

**Minutes of Greystones Municipal District Meeting, held in Civic Offices, Greystones on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

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

**Also Present:** Mr. J. Lane, Municipal District Manager  
Ms. M. Porter, Meetings Administrator  
Ms. K. Coughlan, Meetings Secretary

**Apologies:** Mr. R. O'Hanlon, District Engineer

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At the outset, Councillor G. McLoughlin requested a suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the lack of litter bins at the harbour and this was agreed.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

Councillor N. Lawless stated that Section 5 (b) of the minutes should state that Councillors T. Fortune, G. McLoughlin and N. Lawless were elected to the Community Affairs Committee and not Councillor J. Whitmore. It was then proposed by Councillor N. Lawless, seconded by Councillor J. Whitmore and agreed that the minutes of the first meeting of the Greystones Municipal District held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014, as amended, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

It was agreed to consider item 8 on the agenda at this stage.

### **8. Use of Chain of Office by Cathaoirleach**

The Cathaoirleach stated that the Protocol Committee of Wicklow County Council had agreed that the old Town Council Chain of Office could be used by the Municipal District if decided by the members. The use of the Chain was proposed by Councillor T. Fortune and seconded by Councillor G. McLoughlin. Mr. J. Lane, District Manager then presented the Cathaoirleach with the Chain of Office.

The Cathaoirleach spoke about the need to highlight the role of the Municipal District and the need for additional meetings with full minutes. He stated that he would like input into the agendas for the monthly meetings and a monthly report on the harbour development. He spoke about the importance of protocol and he mentioned the fact that other Councillors had been invited to attend and take part in the La Touche Legacy Seminar in September but that he had not heard anything. He proposed that a Special Meeting be held to discuss the Harbour Byelaws before the September meeting of Wicklow County Council.

In relation to minutes of meetings, Mr. J. Lane District Manager stated that the minutes would record decisions taken and resolutions passed and that if verbatim minutes were required, the members would have to fund the services of a stenographer.

The Cathaoirleach proposed that recognition should be given to past members of the Town Council to mark their contributions to the town and it was agreed that a presentation be made to all members who served in the last ten years. It was also agreed that a letter be sent to Deputy Simon Harris to congratulate him on his recent appointment as Minister of State.

### **2. Adoption of Standing Orders**

Following discussion on the draft Standing Orders that had been circulated to the members with the agenda, it was agreed to change the time for submitting notices of motion for meetings from one month in advance to two weeks in advance. It was also agreed to extend the time for sending out the agenda from three days prior to the meeting to seven days prior to the meeting, i.e. agendas to be sent out on the Monday of the week prior to the meeting. There was some concern that sections forty through to forty four of the Standing Orders, that deal with Disorderly Behaviour, etc., could be used as a tool of abuse

but following discussion it was agreed that this matter could be reviewed if it was found to be an issue in the future.

It was then proposed by Councillor G. McLoughlin, seconded by Councillor G. Walsh and agreed that the Standing Orders, as amended be adopted by the Municipal District.

### **3. To agree schedule of meetings of Greystones Municipal District**

Ms. M. Porter gave details of the schedule of ordinary meetings for the coming year. She pointed out that special meetings could be held by the members as agreed, including one prior to the annual budget meeting which will take place later in the year.

### **4. To nominate members to the Greystones Tourism & Twinning Committee**

Ms. M. Porter stated that Greystones was twinned with Holyhead in Wales but that the previous Tourism & Twinning Committee had not expanded as envisaged to include members from the community. She pointed out that there was a tri-4-life event on the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> August involving a group from Liverpool that were visiting Holyhead and Greystones and that the organisers had asked that the Mayor of Holyhead be invited to Greystones to participate. She stated that all the members were invited to the tri-4-life event in Shoreline Leisure on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August at 4.00 p.m.

Following discussion on this matter it was agreed that Councillors T. Fortune, G. Walsh and J. Whitmore would sit on the Tourism and Twinning Committee. It was also agreed that an invitation be extended to the Mayor of Holyhead to attend the event on the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> August, albeit at such short notice.

### **5. Consideration of payment of annual allowance to Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District**

Ms. M. Porter advised that an allowance of up to €6,000 per annum could be paid to the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District if decided by the members. The Cathaoirleach proposed that the allowance be fixed at €6,000 per annum and this was agreed.

