

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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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

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At the outset, the members passed votes of sympathy to the McNaughton Family on the death of Paul McNaughton; to the Rush Family on the death of Grace Rush; to the Killilea Family on the death of Mary Killilea and to the Connor Family on the death of Bernie Connor. A minutes silence was observed in memory of the deceased.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor S. Stokes, seconded by Councillor T. Fortune and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2022, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**2. PRESENTATION ON CODLING BANK OFF SHORE WIND PROJECT**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Rupert Judson, Deputy Project Director; Ms. Denise Horan, Stakeholder Engagement Manager; Mr. Erlend Christiansen, Offshore Consents Advisor and Ms. Grainne Fennell, Community Liaison Officer to the meeting. They gave a Powerpoint presentation on the Codling Bank Off-Shore Wind Project, a copy of which had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting. They then answered any queries from the members.

All the members spoke about the need for alternative energy supplies and welcomed the wind farm proposals and the prospects for jobs locally. They enquired about the proposed sub-station and spoke about the need to keep each wind farm separate from other such schemes. They suggested that a lower number of taller turbines would be more attractive than a higher number of smaller ones and they called for the provision of an Interpretive and Biodiversity centre for the district as well as organised tours to the construction site.

Mr. Judson informed the members that the Consenting Process would influence the timeframe for the project but that they hoped to be in a position to proceed as soon as the necessary consents were received and would complete the project as soon as possible. He stated that a sub-station would be located at Poolbeg where the cable connector would be.

Ms. Horan stated that they would engage with the community and get feedback on proposals for the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) and on what people felt should be included and / or needed. She pointed out that a fund administrator and a Community Benefit Fund Committee would be put in place to administer and develop a plan for the fund. She stated that there would be jobs for control operators, maintenance technicians and management and admin staff and she pointed out that the Environmental Impact Assessment would consider issues like the distance between all wind farms as well as seabed and technical issues and impacts. She stated

that it was hoped to have updated photo montages for the public consultation process which was proposed for January /February 2023.

Members spoke about the need to engage with the fishing community and enquired about the end of life processes and costs for turbines. They suggested that surveys needed to be repeated at the end of the project to see what impact there was on the environment and they enquired about whether the Codling Bank was designated as a Special Area of Conservation. Members also suggested that contact be made with the KWETB in relation to training and they emphasised that the GMD also included Kilcoole, Delgany and Newcastle villages as well as parts of Newtownmountkennedy and that those areas should also be included in all consultations and share in the community benefits. In addition they enquired about the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme auction process and about the global supply chain and transport options for turbines.

In relation to the administration of the CBF Ms. Horan informed the members that it was initially proposed that all funds would be distributed centrally by the Department of the Environment but that this was not now the case. She stated that the CBF Administrator would appoint a CBF Committee and devise a plan for dispersing funds and that the full details of this process were currently being teased out. She stated that they had liaised with the fishing community and there were no reasons why both businesses could not co-exist as happened in the UK and elsewhere. She stated that licencing of vessels was being looked at in order to allow fishing and other services by boat owners and she pointed out that the company would be responsible for all costs involved in the end of life processes for turbines. She stated that while the global supply chain for turbines was a challenge, it should improve as more projects came on stream.

Mr. Rudson stated that the auction process was already established for solar power and had been adapted for wind energy and was open to all Phase 1 projects who would submit bids. He said it was anticipated that only one or two of the current proposals would not get approval but that there would be further auctions in the future.

Mr. Christianson informed the members that the Environmental Impact Assessment would look at all aspects of environmental issues as well as effects on birds and sea life and would have a lot of detail. He pointed out that the results of the EIA would feed into the design of the project. He stated that they had consulted with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and had received confirmation that the Codling Bank was not a sand bank and so was not designated as an SAC.

Ms. Fennell stated that Codling were committed to engaging with the public on all aspects of their project and held regular information clinics as well as meetings with key community groups in all areas.

Members thanked the delegation for their presentation.

