**MINUTES OF JUNE MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 28TH JUNE 2022 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor G. Walsh, Cathaoirleach

Councillors T. Fortune, D. Mitchell, J. Neary, L. Scott & S. Stokes

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

 Mr. R. O’Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer

 Ms. R. Wood, Greystones Municipal District Administrator

 Ms. T. Kearns, Wicklow County Council

Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

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At the outset, the members passed a vote of sympathy to the family of Tony Rennix from Knockroe who died recently and a minutes silence was observed in remembrance of him.

The Cathaoirleach referred to the recent resignation of Councillor Mags Crean and commended her on the great work she did in the district. He also welcomed her replacement, Councillor Stephen Stokes who had previously served on Greystones Town Council in the five years up to 2014 when the Town Councils were abolished.

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor D. Mitchell and agreed that the minutes of the May monthly meeting held on 31st May 2022, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

1. **PRESENTATION BY RORY GILLEN ON SQUASH INITIATIVE**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Rory Gillen to the meeting. Mr. Gillen circulated a document which outlined the details of his proposal to provide a squash court in Greystones Municipal District if it was possible to secure a suitable site and he answered any queries from the members in relation to same. He stated that he was happy to fund the initial costs of the project.

While members supported the proposal in principle, they stated that there was a huge demand for a variety of sports facilities in the district. They stated that a recent audit of facilities did not show a huge demand for squash and they spoke about the need to have all public facilities accessible to all and to have ongoing management and maintenance plans in place. They stated that some private facilities in the district were too costly for many residents and they enquired if any facility provided could be shared for other uses.

Mr. Gillen stated that any facility provided would include a clubhouse and bar to entice business and would have to be properly managed to make it work. He stated that he was aware of land costs and zonings in the area and he re-iterated that he was willing to fund the project for a number of years without any risk to the County Council.

The District Manager stated that most Council owned land in the district was ear-marked for some future use. He stated that squash was way down the list of facilities requested in a recent audit and he was not confident that the demand was there.

Following discussion it was agreed to set up a meeting between Mr. Gillen and the Local Sports Partnership office to further discuss this matter.

1. **PRE-DRAFT CONSULTATION ON SPEED LIMIT REVIEW**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Brian O’Sullivan, Executive Engineer, Wicklow County Council to the meeting. Mr. O’Sullivan went through a presentation on the proposals for the speed limit review in the district and answered any queries from the members in relation to same. He agreed to circulate a copy of the presentation to the members. He informed the meeting that the public consultation process would commence in July or August and that it was hoped to have a final report on submissions received presented to the full meeting of Wicklow County Council in November or December.

In response to queries from the members Mr. O’Sullivan stated that regard must be given to the Department of Transport’s Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland when setting any speed limits.

Members welcomed the review and in particular they welcomed the proposal to introduce periodic speed limits outside St. Kevin’s School. They suggested that these should be introduced outside all the schools in the district. Following further discussion, the members were advised to submit their comments on the speed limit review to the District Engineer who would forward them on to Mr. O’Sullivan.

1. **REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER**

The report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting and the District Engineer answered any queries from the members in relation to his report.

Following discussion it was agreed that the following matters be referred to Wicklow County Council:

* Provision of seat backs and covers for chess tables in Burnaby Park;
* Provision of additional litter bins in town for summer months.

In relation to the temporary access closure at Applewood Heights members questioned whether making the access closure permanent was the best course of action. Some members spoke about the possible difficulty with emergency services accessing the estate and questioned the process for the temporary access closure.

The District Engineer stated that there has been an issue with the volume and speed of traffic in Applewood Heights for many years. He stated that the Applewood Heights Residents Association initially carried out two surveys of residents in relation to the proposed temporary access closure, the majority of whom were in favour, and the Council carried out a further survey of residents following the 6 month trial period when 71% of respondents were in favour of making the access closure permanent. He pointed out that the Council had implemented various types of traffic calming over the years, including the very severe ramps currently in place, but that the issues had not been resolved. He stated that studies carried out recently showed that traffic had been cut by two-thirds in the estate and he stated that while there was a small increase in traffic on Chapel Road now, road improvement proposals there would make that a less appealing route. He also pointed out that the proposed Bus Connects scheme would enhance public transport options in the area. He concluded that as all the processes had been gone through, it was intended to make the access closure permanent. He pointed out that this was an executive function of the Council and not a reserved one.

The District Manager agreed that a democratic process had been followed in arriving at this point and he stated that people who did not like the outcome would continue to question the decision. He stated that there was no point in coming back to discuss the matter over and over again.

Councillor T. Fortune asked that comments made by the District Manager be withdrawn. The District Manager did not withdraw his comments. Members requested that the lengthy emails submitted from residents in relation to the issue be responded to. They also requested that a copy of the Engineer’s report on the matter be sent to the Applewood Residents Association and, following further discussion, they agreed to discuss the matter again at the July meeting.

As time was running out it was agreed to extend the meeting by ten minutes.

1. **UPDATE ON CHAPEL ROAD CPO**

The District Administrator informed the members that she had been advised by the Roads Section of Wicklow County Council that Confirmation of the CPO was advertised in May 2022 and that the Notice to Treat would be issued in due course.

In addition she stated that work was continuing on the development of documents to allow the project to be put out to tender.

1. **NOTICES OF MOTION:**
2. Motion in the name of Councillor D. Mitchell:

“That the Council should provide a footpath from Kilquade Church to the Mass Path”.

As time was short, it was agreed to defer this notice of motion for consideration at the July meeting.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**
2. The District Administrator informed the members of the details of an email received from Ms. K. Kelleher in relation to forthcoming twinning events and stated that she would circulate same.
3. The District Administrator advised the members of the details of an email received from Brian Hegarty in relation to proposals for a Sea Stacks Offshore Wind project.

Following discussion it was agreed to circulate this correspondence to the members and consider at the July meeting if it was appropriate to invite Mr. Hegarty to make a presentation to the members at a future meeting.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
2. Councillor D. Mitchell requested that the Census figures be considered at the July meeting and this was agreed.
3. Councillor L. Scott requested that some discretionary funding be set aside for Biodiversity projects in the district as outlined in the Greystones Biodiversity Report from last year.
4. Councillor J. Neary requested that the July meeting be held on 19th July instead of 26th July.

The District Administrator pointed out that a GMD Policing Plan Committee meeting was also scheduled to take place on 26th July and that, as previously agreed, representatives from Greystones Cancer Support had been invited to attend the meeting on 26th July.

It was therefore agreed to hold the July meeting on 26th July as usual.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

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

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

**DATED:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**