower Grattan Park – members requested that access for lawnmower and double buggies be maintained at the walkway
4. Sequencing of traffic lights from Tesco to Redford
5. Planter outside Café delle Stelle on Church Road blocking sightlines for traffic coming off Hillside Road
6. Provision of litter bin at bus stop in Charlesland
7. Provision of buoys to mark swimming area on south beach – members suggested that the local swimming group should be consulted in relation to this
8. Sweeping of dead leaves off footpaths, especially in vicinity of St. Laurences NS
9. New road at Blacklion - members requested that a traffic assessment be carried out before this road is opened as it will cause dangers for schoolchildren and worsen problems for existing traffic
10. List of areas in district needing additional funding so that case can be made for Greystones MD at Wicklow County Council budget meeting.

(b) Update on projects funded from Greystones MD discretionary budget.

A report listing projects agreed for funding, and actual amount spent to date on each, was circulated to the members. The District Administrator and the District Engineer answered queries from the members in relation to same.

During the course of discussion on this item it was agreed that a Greystones & District Forum should be set up to continue the work already done on the Greystones Strategy, and that it should include representatives from Business / Tourism / Tidy Towns / Community.

It was also agreed that the money set aside for Gourmet Greystones in this year's budget should be used instead to expand the Christmas Lights event as Gourmet Greystones would not take place this year.

5. Allocation of funding to the Greystones Municipal District.

It was agreed to consider notice of motion (a) as follows in conjunction with this item:

- (a) Motion in the names of Councillors D. Mitchell & G. McLoughlin:
"This Municipal District disagrees with Greystones being allocated 60% less funding per resident than other areas and calls on the Manager to allocate an equal amount of resources per person in each area especially in view of the large amount of Property Tax contribution in Greystones"

Councillor D. Mitchell had circulated the members with a breakdown of the budgets for each of the five Municipal Districts in Wicklow and pointed out that the Greystones MD budget represented 60% less per resident than other areas.

The District Administrator pointed out that a large proportion of the budgets were spent on staff and machinery costs. She circulated a map showing each MD and pointed out that Greystones was the smallest district in size even though it had a similar population to other districts. She stated that other districts had multiple outdoor crews, and consequently higher machinery costs, because of their size.

Following discussion on this matter it was agreed to request the Head of Finance to advise of the formula used for allocating budgets. It was further agreed that a list of areas needing additional funding in the Greystones MD should be drawn up so that the members could make a case for extra monies at the Wicklow County Council budget meeting. Finally it was agreed to consider this matter again at the October monthly meeting.

6. Notices of Motion:

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

"This Municipal District disagrees with Greystones being allocated 60% less funding per resident than other areas and calls on the Manager to allocate an equal amount of resources per person in each area especially in view of the large amount of Property Tax contribution in Greystones"

This motion had already been dealt with in conjunction with item 5 on the agenda.

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

"On the South Beach buoys should be placed 50m from the beach to mark the swimming area so boats do not stray into it".

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to request Wicklow County Council to provide buoys to mark out the swimming area on the south beach from a health and safety point of view. It was also agreed that the Open Sea Swimming Club should be consulted in relation to this matter.

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

"That any future refurbishment of the Greystones playground is carried out with the principle of inclusion in mind and include wheelchair accessible equipment".

The District Manager advised the members that all new playgrounds included a number of accessible equipment and ramps and that the Greystones playground, when being upgraded, would also include same.

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

"That the Council keep the approach paths to St. Laurence's primary school clear of leaf litter over the autumn months. Over autumn wet leaf litter makes the paths very slippery and are dangerous to children, especially as the paths are so narrow in some sections".

Following discussion on this motion, the District Engineer stated that he would look into the possibility of Gateway staff sweeping the paths in the area.

7. Correspondence.

1. The District Administrator advised the members that submissions could be made on the proposed (30 KPH) Special speed Limit Bye Laws up to 5 p.m. on Monday 12th October 2015.
2. The District Administrator advised the members of the contents of a letter received from An Bord Pleanala which stated that the Board intended to determine the appeal to the McDonalds planning application at Blacklion before the 13th October 2015.

3. The District Engineer raised a road safety issue at a public right of way between house numbers 9 and 10 in Upper Grattan Park, Greystones which was caused by one resident removing a boundary fence to provide parking at her property. He pointed out that no planning permission had been sought for this work.

Following discussion on the matter it was agreed that the District Engineer would write to the resident and consider options to make the public right of way safe while still maintaining access for double buggies through the laneway.

8. Any Other Business.

No other business was considered.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2015.