

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD REMOTELY BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY 29th JUNE 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Councillor L. Scott, Cathaoirleach
Councillors M. Crean, 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. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District Administrator
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

At the outset members proposed a vote of sympathy to Councillor G. Walsh and his family on the recent death of his sister, Josephine Hanly.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor G. Walsh and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held remotely on 25th May 2021, as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

2. 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Greystones Municipal District Works

The 2021 Greystones Schedule of Municipal District Works had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting in addition to details of the allocations for the other MDs.

The members expressed the view that Greystones Municipal District had grown massively in recent years but fared worse in the budget allocations than any of the other MDs. They spoke about the need for additional staff and resources for street cleaning and other services in the district. They were also critical of the whole budget process.

The District Manager stated that the budget process was dictated by legislation and he pointed out that many factors, and not just population or length of roads, were taken into account when allocating the budgets. He stated that there were no recycling centres and less fire stations and libraries in the district and that this resulted in lower budgets for Greystones Municipal District. He advised the members that the appropriate time to request additional funding for the district was at the County Council budget meeting in November.

The District Administrator pointed out that Arklow, Bray and Wicklow Municipal Districts, which were former rating Town Councils, also had historic items of expenditure included and while it was intended that there would be equalisation of budgets over time, this had not kept pace with development in the Greystones Municipal District.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor L. Scott, seconded by Councillor M. Crean and agreed to adopt the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works as circulated.

It was also agreed that the GMD staff would prepare a case, to be approved by the members, outlining the current situation in relation to GMD for submission to the HR Section of Wicklow County Council and seeking to have additional staff and resources allocated to the district.

3. Report from Greystones Municipal District Engineer

A report from the District Engineer outlining works proposed and carried out in the district had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting and the District Engineer answered any queries from the members in relation to same. Following discussion it was agreed to refer the following matters to Wicklow County Council:

1. Update from Roads Section on Transportation Study and other roads studies/proposals
2. Request for water supply in Burnaby Park
3. Installation of water fountain at the harbour
4. Request from residents for re-instatement of bank at Farrankelly Close
5. Identification of site for Dog Park.

4. Amendment of GMD Standing Orders 5 – Hour of Meeting and 6 – Place of Meeting and Address of Principal Offices and Amendment of Supplementary Standing Orders to Regulate Proceedings of Remote Meetings

The District Administrator informed the members that Standing Orders 5 – hour of meeting and 6 – place of meeting, had already been amended to allow for meetings to be held at different locations and times, and to include remote meetings, up to the 30th June 2021. She stated that Supplementary Standing Orders for Regulation of Remote Meetings of Greystones Municipal District had also been adopted to operate up to and including the 30th June 2021. She stated that because of the current situation with Covid restrictions, it was necessary to extend this period up to the 31st December 2021 and that this date could be revised as and when required.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Neary, seconded by Councillor D. Mitchell and agreed that the changes already agreed to Standing Orders No. 5 and 6, and that the Supplementary Standing Orders to Regulate Proceedings of Remote Meetings, operate up to and including the 31st December 2021.

5. Update on Cairn Homes Developments

Members had sought an update on the various community facilities to be provided by Cairn Homes. They were advised that a presentation on same would be given by the District Manager at the July meeting on 27th July. Members requested that they be circulated with details of the various projects prior to the meeting.

6. Notices of Motion

No notices of Motion were considered.

7. Correspondence

1. The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of a letter received from An Bord Pleanála notifying that permission had been granted, subject to conditions, for alterations to Block 'D' at Greystones harbour development. It was agreed that a copy of this correspondence would be circulated to the members.
2. The District Administrator informed the members that the Draft County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 was on display in the Council Offices until 16th August and that appointments could be made by members of the public to view same.
3. The District Administrator informed the members that local Fire Service volunteers were fundraising to provide three defibrillators in Greystones that would be accessible to the public on a 24-hour basis. She stated that it was proposed to have the defibrillators located as follows: 1) on the wall at Carrig Eden, Cliff Road near the Cove beach; 2) at the start of the Cliff Walk, in the harbour beside the EV charging points and 3) at Dr. Ryan Park. She stated that the new town map would include the locations of the defibrillators and that an awareness campaign would be organised in due course.

8. Any Other Business

1. In response to a query from the members, the District Administrator stated that a letter had issued to a resident of Church Lane, Greystones in relation to safety issues he had raised about that road. It was agreed to send a copy of that response to the members.
2. In relation to Greystones harbour and marina development, after discussion the members requested that the following matters be taken up with Sispar:
 - Members requested that they be provided with details about what was being discussed between local fishermen and Sispar in relation to berthing/landing of catches. They requested that the temporary facility that was put in place in May to facilitate the fishermen be extended until such time as the issues were resolved
 - Members also requested that Sispar liaise with the residents of Marina Village in relation to facilities for fishermen as there was a lot of misinformation circulating
 - Members were critical of the fact that no facility existed for members of the public to contact the harbour operators and they requested that Sispar provide an email address for this purpose
 - In relation to the ice cream van that has been operating from the harbour, the members suggested that this was unfair to existing businesses in the locality who operated all year round and who were already struggling due to Covid

3. In response to a query from the members, the District Manager stated that a number of possible sites for an additional Dog Park in the district had been identified and were currently being considered and that it was hoped to have a decision on this shortly.
4. The District Administrator reminded Councillors Mitchell and Scott to attend at the Civic Offices at 9.30 am on Wednesday 30th June for a photo of the handing over of the chain of office.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____ CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____ DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2021