

Minutes of Greystones Municipal District Meeting, held in Civic Offices, Greystones on Tuesday 30th September 2014

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

Also Present: Mr. J. Lane, Municipal District Manager
Ms. M. Porter, Meetings Administrator
Mr. R. O'Hanlon, District Engineer
Ms. K. Coughlan, Meetings Secretary

Apologies: Councillor N. Lawless

At the outset, Ms. M. Porter notified the meeting of apologies from Councillor N. Lawless who was unable to attend because of an accident.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Councillor D. Mitchell requested that items 9 (e) and (f) of the minutes be amended to include that reports on the motions were requested. Councillor T. Fortune requested that item 9 (h) be amended to include that a report on the motion be requested also. It was then proposed by Councillor G. McLoughlin, seconded by Councillor D. Mitchell and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Greystones Municipal District held on 29th July 2014, as amended, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. Apcoa Parking

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Alan Dunne, Mr. Clive Woods and Ms. Liz Hughes from Apcoa Parking to the meeting.

Mr. A. Dunne gave a slide-show presentation on the company and the background to its operations with Wicklow County Council. He and his colleagues then answered questions from the members in relation to same and demonstrated how the wardens could not issue parking fines before the grace period expired.

Following discussion there was general agreement that the grace period should be extended and that the Council should consider introducing the mobile phone app scheme that was used in other towns.

Ms. M. Porter informed the members that Wicklow County Council was preparing a framework for parking services in the whole county that would go to tender in the next six to twelve months. She said that a review of the parking bye laws countywide would be carried out in conjunction with that framework and any issues like start times could be amended then.

3. To set date for Annual Budget Meeting

Ms. M. Porter informed the members that the annual budget meeting must be held by Friday 10th October 2014 i.e. towards the end of next week. She stated that the agenda and draft budget had to issue seven days prior to the meeting and that the County Council Head of Finance would attend. She pointed out that the meeting could not be adjourned and that if the Municipal District members did not adopt a budget, the Chief Executive would adopt one on their behalf. She pointed out that

the main County Council budget would be adopted in November following which a schedule of works for the Municipal District would be agreed.

Mr. J. Lane stated that the Municipal District budget would relate to discretionary spending and that the main items of expenditure would be included in the County Council budget to be agreed in November. He advised the members that any questions about the MD budget could be emailed to him as soon as they were received by members and he would reply to them.

Members expressed concern at the short time frame for receiving and adopting their budget and following discussion it was agreed to hold the annual budget meeting on Thursday 9th October at 6 p.m.

4. To receive progress report on Greystones harbour development

Ms. M. Porter stated that there was no further progress on the harbour development since the meeting with Sisk and Wicklow County Council last week.

5. Notices of Motion

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

“That Wicklow County Council gives an update on the proposed road improvement scheme for Delgany”.

Mr. R. O’Hanlon informed the members that this scheme was still at design stage and that feedback from residents following public consultation was being taken in to account.

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

“That Greystones Municipal District calls on Irish Rail to provide a shelter for the train station in Kilcoole”.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to write to Irish Rail to request the provision of a shelter and a sheltered bike park at the train station in Kilcoole.

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

“To ask that the Council circulate a report to members before each meeting of the Greystones District outlining projects that are to begin work the following month, and to provide status update on projects that are underway”.

Mr. R. O’Hanlon circulated a report on works to the members and following discussion on this motion it was agreed that a works report be circulated to the members each month prior to the meetings.

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

“To request that a tree management strategy for the District be developed”.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to ask the County Council SPCs to devise a policy on tree management and grass cutting that could be circulated to the members.

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

“To ask that the CCTV at the Dart station be inspected to ensure that it is in full working order”.

Ms. M. Porter stated that CCTV was provided by the Council from capital funding in consultation with the local Gardai and that the Gardai had stated from the outset that they had no budget to maintain it. She said that there were some issues with the system from time to time mainly due to the fact that different systems were linked. She stated that she had sent a request to Wicklow County Council to ask that the whole system, including issues in relation to policy, be examined.

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

"I propose that we the GMD set up a local Garda Liaison committee consisting of us the local councillors and our community Garda in the area. With the new JPC now centralised on a county level, my fear would be that as a district we would not be getting information on a local level about our area. I feel that continual contact with our Garda is vital for us as local representatives to know what is going on in our areas and what the needs might be. I am suggesting that the committee meetings be held on an evening other than our GMD meetings and that we hold them once or twice a month. I'm happy to leave times open to suggestions for other members."

As Councillor Lawless was not present at the meeting, it was agreed to defer this motion to the October meeting.

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

"Can I have an update on the road repairs carried out in Kilcoole during early August? Why was it only patch work? What guarantee is there that the rest of road will not break up also? Why did we not re-surface the road fully as the original road was agreed to have been a bad job?"

Mr. R. O'Hanlon informed the members that these works were carried out using funding provided by the NTA. He stated that that the road was repaired where required and that he could give no guarantee that other areas of the road would not break up.

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

"Can I have a report on the works at the bottom of main street Kilcoole? Are the footpaths and road going to be replaced as new? Are we putting in traffic calming as part of project? Are we using a private contractor for the work? I understand we are using a separate traffic management contractor and word on the ground is that they wanted to use more people and that we told them to cut back. Have we the correct amount of people in regard to health and safety?"

Mr. R. O'Hanlon informed the members that new footpaths and traffic lights, together with an anti-skid surface, were being provided at this location. He stated that the work was being undertaken by Council staff and that all traffic management and health and safety regulations were being complied with.

6. Correspondence

1. Ms. M. Porter reminded the members that they were required to submit notices of motion for inclusion on the agenda for any meeting two weeks prior to that meeting.
2. Ms. M. Porter advised the members of the contents of a letter received from DAG:T requesting to make a presentation to the October meeting of the Municipal District. Ms. Porter pointed out that the members had already agreed to receive a deputation from the Hillside Residents Association at the October meeting. It was agreed to invite a deputation from DAG:T to the November meeting.

3. Ms. M. Porter reminded the members of the agreed protocol for civic events that had been emailed to them in July 2014.

7. Any Other Business

1. Councillor T. Fortune enquired about the closure of a laneway at the rear of Upper Grattan Park. Ms. M. Porter explained the position in relation to same.
2. Councillor G. Walsh enquired about the ramps on Bellevue Road and Councillor J. Whitmore also spoke about this and the consequent increase in traffic on Church Lane. Mr. R. O’Hanlon stated that it was intended to carry out further works to prevent people from driving in the middle of the road.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Dated: _____