

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING
MONDAY 23rd FEBRUARY, 2015 3PM
TOWN HALL**

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

In attendance: District Manager Loraine Lynch, Michael Nicholson, District Administrator David Porter, District Engineer Paul Byrne, Senior Executive Engineer Transportation & Roads Infrastructure Margaret Hartnett, Clerical Officer Caroline Lynch.

Cathaoirleach Pat Casey opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He welcomed Loraine Lynch as the new District Manager and thanked outgoing District Manager Michael Nicholson for his 14 years of service.

The Members individually welcomed Ms. Lynch to her new role and thanked Mr. Nicholson for his work on the many positive projects carried out in Wicklow town during his time. They wished him well in his new role.

Michael Nicholson thanked the Members for their kind comments and their support over the years. He thanked the staff of the Town Council. He welcomed Loraine Lynch to the role and he looked forward to the new challenges of his new role as District Manager of Greystones Municipal District.

Loraine Lynch thanked the Members for their good wishes and looked forward to building on the foundations set by Michael Nicholson. She acknowledged the challenges that lie ahead and will be looking to the Members for their support.

Cathaoirleach Pat Casey proposed that, on foot of a letter and meeting in connection with the new traffic management in Ashford, this matter would be dealt with separately after item no. 3 and not form part of the Engineer's Report.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON 26TH JANUARY 2015**

Proposed by Cllr. John Snell, seconded by Cllr. Irene Winters.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report.

- **The schedule of when the street cleaning machine is used:**
Mr. Byrne advised that the sweeper is used 1-2 times per week mainly to clean dog dirt. The street cleaning schedule is 6 days per week from 6 a.m. Other areas e.g. Newtown are being cleaned. Mr. Byrne asked the Members to let him know if there are other areas that should be included.
- **Traffic congestion at Gaelscoil (old VEC premises):**
David Porter advised he had written to the principal of the school. Mr. Byrne advised that the Gardaí also have a role in enforcement.
- **Speed ramps at Main Street, Newtownmountkennedy:**
Mr. Byrne advised that this work is now completed.
- **Name sign to be erected to the entrance of Bramble Glade estate:**
Mr. Byrne advised that Alan Martin, Assistant Engineer is looking after this matter. He is liaising with residents over the style of sign. Mr. Byrne hopes the sign will be erected within the next few weeks.
- **Pedestrian safety at Merrymeeting, Rathnew:**
Mr. Byrne advised that Alan Martin had assessed the area. He is to check if there is funding available. He suggested he also attend a meeting with Cllr. Snell.
- **Motor Home Park at the Murrough:**
Mr. Byrne advised that this could be an expensive undertaking as the barriers would have to be removed, height restrictions installed to avoid unauthorised access, provide services such as waste, electricity, water supply. He agreed to look at this in more detail and cost such work. The Members advised that this issue was discussed previously with the Town Council. They clarified that the capacity for 8-12 motor homes with a water supply was discussed.

The following issues were raised by the Members:

- **Bus stop removed at Timore, Newcastle – can it be replaced especially the north bound stop.**
- **Road barriers on Newtown to Kilcoole road.**
- **Ramps/traffic calming on Newtown to Kilcoole road.**
- **Cunningham's Corner – new system is not working. Mr. Byrne advised that a technician was out a few weeks ago. The control box was knocked. It was suggested the ditches are cut back in front of the solar panel.**
- **Rubber/bolt down ramps for housing estates. Some residents are willing to buy these. Mr. Byrne agreed to speak to the Roads Department. But he mentioned that these ramps are not hard wearing and break up easily. He asked for a list of**

estates or that the residents could contact him directly. It was suggested a pilot scheme may be carried out.

- Cliffwalk – an update was requested in regard to this issue. There is a notice up on the Lighthouse Road advising the route is closed. There is nothing wrong with the walk from that end, it is fully accessible to Lime Kiln Bay.
- Dogpark – the grass area near the sewerage treatment plant was suggested for this.
- Um wall – an update on this was sought.
- Public lighting along Port Access road – there are 5-6 lights out near the entrance to the carpark. Apparently there is a connection problem which Airtricity must look at.
- Notice of motion proposed by Cllr. John Snell and seconded by Cllr. Daire Nolan – Jake's Law - reduce speed limit in housing estates to 20 km. per hour. This bill is currently being debated in the Dáil. David Porter advised that this motion is not official as it was not received in time for the Municipal District meeting. If it has the unanimous support of the Members it can go on the agenda of the next Council Council meeting. This was agreed by the Members.
- Increase in burial charges in Rathnew cemetery without any consultation with the Members. Who implemented the price hike? It was advised that this is an Environment function.
- Hedge cutting on Rocky Road, Wicklow – this is dangerous as pedestrians are stepping off onto the road. Do the Council write to the residents? Paul Byrne advised that it is the same process.
- Road surface in Glenview Park, Kilpeddar is extremely bad. There are some very high trees in the estate. Mr. Byrne agreed to look at these issues.
- Junction at Ballinalea, Ashford – unsafe junction especially with the bus shelter restricting line of vision. Can part of the footpath be removed? Paul Byrne agreed to look at this.

