

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in
the Civic Offices, Blessington on 22nd May, 2017 at 10.30 a.m.**

Present: Councillor Edward Timmins
Councillor Vincent Blake
Councillor Jim Ruttle
Councillor Gerry O'Neill
Councillor Pat Doran
Councillor Tommy Cullen

In Attendance: Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services
Mr. Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Ms Susan Nichols, District Administrator
Ms. Sharon Mulhall, Assistant Staff Officer

Vote of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was proposed to Cllr Doran on the passing of his wife Mary and was seconded by all members present. Mr Sean Quirke also added the sympathies of all staff members of Baltinglass Municipal District.

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 24th April 2017

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 24th April 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Pat Doran, seconded by Councillor Vincent Blake and agreed.

2. Presentation from the County Wicklow Public Participation Network

Helen Howes from County Wicklow Public Participation Network gave a presentation to the meeting providing details of the role of the PPN and the community groups they represent. Information packs were passed to all members.

3. Matters arising

Cllr Blake queried the current outdoor staff levels in Baltinglass MD. The meeting was advised that one new General Operative has started in the Dunlavin area and a Tradesman is to be recruited for Tinahley. Eleven General Operatives have been hired in the county with one of these located in Baltinglass MD. The members felt that weighting should be given to size of the roads networks in Baltinglass MD. It was agreed that a request for more funding for staff would be made at the estimates meeting. It was also agreed that funding would be sought for a road sweeper and staff to operate it.

4. Roads Reports (National and Non National)

A report on the N81 from Tom O'Leary, Senior Executive Engineer had been circulated. Sean Quirke advised that works on Knockroe bends are expected to begin in 2018.

A report on Non national roads had been circulated. This included a list of road improvements schemes. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer, advised on an upcoming road closure for the Knockananna road for three weeks from the 10th of July, which will be advertised and a closure notice for the Knockananna to Ballinglen road is also in place.

5. Report on Footpaths in Dunlavin

A report on the proposed new footpaths in Dunlavin had been circulated. As it was felt that the reuse of the granite kerbstones was not a viable option it was agreed that Declan Geraghty would meet with the forum and discuss the possible reuse of the kerbing in another area of the village. It is to be noted that as the issue of public safety and possibility of public liability claims Cllr Cullen is against the kerbing being reused in the footpaths. Declan Geraghty is to report back for the June Meeting.

6. Municipal District Discretionary Fund

The members agreed that €26,000 would be used by each member for infrastructure projects which would improve the public realm, at their own discretion. The following proposals were agreed:

Proposal	Amount	From
Heritage Style "Welcome to Coolboy"	€2,000	Cllr. V. Blake
Traffic Calming, Shillelagh Main Street (3 Nr Driver Feedback Signs DFS's)	€18,000	Cllr. V. Blake
Footpath Extension, Knockananna (50 metres)	€6,000	Cllr. V. Blake
Paving Shruhan Housing Estate, Baltinglass	€16,000	Cllr. E. Timmins
Public lights between Deerpark, Baltinglass and the R747	€10,000 € 8,000	Cllr. E. Timmins Cllr. T. Cullen
Extend the public lights at Green Lane/Newtownsaunders Road	€18,000	Cllr. T. Cullen
Carnew Playground	€10,000	Cllr. P. Doran
Public lights x 5 at Soldier's Bench, Carnew	€12,000	Cllr. P. Doran
Review of junctions in Carnew with Aughrim Road and Coollattin Road	€4,000	Cllr. P. Doran
Set back of boundary and construction of new footpath for pedestrian safety at front of Naas Road and Ballymore Road	€26,000	Cllr. J. Ruttle
Replacement footpath in Carrig Glen	€18,000	Cllr. G. O'Neill
Public light at end of Rockview Lane, Lacken*	Unknown	Cllr. G. O'Neill
Brick pillars for new Blessington Twinning sign*	Unknown	Cllr. G. O'Neill

*Costing was not available for these proposals. It was agreed that an estimate would be sought for these two projects and should any funds remain, Cllr. O'Neill would agree further proposals with the District Engineer.

7. Housing Report

An updated Housing report was not made available to the meeting. In response to some queries raised, Mr. Quirke advised on the following matters:

- Three sites in Dunlavin have been proposed to accommodate social housing
- A proposed scheme of 22 houses in Dunlavin is on hold, awaiting an upgrade by Irish Water to the current system.

The elected members queried why the construction of the houses could not begin, while awaiting the upgrade. Mr. Quirke advised that contractual commitment would be required before any construction were to commence.

8. Tourism Project for 2017

Susan Nichols advised the meeting that the Heritage Officer has engaged a company called Active Me to compile the tourism brochures. There will be three brochures; one on West Wicklow, one on South Wicklow and one on Blessington Lakeside Heritage. Cllr. Cullen proposed that the new brochures be launched at the courthouse in Baltinglass. Cllr. Ruttle requested that where photographs of sheep were being used, it should be ensured that the Wicklow Cheviot breed be shown.

9. AOB

The members requested that an update on the Greenway in Blessington should be available for the July Meeting.

Cllr. O'Neill advised that a new festival would be organised by the Blessington Forum celebrating 'Halfway to St. Patrick's Day' and it would be held on 17th September.

Cllr Ruttle proposed a vote of congratulations to Killian McGreal on his recent win of Irish Pharmacist of the Year and to Fiachra Garvey on organising the recent West Wicklow Irish Music Festival. This was agreed.

There being no more business Cllr Timmins closed the meeting. The next meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District will be held on Monday 26th of June 2017.

Signed:


Cathaoirleach

Signed:


District Administrator

Dated:



