

MINUTES OF OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Councillor M. Barry, Cathaoirleach
Councillors T. Fortune, D. Mitchell, L. Scott, S. Stokes & G. Walsh

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

At the outset, members passed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Brian Sweeney from Greystones who died recently. A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of him.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of the September meeting had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

Councillor T. Fortune requested that the draft minutes be amended to insert the word 'some' at the beginning of the second paragraph in relation to the presentation by Greystones Town Team. He further requested that the words 'Councillor Fortune said that there was a motion already passed by Wicklow County Council that the chair of the district chair any town team formed and Councillors sit on board' be inserted at the end of paragraph three in relation to the same presentation by Greystones Town Team. This was agreed.

It was then proposed by Councillor L. Scott, seconded by Councillor S. Stokes and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 26th September, 2023, as amended, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. CONSIDERATION OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN FOR 2024

A copy of the 2024 Draft Budgetary Plan for Greystones Municipal District had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting together with a report from the Chief Executive in relation to same. A list of proposed projects to be funded from the LPT Discretionary Funding had also been circulated.

Members stated that the allocation of the overall Wicklow County Council budget between the Municipal Districts needed to be reconsidered by the Council management. They stated that the allocation process had not changed despite repeated requests from the Greystones Municipal District members and officials. They pointed out that twenty per cent of the population lived in the Greystones Municipal District but that the district only received eleven per cent of the overall budget which equated to one hundred and seventy euros per person as opposed to almost twice that figure per person in other districts. They also criticised the staff numbers in the Greystones district which were much lower when compared to the other districts. They requested costings for the proposed projects to be funded from the LPT discretionary funding.

The District Manager stated that if the members did not adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan, they would lose the proposed discretionary funding. He informed the members that separate funding had been sourced for improvements at Dr. Ryan Park.

The District Engineer stated that separate funding totaling €100,000 would be allocated for footpath repairs in the district in 2024, although it would not be enough to cover the amount of works required.

Following further discussion it was unanimously agreed that the 2024 Draft Budgetary Plan for Greystones Municipal District, as circulated, be adopted.

The District Administrator informed the members that she had received a request from the Greystones Town Team for a contribution of €3,000 from the 2023 discretionary budget towards the cost of maintaining their website and social media channels.

Some members did not support this allocation and queried what the money would be spent on. They pointed out that no similar financial assistance was available to other community groups in the district. They expressed the view that funding for Town Teams, if provided by the Council, should come from central funds rather than Municipal District budgets. Other members were in favour of allocating the requested €3,000 this year and looking at alternative funding for the future.

Following discussion it was agreed by four members to two to allocate €3,000 to the Greystones Town Team from the 2023 discretionary funds as a contribution towards the maintenance of their website and social media channels.

The District Administrator informed the members that a request had been received for a contribution of €1,000 towards supporting the County Wicklow Disability & Inclusion Strategy 2023 – 2028. She stated that a similar contribution was being requested from the other Municipal Districts. Following discussion a contribution of €1,000 was agreed.

The District Administrator informed the members that a delegation from Holyhead was travelling to Greystones in November to participate in the Santa Parade and Christmas Festival here. She stated that it would cost in the region of €4,000 to accommodate and feed them and to cover expenses for a previous visit to Holyhead in July. This funding was agreed.

3. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER

A report from the District Engineer was circulated to the members at the meeting and he answered any queries in relation to same.

In response to queries from the members, the District Engineer stated that replies were awaited from landowners in relation to having the Cliff Walk re-opened and that delays in progressing the Chapel Road scheme were due to staff resignations. He stated that the area at Beechbrook Park which was cleared recently would be gone when the Chapel Road scheme was completed so it would be a waste of money to plant it at this time and he informed the members that staff had cleared up the outdoor school area at Dr. Ryan Park and removed materials that had been left for bonfires. He stated that signs for Kindlestown Park and Kenmare Heights had been ordered and would be followed up on and that replacement of paving blocks at Allied Irish Bank had been delayed due to bad weather.

