

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING
MONDAY 26th JANUARY, 2015 3PM
TOWN HALL**

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, District Engineer Paul Byrne, Clerical Officer Caroline Lynch.

Leas-Cathaoirleach Irene Winters opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Cllr. Pat Kavanagh asked if the minutes could record which Member raised an issue as they are a public record and she would like the public to be aware of issued raised on their behalf. **David Porter** explained that the minutes are not a record of what was said but a record of the meetings i.e. time, date, venue, who attended and what decisions were made. It was suggested that perhaps the Members would state when they wanted a particular issue attributed to them in the minutes.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER 2014**

Proposed by **Cllr. Shay Cullen**, seconded by **Cllr. Daire Nolan**.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report.

Ballyduff Hill, Ashford:

Mr. Byrne advised that after the drain was cleared there is very little surface water. A more permanent solution will be looked at in the summer months. It was remarked that although satisfied with the temporary job it was stressed a more permanent job needs to be done.

Flooding at rear of 189-170 Season Park, Newtownmountkennedy:

Gratitude was extended to Alan Martin and Paul Byrne for looking at this issue. **Mr. Byrne** advised it is an ongoing issue and further investigations are required.

Cutting ditches and overhanging trees in rural areas:

Mr. Byrne advised that this is the landowners' responsibility. The Council issue warning notices and subsequent follow up notices to landowners who do not comply. It was felt that the current system is not working. It was agreed to put a motion through to Wicklow County Council.

Running water and pothole at Woodview estate, Ashford:

Mr. Byrne advised that the leaking manhole has been cleaned and jetted. However he wants to wait until the next rainfall to check the problem has been addressed.

Traffic Management at Community Hall, Rathnew:

Mr. Byrne advised that there are rules governing the placement of yellow junction boxes. But agreed if it is possible, he will certainly look at this.

Cllr. John Snell arrived at 3.17 pm. **Cathaoirleach Pat Casey** arrived 3.17 pm and took over as Chair.

The following issues were raised by the Members:

- Traffic congestion at the new school (old VEC premises) – **Paul Byrne** agreed to look into this matter. It was suggested perhaps the Council could write to the school to arrange a meeting.
- Speed ramps at Main Street, Newtownmountkennedy – **Daire Nolan** had emailed **Declan Marnane** of the roads department.
- Can a name sign be erected to the entrance of Bramble Glade estate. There is a fund to erect signs when they are taken in charge.
- Pedestrian safety at Merrymeeting, Rathnew – **Cllr. John Snell** would like a meeting with **Paul Byrne** at this location to discuss this issue. **Mr. Byrne** agreed to contact **Cllr. Snell** during the week.
- Motor Home Park at the Murrough – **Mr. Byrne** agreed to look at this issue.
- Update on traffic management at Ashford – **Mr. Byrne** advised that this work is 90% complete and the Council are due to hand back control to the school. **Mr. Byrne** agreed to look at ways of making the roundabout more pedestrian friendly.
- Can the street cleaner be used in Kilpedar and Newtown especially in the morning as cars are parked during the day? – **Mr. Byrne** advised that the driver is retiring soon and is currently training in his replacement. The road sweeper will be used throughout the whole district.

- The amount of dog dirt in Wicklow Town and overgrown briars along the footpath on the right hand side approaching the Town.
- The schedule of when the street cleaning machine is used was requested – **Mr. Byrne** agreed to provide this.
- There is a problem with the chevron system installed at Cunningham's Corner – **Mr. Byrne** advised this has been referred to the manufactures to adjust.
- The quality of the new number plates placed on the bridges was questioned. They are made of plastic and some are not positioned straight – **Mr. Byrne** advised that the style of the plates are specified by the NRA and are nationwide. However he would discuss the matter with the Roads Engineer.

HILL VIEW ESTATE

David Porter advised there is no real update on this issue. The matter is still under investigation by the Housing Department. He advised he will keep this issue on the agenda and should have an update for the next meeting.

