

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING
MONDAY 23rd MARCH, 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, District Administrator David Porter, District Engineer Paul Byrne, Clerical Officer Caroline Lynch.

Cathaoirleach Pat Casey opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He extended his and the Members' sympathies to Cllr. Pat Kavanagh on the death of her mother. A minutes' silence was observed.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON 23RD FEBRUARY 2015**

Proposed by **Cllr.** John Snell and seconded by **Cllr.** Daire Nolan.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report.

- Bus stop removed at Timore, Newcastle:
Paul Byrne advised that Bus Eireann have not replied to him.
- Road barriers on Newtown to Kilcoole road:
Mr. Byrne advised that he expects to have quotes by the end of the week. There are some technical issues that need to be ironed out.
- Ramps/traffic calming on Newtown to Kilcoole road:
Mr. Byrne advised that he will review this issue in conjunction with the Roads Section and the NRA.
- Cunningham's Corner:
Mr. Byrne advised that tree branches were removed which were obscuring the solar panels and there have been no issues reported since.

- Rubber/bolt down ramps for housing estates:
Mr. Byrne advised that he will consider each estate individually. There is no funding specifically allocated for this work. It was suggested by the Members that a pilot scheme be implemented where the residents would supply the ramps and the Council would install them.
- Cliffwalk:
Mr. Byrne advised that he had instructed the General Services Supervisor to remove this sign. The Members advised the sign has not been removed.
- Dog park:
Mr. Byrne advised that this may not be a feasible option. There are many issues to consider e.g. how it is run, what happens the dog dirt and how it is funded etc. It was suggested Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council be contacted to obtain information on their dog parks.
- Urn wall:
Mr. Byrne advised that Billy Roberts is to get back to him. There may be an issue with funding. The Members advised that funding was previously available. An estimate of €60,000 was given last year. It was felt this price is inappropriate and it was suggested the wall could be constructed in sections.
- Increase in burial charges in Rathnew cemetery:
The Members discussed the increase in charges. They are seeking clarification on this issue. It was agreed to present a list of questions at the next Environment SPC meeting on 20th April, 2015.
- Public lighting along Port Access road:
Mr. Byrne advised he had discussed this matter with Declan O'Brien who informed him that Airtricity have a backlog.
- Hedge cutting on Rocky Road, Wicklow:
Mr. Byrne advised Cllr. Winters was to give him a list of names. It is too late to cut the hedge now.
- Road surface in Glenview Park, Kilpedder:
Mr. Byrne hopes to repair this surface this year however it will depend on funding.
- Junction at Ballinalea, Ashford:
Mr. Byrne advised that this is not on the list of works for this year however he may consider it towards the end of the year. A copy of the safety statement audit before and after the works were done was requested. Mr. Byrne agreed to this.

The following issues were raised by the Members:

- Sand around some features in the new playground on the Murrough instead of rubber matting. This is not a suitable material as the wind blows the sand and it will attract dogs and cats.
- Playground in Newtownmountkennedy – an update was sought.
- Brittas Bay car park – has a decision been made on opening during the winter?
- Entrance to school in Newtownmountkennedy
- Garden Village Drive – damage to road, potholes.
- Sewerage plant, The Murrough, Wicklow Town – smells emanating from the plant.
- Traffic congestion at Gaelscoil.
- Traffic calming on Laragh to Roundwood road.
- Council container beside Castle Street flats, Wicklow – can it be removed?
- Footpaths and road markings in Wicklow Town – is the removal of the granite kerbs a temporary measure? The road markings are worn away.
- Diving board on The Pier – Galway County Council have insurance for the diving board in Salthill. Why can't Wicklow County Council obtain insurance cover?
- Road marking at the junction of St. Patrick's Road and St. Laurence's Road – the white line is 2½ feet back up the hill. Can the road be re-marked?
- Road traffic signs – can the wardens keep an eye out for twisted signs.
- Access from Glebemount opposite Lidl/Heatons – can this be made safer either a barrier or close off the access?
- Public lighting at Bayview Road – 5 lights are not working for the last 4 weeks. The Council are paying for a service which they are not getting. How much of a clawback is available?
- Taking Estates in Charge – how many are left?
David Porter advised that this is a planning function. The Members asked for a report from the Director of Services Des O'Brien.

SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS

A copy of the Draft 2015 Schedule of Municipal District Works, Update for Corporate Policy Group and the works expenditure had been circulated to the Members with the Agenda. Loraine Lynch advised that this is a new element to the budgetary process. It is a subsection of the budget. The plan prioritises the use of funding provided in the overall budget. She advised that if the SMDW is not adopted by the Members by 31st March, 2015 it must revert to the full council.

