

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 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
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

At the outset, Councillor J. Whitmore requested a suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the works being carried out by the Council's Housing Section at Blackberry Lane, Delgany. It was agreed to discuss this matter prior to item number 6 – Notices of Motion.

The Cathaoirleach also commended everyone involved with the Greystones Christmas Lights on an excellent job.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

At the request of Councillor J. Whitmore it was agreed that the minutes of the October meeting be amended to include that the members had requested to meet with Mr. S. Quirke to discuss issues in relation to the harbour development.

It was then proposed by Councillor N. Lawless, seconded by Councillor G. McLoughlin and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 25th October 2016, as amended, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. PROGRESS REPORT ON GREYSTONES HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

Members were circulated with a report outlining progress on the Greystones harbour development. The District Administrator advised that Mr. S. Quirke was willing to meet the Greystones MD members in County Buildings on Monday 5th December prior to the County Council meeting. However this date did not suit a number of members because of other meeting commitments on the day.

Following discussion it was agreed to ask Mr. Quirke to attend the December monthly meeting of the Municipal District.

3. DATE FOR DECEMBER MEETING

It was agreed to hold the December monthly meeting of Greystones Municipal District at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 13th December 2016.

4. SUSPENSION OF PAY PARKING ON SATURDAYS IN DECEMBER

It was agreed that on-street free parking be provided in Greystones on the four Saturdays in December with a maximum of two hours per vehicle. It was pointed out that wardens would be on duty on these days to enforce the regulations in relation to any illegal parking.

The District Administrator referred to the Draft Parking Bye Laws discussed at the recent County Council meeting and she stated that there were some proposed changes to the Bye Laws in an effort to standardise general aspects across all areas of the County, and that different schedules were included to deal with issues specific to each Municipal District. She asked the members to consider the draft Bye Laws, and in particular the schedule in relation to the Greystones Municipal District, and to submit any comments and proposals in advance of the January MD meeting to facilitate discussion prior to the public consultation that is due to commence in February.

Councillor Mitchell asked that consideration be given to including the following in the Bye Laws:

- a) a fifteen minute grace period before and after parking
- b) that the parking regulations do not commence until 10 a.m. daily and that they finish at 4 p.m. daily
- c) that double yellow lines be placed on roads with continuous white lines where parking was not allowed.

Following further discussion it was agreed that members would make their submissions on the Draft Bye Laws in the coming few weeks and that the matter would be placed on the agenda for the January meeting.

5. 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.

Following discussion it was agreed to refer the following items to the County Council:

- Provision of litter bin at bus stop at Farrankelly Close
- Road markings on the slip roads at Barry's Bridge, on Lott Lane, Kilcoole and in the centre of Delgany village
- Tweaking of traffic and pedestrian lights at Tesco junction during the busy Christmas period.

The District Administrator circulated a draft of the proposed brief for expressions of interest for the toilet block at the harbour and informed the members that this would be advertised shortly when the document had been cleared by the Council's law department. Councillor D. Mitchell expressed the view that any public toilets provided should be free to use but following discussion it was agreed that no restrictions should be included in the briefing document.

The District Manager informed the members that the District Engineer, Mr. R. O'Hanlon, who had been acting in that position for the past few years, had recently been appointed to the permanent position in the Greystones MD. This news was welcomed by the members who commended Mr. O'Hanlon on the work he did in the district and on his comprehensive, informative reports to the members each month.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor J. Whitmore, stated that she was very disappointed with how the works being carried out by the Council's Housing Section at Blackberry Lane in Delgany were managed. She stated that a lot of anxiety for residents could have been avoided if the members had been fully informed of the details of the works. She said that this bad management undermined the good works being carried out in the district and she referred to a number of issues raised by the Delgany Residents Association.

Councillor G. Walsh agreed that the lack of information was very bad and he stated that the members could have allayed some of the fears of local residents if they had been fully informed about the Council's proposals.

Councillor D. Mitchell suggested that the works should have gone through a planning process and he referred to conditions attached to an expired permission for twenty-two housing units in the area. He felt that as a minimum, those same conditions should apply to these and any other works and he urged the Council Officials to consult with the owners of the adjoining house. He suggested that work should stop at the site until all issues were resolved.

Councillor G. McLoughlin was critical of the fact that the Housing Officials who attended the October meeting of Greystones MD did not advise of these works. She enquired about the legislation that excluded this development from the planning process and she said that it had been suggested that the site of the works was a flood plain.

Councillor T. Fortune stated that residents had a right to know what was going on in their locality and he stated that it was unacceptable that the public representatives were not kept informed.

Councillor N. Lawless agreed that the members should have been kept informed and stated that it was very embarrassing for the members not to be able to answer questions from the public, and that it gave the impression that there was something to hide.

Following further discussion, members requested that a letter be sent to the Housing & Planning Sections to request an urgent response to the following queries:

- Members to be furnished with exact details of the specific legislation in the Planning & Development Act which allows the local authority to proceed with the works, in the absence of any consultation or prior notice.
- Members to be circulated with a plan and full details of the emergency accommodation unit and accommodation works on site. It was requested that the plans should include proposals to comply with the conditions imposed by An Bord Pleanála when permission was previously granted to develop the site. In particular, that permission required consultation with adjoining properties, fencing and protection of existing trees.
- Confirmation that Housing official had followed through with undertakings given at the meeting with members on Monday 28th of November.

They also requested that the correspondence which members received from local residents be forwarded to the Housing Section for their attention.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION:

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

“That Greystones MD ask the Council what progress has been made in obtaining an hotel next to the Park n’ Ride Site”.

The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of a report from Wicklow County Council in relation to this motion

Members welcomed the news that the Council was progressing the development of the lands but were sceptical of the IDA’s involvement, stating that the IDA had not been proactive in relation to these lands or elsewhere in County Wicklow over a long number of years.

Following discussion it was agreed to invite the Chief Executive, Mr. B. Doyle, and Director of Services, Mr. T. Murphy, to the January meeting of the MD to discuss the development of the lands. It was also agreed to

request the consultants to provide a brief outlining actions to be taken, including any business plans that should include proposals to create jobs locally. The members also asked for clarification as to whether the land was currently on the market or if it was the intention that Wicklow County Council and the IDA would develop the site.

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

“That Wicklow County Council explains exactly how it is going to manage the traffic, parking and the safety of children and their parents going to the entrance to the new playground in Kilcoole on Lott lane opposite Wellfield with no car parking and no footpath”.

The District Manager informed the members that the Council had provided thirty playgrounds around the county and none had been provided with car parking which encouraged people to walk to them. He pointed out that the footpath would be extended up to the roundabout.

Following discussion it was agreed that the District Engineer would advise the members of proposals for extending the footpath and the District Manager stated that any issues which arose after the playground was opened would be dealt with.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

The District Administrator informed the members that eight applications had been received for the advertised grant funding for local authority housing estates and she suggested that each of the applicants be given a sum of €1,000. This was agreed.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

At the suggestion of Councillor G. Walsh it was agreed that certificates be presented to Mr. John Ferns and Mr. Anthony Byrne to mark their retirement from the Irish Coast Guard and the Greystones Fire Service respectively. It was agreed that these presentations be made at 8.15 p.m. on Tuesday 13th December 2016.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2016.