

MINUTES OF MAY MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 27TH MAY 2025 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Councillor T. Fortune, Cathaoirleach
Councillors M. Barry, O. Finn, L. Fenelon-Gaskin, L. Scott & S. Stokes

Also Present: Mr. M. Devereux, Greystones Municipal District Manager
Mr. G. Cullen, Greystones Municipal District Engineer
Ms. T. Kearns, Greystones Municipal District Administrator
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

At the outset the members passed a vote of sympathy to Wicklow County Council Director of Services and former Greystones Municipal District Manager Michael Nicholson on the recent death of his father, Michael Nicholson Senior. A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of the deceased.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Councillor S. Stokes requested that the draft minutes of the April meeting be amended under item 4 on page 3 to include 'Members welcomed the report and thanked Mr. O'Hanlon for his responses. They welcomed the fact that remedial works would be carried out before the through road was opened, but they expressed concern about the possible opening of the barrier between Archers Wood and Eden Gate' at the beginning of paragraph 3 and this was agreed.

It was then proposed by Councillor S. Stokes seconded by Councillor L. Scott and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 29th April, 2025, as amended, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. 2025 SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS

The members had been circulated with a copy of the proposed Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) for Greystones Municipal District prior to the meeting and the District Manager and District Administrator answered any queries in relation to same.

The District Administrator informed the members that the budget was already agreed at Wicklow County Council level last November and that this was the next stage of the budget process. She stated that if the SMDW was not adopted by Greystones Municipal District it would revert back to the full council for the elected members to consider and adopt, with or without amendment.

Members once again expressed dissatisfaction with the whole budget process which they suggested was wrong but they accepted that it was a statutory process and following discussion it was proposed by Councillor L. Fenelon Gaskin, seconded by Councillor M. Barry and agreed that the SMDW, as circulated, be adopted.

3. DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor L. Fenelon Gaskin, seconded by Councillor L. Scott and agreed to hold the Annual Meeting at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 24th June 2025 prior to the monthly meeting.

4. PROPOSALS FOR MEMBERS' DISCRETIONARY FUNDING

Members had been circulated with details of funding allocations for 2024 and requests to date for 2025 prior to the meeting. The District Administrator suggested seeking details of projects in need of funding rather than just making contributions to the local Tidy Towns groups but the members agreed to continue with contributions because of the important work carried out by the Tidy Towns groups and the difficulty they had in sourcing funding.

In relation to a request from Wicklow Pride for funding the members agreed to defer a decision on this until such time as the group submitted details of their proposals for activities in the district.

Following further discussion it was agreed to allocate the following funding from the 2025 budget: Greystones Tidy Towns - €5,000; Kilcoole Tidy Towns - €3,000; Delgany Tidy Towns - €3,000; Newcastle Tidy Towns - €3,000; Newcastle Christmas Lights - €1,500; Tourism & Twinning - €5,000 and 2025 People of the Year Awards - €1,365.40.

It was agreed that other requests for funding could be considered individually at a later date if and when received. While some members suggested that finance should be allocated to various groups carrying out feasibility studies in the district and other local initiatives, other members suggested that if funding was available from other sources that should be used as it was not good to set a precedent in this regard.

The District Administrator stated that the members should be considered when allocating finance as they had a very small pot to distribute.

5. REPORT FROM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER

The District Engineer had circulated the members with a report that outlined proposed works and works carried out in the district and he answered any queries from the members in relation to same. He agreed to check on the provision of new name signs for Church Lane and Bellevue Park and to have any necessary maintenance carried out at the Charlesland Dog Park. He stated that he would investigate the need for drainage works at Kenmare Heights and that maintenance works would be carried out on Church Lane, Greystones although a bigger job was required there. He stated that consultation was taking place with St. Catherine's Special School before new accessible equipment was provided in the south beach playground and he agreed to look at the need for double yellow lines at Applewood Drive.

In relation to the Pathfinder Scheme and why the Kilcoole works were removed from it, the District Engineer stated that they were removed by the NTA. He stated that he would follow up on proposals for Dr. Ryan Park and the sandpit area at Killincarrig and he agreed to speak with the Council's Biodiversity team in relation to getting heliotrope removed from the sandpit at Killincarrig as soon as possible. He stated that he would look at having necessary maintenance works carried out in Delgany and he added that work on the cliff walk path at Darcy's Field was progressing well. He pointed out that he was looking at options for making the crossing on the footpath at the entrance to the Centra carpark in Kilcoole safer and he agreed to look at the possibility of providing a safe crossing at the junction of New Road and Mill Road in Killincarrig. He advised the members that work on cladding the ramp at Farrankelly Close had commenced and that the Main Street in Kilcoole would be re-surfaced from the Sea Road junction to Lee's pub in the interim until development works from Lee's pub to the Lott Lane junction were completed.