The Members sought clarification on a number of the figures presented. They questioned if the costs were apportioned properly. Ms. Lynch explained it is a plan of works not necessarily a budget. The figures incorporate payroll, material costs, fuel costs etc. There followed a discussion of both the schedule and the budget process during which the Members expressed their disappointment with the process and their own lack of control over the process.

The following matters were discussed:

- When is the parking contract up for renewal? David Porter advised the contract is up in November.
- Hire of the Assembly Hall and insurance.
- Public Convenience in Wicklow Town – length of contract.
- Christmas Lights in Wicklow Town – previously €20,000 was incorporated into the rates bill.
- Tidy Towns – remarked that they are a huge benefit to the Town. It was suggested that in the future other Tidy Towns groups could apply for funding.
- Wicklow Rugby Club is looking for additional funding to host a twinning event.
- Ballynerrin Playground – it was suggested €4,000 be used to install netting at the playground. Ms. Lynch advised that the money must be spent in the year.
- Can €20,000 be moved into the €84,000 discretionary fund? Ms. Lynch advised that this is not part of the budget process.
- Car Park at Brittas Bay – it was asked if the car park could be opened earlier in the year. David Porter advised that this is an Environment Section role. The members can discuss this matter but cannot make a decision. The car park is operated by a franchise from May to September.

The Members agreed to give contributions equivalent to 2014 amount to any group who got funding from the Town Council i.e. Wicklow Swimming Club, Wicklow Regatta Festival and Wicklow Arts Festival etc.

It was proposed by Cllr. Irene Winters and seconded by Cllr. Daire Nolan to use the balance of €3,340 for twinning activities.

TOWN HALL

David Porter circulated a report on the 5 expressions of interest received and gave a short description of each application received – Co. Wicklow Citizens Information Service, Wicklow Heritage Group, Grand Central EX Wicklow, Charles Callan (literary and cultural centre), Creative Space (received prior to advertisement). He advised that no decision has been made. He advised he is available to answer any questions the Members may have on the submissions or if they want to read the submissions for themselves.

ASHFORD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Paul Byrne gave an overview. He advised 20-30 submissions were received. The main issue is the bollards particularly restricting the access of some residents. The majority of people appear to be happy the traffic has slowed down. Mr. Byrne has discussed the matter with Declan Marnane and the thinking is to reduce the number of bollards. The Members asked if there is an alternative to the bollards. Mr. Byrne remarked it is a lot to do with driver behaviour. It was decided to hold a meeting with representations from interested groups and the residents affected.

CORRESPONDENCE

David Porter distributed a report on the Irish Horse Welfare Trust prepared by Margaret Malone of Housing and Corporate Estate. He advised that the control of horses is a Housing function and the lands at Brides head are being dealt with by Corporate Estate. The Members voiced their disappointment at not being informed and not being given a straight answer to their question at the last Municipal District meeting. Ms. Lynch advised it is an education programme. There are stables on the land however access, management of the site and funding are issues still to be resolved. The Members raised the following questions:

Where will the funding come from? Ms. Lynch advised that the Department of Agriculture can fund the project.

Does the project require planning permission? Does not require planning as there is access for a road. It was noted that this is a private road.

Who will manage the site at the weekends?

Is it open to only one section of the community? Ms. Lynch confirmed it is a proposed traveller education project.

Who will draw up the licence? Ms. Lynch advised the Housing section in conjunction with Corporate Estate would do this.

The members resolved that the project will not go any further until full consultation has taken place. Ms. Lynch advised she cannot guarantee that no work would commence.

David Porter advised that Declan Marnane, Senior Engineer, had received the drawings on the Murrough Coastal Erosion. The estimate for the work is €100,000 which is more than initially thought. He is currently looking at possible sources of funding from the Department of the Environment or the OPW but this may take some time. He requested the Members consider allocating funding towards this project. Remedial works are required on the existing revetment following storm damage. The Members questioned how the Council could fund this project. Ms. Lynch advised there are a couple of possible sources such as the environment fund. The Members discussed the design.

Bus Shelters – David Porter advised that Cormac Ross from National Transportation Authority had written informing him that the list would be finalised by the end of April.

Cliffwalk – An update was sought on this matter for the next meeting.

FCA Hall – Mr. Porter advised that there is no further update on this matter.

The Members raised the following matters:

Hospital/HSE – The Members expressed their dissatisfaction that the HSE are not answering their questions. Mr. Porter advised that the building is state owned.

The Members queried whether Simon had taken ownership of the units on Castle Street. Work cannot commence as the Department have not reimbursed the Council.

Sporting Clubs – Can the Council help local clubs by giving them extra land. The Members noted that the land is zoned but is not owned by the Council.

Cllr. Daire Nolan left the meeting at 5:05 pm

It was decided to hold the next meeting in the Town Hall at 3pm on 27th April, 2015.

The meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.

SIGNED: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: _____