

MINUTES OF JULY MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 30TH JULY 2024 AT 7.30 P.M.

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

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (a) It was proposed by Councillor S. Stokes, seconded by Councillor L. Scott and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 28th May, 2024, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.
- (b) It was proposed by Councillor L. Fenelon-Gaskin, seconded by Councillor S. Stokes and agreed that the minutes of the first annual meeting held on 25th June, 2024, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. NOMINATION OF MEMBER TO WICKLOW HERITAGE FORUM

The District Administrator informed the members that the Heritage Officer had confirmed that only one representative from the Municipal District could be nominated to the Wicklow Heritage Forum.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor L. Fenelon-Gaskin, seconded by Councillor L. Scott and agreed that Councillor O. Finn should represent the Greystones Municipal District on this forum.

3. DISCUSSION ON DR. RYAN PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The District Administrator suggested that the Community Affairs Committee be disbanded as it had not been active for some years. She stated that most of the projects undertaken by the Committee in the past were now organised by the Greystones Town Team.

Following discussion it was agreed to disband the Community Affairs Committee as all members were now invited to be part of the Greystones Town Team.

In relation to the Dr. Ryan Park Management Committee the District Administrator informed the members that the whole structure of this Committee was being looked at by Wicklow County Council at

present as the issues fell between two new directorates. She stated that all the stake-holders had been notified.

During discussion the members stated that the meetings to date were held on a very ad-hoc basis and they suggested that the current committee should remain in place until the new set up was agreed.

4. 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.

In response to queries from the members, the District Engineer stated that while road verges in the district were left to grow as part of the Council's biodiversity action plan, they were trimmed back for safety and would be cut in October. He pointed out that because there was no technician in the district, playgrounds were inspected by the Area Supervisor and, if necessary, broken items were removed for safety reasons while waiting on repairs or parts from contractors. He pointed out that the dog park at Charlesland Recreational Park was probably closed due to track works being carried out there and he stated that it was hoped to have trees planted in the dog park in October. He informed the members that no application had yet been submitted to the Office of Public Works in relation to flooding at Kenmare Heights as the Council had to first prepare a plan for remedial works and he advised the members that the closing date for tenders for the Chapel Road scheme was 5th September which should allow work to commence in early 2025.

The District Engineer informed the members that it was hoped to have work on the Killincarrig Village Improvement Scheme carried out by the Council's own road works crew rather than by contractors and he stated that the Active Travel Team was working with residents in relation to these works. He stated that it was hoped to carry out road resurfacing works at St. Laurence's school in September and he advised the members that algae on the steps at the cove had been power-washed at a cost of €600 which lasted for three weeks on the bottom steps and a little longer on the higher steps. He stated that it would be very expensive and difficult to secure a hand-rail at the bottom steps at the cove but that he would investigate this matter further to determine costs.

In relation to the Cliff Walk the District Engineer informed the members that the CPO survey team had not been allowed access to two of the sites and another one was very overgrown with gorse, etc. He pointed out that diversion signs for the walk were now in place. He stated that road markings would be provided on the Delgany Wood road as part of the safety improvement works there and he agreed to provide additional litter barrels at the beaches for the summer season as usual. He stated that improvement works at the pitch at Charlesland Recreational Park was a matter for Shoreline and that it was hoped to have improvement works carried out on Victoria Road at The Bawn under the Pathfinder Scheme before the end of 2024 or early in 2025. He stated that proposed works on the Charlesland Road had gone out to tender.

The District Engineer stated that Driver Information Speed signs were used as a traffic calming measure. He pointed out that two-thirds of residents in an area must be in favour of traffic calming and request the Council to carry out a speed survey. If it was found that there was an issue with speeding then the

Council would design an appropriate traffic calming scheme and apply for funding for same. He informed the members that the Active Travel Team was working with the landowner to progress the completion of the footpath between Knockroe and Kilcoole on the R761. He pointed out that the porch on the house needed to be demolished and a wall built to enable the fence to come down and to make the footpath the required width at that point.

In response to queries from the members, the District Engineer stated that there was a footpath on Church Lane in Greystones except for a very small section at the church and he stated that traffic volumes on Church Lane had decreased considerably since the through road in Applewood Heights was closed. He stated that parking issues in the harbour marina were a matter for Sispar and he pointed out that all the solar powered bins agreed last year had now been provided. In relation to the proposal for a public performance facility at the La Touche Road car park he informed the members that there would be a Part 8 process that would include public consultation. He stated that the Public Realm Plan for Greystones had identified this site for such an activity and that while Burnaby Park had been considered it was felt that it was not suitable as it already had lots of facilities and was widely used.

Members welcomed the District Engineer's report and thanked him for the works carried out in the district. They requested him to send an email outlining the Council's policy in relation to cutting back of hedges and verges so that they could explain the position to constituents. Some members suggested that hedges and verges should be cut back before October.

The District Engineer informed the members that the Council's policy on hedges and verges was guided by the Heritage Officer and the Biodiversity Officer. He stated that an assessment would be carried out shortly to identify the huge number of plants that had appeared in areas where only grass had been before the current policy and he pointed out that this was very important in urban areas. He stated that there was no specific plan in place for Dr. Ryan Park but that the district staff regularly maintained the area and he pointed out that the Greystones Tidy Towns Group managed the green areas at the Killincarrig roundabouts in conjunction with the Killincarrig Community Group.

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

No notices of motion were considered.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator advised the members of the contents of a letter received from the Taoiseach in relation to a recent Wicklow County Council resolution about defibrillators. She agreed to circulate a copy of the correspondence to the members.
2. The District Administrator updated the members on details of twinning activities between Greystones and Holyhead as per email received from Ms. Kathleen Kelleher.
3. The District Administrator informed the members that a request had been received from the residents of Farrankelly Close, Delgany to attend the September meeting of Greystones Municipal

District in order to make a presentation. This request was supported by the Cathaoirleach and agreed by the members.

The District Administrator requested the members to submit any specific queries in relation to Farrankelly Close to her in advance of the September meeting so that she could endeavor to have replies to their queries at the meeting.

4. The District Administrator informed the members of the details of a proposed national default speed limit reduction on local roads in line with Government policy and agreed to circulate the documentation to the members.

Members were skeptical about how successful this speed limit reduction might be and in response to queries from them in relation to this matter, the District Engineer pointed out that most rural roads did not meet the requirements for white lines in the middle of the road. He stated that Wicklow County Council Speed Limit Bye Laws did not relate to national default speed limits so there would not be public consultation on these.

The District Manager stated that speed was a huge cause of many accidents.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. In response to a query from Councillor L. Scott, the District Administrator informed the members that recent funding in the sum of €7,500 announced for Greystones Municipal District would be used by the Local Sports Partnership to provide distance marker buoys at the south beach. She pointed out that the Greystones Town Team was seeking funding to provide additional facilities at the local beaches.

The Cathaoirleach requested that the members be kept informed of all proposed projects.

The District Engineer informed the members that the boardwalk at the south beach was provided using funding received for Blueway improvements.

2. Councillor S. Stokes requested that Iarnrod Eireann be asked to outline their plans to expand and improve their services to Greystones and to explain the delay in providing same. He pointed out that the Iarnrod Eireann website stated that the DART Plus Coastal South project would go to public consultation by March 2024 but that there had been no progress with same.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

CERTIFIED: _____ **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

DATED THIS: _____ **DAY OF** _____ **2024**