**MINUTES OF MAY MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 31ST MAY 2022 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor L. Scott, Cathaoirleach

Councillors T. Fortune, D. Mitchell, J. Neary, & G. Walsh

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. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

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At the outset, the Cathaoirleach referred to the resignation of Councillor Mags Crean on 27th May 2022. She stated that Councillor Crean was an excellent, hard-working and diligent local representative who would be badly missed. She wished her well for the future.

Members passed votes of sympathy to the families of the following who all died recently: Lillian Whitmore, sister of Deputy Jennifer Whitmore; Oliver Cullen, Rathdown Park; Patsy Vickers, Kindlestown Park and Daniel (Don) O’Doherty, Chapel View.

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor J. Neary and agreed that the minutes of the April monthly meeting held on 26th April 2022, as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

1. **UPDATE FROM WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL IN RELATION TO GREYSTONES HARBOUR MARINA**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Merlin Ovington from Wicklow County Council. Mr. Ovington informed the members that Sispar had looked at options for providing a pontoon in the harbour in an effort to discourage people from jumping in to the marina but that this would not be in accordance with their insurance or with the Harbour Bye Laws. He stated that there was no funding available to pay for security at the harbour and he pointed out that Sergeant Jennifer Carrick from Greystones Garda Station was organising talks with the local schools in relation to the dangers of the sea and of diving into the harbour, etc.

Members stated that closing the security gates at the harbour would not be an acceptable solution to the issue of young people diving in to the harbour in the summer months.

Mr. Ovington advised the members that Glenveagh Properties had indicated that it was not viable at present to proceed with Block ‘K’ at the northern end of the harbour development. He stated that Block ‘K’ was to be a two storey, ten metre high building, to be built to lighthouse standard, which was to include shops and cafes. He informed the members that Council officials were currently in discussions with Glenveagh Properties in relation to various options for the site. He stated that the Council did not want to see a permanent building site there and that they would possibly seek to have the land given back into public ownership. He pointed out that the matter might have to go back to An Bord Pleanala for approval.

Members questioned why the Developer was now deciding not to go ahead with Block ‘K’ despite the huge profits they made on the harbour development and the substantial investment put in by Wicklow County Council. They suggested that the Block ‘K’ site might be suitable for kayak hire or a similar ‘blue way’ type of activity. They requested that residents of the harbour be included in any discussions and that a reasonable timeline be put in place so that the issue does not drag on. They requested that additional litter bins be provided in front of the clubhouses and they suggested that the Council look at using the Block ‘K’ site for community gain such as facilitating the Greystones Cancer Support Group with new premises.

Mr. M. Ovington informed the members that a Professional Facilities Management Company, Sensori, would be employed at the harbour marina and would have a more visible and available presence there. In response to a query from members he stated that the local maintenance staff employed there at present would continue to work at the harbour. Mr. Ovington also informed the members that a new website was almost ready to be launched together with an email address for contacting the harbour operators. He stated that building work on Block ‘D’ would take approximately eighteen months to complete. He stated that dog fouling issues had improved since the installation of dog poo bins.

In response to a query from the members, Mr. Ovington stated that he was not in a position to comment on issues relating to local fishermen because of ongoing legal action and following further discussion he stated that he would keep the members informed of progress on the matter.

1. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT ON PART 8 FOR 2 HOUSES AT KNOCKROE**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Gillian Power and Ms. Theresa O’Brien from Wicklow County Council to the meeting. A copy of the Chief Executive’s report had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Gillian Power went through the submissions that were received in relation to the Part 8 proposals and the Council’s response to same and she answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor G. Walsh, seconded by Councillor J. Neary and agreed that the Chief Executive’s report in relation to the Part 8 for 2 houses at Knockroe be approved and adopted.

1. **2022 SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS FOR GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

A copy of the Schedule of Municipal District Works had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting. Councillor D. Mitchell had also circulated a document comparing the allocation for Greystones Municipal District to that of the other Municipal Districts and the Wicklow County Council Head of Finance had circulated a response to Councillor Mitchell’s document pointing out that the budgets were not just allocated on a per capita basis.

Members were critical of the whole budget process and the fact that if they did not approve the SMDW, the Council management could approve it anyway. They suggested that the Greystones Municipal District allocation did not take account of the massive increase in population, and the amount of new developments in the district in recent years. They were critical of the number of outdoor staff in the district compared to the other areas and they stated that the capital budget for Greystones Municipal District was much lower than that of the other Municipal Districts.

