

**MINUTES OF JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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Present: Councillor S. Stokes, Cathaoirleach  
Councillors D. Mitchell, L. Scott & G. Walsh

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager  
Mr. R. O'Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer  
Ms. T. Kearns, Greystones Municipal District Administrator  
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

Apologies from: Councillors M. Barry & T. Fortune

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**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Councillor L. Scott requested that the draft minutes of the December meeting be amended to state 'Mr. C. Page informed the members that a safety audit would be carried out on the proposals and any issues identified such as the location of the pedestrian crossing would be addressed' at the start of paragraph three in relation to item 3 at the December meeting – Consideration of Chief Executive's Report on Part 8 for Killincarrig Village Improvement Scheme. She also requested that 'and he stated that the Council would remove parking restrictions on Castlefield Terrace prior to the scheme being started in order to help alleviate concerns over parking' be added at the end of paragraph four. These changes were agreed by the members.

It was then proposed by Councillor L. Scott, seconded by Councillor G. Walsh and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, as amended, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**2. ELECTION OF LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR STEPHEN STOKES**

Councillor S. Stokes had submitted a letter to the District Administrator tendering his resignation as Leas-Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Councillor S. Stokes proposed that Councillor M. Barry be elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District for the remainder of the term and this was seconded by Councillor G. Walsh.

As there were no other proposals, Councillor M. Barry was deemed elected.

**3. PRESENTATION FROM GREYSTONES FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Lynne O'Connor, Co-ordinator and Ms. Nicola Lawless from the Greystones Family Resource Centre to the meeting. A copy of their presentation had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach declared at the start of the presentation that he was a Director of the Greystones Family Resource Centre.

Ms. L. O'Connor gave a Powerpoint presentation that included a brief history of the organisation as well as outlining what they did and how they were funded and listing the various family supports and community development schemes they provided. She stated that the Centre now catered for people in Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole, Newtownmountkennedy and Newcastle.

Ms. N. Lawless spoke about the need for additional space to allow the group to continue offering their many services and she asked the members to keep their needs at the fore-front of any decisions in relation to the new Local Area Plan and to advise them of any community spaces that became available.

All the members present thanked Ms. O'Connor and Ms. Lawless for their presentation and assured them of their support in any way possible.

The District Manager agreed to follow up with the developer of a creche and community building in Glenheron and to notify the Greystones Family Resource Centre if any suitable community spaces became available in the district.

#### **4. REPRESENTATIVES FROM ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SECTION OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Michael McNamara, Administrative Officer and Mr. Robert Kelly, Water Safety Officer to the meeting.

Mr. M. McNamara gave details about Blue Flag awards for local authorities and Green Flag awards for community groups and he outlined what each scheme entailed and emphasized the need for community involvement in the Green Flag scheme. He pointed out that the schemes were overseen by An Taisce and that community groups seeking a Green Flag must be affiliated to them.

Mr. R. Kelly informed the members that Wicklow County Council employed Lifeguards at seven stations along the coast from 1<sup>st</sup> June to the end of August each year, with an extension to the middle of September if the weather was good. He pointed out that there had been difficulties in recruiting lifeguards in recent years as the numbers training had dropped during Covid and more students were now taking up student visas to travel. In relation to the cove at Greystones, he pointed out that there was one more year of water quality assessments required for the process of having it classified as a designated bathing space. He stated that a risk assessment had been carried out in March 2023 and that additional ring buoys and additional signage had been provided following that.

Mr. R. Kelly went on to say that while there were requests for four additional lifeguard stations at the Cove, Kilcoole, Clogga beach and one in Arklow, Wicklow County Council did not have any budget for additional stations. He pointed out that it cost between €30,000 and €50,000 to fund wages, equipment and premises for each station. He pointed out that Greystones South Beach would lose its blue flag if the lifeguard was moved from there to the cove.

Members welcomed the fact that the cove would likely be classified as a designated bathing area and they pointed out that there were local community groups that regularly collected litter from the beaches. They stated that the cove was used a lot more now than in the past and requested that the provision of a pontoon

there be considered. They also requested that the issue of dogs on the beach during the blue flag season be resolved. They requested a copy of the risk assessment carried out in March 2023.