### **6. To discuss pay parking in Greystones**

The Cathaoirleach stated that pay parking was an issue in the town and he proposed that representatives from Apcoa be invited to the September meeting and this was agreed.

Ms. M. Porter stated that Apcoa representatives would make a presentation on their parking enforcement and litter duties at the September meeting and give details of litter fines, etc. She asked that any specific issues to be raised at the meeting be emailed in to her in the coming week so that she could advise Apcoa in advance. She stated that the contract between Wicklow County Council and Apcoa was available if anyone wanted to view it, except for three or four pages that contained sensitive financial details.

Following discussion the members suggested that the following amendments might be made to the parking regulations: the 'grace' period should be extended from ten to fifteen or thirty minutes; the parking regulations should operate from 10.00 a.m. or 10.30 a.m. instead of from 9.00 a.m. daily; some method should be devised to encourage people to use the south beach car park in Winter; the parking regulations should be relaxed on Saturdays with perhaps two free hours parking on Saturdays; 'free after three' parking should be introduced; the number of disabled parking spaces should be increased by one or two on Church Road; more leeway should be given to cars unloading in loading bays.

Ms. M. Porter pointed out that Apcoa enforced the Parking Bye Laws but that the Bye Laws themselves were put in place by Wicklow County Council. She stated that most of the issues raised by the members were issues for the Bye Laws. She stated that the current contract with Apcoa expired in 2015 and that Wicklow County Council was hoping to co-ordinate contracts for all the towns in the county and thus make some savings. She suggested that no amendments should be made to the Bye Laws until such time as all issues in relation to budgets, etc. were clear and she pointed out that any changes to the Bye Laws

would require lengthy public consultation. She stated that a copy of the current Bye Laws would be emailed to the members for their information.

## **7. To consider request from Hillside Residents to attend meeting of Greystones Municipal District**

As it had already been agreed to invite Apcoa to the September meeting, it was agreed to invite a deputation from Hillside Residents Association to the October meeting.

## **8. To discuss use of Chain of Office by Cathaoirleach**

This matter had already been dealt with.

## **9. Notices of Motion**

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

“That Wicklow County Council undertakes to ensure that SISK provides the local fishermen with proper loading facilities at the Greystones harbour in order to ensure that their livelihoods can continue”.

During discussion on this motion, all members agreed that facilities were required to enable local fishermen to carry on their business. Some members stated that the GUBOH Group were putting out false information about the harbour.

Ms. M. Porter advised the members of the contents of a report from Sean Quirke in relation to landing facilities for local fishermen and the new harbour Bye Laws. She stated that a copy of the report and the draft Bye Laws would be emailed to the members and that Sean Quirke would be asked to brief the members on the Bye Laws, in County Buildings, prior to the September meeting of Wicklow County Council at which it was hoped to have them listed for adoption.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor T. Fortune, proposed that the five Wicklow TDs, Sean Quirke, Representatives from Sisk and John O’Brien representing GUBOH Group be invited to a private meeting with members of Greystones Municipal District on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00 p.m. This proposal was seconded by Councillor J. Whitmore. A vote was taken and members voted as follows: For – Councillors T. Fortune, N. Lawless and J. Whitmore; Against – Councillors G. McLoughlin, D. Mitchell and G. Walsh. Councillor T. Fortune used his casting vote and the resolution was passed. The Cathaoirleach agreed to email in a list of the items to be discussed at this meeting before the 31<sup>st</sup> July.

Councillor D. Mitchell proposed that Representatives from Sisk, the Marina Operators and Sean Quirke be invited to a private meeting with members of Greystones Municipal District to provide a general update on the harbour at 5.00 p.m. on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. This proposal was seconded by Councillor G. Walsh. A vote was taken and all six members voted in favour of the proposal.

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

“That Wicklow County Council revisits the appalling lack of toilet facilities at the harbour and provides facilities for the public as a matter of urgency.”

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to ask the District Engineer to consider providing new toilets or re-opening the old toilets at the harbour.

As time was running out, it was agreed to extend the meeting by twenty minutes.

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

“That the ramp on the entrance to Redford Park is removed and re-instated before the Autumn as debris from the surface material is causing the drain to block and affects the flooding”.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to request the District Engineer to have the surface of this ramp repaired as soon as possible to prevent debris from blocking drains in the estate.

