

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 24th October 2022 @ 3.00 p.m.

Present: Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien, Councillors Irene Winters, Mary Kavanagh, John Snell, Gail Dunne & Shay Cullen.

In Attendance: Acting District Manager Breda McCarthy
District Engineer Kevin Scanlon
District Administrator Joan Sinnott
Assistant Staff Officer Jason Smith
Wicklow People Myles Buchanan

Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien opened the meeting at 3.00 p.m.

Cllr John Snell left the meeting at 15.50pm.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 26th September 2022.

It was proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr Irene Winters and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 26th September 2022.

ITEM 2

Consideration: Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal Districts year ending 2023

The report of the Chief Executive on the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal Districts of Wicklow County Council for the financial year ending 31st December 2023 had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting. The Draft Budgetary Plan had been prepared in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by Section 58 of the Local Government (LG) Reform Act 2014.

Acting District Manager Breda McCarthy presented the Budgetary Plan to the members and advised that it is part of the Draft Local Authority Budget which goes for consideration at the Annual Budget Meeting scheduled for the 28th November.

The General Municipal Allocation for Wicklow Municipal District €250,197.00

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Members discussed the breakdown of figures.
- The Members discussed the issue of providing assistance to the Rotary Club Christmas Tree for Fitzwilliam Square and it was proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen, Seconded by Cllr Mary Kavanagh that €1000 would be donated from the Discretionary fund towards the 2022 tree. The option of sourcing a sponsor was also discussed.
- Members identified the need to plan an itinerary for the Twinned Towns when they visit in March next year.

It was proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr Irene Winters and unanimously agreed to adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan for Wicklow Municipal District.

ITEM 3

Closure of Ashford Community Park

The District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised that Wicklow County Council is open to resolving this matter by putting a lease in place, similar to the lease previously in place between the Owner and Ashford Community Development Group. However no indication of resolution has been received to-date.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- The Members expressed regret that the lease had ceased with the owner and the community group.
- Members hoped that a lease and insurance could be put in place between Wicklow County Council and the Owner as soon as possible and have the issue resolved.
- The Members highlighted that the playpark is a valued facility to the local community in Ashford.

ITEM 4

District Engineers Report Summary 20th October 2022

Housing:

- DPG; 1 commenced on site. 3 ready to start on site.
- Relets/Prelets; 2 completed. 3 on site.

Roads:

- Roads Programme for 2022. Overlay RI Ballykeppogue to be completed by the end of October.
- Surface dressing RM. Completed and Lining to follow.

Environment:

- Orange weather warnings and associated flooding was reported in many parts of the District. Measurements of 53mm and 51mm of rain were recorded in Ashford and Arklow weather stations.
- The second Avian Flu collection commenced this week as a result the contractor collecting approximately 30 birds.

Planning

- Section 254 applications. 2 completed. (Broadband)

Public Liability

- 1 personal injury. 2 material damage.

Projects**NTA**

- Ballinahinch, Ashford footpath commenced this week.

DOE**CIS, Community Involvement Scheme**

- Dunganstown Church road. Contract awarded. Due to commence next week.

Climate Change, Adaption and Resilience

- Edge strengthening and drainage at Wicklow Gap. Work commencing next week. WCC crew.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works

- Speed signage and cycling signage delivered this week. To be installed in coming weeks.

Town & Village Renewal

- Approval received for Newtown upgrade to shop fronts and facades. WCC applied for funding via CCSD.
- Wicklow Town – South Quay connections to Main St; Part 8 ready for advertisement next week.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- The Members voiced their appreciation to the outdoor staff for their preparation and clearing of drains and gullies prior to the recent Orange weather warning and thanked them for the serious work they did on the day.
- Members enquired when the Brittas Bay footpath would commence – Commencement due later this year.

- Members were glad to hear of the commencement of the footpath in Ashford.
- Members raised the need to bring the Wendy in due to weather conditions and avoid possible damage. The upgrade of the Wendy could be a consideration for the Members Discretionary Fund.
- Members discussed the need to assess the lights from Rathnew to Wicklow Town as trees are over hanging and blocking the lights.
- Seal awareness signs should be placed in all areas of beaches.
- Members expressed concern regarding the health and safety of the occupants of the Grand Hotel. They also enquired if the appropriate accommodation requirements were being delivered by the provided.
- There is a growing need to assess the drainage issues/pot holes at Slaughter Hill, on either side.
- Need for lighting review – Leg of Mutton remains in darkness needs to be reviewed.
- Members raised the awareness of housing needs, especially relets in Hillview. It was confirmed that WMD staff are currently working with Housing Allocations to ensure properties are allocated.

ITEM 5

Correspondence

- SSE Electricity – Codling Wind Park have expressed an interest in making a presentation at the next meeting.

ITEM 6

A.O.B.

Part 8 – Reconnecting Wicklow Town and South Quay

- The District Administrator advised that the Part 8 will be advertised later this week and displayed here in Wicklow Municipal District foyer and also in the County Buildings Foyer and on the Wicklow.ie Consultation Hub.

Christmas Parking

- Christmas parking two hour free parking to commence from 21st November – 31st December. This was proposed by Cllr Gail Dunne and seconded by Mary Kavanagh and unanimously agreed.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Members requested that could they be informed of the designs for the murals which will be used on the Part 8 – Reconnecting Wicklow Town and South Quay

- Members discussed the Discretionary fund budget and projects remaining, it was noted generally that further meetings and clarification is required.
- Members noted the overcrowding issue in the Grand Hotel with increasing numbers being facilitated. The Members requested that a letter issue to the Department of Justice & Equality voicing their concerns.

It was proposed by Cllr Paul O'Brien and seconded by Cllr Gail Dunne and unanimously agreed that the date for the November meeting would be changed to the 21st as the scheduled date of the 28th now clashed with the Budget Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH PAUL O'BRIEN CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 16.15 P.M.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____