

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING
MONDAY 15th DECEMBER, 2014 12:30
WURZBURG ROOM, COUNTY BUILDINGS**

Present: Cathaoirleach Pat Casey, Councillors, Pat Kavanagh, Shay Cullen, John Snell, Irene Winters, Daire Nolan.

In attendance: District Manager Michael Nicholson, District Administrator David Porter, Acting District Engineer Alan Martin, Acting Senior Engineer Transportation & Roads Declan Marnane, Clerical Officer Caroline Lynch.

Cathaoirleach Pat Casey opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2014

Proposed by **Cllr. Irene Winters**, seconded by **Cllr. Daire Nolan**.

Cllr. Pat Kavanagh arrived at 12:34pm. **Cllr. John Snell** arrived 12:40pm.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Alan Martin acting for Paul Byrne, presented the District Engineer's Report.

Rumble Strips at Cunningham's Corner:

Alan Martin advised that the chevron system is being installed and will be activated on Thursday 18th December. It will be operated by solar power. The rumble strips are staying in place for the time being and the new system will be monitored.

Netting at the Ballynerrin Playground, Wicklow Town:

Cllr. Snell is to supply contact details of netting supplier.

Slaughter Hill:

Mr. Martin advised that the drainage refurbishment has taken place. The "slow down" signs will be installed before Christmas.

Annamoe Road Drainage:

There is no update on this issue. It will be looked at in more detail when the allocation for 2015 is known.

Newtownmountkennedy Sewerage Plant:

David Porter advised that **Michael Geaney** is to get back to him on this issue.

Flooding at Long Hill:

Declan Marnane advised that **Liam Bourke** is checking this matter as it is in the Bray Municipal District area.

Flyover at Kilmacanogue:

This is not in Wicklow Municipal District's area but has been reported to the roads department.

Traffic at Roundwood Primary School:

Declan Marnane advised that there is currently no scheme. **Alan Martin** advised that it will be looked at in more detail when the allocation for 2015 is known.

The Members raised the following issues:

- Ballyduff Hill, Ashford – excess water running down the hill to Killiskey.
- Flooding at rear of 189-170 Season Park, Newtownmounkennedy – gully blocked.
- Cutting ditches and overhanging trees in rural areas – dangerous to both pedestrians and drivers. Is there anything the Council can do? Can the cutting period be extended? **Declan Marnane** advised that the cutting of trees is also the landowners' responsibility and this is covered under the Roads Act. He advised that landowners are given a chance to cut the hedges. A letter drop is distributed then notices are issued followed by a court summons.
- Road along Mountainview Drive – overgrown. **Mr. Marnane** agreed to check this.
- Running water and pothole at Woodview Estate, Ashford. This issue has been looked at but not addressed.
- Traffic management at Community Hall, Rathnew – can a yellow box be put in place?
- Can a list of emergency contact numbers be given?
Michael Nicholson advised that this is under negotiation. Supervisors' contact numbers are available to the Gardaí. There is an informal arrangement in place. However, money is the real issue. He will raise the issue at the next management meeting which is to take place on 16th December. **David Porter** referred to the call management system in Bray.

Cllr. John Snell and Cllr. Daire Nolan both wished to thank the staff for the upgrade works carried out at Sycamore Drive and Mountainview Drive, Newtownmountkennedy.

HILL VIEW ESTATE

The Members raised the following questions in relation to the survey:

- What is the overall costing?
- How many houses are vacant?
- When will the work be done?
- Can the Council claim against Homebond/builders bond?

Michael Nicholson advised that the Department has been alerted. He hopes to receive an allocation in the New Year. Tenders will be sought for the works. The work will be prioritised. The Council will also take legal action against the builder and architect. Files are currently being prepared.

It was agreed to keep this issue on the agenda.

CONTROL OF VEHICLES SPEED IN HOUSING ESTATES

Declan Marnane advised that the roads section will undertake a pilot study of 30 estates, 5 to 6 per district. These will be analysed to establish if speeding is a problem. The Council can amend the speed limits for regional and local roads by adopting bye-laws.

