**MINUTES OF JULY MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 26TH JULY 2022 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor G. Walsh, Cathaoirleach

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

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: Councillor J. Neary

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1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was agreed to postpone confirming the minutes of the June monthly meeting until the September meeting as some members suggested that the draft minutes were not an accurate record of the meeting.

1. **PRESENTATION FROM GREYSTONES CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Anne Ivory, Chairperson and Ms. Anne Doody, Secretary from Greystones Cancer Support to the meeting. They circulated a document which outlined the services they provided, details of existing staff and premises, financial report and an outline of what they required for new premises. They pointed out that they were seeking premises approximately 1,500 sq. feet in size to accommodate staff and the various services they provided and they spoke about the younger age profile of clients, many of whom had families that also needed support. They answered any queries raised by the members.

All members commended the Cancer Support Group for the services provided and expressed their support for the campaign to find new premises. They also paid tribute to former Councillor Kathleen Kelleher who worked for many years for Greystones Cancer Support.

The District Manager informed the deputation that while local authorities did not get involved in providing services such as those provided by the Greystones Cancer Support Group, they might be able to assist with identifying premises that may become available.

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. He informed the members that the first draft of the Transport Study should be available in September.

Councillors Fortune, Mitchell & Stokes expressed their opposition to the permanent closure of the upper vehicular access into Applewood Heights and questioned the legality of the process. They spoke about the issues with surrounding roads caused by the closure and the effect it had on the local First Responders response times.

The District Engineer stated that the closure of the vehicular access at Applewood Heights was an executive function and that any traffic issues outside of the estate caused by the closure would be dealt with in the Traffic Study currently being undertaken. He stated that Wicklow County Council was happy that the correct legal process was followed for the closure and he pointed out that it was intended to remove the temporary concrete bollards and retain access for cyclists and pedestrians.

In response to a query from the members he pointed out that the Councillors were invited to make submissions to Greystones Municipal District or Wicklow County Council in relation to the Speed Limit Review before it went to public consultation.

Following further discussion on the report it was agreed to seek an update on the Cliff Walk for the September meeting. It was further agreed that the District Engineer would talk to the Greystones First Responders in relation to concerns they had regarding the closure of the access to Applewood Heights and to representatives of the Seaview, Kilcoole residents with regard to road and footpath works proposed for that area.

1. **DISCUSSION ON CENSUS FIGURES**

Councillor D. Mitchell had circulated a document comparing the new census figures available for the district to those for the other Municipal Districts and comparing the budget allocations for the districts for the current year. He stated that the population of the Greystones Municipal district had increased by 15% since the 2016 Census figures and that it now represented 20% of the County’s population. He pointed out that the projected population growth in the new county development plan would be reached, and in fact exceeded, in the coming year. He stated that Greystones MD had 20% of the population but consistently only got 12% of the budget and had only half the number of outdoor staff than any of the other Municipal Districts. He stated that the highest rates of Local Property Tax were paid here and that there was a huge need for extra funding and additional staff in the district.

All the other members supported Councillor Mitchell’s call for additional funding and staff in the district and called on the senior management in Wicklow County Council to address the issues.

The District Manager informed the members that the issue of outdoor staff numbers in the GMD was raised by him at all Management Team meetings as the numbers were historically low here compared to other districts. He stated that there was less road mileage here but more road use with consequent road damage. He pointed out that the Council did not have staff for the Tidy Towns Committee as the Council staff worked on housing, road works, open spaces, playgrounds, etc. He pointed out that an audit of staff numbers was currently being undertaken and that he would request an update on that for the September meeting. He stated that the budget process was a statutory one and that budgets were based on a number of things and not just on population figures. He pointed out that Local Property Tax was collected by revenue and did not go directly to the local authorities where it originated from.

1. **NOTICES OF MOTION:**
2. Motion in the name of Councillor D. Mitchell: (Deferred from June meeting)

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

Following discussion on this notice of motion, the District Engineer informed the members that there was not enough space on the road in some areas to provide a footpath along this section of road and there were high boundary walls along other parts of it. He stated that there was a long list of similar projects agreed and prioritised but that he would add this one to the list as well as Farrankelly Way to Priestnewtown.

1. Motion in the name of Councillor S. Stokes:

“Greystones Municipal District to consider a local memorial policy for items such as benches, tables and trees”.

Councillor S. Stokes informed the members that he had been approached by someone who wished to donate a chess table for Burnaby Park in memory of a loved one and he suggested that the Municipal District should consider putting a policy in place for a small number of memorials such as benches, etc. for local people.

Following discussion on this matter it was agreed that a chess table be allowed in Burnaby Park inscribed with ‘Donated by the Family of …’ rather than ‘In memory of ….’. It was further agreed that all future applications for memorials of any sort be considered on an individual basis in line with the Wicklow County Council policy.

Members requested an update on the memorial trees for Darcy’s Field at the harbour for the September meeting and the Municipal District Engineer stated that any requests for additional benches in the district could be considered and provided by the MD as resources allowed.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**
2. The District Administrator reminded the members about the 2022 People of the Year Awards that would be held in Greystones Golf Club on Thursday 29th September. She pointed out that the closing date for nominations was Friday 19th August.
3. The District Administrator informed the members that the Roads Section of Wicklow County Council proposed to make a presentation on the Safe Routes to School proposals for St. Kevin’s NS at the September meeting and this was agreed.
4. 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 which was circulated following the June meeting. Following discussion it was agreed to invite Mr. Hegarty to make a presentation to the members at the October meeting.
5. 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.

In relation to a request from Mr. Keith Scanlon to make a presentation to the members, it was agreed that the District Administrator should contact Mr. Scanlon to seek a synopsis of his proposals and who he represented, similar to what they requested recently from Mr. Eoin Llewellyn.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
2. Councillor S. Stokes informed the members that he intended to give chess lessons at the new chess tables in Burnaby Park from 10 am to 12 noon each Saturday during the month of August.
3. Councillor S. Stokes raised the issue of safety, overcrowding and lack of security at Greystones Railway Station and other Irish Rail stations on Sunday 24th July when large numbers were travelling to the Bray Air Show, the King of Greystones Triathlon and the All Ireland GAA final in Croke Park. He stated that the situation was very dangerous and he suggested that the Municipal District members should seek a meeting with Irish Rail to discuss these matters.

Following discussion it was agreed that the District Administrator would write to Irish Rail to request the details and results of their inquiry into the matter.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

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

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

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