

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING
TUESDAY 29th MARCH 2016 3 PM
TOWN HALL**

Present: Cathaoirleach Irene Winters, Councillors Daire Nolan, Mary Kavanagh, Shay Cullen, Gail Dunne, John Snell (arrived 3.49 p.m.).

In attendance: District Manager Loraine Lynch, District Administrator David Porter, District Engineer Paul Byrne, Clerical Officer Caroline Lynch, Senior Engineer Declan O'Brien. (Arrived at 4.25 p.m.).

Cathaoirleach Irene Winters opened the meeting at 3.19 p.m.

The Cathaoirleach and the Members welcomed the two new members, Cllr. Mary Kavanagh and Cllr. Gail Dunne and wished them both the best of luck.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON 1st MARCH 2016**

It was proposed by Cllr. Shay Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Daire Nolan and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District meeting held 1st March, 2016.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

For the benefit of the new members, the Cathaoirleach advised them of the procedure of emailing Paul Byrne at least one week in advance so he can prepare answers for the meeting.

Mr. Byrne referred to Cllr. Dunne's emails:

- Fascia and soffits for 3 Hill View - Mr. Byrne advised he is checking this out. There is a limited budget for housing repairs.
- Dangerous parking at St. Dominic's Road, Wicklow Town – Mr. Byrne says this is Garda matter however he will monitor it from an engineering point of view.

Mr. Byrne referred to Cllr. Kavanagh's emails:

- Audio on pedestrian crossing at Abbey Street opposite the tennis courts and at the Grand Hotel – Mr. Byrne advised he will look at this and repair if necessary.

Mr. Byrne updated the Members on The Murrough coastal protection works. He advised that Marc Devereux, the Engineer overseeing the project, advised him that the compound and facilities for the work on The Murrough will commence mid-April. The work will begin approximately one or two weeks after this. He advised materials have been sourced from a supplier in Blessington. Health and Safety documents have been requested. He further advised that it may not be possible to have full access along this area at certain times during the project.

SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS

Paul Byrne distributed a list of proposed works under the discretionary fund as suggested by the Members together with costings and a list of works planned under the Roads Programme to the Members. He advised the proposed works could be discussed in further detail. The road works are normally carried out during the summer months. These works are grant funded by the Department of Transport.

The Members asked if the Schedule had to be adopted today. Ms. Lynch said the Schedule should be adopted otherwise it would revert to the County Council. She further advised that the discretionary element of the budget is €110,000 and the Members decide how this is allocated. Ms. Lynch advised that the full Council adopt the annual budget then the draft Schedule of Municipal District Works is prepared for the provision of services, maintenance and repair for adoption by the Municipal District Members. She advised that last year the discretionary fund was not agreed on the same day as the schedule. She offered to go through each element of the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Cllr. Mary Kavanagh referred to some issues she had submitted. Mr. Byrne advised that some of these were dealt with under different categories or were not in the Municipal District area.

The Members suggested meeting prior to the April meeting to discuss the discretionary fund. It was also suggested to build up a reserve in order to do one substantial project. Ms. Lynch advised that the Members could consider this process as a 3 year programme, if circumstances remain the same, the Members are likely to have a similar level of discretionary spending to allocate over the next 3 years. However Ms. Lynch added that there are no guarantees regarding future discretionary funding.

Ms. Lynch gave a summary of each division of the SMDW:

Division A – Housing: The provision for 2016 is €307,549 which is for the maintenance and repair of over 900 houses in the district. The budget was exceeded last year so an extra allocation has been made.

Division B – Road, Transportation and Safety: Some of the road works are included on the District Engineer's work's programme. The sum of €223,000 is for the provision of parking services in Wicklow Town.

Division C – Water Services: The sum of €61,427 for the maintenance of the public conveniences in the district. There is a new allocation of €8,000 for drain maintenance.

Division D – Development Management: There are 2 discretionary areas within this section. Normally €6,000 is distributed in support of twinning projects and €5,000 towards Tidy Towns.

