

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

MONDAY 17th DECEMBER 2018 3PM

DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

Present: Cathaoirleach Daire Nolan, Councillors Gail Dunne, Mary Kavanagh, Shay Cullen

In attendance: District Manager Brian Gleeson, District Administrator Joan Sinnott, District Engineer Kevin Scanlon, Clerical Officer Sinead Turner

Cathaoirleach Daire Nolan opened the meeting at 3.00pm.

Councillor John Snell joined the meeting at 3.10pm.

Apologies: Councillor Irene Winters

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD 19th NOVEMBER 2018

It was proposed by Councillor Gail Dunne, seconded by Councillor Shay Cullen and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District meeting held on 19th November 2018.

ELECTION OF LEAS CHATHAOIRLEACH

It had been agreed at the annual general meeting that Councillors Gail Dunne and Mary Kavanagh would each serve six months as Leas Chathaoirleach. Councillor Dunne had served the first six months and formally nominated Councillor Kavanagh. There were no other nominations. Mary thanked all the members and in particular councillor Dunne for being so magnanimous in sharing the role. The members wished her well.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Kevin Scanlon presented the District Engineer's report as follows:

Housing

- Work continuing on general maintenance and repairs.
- Technical support to WCC-Housing Dept:
 - Re-lets: 4 new houses received. 6 returned to WCC Housing Dept. 2 have works continuing.
 - Tenders for repairs to the fire damaged house at Ashwood, Roundwood have been assessed by architect and the construction funding has been agreed with IPB. Chief Executives Order regarding appointment of a contractor has been submitted to Housing Dept. Planning for Contractor to start on site in January 2019.
- Four DPG's being undertaken, two currently on site.

Roads and Footpaths

- Winter maintenance underway. 4 nights gritting since November 19th.

- Tender awarded for the Roundwood to Knockfadda Rd resurfacing. Works due to be carried out in coming weeks.
- LIS additional 2 projects awarded. Works due to be carried out in coming weeks.
- Discretionary grant works:
 1. Benches at Murrough gym/skatepark. To be fitted by Direct Labour team during the course of their duties.
 2. Traffic calming at Ballinastoe. Design adjusted and agreed with contractor to incorporate a second warning loop on the L-1536 (Golf Club to Altidore road). Contractor to source equipment and it is intended to install during January 2019.
- Road Opening Licences continue to be processed and agreed.

Environment

- Grass cutting and edge cleaning continues.

Planning

- Reports on applications and compliance with applications are continuing to be issued.
- Estate taking in charge reports and inspections are continuing with WCC planning staff.

Playgrounds

- Maintenance inspections continue. Tree survey at Ashford PG carried out to identify dead/unhealthy/dangerous overhanging branches. Contractor instructed to carry out some minor tree surgery to make same safe. Intention to carry out works next week.

Public Liability

- 7 new claims (2 personal injuries & 5 material damage) submitted to WMD this month.
- Currently working on approx. 5 live claims at various stages.

Councillors Queries and Comments

- Delay in finalising some matters, query if there are sufficient staff
- Improvements urgently required to public toilets in Roundwood
- Coastal protection at The Murrough should be addressed in first half of 2019
- Completion of Local Improvement Schemes – District Engineer advised that the Department had allowed the schemes to run to February and it was anticipated they would be finished in January
- Staff levels and staff being deployed to other projects outside the district
- Subsidence at Rathnew cemetery. District Engineer to examine with caretaker
- Surface water flowing on top road at Rosehill
- Playgrounds – members were advised that €8,000 was put aside for replacement of equipment
- Under-utilisation of Assembly Hall, some clubs are in dire need of premises
- Commemoration for Peter O'Connor – to be done in January
- It was agreed to discuss works to be undertaken under the Discretionary Fund in January
- District Engineer advised that ESB intend replacing 120 or 130 old wooden poles and SIRO will put in new fibre optic cable for broadband
- Flooding at Seaview Heights – now rectified
- Dog Fouling Machine – people complaining not being used regularly. District Engineer to follow up with overseer

FUNDING UPDATE

District Manager, Brian Gleeson, advised that €3.7 million had been allocated towards Fitzwilliam Square upgrade and the new library. €1.6 million was allocated in November, a further €1.6 million will be allocated in 2019 and €500,000 in 2020 under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund.

It will take 2-3 months to prepare contracts for Fitzwilliam Square and a further 2-3 months to tender and it is expected that work will commence on Fitzwilliam Square in late summer of 2019 while work on the library will start sooner.

Members referred to the lack of business at the upper end of the town. The District Manager advised that an incentive scheme was being introduced which would offer a discount in rates to new businesses who occupy a vacant building.

CLIFF WALK UPDATE

The District Administrator advised that works are ongoing and progressing well. The agreement between the Council and Golf Club has been signed and sealed. Fencing and planting are currently being carried out and it is anticipated that works will be complete by early January. A final inspection will then be carried out by the National Trails Office.

Members were pleased to hear that some of the old granite kerbstones from Main Street have been used.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The District Administrator advised that Virgin Media intends to provide free Wi-Fi in Market Square, Wicklow Town. A survey will be carried out to explore the possibility of placing antennae inside or outside the Town Hall which will give a signal of 300 metres down the street and up towards Wicklow Gaol. It is hoped to launch this early in January and to consider provision in Fitzwilliam Square later.

Reference was made to damp walls in the Council chamber. The District Engineer advised that he would arrange for the walls to be treated.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for Monday 28th January 2019 at 3 p.m. The meeting closed at 4.05 p.m.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Dated: _____