

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager  
Mr. R. O'Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer  
Ms. A. Kavanagh, Greystones Municipal District  
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

Apologies from: Ms. T. Kearns, Greystones Municipal District Administrator

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At the outset, Councillor L. Scott proposed that standing orders be suspended to allow for discussion on the shortage of school places in the district for September 2024 and it was agreed to discuss this matter after item 5 on the agenda.

Councillor G. Walsh proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Robyn Archer from Greystones who died recently. A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of her.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor D. Mitchell seconded by Councillor L. Scott and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**2. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER**

A report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting and he answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

The District Engineer, in response to queries from the members, stated that the roads SPC or full Council could push for quicker progress on the Chapel Road upgrade scheme and he pointed out that the Killincarrig Village Enhancement scheme was awaiting detail design. He stated that he was aware of an issue that had arisen in relation to the boundary of one property in Killincarrig but he assured the members that all the proposed works in Killincarrig were on the public road and not on private property. He stated that he was not aware if the landowner issue that prevented the footpath on the eastern side of the R761 north of Kilcoole had been resolved.

The District Engineer informed the members that the funding allocated for the Delgany Wood Road was for road safety works, though not pedestrian lights, and to formalize the roundabouts, drop kerbs, etc. He stated that new diversion signs for the Cliff Walk would be erected in the coming weeks and that he hoped to receive a quotation for public lighting at the Pigs Hollow by the end of the week. He pointed out that the traffic lights at the Donnybrook Fair junction were working well and that wait times for traffic exiting Grattan Park were longer because that was the most minor arm of the junction. He informed the members that there were statutory guidelines for the operation times of periodic speed limits that came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 and that he would check on those and get back to the members.

In response to further queries from the members, the District Engineer stated that road markings in the district would be renewed as soon as staff and resources allowed and that he would look at improving the path from the level crossing at the Grove to the marina. He stated that it was hoped to have pedestrian safety works on the Charlesland dual carriageway commenced this year and that he would check on the situation with public lighting out at the Black Walk. He stated that a sign for Heathervue would be erected at the junction and he pointed out that the individual roads within the Charlesland development were not public roads. He informed the Members that Greystones MD received an annual allocation for Cycle Safe Passing signs and guidelines on where to place them. He stated that these signs had already been provided in the district where required but pointed out that most roads did not require signs as per the Department's guidelines.

The District Manager informed the members that funding for works on the Cliff Walk was secure at present but would not be available forever. He pointed out that while the CPO process had been commenced for the Cliff Walk, some progress was still being made with the landowners and it was hoped that the matter could be finalized without the need for a CPO.

Members welcomed the report from the District Engineer and the works being carried out in the district. They were critical of the slow progress with the Chapel Road scheme and they suggested that the full details about the delays with the footpath on the R761 Kilcoole Road should be made public as all sorts of misinformation were circulating on social media. They requested that signage be provided at the end of the first cul-de-sac in Grattan Park as cars were driving up the narrow road and had to turn in people's gardens and they asked that a Stop or Yield sign be erected in Castlefield Terrace at the New Road/Castle Villas junction. They also requested that the path from the level crossing at the Grove down to the marina be improved as it was in a very poor condition.

### **3. NOTICES OF MOTION**

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor S. Stokes:

"Greystones Municipal District requests two benches at the flagpole in the Burnaby Park."

The District Engineer agreed to provide two benches at the flagpole in Burnaby Park as requested in this notice of motion.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor S. Stokes:

"Greystones Municipal District requests a more formal crossing system between Brady's of Greystones and Circle K on Victoria Road, Greystones. Alternatively another close by location could be considered if it is more suitable. It notes that this could greatly improve pedestrian safety in the area."

The District Engineer informed the members that this location was included as part of the Pathfinder proposals being funded under the Active Travel Grants Allocation for 2024 and that the provision of a suitable crossing would be considered as part of that scheme.

### **4. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The Meetings Secretary informed the members of the contents of an email received from the Housing Section of Wicklow County Council which stated that contractors had been employed to carry out a survey of roof repairs required at houses in Farrankelly Close.

Following discussion it was agreed to request housing officials to attend the March meeting of GMD to discuss this and the other issues in Farrankelly Close.

2. The Meetings Secretary advised the members of the contents of an email received from Councillor M. Barry requesting that representatives from Irish Rail be invited to attend the April meeting of GMD to discuss upcoming rail works and the resultant stoppage of rail services to Greystones. Councillor Barry suggested that Irish Rail be requested to run DART or diesel trains on sections of the rail line not affected by works on particular weekends. Following discussion it was agreed to seek a meeting with Irish Rail in March before the stoppages were due to commence.
3. The Meetings Secretary informed the members of the contents of a letter received from the Mayoress of Bagnacavallo in Italy seeking a twinning arrangement with Greystones. Following discussion it was agreed to circulate this letter to the members and to discuss it again at the March meeting.
4. The Meetings Secretary informed the members that the Wicklow Age Friendly Homes Co-ordinator, Marion Van de Wel, would be making a presentation to the full membership of Wicklow County Council in the coming weeks. She stated that the Chairperson of Wicklow's Older Peoples Council, Ms. Carina Harte, had requested that the members highlight this new important service to their constituents.
5. The Meetings Secretary informed the members that nominations were now being accepted for the 2024 GMD/Wicklow Times People of the Year Awards which would be held in Greystones Golf Club on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024. She pointed out that the closing date for nominations was Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
6. The Meetings Secretary informed the members that a thank you card had been received from local boxer Siofra Lawless thanking the members for their good wishes on her recent win in the World Junior Boxing Championship.
7. The Meetings Secretary informed the members of an update received from Ms. K. Kelleher in relation to the twinning with Holyhead. This stated that the Cathaoirleach and Ms. Kelleher were travelling to Holyhead to celebrate St. David's Day on 1<sup>st</sup> March and that a delegation from Holyhead would travel to Greystones for the St. Patrick's Day Parade and for the Greystones Christmas Lights in November. It was also pointed out that arrangements were being made to have a visit by the Holyhead Rowing Club organised in May.

## **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Councillor M. Barry raised an issue with Shoreline Leisure that was preventing the Greystones Sharks group from expanding and he requested that this matter be taken up with the management of Shoreline to discuss what could be done to resolve the issues. This was agreed.

2. In response to a query from Councillor L. Scott, the District Manager stated that the Wicklow County Council Arts Office was progressing work on the proposed Outdoor Arts Centre.
3. In response to a further query from Councillor L. Scott, the Meetings Secretary stated that she would follow up on having the Water Safety Ireland risk assessment audit circulated to the members.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

Councillor L. Scott stated that many parents in the district were now distraught as they had no school places for their children for September 2024. She requested that a letter be sent to the Minister for Education to seek urgent clarification on the situation with school places for September 2024 and the Department’s plans to address the issues.

All the members supported this proposal and stated that this problem had been ongoing for a number of years and that the Department of Education has had ample time to resolve it. They pointed out that the population of the district had already exceeded the projected figures for 2028 and that urgent action was now required by the Department as the situation would only get worse. They also highlighted the need for a second level school in the district with a Gaelscoil mentioned by one member.

Following further discussion the members agreed to write to the Minister for Education and to also request a meeting with the five local TDs to seek their support in having this matter resolved.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

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

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

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