

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices, Blessington on 24th of April 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

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 27th of March 2017

It was proposed by Cllr V. Blake, seconded by Cllr. G. O'Neill and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 27th of March 2017.

Cllr O'Neill requested a suspension of Standing Orders to allow discussion about an ongoing situation in St Kevin's School in Dunlavin. As members of the public were present at the meeting in relation to this issue it was agreed that Standing Orders would be suspended.

A discussion then took place in relation to the current system in place in St Kevin's in relation to the use of Ebooks and the cost of this scheme on parents. Cllr O'Neill advised the meeting that a petition and letters had been sent to the KWETB, however no reply had been received and the situation needed urgent attention. Cllr Ruttle advised the meeting that, as a Chairman of both the KWETB and the Board of Management of St Kevin's, he was aware that there have been issues and he had arranged for a meeting between senior management from KWETB and representatives of the school. Cllr. Ruttle advised that he hoped that the issue would be moved forward after this dialogue. Cllr Timmins thanked the members of the public for their attendance on this issue.

2. Matters Arising

Mr. Quirke DOS advised that over the last ten years there had been a 22% reduction in the numbers of outdoor staffing. This was due in no small part to the recruitment ban that has been in place for many years. Currently any persons that retired in the last year are to be replaced. One General Operative had started in the last year with one more due to start. It is anticipated that a Tradesman is to be hired for the Tinahely area.

Cllr Blake advised that the matter of Twinning had been discussed at the Protocol meeting and that funding would be made available to Baltinglass MD in Budget 2018.

3. Road Reports (National and Non National)

A report from Mr. Tom O'Leary, Senior Executive Engineer, in relation to National Roads had been circulated with the agenda. Mr. Quirke advised the meeting that the preliminary design for the Knockroe Bends N81 upgrade should be available next year. Mr. Geraghty advised the meeting that the tender for works on the N81 in Baltinglass includes a provision that the timings of works be accommodating to traffic flows. Cllr Timmins advised that the matter of speed limits in the town of Baltinglass would be considered under the county-wide speed limit review currently being undertaken. The recommendations of the review would then come back to the Municipal District meeting.

A report on Non National Roadwork had been circulated with the agenda. Mr. Geraghty advised that the footpath improvement scheme in Dunlavin had been stopped due to objection from local groups about the removal of the granite kerbs. Mr Geraghty felt that the kerbs could not safely be reused in the paths and this was met with local

objection. As Dunlavin is a heritage town Mr. Geraghty felt he had no option but to cease work. He advised the meeting that he now intended to use the funds to replace footpaths in Carrig Glen in Blessington and Mallenswood in Grangecon. There was a discussion about the need for footpaths in Dunlavin. A report on the matter was requested.

4. Municipal District Discretionary Fund

A list of proposed projects for which the discretionary funding may be used and the approximate cost of same had been circulated with the agenda. After some discussion it was decided that the members would, before the next meeting, submit a list of projects they wished the funding to be used for, they would give a ranking to each project and the issue would be discussed at the next meeting.

5. To note the Municipal District Schedule of Works

The Schedule of Works as circulated was proposed by Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Blake and agreed.

6. To consider the Housing Report

The current Housing Report had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr O'Neill requested an update on housing in Dunlavin, more specifically in relation to 3 sites on Sparrow Road and the possibility of these being sold. A report on this is to be made available for the next meeting.

7. Estate Development Grants

The breakdown of the distribution of Estate Development Grants was noted by the meeting.

8. Update on the Enterprise Town Initiative in Blessington

Ms. Nichols advised the meeting that Bank of Ireland had chosen Blessington as a town to hold an Enterprise Town Initiative. Its main aim is to help business to grow through support and networking at a Business & Community Expo, being held on 6th May in Blessington Community College. Ms. Nichols advised that the event was free of charge and all feedback from the initiative has been positive. It is hoped this will help the businesses in Blessington and surrounding areas to grow.

9. To agree the attendance of a representative from County Wicklow PPN at the next Ordinary Meeting.

Ms. Nichols advised that a request had been received from the County Wicklow PPN in relation to making a presentation to the members of Baltinglass Municipal District. It was agreed that Helen Howes, from Co. Wicklow PPN, would give a presentation to the next meeting, with a time limit of 15 minutes, in accordance with Standing Orders.

10. Any Other Business

The members wished Deirdre Norton the very best of luck in her new position in Kildare County Council and thanked her for all her help and service over the years.

There being no more business Cllr Timmins closed the meeting. The next meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District will be held on Monday 22nd of May 2017.

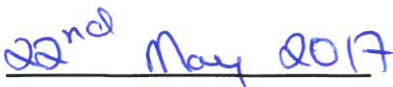
Signed:


Cathaoirleach

Signed:


District Administrator

Dated:


22nd May 2017