The District Engineer informed the members that parking in loading bays was a matter for the parking wardens who did police that and he stated that trees would be planted at the dog park at Charlesland in the coming weeks. He stated that the provision of lighting at the Pigs Hollow would be progressed when the roads programme was completed and he pointed out that it was difficult to get contractors sorted for roadworks before the end of year deadlines for grants. He stated that Irish Rail was responsible for completing the access

under the arch for the south beach boardwalk and that Sispar was responsible for dealing with erosion at the north beach.

In relation to the safe routes to school scheme for Blacklion he stated that contact was being made with the school authorities in this regard and he pointed out that a contractor had been appointed to install the periodic speed limits and was working through the programme. He stated that minor works would be carried out on the footpaths throughout Redford Park and that a condition had been included in a planning permission requiring the moving back of the boundary of a house at the bottom of Sea Road, Kilcoole. He pointed out that the provision of a footpath on the Sea Road in Kilcoole was part of the larger Pathfinder programme.

The members welcomed the District Engineer's report and the clarification on their queries and they thanked the Council officials and staff for works carried out. They spoke about the need to have the Cliff Walk reopened and the Chapel Road scheme completed as soon as possible. They suggested that the fence at the building site at Dr. Ryan Park should be left in place until such time as a plan for the park was put in place. They also requested that clarification be sought on the recent clearance of the Council owned site at Killincarrig and whether or not the works complied with the Council's own Development Plan objectives in relation to riparian and biodiversity issues.

The District Manager informed the members that the works carried out on behalf of the Housing Section only cleared undergrowth and shrubbery and that no trees were removed.

In response to a further query from the members the District Manager stated that allocated outdoor staff numbers in the Greystones Municipal District, at 16, were less than the other districts and that a case was being made to have the allocated numbers increased. He stated that the staff audit had not yet been completed and he pointed out that if the increase was granted in Greystones Municipal District, funding would be an issue and decisions would need to be made about whether to employ new staff or to redeploy existing staff from other districts.

4. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor D. Mitchell:

"The footpath from Barry's Bridge to the Willow Grove road should be restored and lit as it is the only pedestrian path from Delgany to Willow Grove".

Councillor D. Mitchell stated that there were steep steps from Barry's Bridge up to the upper road but no proper footpath or lighting between the top of the steps and the roadway and following discussion the District Engineer agreed to inspect the area to see what could be done.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor L. Scott:

"That Greystones Municipal District agree that an e-bike sharing scheme would be of great benefit to the community and to explore avenues to bring a scheme to the District, including writing to the Chief Executive to ask that Greystones MD be considered for the next Bolt e-bike hub."

Councillor L. Scott stated that the e-bike scheme in Bray was very successful and beneficial to the area and she suggested that a similar scheme in Greystones would be great, especially for hilly areas like Blacklion. Members supported the motion and it was agreed to ask Wicklow County Council to look at options to bring a scheme to the district.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator gave an update on the Holyhead twinning which included proposed visits to Holyhead by a local school, rugby club, rowing club and baton twirlers and she pointed out that a memorial tree was being organised in Anglesey for a local Greystones man, Conor Whooley, whose body was washed up in Wales some years ago. It was pointed out that Ms. Virginia Crosbie, MP for Anglesey would accompany the visitors from Holyhead coming over to assist with the Greystones Christmas Lights Festival in November.
2. The District Administrator informed the members that a request had been received from the Codling Off Shore Wind Park Group to make a presentation to the members and following discussion it was agreed to invite them to the November meeting for a short presentation.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The District Manager informed the members that funding in the sum of €250,000 had been received to provide an Outdoor Performance Space at the La Touche Road car park and that the proposed scheme would go through the Part 8 process. Members welcomed this news and expressed the hope that parking facilities would also be maintained at the location.
2. In response to a query in relation to re-printing of Town Maps some members suggested that printed maps were not the best option and that a QR code should be linked to the Greystones.ie website instead. Following discussion it was agreed that the District Administrator would research the options available and revert to the members.
3. In response to further queries the District Administrator informed the members that the Environment Section of Wicklow County Council would make a presentation on the Risk Assessment for the Cove at a meeting in the new year and the Family Resource Centre would give a presentation too in the new year.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

CERTIFIED: _____ **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

DATED THIS: _____ **DAY OF** _____ **2023**