**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD REMOTELY BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY 26th OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor L. Scott, Cathaoirleach

Councillors M. Crean, T. Fortune, D. Mitchell, J. Neary & G. Walsh

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager

Mr. R. O’Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer

Ms. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District Administrator

Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

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1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor D. Mitchell, seconded by Councillor M. Crean and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2021, as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

1. **REPRESENTATIVES FROM SISPAR IN RELATION TO GREYSTONES HARBOUR**

The District Administrator informed the members that representatives from Sispar were not available to attend the meeting but that they would meet the Councillors in November and the date for such meeting would be notified.

Members expressed dissatisfaction that Sispar were not present and had not provided an update on various issues raised by the members. They looked forward to meeting with them in November.

1. **REPRESENTATIVES FROM GREYSTONES TOWN TEAM RE FUNDING FOR SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Tom O’Mahoney, Mr. Richie Power and Mr. David O’Brien from the Greystones Town Team. They gave a Powerpoint slideshow presentation which outlined some of the objectives of the Town Team and details of various initiatives planned which included online streaming of events such as the Christmas lights event. They stated that they had a number of qualified volunteers who were willing to update and maintain the Greystones.ie website but that they hoped to outsource some work to enhance this. They suggested that a sum of €12,000 per annum would be required to achieve this and they stated that the other Town Teams in the County had higher budgets for their social media campaigns. They answered questions from the members in relation to their proposals.

The District Administrator informed the meeting that the members had previously committed to a contribution of €3,000 per annum for maintenance of the Greystones.ie website but that a contribution of €12,000 was a lot to ask. She pointed out that the total discretionary budget of €38,000 also covered annual contributions towards the Christmas Lights, St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Twinning events, Tidy Towns groups, festivals, etc.

Members stated that €12,000 per annum was a substantial percentage of their annual discretionary budget and they suggested that they would need to have details of exactly what any money would be used for, and key performance indicators, before agreeing to any contribution. They thanked the group for their presentation and suggested that some Tourism or Leader funding might be available to them.

The Town Team representatives thanked the members for receiving the deputation and they acknowledged that the Greystones Municipal District budget was very small. They agreed to circulate a copy of their presentation to the members.

1. **CONSIDERATION OF 2022 DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN FOR GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

The members had been circulated with a copy of the 2022 Draft Budgetary Plan for Greystones Municipal District together with copy of letter from the Chief Executive in relation to same.

Members were critical of the budgets provided for Greystones Municipal District which did not compare well with the other districts in the county. They referred to repeated requests to the Chief Executive to have budgets allocated in a manner that took account of the huge amount of development in the Greystones Municipal District in recent years. Some members stated that, because those requests had been ignored, they intended to vote against the budget at Wicklow County Council.

The District Administrator informed the members that the Draft Budgetary Plan was one step in the four-step process that fed in to the budget for Wicklow County Council.

Following discussion Councillor G. Walsh proposed that the Draft Budgetary Plan be adopted and this was seconded by Councillor L. Scott. The members then voted as follows: in favour of adoption – Councillors M. Crean, D. Mitchell, J. Neary, L. Scott and G. Walsh; against adoption – Councillor T. Fortune.

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

The report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting and the District Engineer answered queries from the members in relation to same. He stated that proposals for Delgany village submitted by the Business Association would be considered and that the members would be kept informed in relation to this matter.

In response to queries from the members in relation to the Cliff Walk the District Engineer stated that signage could be placed to divert walkers onto Cliff Road and down Windgates and the Grove into Greystones. He stated that discussions were ongoing with landowners’ solicitors in relation to securing land to permanently move the walk westward away from the coastal erosion.

The District Engineer informed the members that he was looking at sources of income to enhance the proposed works at Killincarrig and that the drainage works at Beechwood Park in Kilcoole should be completed in the coming days. He stated that works would commence on Kilmullen Lane, Newcastle in November and should be completed during December and he pointed out that traffic surveys would be carried out at Blacklion as part of the speed limit review.

1. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS STREET LIGHTING**

The District Administrator informed the members that arrangements were being finalised by Greystones 2020 for the Christmas Lights celebration this year on Saturday 20th November. She gave details of what would be included. She pointed out that Santa from Holyhead would visit Greystones with his companions, including the Mayor of Holyhead, and that arrangements would be made to have a meal for them in Bochellis restaurant on Saturday 20th November. She requested that the members be available to meet with the visitors from Holyhead during their visit from Friday 19th November to Sunday 21st November.

The Cathaoirleach raised the issue of free parking in the town on the Saturdays in the run up to Christmas as had happened in previous years. Following discussion it was agreed that two hours free parking be made available on 27th November and on the 4th, 11th and 18th December.

1. **NOTICES OF MOTION:**
2. Motion in the name of Councillor L. Scott:

"That Greystones Municipal District supports the implementation of 30km/h speed limits, or periodic 30km/h zones, around all schools within the district in order to encourage more walking and cycling to school, reduce air and noise pollution, and reduce the severity of injury should any collisions occur."

Councillor Scott stated that she received many complaints about speeding traffic in the vicinity of schools and she requested that the members adopt this resolution and forward it to the Director of Transportation in Wicklow County Council in advance of the speed limit review taking place.

Following discussion the members supported this motion and agreed that it be sent to the Director of Transportation.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**
2. The District Administrator informed the members that all options including physical, remote or hybrid, needed to be considered for the monthly meetings of the Municipal District. She pointed out that physical meetings would be strictly limited to one hour and fifty five minutes with two metre physical distancing. She stated that the cost of hybrid meetings would work out at €1,000 per meeting for cameras, microphones and streaming facilities, but that there was an option to hold meetings in the Council Chamber in County Buildings. She stated that unless these were held during the day there would be overtime costs for staff to open County Buildings for night time meetings as well as for technical staff to attend.

Following discussion on this matter it was agreed that meetings should continue to be held remotely on Zoom up until the end of December 2021.

1. The District Administrator raised the issue of whether or not to allow a limited number of memorial trees to be planted on the Upper Green in Kilcoole. She stated that this arose following an application to plant a tree in memory of a former resident of the area.

Following discussion it was agreed to defer a decision on this matter until a later date.

1. The District Administrator informed the members that she had received a request from David O’Reilly who wanted to provide a stainless steel sculpture in Burnaby Park to commemorate all those in the district who had died of Covid-19. She agreed to circulate details to the members.

Following discussion the members agreed that this would be a worthy project but that it was premature at this stage and should be deferred. They suggested that their support for the project would assist in Mr. O’Reilly’s fund-raising efforts for the sculpture.

1. Members raised the issue of traffic calming in Applewood Heights, Greystones and referred to a recent survey carried out by the Residents Association there which resulted in a small majority of residents agreeing that the road into the estate at Chapel Road should be closed for a trial period.

The District Engineer stated that it was inappropriate to have a major road running through a housing estate and he suggested that the road should be closed at the top of the estate. He did not anticipate any major impact for residents from such a closure. He stated that traffic counts would be carried out in the estate and that the road would be closed temporarily for a six month trial period.

Members stated that not all residents in Applewood Heights wanted the road closed. They expressed concern about the impact of the road closure on traffic on the R761 and on Chapel Road.

The District Engineer stated that speeding in the estate was an issue before the ramps were installed and that more traffic was now using the road. He stated that the proposed closure would be on a temporary basis to see how it worked out but he did not envisage any issues.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_DAY OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2021