

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager  
Ms. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District Administrator  
Mr. E. Forristal, Executive Engineer, Greystones Municipal District  
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

Apologies from: Cllr. J. Whitmore  
Mr. R. O'Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer

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At the outset the members passed votes of sympathy to the following: Jimmy & Anne Hogan on the death of their son Ciaran; Jimmy Hatton on the death of his wife Rose; the Redmond Family on the death of Joseph Redmond; Mary Lawless on the death of her husband Paddy and Ruth Fitzmaurice on the death of her husband Simon. A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of the deceased.

Members commended the Council officials and staff for their work during the recent tropical storm Ophelia and on their ongoing announcements to the public during the storm.

**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 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**2. GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive and Mr. Brian Gleeson, Head of Finance, Wicklow County Council to the meeting.

A copy of the 2018 Draft Budgetary Plan for the Greystones Municipal District had been circulated to the members with the agenda, together with a letter from the Chief Executive outlining the procedures.

Mr. F. Curran outlined the budget process to the members and pointed out that in addition to the general allocation, much more money would be spent in the Greystones Municipal District from the public realm and other general budgets and centrally operated expenditure. He stated that budgets were not distributed across the Municipal Districts on a population basis but that many factors were taken into account based on numerous criteria. He pointed out that a balanced budget would be presented to the members of Wicklow County Council at their budget meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Mr. B. Gleeson gave a slide show presentation to the members on the budget figures and further explained the process.

During discussion on the allocation members asked for details of the amount of Local Property Tax collected in the Greystones Municipal District and were informed by Mr. B. Gleeson that this information was not available to the Council but that the Minister was being requested to release those figures. Members were of the opinion that LPT should be spent in the localities where it was collected.

Members expressed dissatisfaction with the way the finances available to the Council were allocated between the Municipal Districts and stated that analysis of the figures showed that the Greystones MD got less per capita than the other MDs. In relation to pay and pensions, members stated that these should be paid from central government funds as they accounted for a huge chunk of the Council budget each year. Members also asked for details of the running costs, and what income could be generated for the Greystones MD, if it charges were introduced for parking at the park and ride car park.

Following discussion the members agreed the allocations and thanked Mr. Curran and Mr. Gleeson for attending the meeting.

### **3. WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL'S HOUSING CAPITAL PRIORITY 2019 – 2021 AND STRATEGIC LAND MANAGEMENT**

The District Administrator advised the members of the contents of an email received from the Director of Housing requesting that this matter be postponed until the November monthly meeting. This was agreed.

### **4. UPDATE ON GREYSTONES HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT**

A meeting had taken place earlier in the evening with Mr. Sean Quirke, Wicklow County Council when an update on the harbour development was given. The fishermen's representative, Mr. Tim Storey did not attend that meeting but it was agreed that a letter be sent to the five fishermen that Mr. Storey claimed to represent to request confirmation that he was acting on their behalf and details of their requirements, etc. going forward.

### **5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

A meeting of the Community Affairs Committee had been held earlier in the evening to discuss the Christmas Lights.

Councillor G. McLoughlin advised that the Greystones 2020 group were willing to organize the event in conjunction with the Community Affairs Committee again this year, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 5.15 p.m. and that they would collect contributions from local businesses. She emphasized the need for volunteers to help out on the day.

### **1. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER**

A report on works carried out and planned in the district was circulated to the members and the Engineer answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

Following discussion it was agreed that the following issues be referred to Wicklow County Council:

1. Removal of trees/branches blown down in storm Ophelia in Hillside and Heathervue estates
2. Marking of cycle lanes / yellow box at Killincarrig
3. Provision of litter bin at La Touche Place, Greystones
4. Provision of hand rail on bridge as part of Kilcoole Mass Path works
5. Measures to prevent parking on footpaths at Blacklion

It was also agreed that the local Gardai be asked to monitor the issue of cars parking on the footpaths at Blacklion and to take appropriate action if required.

## **6. NOTICES OF MOTION:**

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

“What is the latest information on the la Touche Hotel which looks a mess? Have they submitted a Conservation Statement or is it being discussed and what can be done to get progress?”

The District Administrator informed the members that a Conservation Report had been submitted in relation to the compliance issues for the development and following discussion it was agreed to request the Planning Office to circulate the County Wicklow Heritage Officer’s report on the Conservation Report.

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

“What can be done to produce a safer road crossing to the 3 schools at Blacklion including Traffic Wardens and reducing speed on new Chapel road at Lidl?”

The District Administrator informed the members of the requirements of the planning permission that the three schools operate as a single campus, and in relation to the appointment of a Mobility Management Officer. It was agreed to request the Planning Enforcement Section of Wicklow County Council to engage with the schools to ensure compliance with their planning permissions.

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

“If the emergency accommodation development in Blackberry Lane was not subject to any planning permissions, is there a limit as to the length of time such accommodation can be in situ. Can we get clarification as to when this emergency accommodation will be relocated?”

The District Administrator advised the members that there was no limit on the length of time that this accommodation could remain in situ and that the family would be considered for a transfer when a suitable Council property became available.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The District Administrator informed the members that Wicklow County Council had contacted Paul Dunne to arrange a suitable date for a Civic Reception to be held in Greystones and that further details would be advised when available.
2. The District Administrator informed the members that she had contacted the agent for the developer of the car park site at Main Street, Kilcoole requesting that the developer meet informally with the members to discuss the proposed development and that she was awaiting a reply.
3. Councillor G. McLoughlin informed the members that the Greystones2020 group was willing to provide updates on their activities for the monthly meetings of Greystones Municipal District.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 1) In response to a query from the members the District Administrator stated that she would ask the planning office to ensure that all members were circulated with planning lists.

- 2) Members requested that representatives from Irish Rail be invited to attend the November meeting of Greystones Municipal District to outline their plans for Greystones Train Station following the erection of a sign inviting tenders for a commercial business at the site. Members expressed their opposition to any proposals to have the station un-manned and felt that facilities at the station should be improved. It was agreed to also contact the NTA and the Minister in relation to this matter.
- 3) In committee, the members were given an update on the position in relation to the provision of public toilets at the harbour, Greystones.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: \_\_\_\_\_  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2017.