### **3. PRESENTATION ON PRE-PART 8 FOR KILLINCARRIG VILLAGE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME**

A report on the proposals for the Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

In response to queries from the members the District Engineer stated that the proposals included a set down area in front of the shop, that there would be no roundabout at the Castle Villas junction and that the funding provided in previous years was still available for the project.

Members were happy for the scheme to proceed to the formal Part 8 Process.

#### **4. DISCUSSION ON PART 8 BLUEWAY PROJECT - GREYSTONES SOUTH BEACH BOARDWALK**

A copy of the Part 8 proposals for the Blueway Project for the Greystones South Beach Boardwalk had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting. The District Engineer pointed out that the Blueway Scheme was about providing access to beaches and that it was intended to provide a boardwalk between the two arches at the south beach. In response to queries from the members he stated that the boardwalk would have upstands to prevent wheelchairs, etc. going over the edge as well as platform areas. He pointed out that the Blueway Scheme did not include the provision of cycle tracks at this area to facilitate children travelling to St. David's School.

#### **5. DATE FOR DECEMBER MEETING**

It was agreed that the December monthly meeting be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

#### **6. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER**

The report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting together with an update on NTA projects.

In response to queries from the members the District Engineer stated that he had consulted with the residents of Seaview, Kilcoole in relation to their concerns prior to having works carried out there and he pointed out that the landowner had not yet consented to works to complete the footpath on the R761 at Knockroe but the ESB had been asked to connect the public lighting there. He stated that a lot of redundant poles had been removed in the district as they were blocking footpaths and he pointed out that the Transport Study was currently being updated. He stated that the Kilcoole Sea Road footpath was part of a larger scheme which was currently at feasibility study stage by consultants.

The District Engineer stated that he would arrange to have metal fencing that had been dumped in the Three Trout stream at Burnaby Lawns removed and he pointed out that the Council did an annual clean up at the stream. In relation to recent flooding at the Charlesland roundabouts he stated that this was caused by leaves, which had blown down in the storm, blocking the gullies. He pointed out that there were underground attenuation tanks to hold excess water at this area to prevent flooding downstream but he criticised driver behaviour during the flooding which he said was atrocious.

Mr. O'Hanlon stated that there was the possibility of providing public lighting on Priory Road but that a decision had not yet been taken on that due to its rural location and the consequent effect on wildlife, bats, etc. He pointed out that private property was required for the Delgany Accessibility Scheme and that if agreement could not be reached, it would need to be acquired by CPO. He stated that the scheme for the schools at Blacklion was at design stage by the NTA and that the Notice to Treat for the CPO at Chapel Road would be served before the end of this year and work should begin on that next year.

The District Engineer stated that the Council was reviewing the type of lighting that could be provided at the Pigs Hollow and he pointed out that the Priory Road footpath would go as far as Glenair Manor. He stated that the chess tables in Burnaby Park may have to be removed to enable backs to be put on the seats and he stated that it may not be possible to provide covers for them. He pointed out that a clean-up had been carried out in Dr. Ryan Park and a large log removed.

Members welcomed the District Engineer's report and the large volume of work carried out in the district. They urged the officials to liaise and work with members of An Garda Siochana to resolve the anti-social behaviour issues at Dr. Ryan Park. Members also requested that the issue of access to the northern pier at the harbour marina and difficulties with facilities for local fishermen be resolved.

**7. NOTICES OF MOTION:**

No notices of motion were discussed.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. The District Administrator informed the members that Ms. Christine Flood, SEO Wicklow County Council would attend the December meeting to give an update on the proposals for the South Beach Area Action Plan.
2. The District Administrator informed the members that the Gardai had reported that they had not received many calls in relation to anti-social behaviour at Dr. Ryan Park since Halloween. She stated that she would follow up on this with Sergeant Jennifer Carrick and seek an update for the December meeting.
3. The District Administrator requested the members to consider holding their monthly meetings during daytime hours instead of evenings going forward. She suggested that this matter could be dealt with and voted on at the December meeting.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

**CERTIFIED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATED THIS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DAY OF** \_\_\_\_\_ **2022**