FITZWILLIAM SQUARE

Margaret Hartnett gave an update on the modified layout. She gave a copy of the plans to the Members. These plans have addressed the main issues – reduced the openings to the Square (Healy's Pub side) to two openings. The one way at Church Street is the best solution from a traffic management point of view.

The Members discussed the modified plans, raising the following issues:

Coming from Bridge Street, turning left up Phil Healy's hill – the road is very tight at the bottom of the hill. Was another traffic survey carried out? – Ms. Hartnett advised the original survey was looked at. It was not done during a school break.

Will the road be raised? – Ms. Hartnett advised that the road will not be raised. The levels will be looked at. What benefit is the small plaza? This may become a collection for litter.

Ms. Hartnett is hoping the Members will agree to the modifications. She will report back to the NTA if there is a general consensus. She advised that there is no guaranteed funding at this time however there is funding to proceed with the Part VIII. The members agreed to proceed with the Part VIII process.

ASHFORD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Some Members were invited to an impromptu meeting with interested parties on Sunday evening. These Members relayed the feelings of these parties. They feel very aggrieved that they were not consulted prior to the works. The access is restricted to the community hall and to some residents' homes. The bollards are unattractive and the speed ramp is too high.

Paul Byrne responded by explaining there was positive feedback. The ramp has slowed down drivers. The Council had met with the school principal Conan Daye, the Gardai and the Parents Association prior to the works commencing. They had assured the Council everyone would be consulted. The main priority is children's safety. Mr. Byrne advised that some of the bollards were vandalised and were replaced by The Council. They were removed again however have not been replaced as they cost €50 each. There is a 4 week trial period and the public can make observations until 6th March. It was suggested that a meeting is held after this date and Mr. Byrne was asked to attend.

WICKLOW HERITAGE PLAN REVIEW

David Porter advised the Members of an email and attachment sent by Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer in relation to the new heritage forum. He advised that each Municipal District must nominate a representative to sit on this forum. He advised the Members could discuss the matter now or later. Cllr. Pat Kavanagh and Cllr. John Snell both expressed an interest and proposed themselves. Cllr. Irene Winters seconded Cllr. Kavanagh. Mr. Porter agreed to check with Deirdre Burns if more than one Member could sit on the forum. It was decided if two Members could not be nominated each Member would nominate their preference:

Cathaoirleach Pat Casey – Cllr. John Snell
Cllr. Daire Nolan – Cllr. John Snell
Cllr. Shay Cullen – Cllr. John Snell
Cllr. Pat Kavanagh – Cllr. Pat Kavanagh
Cllr. John Snell – Cllr. John Snell
Cllr. Irene Winters – Cllr. Pat Kavanagh

Cllr. Snell won on a majority 4-2.

HILL VIEW ESTATE

David Porter advised that the investigation is still underway by the Housing Section and Senior Engineer Breege Kilkenny. Two to three houses are currently being repaired. This item will continue to be included on the agenda.

THE MURROUGH COASTAL EROSION

David Porter advised that Declan Mamane had been in contact with the consultants. He will furnish the report and costing once he receives it.

UPDATE ON WMD PROJECTS

Playground at the Murrough - **Michael Nicholson** advised that the contractors are on site. The equipment is being built off site and then will be put in place. He envisages this will take approximately 3 weeks.

FCA Hall - **David Porter** advised that there is no further update on this matter.

TOWN HALL

David Porter advised that there were 5 expressions of interest. He will prepare a report next week.

CORRESPONDENCE

David Porter advised the Members that Marc Deveraux will give a presentation at the next Council meeting on CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management).

Wicklow Educate Together National School have written requesting if they can use the FCA Hall for 2 special needs classes from September 2015 until the new school is built.

The following issues were raised by The Members:

Land at Brides Head/ Wicklow Head – led to believe that a horse shelter is planned for this land. There has been no consultation on this. It was asked that no further work be carried out until the matter has been fully discussed.

NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR. SHAY CULLEN

"That Wicklow County Council reviews the roadside hedge-cutting policy as a matter of urgency to improve its efficiency and effectiveness".

Speaking on the motion, Cllr. Cullen wants to resolve this issue which affects tourism in the County. He looked for the support of the Members.

A discussion on this issue took place and the following solutions were suggested:

Send stronger letters to repeat offenders

Obtain a list of repeat offenders

Introduce Bye-Laws

Council cut and bill afterwards

It was agreed by the members to request that this motion be placed on the agenda of the next full Council meeting.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in the Town Hall at 3pm on 23rd March, 2015.

The meeting closed at 4.49 p.m.

SIGNED:


DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

SIGNED:


CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE:

23/3/15.