

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD IN COMMITTEE IN CIVIC OFFICES, GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 23RD
SEPTEMBER, 2014 AT 7.00 P.M.**

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

Also Present: Mr. Joe Lane, Greystones Municipal District Manager
Ms. Myra Porter, District Administrator
Mr. R. O'Hanlon, District Engineer
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District
Mr. S. Quirke, Director of Special Projects, Wicklow County Council
Mr. J. P. Sisk, Sisk
Mr. B. Sheehy, Sisk
Mr. B. Gallagher, BJ Marine
Mr. S. Mason, Arup
Minister Simon Harris, T.D.
Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D.
Mr. Billy Timmins, T.D.

Apologies: Mr. Andrew Doyle, T.D.
Ms. Anne Ferris, T.D.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr. S. Quirke gave a background to the harbour development project and mentioned the various initiatives that had been undertaken since 2010 to open up parts of the harbour to provide a fantastic facility which was widely used. He stated that a lot of discussions were ongoing in order to have the development completed.

Mr. B. Sheehy informed the members that the housing element of the development was being re-designed to bring it up to the current building regulations standards and that all the housing units would be 'A' rated. He circulated a plan for the first phase public works to include part of the public square and clubhouses. He stated that these works would start in January and take approximately nine to twelve months, so the clubhouses should be ready for fitting out by the clubs in September/October 2015. He pointed out that the Office of Public Works hoped to commence construction on the new Coast Guard building next year also.

Mr. B. Sheehy advised the members that the second phase of public works, to complete and pave the public square, provide the public park and the boardwalk, should commence immediately after the completion of the first phase and it was hoped that all the public works would be completed by September 2017. He also pointed out that it was hoped to have the residential units completed in four and a half to five years. He stated that every effort would be made to keep the car park open during all the planned works. He also pointed out that seating and lighting would be provided as the works progressed and that access to the Cliff Walk would be maintained. He informed the members that an electricity sub-station had to be built as part of the residential development and that as soon as that was provided, public lighting could be installed. He stated that an underground pumping station in front of Sweeney's cafe would be provided as part of the phase one works.

Mr. J. P. Sisk stated that they had committed to spending €5 million on the first phase of the public park, the clubhouses and fishermen's huts and that it was hoped that work on the Coast Guard station could be done in conjunction with those works. He stated that the dates for these first phase public works were definitive and the works would definitely start in January 2015. He stated that they would engage with the clubs in relation to fitting out the clubhouses and he pointed out that the clubhouses had to be built to lighthouse specifications because of their location. He also informed the members that it was planned to issue a newsletter in the coming weeks.

Minister S. Harris informed the meeting that he had been informed that construction of the new Coast Guard Station would commence in January 2015. He looked forward to the completion of the phase one works as outlined and stated that there was a need for additional housing in the town.

Mr. B. Gallagher stated that BJ Marine wanted and needed to expand the marina but that it was very difficult to obtain funding from the banks at present. He stated that they were looking at putting in additional berths.

Mr. J. P. Sisk pointed out that while banks would give a commitment to fund a whole project, they were only lending on a cash flow basis, phase by phase.

In reply to queries from Deputy S. Donnelly, Mr. S. Quirke informed the members that there was a funding guarantee included in the contract between Wicklow County Council and Sisk but pointed out that this was a public private partnership. He stated that the market change clause was not now an issue as the market was no longer negative and so the residential development was progressing. He pointed out that a mix of commercial and residential units would probably now replace the primary care centre. He also informed the members that a meeting with two local fishermen was planned in the coming week.

In reply to a query from Deputy B. Timmins, Mr. S. Quirke stated that there was no time limit on the planning permission granted for the development. Deputy Timmins suggested that details of the planned timeframes should be included in the newsletter.

In reply to a number of queries on the provision of a vertical side / lip on the slipway, Ms. S. Mason stated that there was rock revetment at the side of the slipway so there was no easy way to do this. He stated that the harbour complied with all safety standards but he acknowledged that there was an issue with passenger access to boats. In relation to sand on the north beach he pointed out that this should increase over time because the beach was protected. He stated that erosion was monitored on an ongoing basis and pointed out that most movement was sand movement up and down the beach.

In relation to access for fishermen in the marina, Mr. B. Gallagher stated that fishermen had been accommodated in the harbour since it opened, as had all other groups, and he pointed out that there had been an incident of threatening and abusive behaviour by one individual.

Mr. S. Quirke stated that landing facilities were provided for fishermen but if they wanted to berth, they had to pay for berthing facilities. He pointed out that there were a number of seasonal moorings available in the harbour which will operate from April to September and a policy for their allocation could be adopted by the GMD members for next season, now that the Bye Laws were in place. He stated that there was huge interest in these moorings and that the members could decide how to allocate them i.e. to clubs, fishermen, previous holders, etc.

Mr. B. Gallagher informed the members that it was not possible to have berths on the north pier as this was part of the marina and the fairway for all harbour and marina traffic.

Mr. B. Sheehy stated that the community at large were using the harbour facilities as well as tourists and he pointed out that the site for the housing units was the only part not accessible.

Mr. B. Gallagher stated that it was a joy to work at the Greystones marina and he pointed out that many won't visit Greystones because of the negative publicity about the project. He suggested that everyone should work together now for positive PR that would benefit tourism, the local community and businesses alike.

Members thanked the various representatives for attending the meeting and asked that a timeframe for the various works and phases be included in the forthcoming newsletter. They also requested that a meeting be arranged between the GMD members and Mr. S. Quirke to discuss moorings.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Signed: _____ **Cathaoirleach**

Signed: _____ **Meetings Administrator**

Date: _____