

#### MEETING WITH MINI DILIP WARD COUNCILLOR - WARD 68

Meeting Date: 06.01.2021

Meeting Time: 8.00am – 8.30am

Meeting Attendees: Ms. Mini Dilip, Ward Councilor of Ward 68

Nandana L S, DRP Student, CEPT University

Meeting Venue: Councilor's House

- She is the reelected councilor of the ward 68 Ayyapankkavu. She was councilor for the first time in the term 2015-20 from the UDF party.
- Division 68 has active participants from all sects of the society, the main sect of people who are active members of the ward committee is the RWA members. 2-3 people from each RWA represents the ward committee meetings.
- According to the norms there should be 45- 55 people in each ward committee.
- The RWA, NHG and Union come up with problems that is specific to the ward which is specific to the area they live.
- Whereas individuals approach separately for elderly and differently abled pension related complains/ enquiries and the inclusion of them in various subsidy lists.
- If there is an overall project that needed to be done at a division level, then the councilor can put forth the proposal first at the ward committee (WC) meetings and then discuss at the council.
- All members of the WC sit together and discuss all projects primarily at the WC and then submitted to the municipal corporation according to the priority list. The priority list is then submitted to the development committee.
- After the development committee review each project in detail it is then discussed at the development seminar, the projects that get sanctioned at the development seminar is further discussed in the council meeting and then submitted to the District Planning Committee.
- One division can propose any number of projects there is no restrictions on the number of projects that can come from a division. But it is not necessary that all the submitted

projects are approved, approval of the projects are based on the funds available under each sector the projects are listed.

- The projects are not sanctioned division wise it is sanctioned according to the priority as well as how good the project is going to affect the lives of the people. This means that the projects approved might not be equal across all the divisions.
- The number of projects coming from the ward is mainly according to the active participation of the members and mainly the councilor.
- Projects proposed in each year is mostly completed in the same year only as the funds are readily available to the people after each project is finished. So, there are people willingly take up these projects.
- Plan funds allotted by the state as the Finance commission grants and general-purpose funds should be used in the respective year itself, if not the amount is lapsed it cannot be carried over to the next year.
- The state funds allotted for the SC/ST welfare funds they are not lapsed; it is accumulated to the next year. Because of this same reason these funds are underutilized, most of the projects under these funds are either stopped in midway or never initiated.
- For the project proposal the first draft is given to the council/ standing committee from the WC.
- The councilor calls of the ward committee meeting once he/she submit the names of the committee members to the council.
- Last year due to the COVID-19 situation the ward committee meeting hardly had 40 – 50 people, otherwise under normal circumstances the WC meetings usually have 100-150 people.
- Ward Committee meeting and Ward Sabha meetings are the same. In smaller divisions usually in the panchayat they call for Ward sabhas.
- There are certain division councilors especially in the west of Kochi who calls WC as ward sabha meetings where they have 300-400 people attending each meeting, this is according to the councilors and the issues faced by the people in that division.
- In certain areas, especially in colonies/ slums (EWS) whenever they call for a WC they come with complete representation from the colonies, it is of their belief that if more

people attend the meeting their needs/ demands are better heard especially for basic needs like drinking water shortage and flooding in the areas.

- Issues with shortage of drinking water in different divisions are also submitted to the council as projects, and after approval these are then forwarded to the Kerala Water Authority (KWA) as contracts.
- All members of the WC are treated equal by the councilor, but there are certain divisions where there is no active RWA there the presence of NHG is more.
- In most of the cases the RWA members stand with the councilor and NHG and union groups behave according to the party representation most members follow. If they consist mostly of the opposition party members, they tend to defy the proposals and suggestions put forward by the councilor. In such cases there are very less projects that are approved from that divisions.