

**MINUTES OF DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.00 P.M.**

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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

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

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor L. Scott, seconded by Councillor G. Walsh and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2023, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**2. ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR MARK BARRY**

Councillor M. Barry had submitted a letter to the District Administrator tendering his resignation as Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Councillor Barry spoke about the highlights of his time as Cathaoirleach and looked forward to continuing to work with everyone as a local representative for the district. He thanked his fellow Councillors and the MD officials and staff as well as his wife and children for their support during his time as Cathaoirleach.

All the members paid tribute to Councillor Barry for the calm and consistent way he carried out his duties as Cathaoirleach and wished him well.

Councillor D. Mitchell proposed that Councillor S. Stokes be elected as Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District for the remainder of the term and this was seconded by Councillor G. Walsh.

As there were no other proposals, Councillor S. Stokes was deemed elected and took the chair. He thanked his fellow Councillors for proposing and nominating him and stated that he hoped to make a positive contribution to the district during his chairmanship. He pointed out that he intended to visit all the local schools in the coming months and that he hoped to progress infrastructure amenities, biodiversity issues, public transport deficiencies, school place shortages, recycling facilities, town twinning and staff issues. He paid tribute to the GMD indoor and outdoor staff and he thanked his family for their continued support.

On behalf of the GMD staff, the District Manager paid tribute to Councillor M. Barry for his work as Cathaoirleach and commended him on stepping up to that challenge as a new Councillor. He congratulated Councillor Stokes on his election as Cathaoirleach and looked forward to working with him over the coming months. All the members congratulated Councillor Stokes too and wished him well.

### **3. CONSIDERATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON PART 8 FOR KILLINCARRIG VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

The members had been circulated with a copy of the Chief Executive's report on the Part 8 for the Killincarrig Village Improvement Scheme prior to the meeting and the Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer and Mr. Conor Page, A/Senior Executive Engineer to the meeting. Mr. Page gave a slide-show presentation on the CE report on the Part 8 for the Killincarrig Village Improvement Scheme and he answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

In discussing the CE report the members agreed that a lack of parking spaces in the proposals was of concern to local businesses and residents and they suggested that some age-friendly parking should be provided as well as some bicycle parking and EV charging points if possible. Members suggested that the proposed new speed limit laws to reduce speeds in urban areas would be beneficial in the area and they raised residents' concerns in relation to flashing lights outside houses and the location of the proposed new crossing.

Mr. C. Page informed the members that a safety audit would be carried out on the proposals and any issues identified such as the location of the pedestrian crossing would be addressed. He stated that cowls could be fitted to pedestrian lights to prevent disturbance to nearby houses. He stated that the provision of bike parking would be considered at the design stage as well as the type of finishes to be used. In relation to the effect of the proposed works on existing businesses he stated that the plan was to improve the village and for the businesses to flourish and he pointed out that when the road in Delgany was closed for a period for roadworks, business improved because of the safer environment for pedestrians.

The District Engineer stated that parking in cycle lanes was illegal and that Greystones Municipal District would look at options for additional parking to see what could be provided in addition to the proposed disabled parking spaces. He pointed out that three extra spaces had been provided as part of a development at Adare Close and that more would be included, where possible, with other developments in the area and he stated that the Council would remove parking restrictions on Castlefield Terrace prior to the scheme being started in order to help alleviate concerns over parking.

Mr. M. Flynn stated that it should be possible to provide approximately thirty parking spaces within a four minute walk of the village centre. He pointed out that Council officials were to be briefed by Department officials in the coming week in relation to the proposed new speed limits for urban areas. He stated that the final design of the scheme, which would be in accordance with the safety audit, would be funded by the NTA so they would have input into that.

The District Manager informed the members that their concerns would be dealt with in the detail design of the scheme where possible and that submissions made would not be ignored.

The District Administrator informed the members that they must make a decision to adopt, modify or not proceed with the recommendations of the CE report and following further discussion Councillor G. Walsh proposed that the report be adopted and this was seconded by Councillor D. Mitchell. The following members then voted to adopt the report – Councillors M. Barry, T. Fortune, D. Mitchell, L. Scott and G. Walsh. Councillor S. Stokes voted against its adoption.

