

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS

MONDAY 21th March @ 11.00 a.m.

Present: Cathaoirleach Gail Dunne, Councillors Mary Kavanagh, John Snell, Irene Winters & Paul O'Brien

Apologies: Cllr. Shay Cullen

In Attendance: Acting District Manager Breda McCarthy
District Engineer Kevin Scanlon
District Administrator Joan Sinnott
Assistant Staff Officer Josephine Hayes
Deirdre Burns Heritage Officer WCC
Myles Buchanan Wicklow People
Margaret Hartnett Senior Resident Engineer

Cathaoirleach Gail Dunne opened the meeting at 11.00 a.m.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 28th February, 2022.

It was proposed by Cllr John Snell and seconded by Cllr Paul O'Brien and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 28th February, 2022.

ITEM 2

Presentation by Heritage Officer Deirdre Burns on Conservation and Climate – Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project

Heritage Officer Deirdre Burns gave a detailed presentation on the Conservation and Climate at Brittas Bay and the Bio-diversity Project which has been undertaken over the past three years with the assistance of Wicklow Municipal District.

Details were presented on the dune grasses and the introduction of a rare cattle breed to graze the area and to help combat invasive species.

Other projects ongoing are Butterfly transects and rare breed of butterfly, insect and bird populations recorded.

Further research is ongoing with the help of local schools and residents and other stakeholders.

The Members thanked Deirdre for the excellent presentation and for the work that has been completed to date on the conservation of such an important site and the Members welcomed the invitation to view the progress of the project in the near future.

ITEM 3

Tidy Towns 2022

District Administrator Joan Sinnott gave details of the 2022 Tidy Towns in the District. The decision to allocate the total annual grant of €11,000 to the seven Tidy Towns was proposed by Cllr. John Snell and seconded by Cllr. Irene Winters.

ITEM 4

Discretionary Fund

Cathaoirleach Gail Dunne requested Councillors to advise on what projects may be considered for the Discretionary Fund going forward.

ITEM 5

District Engineers Report

District Engineer Mr. Kevin Scanlon outlined details of the District Engineers Report.

Housing:

Re-lets and emergency accommodation:

2 standard, 0 emergency accommodation, 3 returned to WCC Housing Dept, 2 have works continuing on site.

DPGs: 3 completed and 1 substantially complete. 3 ramps ready to start.

Roads:

- Roads Programme for 2022 currently being tendered.
- Road Opening Licences (approx. 15) continue to be processed and agreed.
- Winter Maintenance- 9 single and 0 double call outs up to Wednesday 16th March.

Environment:

- Brittas Bay Project-Cattle moved onto site on 15th March and a couple more to come. Water supply connected and remaining items being agreed with owner.

Planning

- Section 254 applications continue to be processed for tables/chairs (0) and NBI poles (1).

Playgrounds

- Adult gym equipment along Murrough – Awaiting delivery of three units ordered.

Public Liability

- 4 new cases (1 material damage, 3 personal injury) and 2 settled/closed.

Projects

NTA

- Ballyguilemor footpath planning underway with WCC. Ashford footpath surveyed last week for detailed design to commence.
- Bicycle rack funding for WCC currently being allocated. WMD has agreed locations and is awaiting tenders.
- Additional Outdoor Infrastructure.
 - Mount Usher footpath and crossing – Footpath complete. Crossing and clearing opposite footpath to be done in coming weeks.

DOE

- Climate Change grant. Allocated €55k for road drainage on Wicklow Gap. Commenced planning prior to surfacing.
- Drainage grant. Allocated €97k. 8 projects proposed and awaiting details.
- Safety Improvement Works. 2 projects approved. Laragh/Glendalough and Barnbawn. Details being agreed to start in coming weeks.
- Roads grant for 2022 allocated to WCC. Currently finalising Roads Programme to decide on projects. This will include, overlay, surface dressing, supplementary surface dressing, drainage, speed limit signage, safety improvements and cycle safety signage.
- LIS projects currently being assessed. Reports and costs to be submitted to WCC in coming weeks for DOE application.

Fáilte Ireland

- Abbey Grounds. Site meetings held with Ecologist, Archaeologist and Engineer to assess pre-contract works. Works to commence in coming weeks subject to various licences.

WCC

Town & Village

- Grant of €221,000 approved for works between Wicklow Town South Quay and the adjoining laneways and roads.
- Roundwood Village – Start 15/04/22 (Footpath from Hardware Shop to Playground plus three pedestrian crossings, one at playground and two at school at Bray end of village)
- Wicklow Town – Backlighting Project. All groundworks now completed by WCC, Contractor due on site to complete light fitting in two stages: 1st, Church of Ireland, The Gaol and The Stone Bridge and 2nd will be Parnell Bridge, Black Castle and revised lighting at St. Patrick’s Church. High mounted lights in 1st stage complete. All revised lighting (Black Castle and St. Patrick’s Church) now in WMD Depot
- Annamoe – Main T&V 2020: Footpath works to commence 21/03/22.

Discretionary Fund (10 priority projects)

- Following progress on this priority list of 10, it is now possible to move to remaining legacy items. Alan and Aidan will begin assessing and tendering these jobs. More details to follow.
- New footpaths at Ashtown Lane/Merrymeeting. Tenders received. Ashtown Lane awarded and due to commence soon. Merrymeeting over budget and being reassessed for options.
- Barnbawn footpath tenders received and being assessed.
- Footpath repairs at Seaview Heights. Tenders received and awarded. Due to commence soon.
- Sycamore Drive currently out to tender.
- Traffic management works at Ballynerrin/Djouce/Newtown to seek 3 quotes in coming weeks.

District Engineer Kevin Scanlon made some additions to the report

- Introduction of a rare breed of cattle in Brittas Bay
- Extra night of gritting
- Abbey Grounds is due to have the Ecologists visit this week and pre construction works to commence.

Members made the following observations:

- Road repairs at Sycamore Drive and Ballinalea
- Pedestrian crossing at Bridge Street Books
- Dog Park – signage, security for smaller dogs, drainage issues and age limits for children
- Adult gym equipment – three units still missing
- Public Liability claims, how best to reduce
- Trip hazard at pedestrian crossing at Library
- Pot holes and road conditions outside Movie Studios Ashford
- Condition of the Ball Alley and future works
- Members thanked the Senior Engineer for the footpath works completed in Ashford

ITEM 6

Correspondence

District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised members that there was no correspondence.

ITEM 7

A.O.B.

Cllr John Snell thanked the District Administrator Joan Sinnott and the committee for the success of the St. Patricks Day Parade.

Cllr Paul O'Brien also thanked Joan Sinnott for the excellent Covid Ceremony.

CATHAOIRLEACH GAIL DUNNE CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 11.00 AM.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____