The District Manager agreed to seek a copy of the Pathfinder report and why the Kilcoole works were removed from it and he suggested that the road at the New Road and Mill Road junction in Killincarrig was too narrow to provide a safe crossing there. In relation to the footpath crossing at the entrance to the car park at Centra in

Kilcoole he stated that the lines that were there before the area was resurfaced should not have been there as this was not a public road but rather the entrance to the shop car park.

The District Administrator informed the members that the carriageway on the Charlesland road still had two lanes, just slightly narrowed for safety and she pointed out that a two-week schedule of grass cutting had now been put in place for the sandpit area at Killincarrig, subject to resources and weather. She stated that the Blue Flag would be erected at the beach this coming week and that the temporary toilets and Life Guards would be in place for the bank holiday weekend as well as additional bins on the beach for the summer months. She pointed out that the use of pest control to control vermin on the seafront could be considered if necessary, though she pointed out that this too caused issues for children and pets and she stated that the provision of extra litter bins along the seafront would require additional resources and staff.

Members thanked the District Engineer and officials for the report and the clarifications and they welcomed the works carried out in the district.

6. UPDATE ON CLIFF WALK

The District Manager informed the members that the queries from unsuccessful contractors had not been cleared yet and that the matter could not be progressed until such time as they were. He pointed out that a meeting of the Cliff Walk Management Committee would be arranged as soon as a contractor was appointed and he stated that while there was a potential short term solution to the issue, it would not be prudent to announce that until such time as the process was completed.

7. HOUSING UPDATE REPORT (TO INCLUDE FARRANKELLY CLOSE)

The District Administrator had circulated an updated report prior to the meeting and she informed the members that she had again requested a meeting with Housing Officials and had got a commitment that such a meeting would take place but no date had been set for same. She pointed out that investigations into the possibility of selling assets to fund upgrade works at Farrankelly Close was at a standstill due to staff shortages but it was now considered that this may not be feasible. In response to a query from the members she stated that the issue of graffiti at the Cois Droichead housing estate had already been taken up with the housing section and she agreed to check the proposed access points between Cois Droichead and Burnaby Court and Charlesland Court.

Members were critical of the delays in having the issues at Farrankelly Close sorted and they stated that this was very unfair to the residents and showed a lack of respect by Housing officials to the members. They again requested a meeting with housing officials to discuss this and other housing issues.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

“Greystones Municipal District calls for the urgent completion of the Church Road, Greystones upgrade works. This refers in particular to the finish of the verges / edges”.

Councillor S. Stokes stated that he had been told that the works at this location would be completed early this year but that this had not happened. He suggested that there were issues with the height of the new kerbs as well as a reduction in parking spaces and he requested that the works be completed without further delay. He questioned why the original contractor did not complete all works before leaving the site.

The District Engineer informed the members that staff were currently putting together a scheme of works to go out to tender by the end of the week and that it was hoped to have the works completed by the end of July and follow up planting in the autumn.

The District Manager stated that he would arrange to have the kerb heights checked but he did not think there was any issue with their design which was more modern and would slow down traffic. He pointed out that one contractor did the road works and another one would do the landscape works.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator advised the members of a request from the Newcastle Forum to make a presentation at the June meeting in relation to Newcastle and this was agreed.
2. The District Administrator updated the members on twinning with Holyhead. She stated that a group from Holyhead would travel to Dublin on 20th June and would be met there by the Cathaoirleach and that further details could be provided to any other members who wished to meet the delegation.
3. The District Administrator informed the members of the details of Consultation on Policing and Community Safety Authority (PCSA) and agreed to circulate the document.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. In response to a query from Councillor O. Finn in relation to a proposed Give, Take, Return Scheme for plastic bottles and cans the District Administrator stated that this matter had been referred to the Environment Section for consideration. She stated that the biggest issue with such a scheme would likely be dumping and untidiness.
2. Councillor S. Stokes informed the members that the Transport SPC had asked Council management to carry out a review of the parking bye laws and he requested that a similar request be submitted on behalf of Greystones Municipal District. This was agreed.
3. In response to a query from the Cathaoirleach, Councillor T. Fortune, the District Administrator agreed to circulate an overview of the situation with the clothes recycling bins at the south beach car park and at Aldi.
4. Councillor T. Fortune stated that as this was his last official meeting as Cathaoirleach, he would like to than his fellow Councillors and officials for their support. Some members and the District Manager and District Administrator thanked the Cathaoirleach for the efficient and fair way he managed the meetings.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

CERTIFIED: _____ **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

DATED THIS: _____ **DAY OF** _____ **2025**