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

The District Engineer gave a verbal update on progress with works in the past two weeks. He stated that resurfacing works on Bellevue Hill in Delgany had been completed and that the ironworks on the road would be completed when the weather improved. He pointed out that the Priory Road was currently being resurfaced and that two new benches would be provided in Burnaby Park in the coming days. In response to queries from the members he stated that diversion signs for the Cliff Walk were on order and that discussions had taken place with Irish Water in relation to drainage issues on Bow Lane. He stated that he had requested a survey of the main line in an effort to resolve flooding on the R761 at Colaiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole and that he had been in touch with Irish Rail on a weekly basis to request them to complete works for the ramp at the south beach boardwalk. He pointed out that recent flooding at the Grove was caused by silt and fallen leaves washed down the hill in the storm and he stated that he was getting costs for the provision of public lighting at the Pigs Hollow. He stated that works to erect a new sign for Kindlestown Park and to replace paving stones outside the AIB bank would be completed when resources allowed.

In response to further queries from the members, the District Engineer stated that it was not Council policy to have public lighting at playgrounds and he agreed to check out the position with lamp-posts at the playground in Newcastle. He stated that speed limit signs on public roads were erected in accordance with statutory guidelines and must comply with them and he agreed to check the position in relation to speed limit signs on Sea Road, Newcastle.

In response to further queries from the members, the District Manager stated that he would request an update on the provision of a community building and creches at the Glenheron and Archers Wood developments.

Members welcomed these updates and the ongoing works being carried out in the district.

## **5. NOTICES OF MOTION**

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

‘The Department of Education School Construction Division should be asked to speak to the District meeting about the demand and supply for school places in September 2024 in view of the population expansion being much greater than planned’.

This motion was seconded by Councillor L. Scott and supported by all of the members. Members stated that the projected population figures for the district for 2028 had already been reached and that a lot more school places would be required going forward and possibly a need for more land to be rezoned for education purposes. They said that this issue was of great concern to parents and had been a hot topic since 2019 and they added that the current situation affected active travel in the district too. Members also pointed out that there was a need for a secondary level Gaelscoil in the area.

The District Engineer stated that the forward planning section of Wicklow County Council was satisfied that the needs of the district would be met when the new Community College was built at Charlesland.

Following further discussion it was agreed to request officials from the Department to attend a meeting of the MD and, if they agreed, to also invite the local TDs to attend.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The District Administrator informed the members that the Greystones Tidy Towns Committee that operated the Plaza market at the harbour had requested a contribution towards their costs as the

market had to close one weekend due to bad weather. She pointed out that there was a balance of approximately €1,500 left in the members' discretionary fund that could be used if the members agreed.

Members supported this request and stated that the market had added a great buzz and sense of community around the area and they agreed to contribute €1,500 as a once off gesture.

2. The District Administrator informed the members that the Co-ordinator of the Greystones Family Resource Centre would attend the January or February meeting of GMD as previously agreed.
3. The District Administrator informed the members that representatives from the Environment section of Wicklow County Council would attend the January meeting of GMD.

#### **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. The District Engineer requested the members to let him know where new solar powered bins were required in the district. He pointed out that the new pizza shop beside Aldi would be required to provide bins for pizza boxes as part of their planning permission and the District Administrator stated that members had already requested two new bins for Kilcoole and one for Newcastle.

Following discussion it was agreed that a bin should also be provided at the bus stop opposite Aldi and that the members would notify the District Engineer of any other areas where bins were required. The members suggested that clear plastic recycling bins should be considered for the south beach car park to help with recycling of waste.

The District Engineer stated that the recycling bins in Bray were regularly contaminated with other waste and he suggested that this matter should be raised at Wicklow County Council level so that a countywide scheme for supply and service could be put in place as happened in other local authority areas.

2. The District Manager informed the members that funding had been approved to have the running track at the Charlesland Recreational Centre resurfaced. He pointed out that the work would be put out to tender in the new year and should not take too long to complete once started.
3. The members congratulated local Templecarrig student Siofra Lawless on winning a gold medal in the World Junior Boxing Championships in Armenia recently.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

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

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

**DATED THIS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DAY OF** \_\_\_\_\_ **2024**