Division E – Environmental Services: The street cleaning allocation has been increased to allow for cleaning during the summer months. The maintenance of burial grounds allocation has been reduced due to a re-allocation of payroll costs.

Division F – Recreation and Amenity: This covers the swimming pool, open spaces, Brittas Bay, playgrounds. The allocation for Outdoor Leisure Area Operations has increased this year to €380,841. The sum of €25,000 is to be decided by the Members. In previous years €20,000 was allocated towards the Christmas Lights in Wicklow Town and €5,000 towards festivals e.g. Wicklow Regatta, Sailfest, St.Patrick's Day Parade, Taste of Wicklow and Wicklow Arts Festival.

Division J – Central Management Charges: This covers the area office costs i.e. salaries and associated office costs.

€3.7 million administered by Municipal District and €1.4 million for services administered centrally e.g. for the operation of the recycling centre, litter warden, fire service, libraries. Ms. Lynch advised that there is an allocation of €200,000 for the operation and maintenance of Wicklow Harbour. The Council is taking over the port from the Harbour Company under the National Ports Policy. She informed the Members that Paul Ivory will look after the harbours in Arklow and Wicklow. The Council will look at hiring an assistant Harbour Master. It was remarked there is a lot of work to be done before the takeover.

The Members raised the following queries:

- Can figures be produced for street cleaning during May and September.
- Car parking – Park Rite are hired to provide traffic/litter wardens, collect money. A small profit is made.
- Breakdown of the cost for cleaning public convenience in Glendalough.
- Breakdown of the costs associated with the graveyard in Rathnew.
- Salary of the cleaner in Roundwood.
- What portion of the street cleaning budget is wages? - €170,000
- Does the machinery yard break even? – yes
- What services are provided for at Brittas Bay? – Grass cutting, cleaning of beach, removal of rubbish skips etc.
- Can something be done to alleviate the parking problem in Glendalough. Regular tailbacks and access severely restricted.

It was proposed to adopt the SMDW with a view to reviewing and finalizing the discretionary allocation next month. This was unanimously agreed by the Members.

Cllr. Daire Nolan left the meeting at 4.25 p.m.

SPECIAL SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

Declan O'Brien, Executive Engineer Roads Section arrived at the meeting at 4.25 p.m. to give a presentation on the Special Speed Limit Review. He advised the Members he is available in the Seminole Room in County Buildings on Friday 1st April for any input to this or the Members can email him directly. The Members raised the following:

Can the speed limit be increased in certain areas?

Wicklow Town Main Street – buses speeding through town early in the morning.

Mr. O'Brien advised that the process will take some time. He expects the new bye-laws to be adopted by the end of the year and the signage to be erected in January/February 2017. The list of proposals will go to each Municipal District for their consideration. There will be a public consultation which feeds back into the process.

Cllr. Shay Cullen left the meeting at 4.30 p.m.

The Members raised various public lighting issues with Declan O'Brien:

- Merrymeeting Hill, Rathnew. Sean Quirke is to price up.
- Lights not on in the playground – Mr. O'Brien advised there is an issue with ESB.
- Light on the bottom of Greenhill Road, Wicklow Town reported 138 days ago. Mr. O'Brien said he would look into this matter. He advised there are 72 lights out over 2 weeks, 29 of which are regular faults and the remainder have other issues. There are a lot of cable faults particularly since Christmas.
- Pole no. 5 Glenview Road, Wicklow Town.

It was asked how the Members report a fault. Mr. O'Brien advised he can be contacted directly and will report the problem directly to Airtricity. Mr. Porter also advised the staff in the Municipal District office can be contacted.

CORRESPONDENCE

David Porter advised he had no correspondence.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

The following votes of sympathy were recorded at the meeting:

- Family in Buncrana pier tragedy
- Jackie McCloskey, Glebemount, Wicklow Town

The Members and those in attendance at the meeting stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the deceased and their families.

The meeting closed at 4.45 p.m.

SIGNED:

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

SIGNED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE:
