

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass
held in Civic Offices, Blessington on 21st March 2016 at 10.30 a.m.**

Present: Councillor Vincent Blake
Councillor Gerry O'Neill
Councillor James Ruttle
Councillor Edward Timmins

In Attendance: Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services
Mr. Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator
Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Engineer
Ms. Evelyn Brady, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Councillor Pat Doran

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor James Ruttle, opened the Ordinary Meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 22nd February 2016.

Cllr. Ruttle welcomed the members of the Blessington Tidy Town Committee to the meeting and informed them that the application for funding under the Community Grants is now available.

The members were of the opinion that the Baltinglass Municipal District should have an input into how this funding is distributed and requested that it be listed on the agenda of the next meeting for discussion.

Cllr. Vincent Blake proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 22nd February 2016 and Cllr. Edward Timmons seconded the proposal.

2. Roads Reports

The N81 National Road Report submitted by Tom O'Leary, Senior Executive Engineer was read out to the meeting.

Cllr. Edward Timmins expressed his concern that no funding has been provided for Baltinglass Town Centre roadworks. Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services stated that he would be confident of funding being provided and Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer confirmed that once funding was provided, there would be no problem in works being carried out. Cllr Edward Timmins enquired if Edward Street footpaths were included in this and Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer stated that footpaths would depend on funding.

Cllr Gerry O'Neill enquired about the Baltinglass Town Refurbishment Plan and Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services stated that there was no funding for this.

Cllr. Gerry O'Neill queried what the status is in relation to the Tallaght – Hollywood bypass. Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services informed the members that it was included in this year's programme.

Cllr Gerry O'Neill enquired if any drainage works were to be carried out in Blessington. Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer informed Cllr O'Neill that works needed to be carried out outside Supervalu and also outside Aldi and that ideally these works would be done when schools are closed, subject to funding.

Cllr. Gerry O'Neill stated that the Junior School, Blessington were looking for a bus bay to be facilitated outside the school. Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator stated that a letter had been sent to the school to arrange meeting to discuss same.

The Regional Roads Report was delivered by Mr. Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer.

Cllr. Vincent Blake advised that he has received a number of phone calls in relation to the bad state of roads in Glen of Imaal and enquired if there were any plans in relation to this road.

Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer advised that Ballinabarney Road and Ballineddan Road were in a very bad state with potholes and that he had met with Residents. Ballinabarney Road is on the schedule for 2018 and would be more than likely brought back to 2017. He also stated that consideration could be given for repairs to be done this year under the Discretionary Works.

Cllr. Blake asked if repairs were going to be carried out on the Carnew to Shillelagh Road. Mr. Ken Jones, District Engineer advised that Section One is complete and that the remaining section should be completed over the next couple of weeks.

3. Glór n Cásca

Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator distributed report.

Cllr. Vincent Blake enquired if communications were occurring with local committees and Mr. Ken Jones, District Engineer advised that he was in communication with local communities.

4. Blessington & Lakeside 1916 Committee – Proposed Commemorative Garden

Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator advised members that an application is to be made to the National Monument Department. Meeting was held with residents and they are satisfied with location of proposed commemorative garden.

5. Schedule of Municipal Works

Sean Quirke, Director of Services outlined the budget details contained in distributed report.

Cllr. Vincent Blake enquired as to any improvements in housing budgets to allow for works. Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer stated that the housing budget allows for emergency repairs only.

Cllr. Vincent Blake stated that equalisation has still not happened. Cllr. Gerry O'Neill and Cllr. Jim Ruttle both agreed with Cllr. Vincent Blake and Cllr. Edward Timmins highlighted that it is important that we ensure we get our part of increase in property tax.

Discussion took place among the members on the various sections of proposed budget and it was agreed to approve same. It was proposed by Cllr. Vincent Blake and seconded by Cllr. Edward Timmins.

Discretionary Works – Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator distributed proposed Schedule of Works as prepared by Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer. A discussion took place in relation to proposed discretionary works and the proposed discretionary works as circulated at the meeting was agreed. It was proposed by Cllr. Vincent Blake and seconded by Cllr. Edward Timmins.

6. Correspondence

Graveyard Policy

Discussion took place in relation to the proposed new graveyard policy and it was agreed to be put on Agenda for new meeting. Cllr. Edward Timmins requested that it was not put on the Agenda for the full Council Meeting for April – Máire Halvey, District Administrator to request that it is deferred to the May Council Meeting.

7. Any Other Business

All members expressed their thanks and good wishes to Ken Jones, District Administrator on his new role with Wexford County Council.

A vote of sympathy was passed on the death of Sheila Mulhall, mother of Michael Mulhall.

Cllr. Gerry O'Neill enquired if there was any update on Sewerage Treatment Plant for Blessington. Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator is to request meeting with Irish Water.

Cllr. Vincent Blake enquired in relation to any proposals to alleviate problems flood risk problems in Baltinglass, and Tinahely to Shilleagh – can funding be got for this?

The next meeting will be held on 25th April in the Civic Offices, Blessington at 10.30 a.m.

SIGNED: Jim Ruttle

CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED: Máire Halvey

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED: 25 April 2016