Simon Harris T.D. Minister for State at the Departments of Finance & Public Expenditure & Reform with Special Responsibility for the OPW, Public Procurement & International Banking has been invited to meet the Members.

THE MURROUGH COASTAL EROSION

Cathaoirleach Pat Casey raised the issue of funding. He wonders if the money should come from the budget process or come from the schedule or works. He asked if the Members have a problem meeting to discuss this matter.

UPDATE ON WMD PROJECTS

David Porter advised that work on installing the playground equipment at the The Murrough will commence on 21st February 2015.

He also advised that the land acquisition is complete for the Rathnew Playground. Submissions were to be submitted by 22nd January 2015 and none were received. The location is close to a monuments site and as such the Council must employ an archaeologist.

With regard to the Newtown Playground, **Mr. Porter** informed the Members that the land acquisition is almost completed.

It was raised if the meeting proposed with Pat Mellon and Casey O'Brien in regard to the Cliff Walk. **Cathaoirleach Pat Casey** advised the meeting will take place early to mid February.

It was asked if the HSE had responded to the Council's query regarding the closure of the hospital. **David Porter** advised that he had sent emails however had received no response.

David Porter advised that he had written to Bus Eireann with the request for bus shelters and that Bus Eireann had received this letter.

TO AGREE A PROTOCOL ON MEETING DELEGATIONS

David Porter asked the Members what mechanism they wished to put in place for dealing with meeting delegations. If someone rings up do the Members just arrange to meet them? It was suggested that the Chair is contacted and if the Members agree they would proceed with the meeting. This was agreed by the Members.

TOWN HALL

David Porter advised that the advertisement seeking interested parties was placed in Wednesday's newspaper. He advised no submissions have been received to date. Citizens Information had sent in unsolicited interest prior to the advert but will have to submit their proposal by the closing date.

It was noted that a recent article which appeared in the North Wicklow Times may have suggested someone made representations before the expression of interest. **Michael Nicholson** agreed to take all submissions and make a decision. He confirmed this will be an executive decision and he had agreed to come back and inform the Members. It was agreed to keep this issue on the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

David Porter advised that he had written to Iarnrod Eireann in relation to the coastal erosion on The Murrough.

David Porter advised that Wicklow Town has been invited to participate in Europe on Stage by Eichenzell Twinning Committee which will be held in Eichenzell in July. He advised there is a small budget for twinning. Also the City of Marostica which is twined with Montigny are looking for a contribution to part fund a project. **Michael Nicholson** clarified that they are hosting an international event and need partners to come on board. This will need to be discussed with the Twinning Committee.

Remembrance Memorial – **Michael Nicholson** advised the Members that the committee have run out of money and are unable to finish this project. The committee

have approached The Council with a view to handing the project over. Part of the overall design was to install seating in an amphitheatre style however this cannot now be carried out.

When asked how much money is needed to finish the work and **Mr. Nicholson** replied between €10,000 and €15,000. It was suggested perhaps the seating could be put in at a later date.

It was suggested this matter be put on the agenda and perhaps the Members could look at funding from the Schedule of Works, which must be adopted by 31st March 2015. It was asked if the Members could have figures on the cost of the remaining work. It was also suggested perhaps it may be cheaper to finish the project through FAS workers or Tidy Towns.

Irish Water Clinics – **David Porter** reminded the Members to submit any queries to him as soon as possible.

FCA Hall – **David Porter** advised that he had received the map back, which must be amended and then sent back. The matter is still ongoing.

The following issues were raised by The Members:

- Seek clarification from the HSE as to why an ambulance and two personnel was on standby in the Glebemount for 1^{1/2} hours last Thursday week.

The following were welcomed by The Members:

- The grant of planning permission to the hospice at Maghermore.
- Work on the tea rooms at Kilmacurragh.

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

The meeting closed at 4.07 p.m.

SIGNED:


DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

SIGNED:


CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE:

23/2/15.