

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2023 @3.00 p.m.

Present: Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien, Councillors Irene Winters, 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

Absent: Cllr Mary Kavanagh

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

Condolences: Members expressed sincere condolences to the Kavanagh family on the passing of Myles Kavanagh, brother of their colleague Cllr Mary Kavanagh, the meeting was paused for a minute's silence.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 23rd January 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr Gail Dunne and seconded by Cllr John Snell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 23rd January 2023.

ITEM 2

Discretionary Fund

Updates provided by District Engineer Kevin Scanlon

- Review of 2022 list has commenced.
- Riverwalk lights are completed.
- Ballinalea footpaths completed.

- Rugby Club couldn't achieve agreement with land owner therefore rugby footpath requires redesign.
- Merrymeeting footpath will also require redesign.
- Dunbur road crossing will require a loss of parking if it is re located further down the hill.
- All applications for ESB including Sailing Club are done and awaiting power on.
- Main street footpaths to be assessed.
- Rocky road footpath included in NTA Job.
- Seats & Information Board for Rathnew completed.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Request for an update on the Glenealy footpath coming from the bridge. The Rugby club footpath issue needs to be resolved as it's a dangerous road and is frequently used by the public.
- Request for support to regenerate the carpark in Newtown Community Centre.
- Members were pleased and looking forward to seeing the Merrymeeting Hill project coming to completion.
- District Engineer Kevin Scanlon was commended for moving forward with the discretionary funded projects.
- The need to review the Dunbur Crossing was highlighted as the width is an issue.
- Review needed for traffic calming measures for the Ballynerrin area especially in the area of the Montessori school.
- A new raft/wendy is required with possible funding from the Discretionary Fund.
- Regarding the request to support the regeneration of the Community Centre in Newtownmountkennedy, members need to discuss as a group and it would be better if members were informed of any proposals otherwise it is difficult for members to agree.
- Need to focus on outstanding jobs and clear the backlog.

It was proposed by Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien and seconded by Cllr Gail Dunne that a new raft be purchased to replace the previous raft and requested for a quote be sought.

ITEM 3

Abbey Grounds – Update

The District Engineer Kevin Scanlon informed the Members that the Archaeological Impact Assessment had been carried out by the Archaeologist late last year and human remains had been discovered in the trenching works that had taken place. A redesign proposal has been requested from the Architects which will look at pushing the performance area out further towards Wentworth Place. National Monuments will come back with recommendations on the project.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Acting District Manager Breda McCarthy clarified that the funding deadline is the end of September 2023.
- The Members agreed that it is important that the funding is used and a focus is kept to achieve this project.
- District Engineer Kevin Scanlon informed the meeting that two further areas were excavated recently and remains were found. These areas can be avoided and the remaining plans are to go ahead.

ITEM 4

District Engineers Report

Housing

- Relets/Prelets; 4 completed. 4 on site.
- 2 new relets received.
- 3 CPO house commenced.
- DPG; 3 completed. 5 ready to proceed.

Roads

- Resurfacing damaged road at Carrigower quarry completed.
- Winter Gritting (Regional Roads) since Saturday 21st January; 9 out of 34 nights, 0 doubles.

CCSD

- Tender currently online for consultant for Coral grant funding for works from Large Scale Sport Infrastructure.

Public Liability

- 2 personal injuries.
- 2 material damage.

Projects

WCC

- Roundwood footpath; Work has commenced at northern end of the dam.

DOT

- Drainage works have commenced at bottom of Slaughter Hill prior to resurfacing.
- Mapping and planning of Roads Programme commenced.

NTA

- Ballinahinch, Ashford footpath; wall facing commenced last week.
- Station Rd to Marlton Rd and Rockey Rd footpath and cycling lanes; consultant completed preliminary plan and is starting survey in March.

DOE

Town & Village Renewal

- 3 umbrellas for Fitzwilliam Sq have been received. To be installed soon.
- Wicklow Town – South Quay connections to Main St; Part 8 approved. Meetings ongoing with stakeholders.

Fáilte Ireland

- 2 umbrellas for Gaol have been received. To be installed soon.
- Abbey Grounds; Redesign of seating/performance area carried out and 2nd archaeology dig took place Friday 17th Feb. More burials found. Info sent to National Monuments for comments.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Members identified the need for line marking at the following locations; Convent road, St Manntans road and at the Beehive, also an update on the lights at the leg of mutton.
- The need to review re-lets was raised and the need to turn around vacant properties quicker. It was suggested to utilise the services of private contractors. If properties are left untenanted there is a higher risk of vandalism or theft.
- Further points were raised; is there possible funding for the Mill Town Lane footpath and any update on Nuns Cross. The Ball Alley – did we submit funding grant, the graveyard in Glenealy is coming to full capacity whose responsibility to assign a new graveyard.
- The need to review Rathnew traffic lights.
- Increased traffic on Milltown Lane and needs slow down signs in place.
- Luggala carpark 182 cars were the capacity last weekend, need to regularise the carpark can we facilitate a meeting with the landowner for a long-term review.
- The Newtownmountkenndy Part 8 – could this be back on the agenda?
- Glebemount footpaths are in a bad way and a tree needs to be cut down near electric box.

- One way system at Sycamore drive needs a sign on the top road.
- Wicklow to Rathnew road needs speed signs.
- Ball alley needs to be cleared/cleaned.
- Brittas Bay footpath – Update required.

District Engineer Kevin Scanlon responded:

- ESB is paid and awaiting for them to make the connections.
- A large tender for a majority of line marking on regional roads has been started.
- Clarified that the Brittas Bay path will go down the land side/western side. There is an area of land beside the school which may be owned by the Council. Ownership will be checked on this.
- The funding application for the Ball Alley was submitted on time.
- A number of road signs are due and will be put up in due course.
- Luggala Carpark has a current licence agreement.
- Mill town lane will be reviewed.
- The graveyard in Glenealy has recently had an Archaeological review and the report is awaited.
- Nuns Cross – GSS & staff to do some works which will include widening of the footpath

Clr Gail Dunne left the meeting at 15.45 pm

ITEM 5

Correspondence

No correspondence

Clr Irene Winters left the meeting at 16.09 pm

ITEM 6

A.O.B

- **Community Recognition Fund 2023** – Aim is to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.
- CCSD are asking for each Municipal District to identify two projects for this funding.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

It was proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien that the Assembly Hall would be a valuable project for the Community Recognition Fund 2023 as it would be a valuable asset to various groups for usage. An email to all members will follow to see if in favour as open to all proposals.

- Cllr John Snell discussed that this was good news relating to the funding and is supportive of the need for funding for the renovation of the Assembly Hall, but identified that we need to be conscious of other clubs that would benefit from this funding.
- Cllr Shay Cullen clarified that he is not dismissing of other possible projects, but the Assembly Hall is in need of major works, and that the Assembly Hall once renovated would be valuable to all users.
- Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien expressed that there is a need to be sensitive in our decisions in projects going forward for funding. The Assembly Hall is a greater need and needs supporting. A decision is not being made today as it is primarily to discuss and put forward ideas as recommendations for a project for possible funding.
- Cllr Shay Cullen further discussed that the Assembly Hall would need to be opened up to serve the wider community by renovating the building with general works. The Assembly Hall would be community focused and serve the needs for everyone who wishes to avail of its services.

Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien agreed to contact the Members not present for their approval to put this project forward.

The Members raised the issue that they were not happy with the Fire Report received regarding the Grand Hotel and further liaison/discussions are needed with the Ministers Office.

CATHAOIRLEACH PAUL O'BRIEN CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 16.45 P.M.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____