## **5. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER**

A report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting and he answered any queries from the members in relation to same. He pointed out that details of 2024 funding for Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport; NTA; Climate Adaptation Measures or Outdoor Recreation Improvement Schemes had not yet been received and he asked the members to let him know of any works that they wished to be considered.

In response to queries from the members, the District Engineer agreed to have road lining carried out at the junction of Portland Road and Whitshed Road and he stated that the footpaths in Redford Park that were in the worse state were repaired and that the other paths in the estate would be done as soon as resources allowed. He pointed out that the proposed works to upgrade the junction at Redford Park would be progressed when the Chapel Road scheme was completed and he stated that he had requested an update on the Chapel Road scheme but had not received it prior to the meeting.

The District Engineer informed the members that he had met with the principal of Greystones Community College to discuss measures for providing improved pedestrian crossing points at that location and that he was in contact with Irish Rail on a recurring basis seeking to have the necessary works carried out to allow proper access to the boardwalk at the south beach. He stated that the paving blocks at the AIB bank and the signpost for Kindlestown Park would be replaced when resources allowed and that new solar powered bins had been ordered. He pointed out that he would follow up on the requirement for the new pizza shop at Aldi to provide pizza bins as part of their planning permission and he informed the members that the Safe Routes to School team would look at any issues with the ramps on Church Lane.

In conclusion the District Engineer stated that the request for speed limit signs at Kilquade Hill would be looked at and that he was still waiting on quotes from the public lighting contractor for provision of lights at the Pigs Hollow. He stated that the subject of an email submitted in relation to an area opposite the Arboretum in Kilquade would be investigated as it may be in the Wicklow Municipal District.

## **6. NOTICES OF MOTION**

(a) Motion in the names of Councillors L. Scott and S. Stokes:

"That Greystones Municipal District writes to the Housing section in Wicklow County Council inviting them to attend a GMD meeting as a matter of urgency to discuss the repairs needed for Farrankelly estate and the plan to carry these repairs out".

Following discussion on this motion, it was agreed to request officials from Wicklow County Council's Housing Department to attend a meeting of the Municipal District to discuss the repairs needed for Farrankelly Close estate and their plans to carry out repairs in the estate.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The District Administrator informed the members that the Estate Development Funding Scheme for social housing schemes, and private housing schemes where there were a number of social houses, was now open and that the closing date for applications was Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

2. The District Administrator gave an update on the Twinning partnership between Greystones and Holyhead and advised the members of forthcoming events in relation to same.
3. The District Administrator informed the members that officials from Wicklow County Council had met with representatives from Sispar and Arup recently regarding erosion at the ramp/access point at the north beach and that they would update the members via a Teams meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 11 a.m.
4. The District Administrator informed the members of a response received from the Environment Section in relation to the provision of a pontoon/swimming raft at the harbour and she agreed to circulate this report to the members.
5. The District Administrator acknowledged receipt of an email in relation to security issues in the district that had been sent to all the members by a Mr. Stuart Kinch and which had been referred to the local Gardai.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. The Cathaoirleach referred to the upcoming retirement of the Greystones MD Area Supervisor, Mr. John O’Gorman, and suggested that his fifty-one years of service should be acknowledged. This was agreed.
2. Councillor G. Walsh informed the members that a St. Patrick’s Day Parade would be held in Greystones on 17<sup>th</sup> March at 11 a.m. He thanked the members of the Greystones Town Team and volunteers for their support.
3. Councillor S. Stokes enquired about the provision of new Town Maps and was advised by the District Administrator that she had discussed this matter with Wicklow County Tourism and was looking at alternatives to paper maps.
4. Councillor G. Walsh enquired about changes to parking meters in the town. The District Administrator stated that some meters had been upgraded to allow for card payments and she stated that the requirement to enter car registration numbers had been paused as it was causing issues for motorists.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

**SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ CATHAOIRLEACH**

**CERTIFIED: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATED THIS: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2024**