Following discussion the District Manager pointed out that the budgets were allocated to each Municipal District based on a number of factors and not just on population figures. He stated that the adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works was the final part of the budget process and that the members had already adopted the overall budget last year. He advised the members that they needed to make any submissions in relation to future budgets prior to the Wicklow County Council budget in October or November.

Following further discussion it was proposed by Councillor L. Scott, seconded by Councillor G. Walsh and agreed that the 2022 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Greystones Municipal District be adopted.

1. **DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the Annual Meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 28th June 2022 prior to the monthly meeting at 7.30 pm.

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

The report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting and separate reports on NTA projects and on the temporary access closure at Applewood Heights were circulated at the meeting. The District Engineer answered any queries from the members in relation to his report.

Members welcomed the installation of additional toilets at the south beach car park for the summer months and agreed to defer discussion on the Applewood Heights report to the June meeting when the members would have time to read the report in full.

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

* Extra bins around the district for the summer months
* Update on Delgany/Chapel Road CPO
* Update on Safe Routes to Schools Scheme
* Signs for ‘Business as Usual’ in Delgany village when Contractor commences work
* Railings at the Cove.

1. **2022 GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT / WICKLOW TIMES PEOPLE OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

The District Administrator informed the members that, as agreed at the last meeting, arrangements were being made to hold the 2022 Greystones Municipal District / Wicklow Times People of the Year Awards in Greystones Golf Club on Thursday 29th September 2022. She pointed out that nominations could be made under the various categories up until Friday 19th August 2022 and she agreed to circulate full details of the event to the members.

1. **UKRAINE CRISIS - UPDATE ON WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSE**

The District Manager informed the members that most Ukrainians coming into the country now were being processed at City West in Dublin and accommodated then in rural areas. He stated that there were approximately 1,200 – 1,300 Ukrainians in County Wicklow at present. He stated that offers of accommodation were currently being checked and vetted for suitability and that Wicklow County Council and Civil Defence staff were doing great work in manning the support centre in Arklow on a voluntary basis. He pointed out that it was hoped that the County Council would be able to recoup the costs involved with its Ukrainian response from the Government and he pointed out that all relevant agencies met fortnightly to discuss the various needs and requirements.

Members stated that it was very impressive how all agencies worked together and they commended the staff of Wicklow County Council and Civil Defence who worked so hard on this on top of the additional duties due to Covid.

1. **NOTICES OF MOTION:**

No Notices of Motion were considered.

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 reminded the members about the Holyhead Music Festival at the end of July.
3. The District Administrator informed the members that a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Holyhead had recently been elected and it was agreed that letters of congratulations be sent to the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor and that a letter of thanks be sent to the outgoing Mayor.
4. The District Administrator referred to an email received from Eoin Llewellyn, who had previously made a presentation to the members in January 2022. She stated that it was not clear from the lengthy email what exactly Mr. Llewellyn was looking for. Members suggested that it might be more appropriate for him to deal with the SPC for Climate Change and Biodiversity and following discussion it was agreed that the District Administrator would revert to him to get a synopsis of the points he wished to raise.
5. The District Administrator referred to requests from members to meet a deputation from Greystones Cancer Support Group who are seeking new premises and following discussion it was agreed to invite the group to make a presentation at the July meeting.
6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
7. The members paid tribute to Councillor M. Crean on her resignation and wished her well for the future. They commended her on the great work she did on behalf of the community. The District Manager also wished her well on behalf of all the staff.

2. In response to a query about camper van parking in Greystones the District Manager stated that the Council had not yet identified a suitable site for this purpose.

1. In relation to concrete that had been placed on the Mass Path in Kilcoole, the District Engineer stated that this was temporary work to make the path safe before carrying out more permanent work to protect the stream banks, hopefully in August.
2. In response to a query in relation to the Cliff Walk, the District Manager stated that legal discussions with landowners were taking longer than expected and that signs diverting walkers around the closed section would be put in place and advertised.
3. Members highlighted the great work done by the Tidy Towns Committee and emphasised their need for additional help.
4. The District Administrator agreed to the members request to fly the flags to mark Pride month in June.
5. Members sought details of the follow up to water testing in the process to have the Cove identified as a designated bathing area.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

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

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