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

“To ask Irish Water to produce a written report on the investment and timeframe needed to eliminate water shortages which have occurred during the annual spring algae season. Also to identify how future shortages will be spread across the entire water region instead of being confined to North Wicklow, the source of most of the region’s water”.

Ms. M. Porter pointed out that all communications to Irish Water had to be channelled through Wicklow County Council rather than the Municipal Districts and she advised the members of the contents of a letter received from the Managing Director of Irish Water dated the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014 in this regard.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to ask that this item be put on the agenda for a meeting of Wicklow County Council so that the matter could be forwarded to Irish Water. It was also agreed to request that a tour of the Vartry Waterworks be organised for the members.

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

“To ask the Council to report on the drainage, road name and maintenance issues identified by Burnaby Woods residents”.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed that the District Engineer be asked to improve drainage to alleviate flooding, to cut back overgrowth from footpaths and to provide a road name – Woodlands Avenue is the name suggested by the residents - at this location and to report back to the members.

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

“To ask the Council to report on the lack of road sweeping, lack of road markings and adequate signage and poor footpaths in the Burnaby”.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to ask the District Engineer to remove dead leaves from footpaths in the Burnaby to prevent slippery surfaces and build up of debris, to cut back grass verges and weeds that were out of control, to clear drains, to re-instate road markings and provide new yellow lines as previously agreed and to clean algae from road signs and ensure they were not obscured by overgrowth and to report back to the members.

(g) Motion in the name of Councillor N. Lawless:

“To ask Wicklow County Council to put a yellow box junction on the R761 at the junction of Donnybrook Fair and Grattan Park and to adjust the traffic lights there to improve the situation for traffic exiting Grattan Park onto the R761”.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to ask the District Engineer to provide a yellow box as a matter of urgency and to adjust the traffic lights at this junction to allow traffic to exit safely from Grattan Park onto the R761.

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

“Please put in place a programme to cut back overhanging trees around the district. There are a number of them e.g. 1. off Church Lane (into Hillside), 2. Oaklands off Church Lane, 3. top of Grattan Park, 4. between Knockroe and Kilcoole. We may have others already reported to us. Can we put a timeline on these and others we have note of and have this programme done by end of September”.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to ask the District Engineer to put a programme in place to cut back all problem trees and hedges, especially on the approach roads to St. Laurence’s National School, and to have the works completed by the end of September and to report back to the members.

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

“Can I have timeline and work programme for the work that is agreed to be done at bottom of Main Street, Kilcoole, also the resurfacing repair to Main Street and work on Sea Road”.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to ask the District Engineer to ensure that these works were completed as soon as possible.

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

“It is proposed that this authority examine the traffic measures in place at the Blacklion/Rathdown area of Greystones prior to September next by liaising with both our local engineer and Gardai with a view to alleviating traffic congestion in the area during school opening times in particular”.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to ask the District Engineer to take every action possible, in conjunction with the local Gardai, to relieve the traffic problems at this location.

## **10. Correspondence**

1. Ms. M. Porter reminded the members that they were invited to the tri-4-life event in Shoreline Leisure on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August at 4.00 p.m. when the team from Liverpool would visit the town.
2. Ms. M. Porter also reminded the members of the contents of a letter received from the Managing Director of Irish Water dated the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014 in relation to procedures for contacting the company.

## **Suspension of Standing Orders**

Councillor G. McLoughlin highlighted the fact that there were no bins for litter or dog fouling within the harbour area and she asked that bins be provided as a matter of urgency in the general area of the harbour. She commended the local youth group that had painted a mural on the north beach to combat graffiti.

Following discussion it was agreed to request the District Engineer to provide bins in the location of the harbour as a matter of urgency.

## **11. Any Other Business**

1. Councillor G. Walsh stated that he had received a number of complaints about litter and dog fouling on the south beach at the weekend. Ms. M. Porter stated that the Litter Wardens patrolled the beach four times daily and handed out dog litter bags. She stated that the Lifeguard also had a supply of dog litter bags and that there were dog litter bins on the dog walk in this area.
2. Councillor J. Whitmore asked that a sign be erected at the harbour pier warning that there was a slope on the pier surface, which apparently is a design feature of piers.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Meetings Administrator**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_