Each Member nominated an estate for the study. The following were suggested:
Lakeview Grove, Garden Village, Rossmore, Wicklow Heights, Woodview, Djouce Meadow.

THE MURROUGH COASTAL EROSION

Declan Marnane gave an update on this matter. Consultants carried out a report in 2007. Under the procurement policy a second price must be obtained from another consultant. It will cost around €8,000 to get the design done. The cost of the work will not be anything like the cost to install rock armour.

Mr. Marnane advised that one option is to install two breakwaters (at a cost of €1.5m per 120m) to create a new beach. Another option is to simply leave the coastline to erode over time. Mr. Marnane advised that The Council could apply to the Department or OPW for funding. There are a lot of rocks available which can be re-used. There will be machinery hire and labour costs. He will have a figure in the New Year.

It was asked if the Council had made any contact with Irish Rail. **David Porter** advised he had spoken to Michael Geaney who had informed him that Irish Rail had no interest in protecting the railway until something actually happens.

It was asked if EU funding could be sought. It was suggested that the Council consult local clubs e.g. the swimming club and the Regatta.

CLIFF WALK

Michael Nicholson advised that the Cathaoirleach and he had a meeting with the Golf Club. Part of this walk is falling into the sea. Some people are still walking this area and have created an alternative route.

It was mentioned that Friends of the Murrough had carried out a report, which could be made available to the Council. Three options were suggested – (1) cut steps into the rock. (2) build a rope bridge. (3) move the path onto the Golf Club lands.

The Golf Club are willing to look at all options however it must not have a negative impact on the club. Pat Mellon who has worked on the Wicklow Way and Casey O'Brien from the Golf Club will meet to discuss this matter.

David Porter referred to a letter from Ned Cussens, Chairperson of Friends of the Murrough in relation to the Cliff Walk.

Declan Marnane left at 1:30pm.

UPDATE ON WMD PROJECTS

Bus Shelters:

David Porter advised that he is preparing a letter to send to the NTA. He asked if any Members had any locations they wished to add. Bus stop no. 133 on the Main Street, Glenealy and Ballinalea, Ashford were mentioned. Mr. Porter advised he would include these and send off the letter.

FCA Hall:

David Porter advised that the Law Agent has looked at the draft Deed of Transfer and it will be returned today. The matter is moving along and the transfer should be finalised shortly. The Bridge Club have submitted a second letter. It was suggested the Members meet to discuss the use of the hall before meeting any interested groups. It was also suggested the hall be sold to a community group. It was agreed to put on the agenda how to manage the hall going forward prior to meeting any interested groups. A list of all the groups who use the Assembly Hall and Parochial Hall was requested.

TOWN HALL

Michael Nicholson advised that an advertisement seeking interested parties was being drawn up. He is trying to get the wording right to attract the most suitable occupant. It was suggested that the advert is placed in the newspaper in January.

CORRESPONDENCE

David Porter advised that submissions regarding the public consultation and review of the controls on hedge cutting and burning under the Wildlife Acts must be submitted by 7th January, 2015 to Theresa O'Brien or by 9th January, 2015 to the Department.

Mr. Porter advised that the audit of Wicklow Town Council 2013 accounts will commence on 5th January 2015. All queries can be directed to the auditor.

Mr. Porter advised the Members of an email from Lorraine Gallagher in relation to proposed Irish Water clinics with elected members in the New Year. It was remarked that the 2nd February 2015 is a bad date to hold the first clinic as there is also a SPC meeting that day. It was agreed to submit questions and to put this issue on the agenda.

The following issues were raised:

Courthouse, Wicklow Town – it was agreed to write to Simon Harris T.D. with a view to meeting him to discuss the re-instatement of the courthouse in Wicklow Town.

Closure of the hospital, Wicklow Town – **David Porter** advised that he had no result regarding the informal queries he made.

Safety Railings around the fire damaged house on New Street – causing pedestrians to walk out on the road. The Environment Section is dealing with this.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in the Town Hall at 3pm on 26th January, 2015.

The meeting closed at 2 p.m.

SIGNED:


DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

SIGNED:


CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE:

26.01.2015