

Minutes of Greystones Municipal District Meeting held in Civic Offices, Greystones on Tuesday 25th November 2014

Present: Councillor T. Fortune, Cathaoirleach
Councillors N. Lawless, G. McLoughlin, 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

Apologies: Councillor D. Mitchell

At the outset the members passed a vote of sympathy to Mr. John O'Gorman, Area Supervisor, on the recent tragic deaths of his nephews Hayden O'Flaherty and Aaron Wright. A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of them.

It was agreed to discuss the McDonalds planning application and the suspension of pay parking in the run up to Christmas at the end of the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor N. Lawless, seconded by Councillor G. McLoughlin and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 28th October 2014, as circulated, be adopted and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. Representatives from DAG.T

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Catherine Dollard, Ms. Anne Kennedy, Ms. Margaret Kennedy and Mr. Ciaran Banahan from DAG.T to the meeting. They made a slide-show presentation to the members and circulated a list of the issues raised. They asked that the Access Audit carried out in 2008 on behalf of Wicklow County Council be reviewed and that pedestrian lights be checked regularly to ensure that audio signals, etc. were working. They suggested that a sticker with contact details for reporting faults be placed at pedestrian lights. They also asked that potholes, etc. on footpaths be repaired, street furniture be kept from blocking paths, branches and hedging overhanging footpaths be cut back and that disabled parking spaces be clearly marked. They agreed to email their presentation to the members and they gave details of a fundraising event on 7th December 2014.

The members, and the District Engineer, thanked the group for their informative presentation and expressed their support for their campaign. They suggested a further meeting in the new year to review progress.

3. Progress report on Greystones Harbour Development

A report outlining progress on the Greystones harbour development was circulated to the members.

Members welcomed progress on removal of hoardings and opening up of the grassland area at the harbour. Following discussion they asked (1) that a meeting be arranged between Mr. S. Quirke, Wicklow County Council, the members, local fishermen and Mr. B. Sheehy from Sisk to discuss

facilities for local fishermen (members asked that Mr. S. Quirke provide two dates that he could attend such a meeting); (2) that Sisk be asked to circulate a soft copy of the presentation they made to the members at the meeting on 23rd September 2014 together with a copy of any revised plans; and (3) that Sisk be asked to provide a notice on the pier warning of its sloped surface.

4. Report from Greystones District Engineer

A progress report on NTA and Department of Transport projects as well as other works, was circulated to the members and the District Engineer answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

5. Arrangements for Christmas Lights

The Cathaoirleach outlined details of the Christmas Lights switch-on that would take place on Sunday 30th November 2014 at 4.30 p.m. in Burnaby Park and highlighted the need for stewards to help out on the day.

6. Notices of Motion from Municipal District to Wicklow County Council

Ms. M. Porter advised the members that any notices of motion from the Greystones Municipal District that were agreed to be forwarded to Wicklow County Council would be placed on the agenda for the next ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council and would not have to comply with the requirement to be submitted one month in advance of the County Council meeting.

7. Notices of Motion:

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

“That a programme to check drains in the District on a regular basis, be put in place by the Council, with a view to preventing blockages and assisting in the prevention of flooding”.

A report from Mr. R. O’Hanlon outlining the position in relation to this matter was circulated to the members. Mr. O’Hanlon answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor T. Fortune:

“That a road marking white line be installed on the Sea Road, Kilcoole to define the road better for traffic. Also can we put better definition in place to highlight where the road narrows at end of Holywell estate and across from the creche”

A report from Mr. R. O’Hanlon outlining the position in relation to this matter was circulated to the members. Mr. O’Hanlon answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor T. Fortune:

“That a yellow box be installed at the top of Sea Road to facilitate traffic entering and exiting a car park. Also can a filter light be installed to facilitate traffic entering the newly installed junction coming from Newcastle direction and turning right down the Sea Road. The junction is a great improvement.

A report from Mr. R. O’Hanlon outlining the position in relation to this matter was circulated to the members. Mr. O’Hanlon answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

8. Correspondence

1. Ms. M. Porter informed the members that Mr. Paul Bradley from Eircom had agreed to attend the December meeting of the Municipal District to discuss the rollout of e fibre in the district. It was agreed to start the meeting at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 9th December 2014 as a presentation to ex-members of the Town Council/Commission would take place at 8 p.m.
2. Ms. M. Porter informed the members that the local Garda Superintendent had agreed to meet the members informally on a quarterly basis starting in January 2015, prior to their monthly meetings, similar to the previous JPC meetings. It was agreed that these meetings should take place at 6.30 p.m. prior to the monthly meetings and that they be confined to the members and Gardai only initially.
3. Ms. M. Porter reminded the members that submissions could be made on the review of the County Development Plan until the 23rd December 2014.

9. Any Other Business

1. Members discussed the McDonalds planning application for a development at Blacklion. They welcomed the economic benefits and job opportunities that such a development would provide both at construction stage and when completed. However, following discussion it was unanimously agreed that a submission should be made on the application as all of the members agreed that the location proposed in the current application was not acceptable and they raised concerns in relation to traffic congestion, traffic safety, the size of the proposed development, surface water drainage and the proximity of the development to three schools.
2. Members discussed the suspension of pay parking in Greystones in the run up to Christmas and following discussion it was proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor N. Lawless and agreed to suspend the pay parking on the four Saturdays prior to Christmas, i.e. 29th November and the 6th, 13th and 20th December 2014.

Ms. M. Porter pointed out that free parking would be for a maximum of two hours and that the Traffic Wardens would operate on these Saturdays to enforce the Road Traffic Acts.

3. The members discussed concerns raised by parents in relation to the pedestrian crossing and traffic issues at Blacklion in the vicinity of the schools. Following discussion it was agreed to request Wicklow County Council to consider providing a School Warden at this location.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Dated: _____