

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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Present: Councillors T. Fortune, D. Mitchell, L. Scott & S. Stokes

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

Apologies from: Councillor G. Walsh, Cathaoirleach

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At the outset, the District Administrator stated that as the Cathaoirleach was not present at the meeting and the Leas-Cathaoirleach had resigned, the members must agree to appoint one of their members to chair the meeting. It was subsequently agreed that Councillor T. Fortune act as Deputy Cathaoirleach for the meeting. Councillor Fortune took the chair and proceeded to wish Jodie Neary well on her resignation.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor S. Stokes, seconded by Councillor D. Mitchell and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**2. PRESENTATION ON SEA STACKS OFF SHORE WIND PROJECT**

The Deputy Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Brian Hegarty, Offshore Wind Stakeholder Manager; Mr. Michael McGlynn, Offshore Wind Community Liaison Officer and Mr. Liam Murphy, Offshore Wind Project Director with the ESB to the meeting. They gave a Powerpoint presentation on the Sea Stacks Off-Shore Wind Project and agreed to circulate a copy of the presentation to the members. They then answered any queries from the members.

In response to queries the delegation stated that it was proposed to have the turbines fixed to rock on the sea bed, subject to surveys being carried out, and that while a foreshore licence had been applied for 2 – 3 years ago, the process was very slow and would not be completed until next spring. They stated that a decision on the siting of the headquarters had not been taken yet and that details of the community benefit scheme would be announced at a later date. They stated that aerial surveys of the site had been carried out that will inform the design of the project and that there will also be a requirement to provide an Environmental Impact Statement. They pointed out that it was very expensive to provide floating turbines so it was more cost effective to have the turbines fixed along the east coast at present. They stated that they were also looking at options for storing energy and the possibility of storing hydrogen in sub-sea tanks off the east coast.

The delegation pointed out that the recent lightning strike at turbines off the coast of Arklow was a very unusual event as conductors were included in the blades to prevent such incidents. They pointed out that there was not intended to have an exclusion zone around the proposed 40 – 53 turbines and that the turbines would be approximately 12-32 km from the coast. They stated that the turbines would be grey in colour and would be visible from the coast and they pointed out that they would look at various options to help fisheries and fish stocks. They stated that some jobs would be available for skippers, etc.

The members welcomed the proposals for wind energy and thanked the delegation for their presentation. They spoke about the need for adequate community benefit from any scheme and expressed the opinion that an interpretive centre should be provided in Greystones as well as site visits and tours. They emphasised the importance of assessing any potential impact on the under-water environment, birds and wildlife. They welcomed the public consultation session arranged for Greystones Sailing Club for Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November from 4 – 8 pm.

### **3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT ON PART 8 FOR REDFORD JUNCTION**

The Deputy Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Declan O’Brien, Engineer from Wicklow County Council to the meeting. A copy of the Chief Executive’s report on the Part 8 for Redford Junction had been circulated to the members in advance. Mr. O’Brien gave a short background of the process so far and he answered any queries from the members in relation to the proposed scheme.

In reply to queries from the members he stated that the proposed improvements would shorten delays at the junction and that it was hoped that the scheme would go to tender early in the new year and that work could commence in mid-2023.

The District Engineer stated that no CPO was required for these works as they were all on Council controlled land.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor L. Scott, seconded by Councillor S. Stokes and agreed that the Chief Executive’s report on the part 8 scheme for Redford junction be adopted.

### **4. 2023 DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN FOR GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

A copy of the 2023 Draft Budgetary Plan for Greystones Municipal District had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

Members stated that their issue, as in previous years, was with the allocation of the overall Wicklow County Council budget between the Municipal Districts and they stated that the allocation had not changed despite repeated requests to management from the Greystones Municipal District members and officials.

The District Manager stated that if the members did not adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan, they would lose the proposed discretionary funding. In response to a suggestion that the discretionary fund should be split between the six members he stated that it was much better to have one large project funded, as put forward by the District Engineer each year, than to have six small projects done.

Following further discussion it was proposed by Councillor D. Mitchell, seconded by Councillor L. Scott and agreed that the 2023 Draft Budgetary Plan for Greystones Municipal District, as circulated, be adopted.

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

The report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting together with an update on NTA projects, and he answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

In response to further queries from the members the District Engineer stated that the Transport Study was not yet completed as a number of queries had been raised on the draft. He stated that it was hoped to have it completed by year end. He pointed out that he hoped to arrange a presentation on the Boardwalk Part 8 for the December meeting and to commence work in early 2023. He stated that work on the Bellevue Road

junction to the Pigeon House would commence shortly and that Consultants were looking at options for improvements to the Convent Road in Delgany. He pointed out that maintenance of Dr. Ryan Park would be looked at in light of resources available and that while the Cliff Walk looked ok from the top, the erosion at the bottom of the cliff was much worse and very vulnerable.

The District Engineer stated that work on the realignment of the road from Glenheron to Archers Wood was progressing well and that when that work was completed, the Council would commence work on the section from the Knockroe Roundabout to Glenbrook Park to provide footpaths and cycle lanes. He stated that there was no progress at this stage on the completion of the footpath from Knockroe to Kilcoole but that the Council was pushing to get public lighting completed there. He pointed out that the NTA funding for the feasibility options for Sea Road, Kilcoole and the Greystones to Kilcoole link would roll over to next year.

Members thanked the District Engineer for his comprehensive report and requested that same be circulated a day earlier going forward so that they had time to read it in full before the meeting. They requested that drawings for the proposed work from Knockroe Roundabout to Glenbrook Park be circulated.

The District Manager informed the members that the proposal was to move the Cliff Walk inland by a small measure which involved four landowners. He pointed out that the Council may consider acquiring the necessary land by Compulsory Purchase Order if agreement could not be reached with the landowners.

## **6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR TOWN TWINNING VISIT BY HOLYHEAD DELEGATION IN NOVEMBER**

The District Administrator informed the members that arrangements were currently being made for the visit to Greystones in November by a large delegation from Holyhead. She pointed out that the visitors would arrive on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November and would stay in the Parkview Hotel where a presentation would be made to the Mayor of Holyhead to mark 10 years of twinning between the two towns. She stated that activities would be arranged for the Saturday, details of which would be circulated closer to the event, and that members of the group would participate in the Christmas Lights and Santa celebrations while members of the Holyhead Male Voice Choir and the Magee Brothers Folk Group would feature in a concert in the Whale Theatre on the Saturday evening, tickets for which were now on sale. She reminded the members to mark these dates in their diaries.

## **7. NOTICES OF MOTION:**

No notices of motion were discussed.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The District Administrator informed the members that she had received requests from the Kilcoole Community Development Association and Connecting Kilcoole seeking funding totaling €2,300 towards the provision of Christmas Lights in Kilcoole. This funding allocation was agreed by the members.
2. The District Administrator informed the members that an application had been received from Ms. Aoife Munn seeking funding in the sum of €2,300 plus VAT (€2,829 total) to run a Sustainable Gardening Course in Greystones Municipal District based on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. This funding allocation was also agreed.
3. The District Administrator informed the members that 2 hours free on-street parking had been allowed in Greystones on the four Saturdays in the run up to Christmas in the past. Following discussion it was agreed that 2 hours free on-street parking be allowed on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December. It was

pointed out that the Traffic Wardens would operate on those days and illegal parking would be enforced.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. The District Manager, on behalf of all the staff of Greystones Municipal District, acknowledged the contribution made by Jodie Neary during her time with Greystones Municipal District and wished her well in her new career. These sentiments were echoed by the members.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

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

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

**DATED THIS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DAY OF** \_\_\_\_\_ **2022**