**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD REMOTELY BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY 25th MAY 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor D. Mitchell, Cathaoirleach

Councillors M. Crean, T. Fortune, J. Neary, L. Scott & G. Walsh

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager

Ms. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District Administrator

Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

Apologies from: Mr. R. O’Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer

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At the outset the District Administrator advised the members that the District Engineer would not be attending the meeting due to the death of his father Michael O’Hanlon. Members proposed a vote of sympathy to Ruairi O’anlHanlon and his family on the death. Members also proposed votes of sympathy to the family of Bernie Johnston from Kindlestown Park and to the family of former Councillor Pat Doran from Carnew on their recent deaths.

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**

It was proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor G. Walsh and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held remotely on 27th April 2021, as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

1. **Date for Annual Meeting of Greystones Municipal District**

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of Greystones Municipal District would be held remotely at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 29th June 2021, prior to the monthly meeting.

1. **Report from Greystones Municipal District Engineer**

No report from the District Engineer was available due to the death of his father.

1. **Provision of Arts and Culture Centre in Greystones Municipal District**

The Cathaoirleach stated that, according to the County Development Plan, a town the size of Greystones should have an Arts & Culture Centre and he had circulated a report to members in this regard.

Members supported the provision of an Arts and Cultural Centre but expressed concerns about ongoing funding for the operation and maintenance of same.

Following discussion it was agreed to invite representatives from the local Whale Theatre to the July meeting as they had prepared a paper on this which had also recently been presented to the Greystones 2020 Town Team.

It was also agreed to seek an update on progress regarding the South Beach Area Action Plan which may facilitate such a Centre.

1. **Memorial Trees at Darcy’s Field, Greystones Harbour**

Members had been circulated with details of the proposals for memorial trees at Darcy’s Field, Greystones Harbour in advance of the meeting.

Following discussion it was agreed to proceed with the provision of memorial trees at Darcy’s Field, Greystones Harbour as previously detailed. Members suggested that families who sponsored a memorial tree be clearly notified that they will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of such trees after the first year.

On a separate issue the District Administrator informed the members that funding had been received for new footpaths in Burnaby Park and that the Tidy Towns Committee had requested that consideration be given to providing sponsored memorial benches along the footpath.

Following discussion it was agreed that no memorial benches be allowed in Burnaby Park and that the Tidy Towns Committee be advised instead to seek corporate sponsorship for seating in the park.

In relation to a recent request from a family for permission to provide a memorial bench on the Upper Green in Kilcoole the members agreed that no memorial benches should be allowed. They agreed instead that the Council should look at identifying a suitable site in the village to facilitate a limited number of memorial trees, similar to what is being provided in Darcy’s Field, Greystones Harbour.

arbour as detailed previously

1. **Allocation of Fishermen’s Huts and fishing at Greystones Harbour**

Members had been circulated with details of the proposals for allocation of Fishermen’s Huts at Greystones Harbour, together with a copy of the proposed licence agreement, in advance of the meeting.

Due to recent issues that had arisen with local fishermen which resulted in a meeting between all interested parties being organised for Wednesday 26th May 2021, it was agreed to defer any decision on the allocation of fishermen’s huts until the current issues were resolved.

Members expressed the hope that the Council and Sispar could reach agreement with the fishermen at the forthcoming meeting and, while they welcomed support for the case, they suggested that private citizens should not be tasked with sorting out the issues.

1. **Provision of Public Open Space in Greystones**

The District Administrator stated that this item was placed on the agenda following a recent letter circulated to all members in relation to Charlesland Golf Club and discussion at the April meeting about the need for additional public open space in Greystones Municipal District.

Members spoke about the need for a large public open space in Greystones Municipal District where people, not associated with any particular club or organisation, could run around and kick a ball. They also spoke about the need for additional pitches to accommodate existing clubs that were bursting at the seams. They requested details of any Council owned land that might be available in the district which would be suitable for such use. They requested that this requirement be included in the audit of community facilities being carried out at present and they further requested a copy of the terms of reference for the consultants that will carry out that audit.

Members also requested that they be provided with an updated list of all the various community facilities proposed to be provided in the Cairn Homes developments at Glenheron, Archers Wood and Coolagad and a progress report on same. They enquired if construction had commenced on the proposed Enterprise Centre at Glenheron and they spoke about the difficulties in securing budgets for ongoing maintenance and operation of the various community facilities that were provided by developers.

The District Administrator informed the members that other MDs had additional funding and staff for managing facilities based on historic numbers that existed when they were independent Town Councils. She stated that the proposed equalization process had not panned out as planned and that further changes were required.

1. **Notices of Motion:**
2. Motion in the name of Councillor J. Neary :

"The need to discuss a strategy for the sustainable development of seafront amenities for sea swimmers and beach users in Greystones"

In adopting this notice of motion the members spoke about the lack of facilities for swimmers in the district. They spoke about the increased numbers of people who swam in the sea off Greystones all year round, especially at the Cove and they requested that additional facilities be provided for swimmers and other beach users.  They suggested that fully accessible changing facilities, outdoor showers and public toilets, as well as Lifeguards and Skills instructors, should be considered to enable people of all abilities to avail of the social benefits of swimming and to create a hub for people and clubs to meet.

The District Administrator advised that regular water quality testing was being carried out at the Cove at present and that a risk assessment would be carried out over the summer months with a view to perhaps having a Lifeguard on duty there in the future.  She suggested that the request was something that could also be considered by the consultants recently appointed to prepare an audit of facilities in the district and she stated that this would be requested.

The District Administrator advised the members that the Council was providing additional free temporary public toilets in portacabins at the south beach for the summer months and that it was hoped to have these in place and operational in the short term.

1. **Correspondence**
2. The District Administrator informed the members that Councillor Richard Parry had recently been elected as Mayor of Holyhead, which was twinned with Greystones, for the coming year.

She paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Alan Williams, who had worked hard on various twinning initiatives between Greystones and Holyhead during his time as Mayor and she wished both Councillors well.

Following discussion it was agreed that congratulations be sent to Councillor Richard Parry and that a letter be sent to Councillor Alan Williams to thank him for all his hard work.

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1. **Any Other Business**
2. Councillor M. Crean enquired about the purpose of the fence currently in place around the pond area of the dog park at Darcy’s Field, Greystones Harbour Harboand whether it would be removed. The District Administrator stated that she would seek clarification on this.
3. The District Manager requested suggestions from the members for a suitable site in the district for the provision of an additional dog park.
4. Councillor G. Walsh raised the issue of unleashed dogs running around on the beach at the Cove. He stated that he had received a number of complaints about this and he requested that the Wardens would visit the beach and remind dog owners of their responsibility to keep their dogs under control at all times.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

 SIGNED:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_CATHAOIRLEACH

 CERTIFIED:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

 DATED THIS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_DAY OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2021