

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices, Blessington on 23rd of October 2017, at 10.30 a.m.

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

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

1. To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 18th Sept. 2017

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Doran, seconded by Cllr. Gerry O'Neill and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 18th of September 2017.

2. Correspondence

Susan Nichols advised that Irish Water Clinics are to be held on the 6th of November 2017 at 11.45 a.m. All questions to be forwarded to Susan Nichols by Wednesday 25th of October.

3. To receive presentation from the Twinning Committee in relation to the proposed twinning of O'Neill County, Nebraska with Blessington.

A presentation was made by the Twinning Committee members Maureen Phibbs, Mick Duggan and Jim Corley. Maureen read a copy of resolution and explained what the concept of twinning entails and the advantages it would bring to Blessington. She also gave a detailed description of O'Neill City. After the presentation Cllr. G. O'Neill congratulated them on their presentation and commended the group on their work. He also spoke about the Irish who have now made the Mid West their home. Cllr. T. Cullen asked what the linkage to Blessington was and what the population of O'Neill city was. Maureen did not have exact figures but stated it was similar in size and population to Blessington. Cllr. V. Blake advised that more work was needed from a genealogy point of view but the proposed project was fully supported by the Council.

4. Matters Arising

Cllr Cullen asked for an update on the realignment of the bends that were amended for the wind farm. Dermot Graham advised that he is still investigating and will update.

5. To consider proposal for construction of an infill house at 16a Oakdrive, Blessington, which will be carried out in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Declan Marnane gave a presentation on the plans for construction of an infill house at 16a Oakdrive, Blessington which will be carried out in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). The plans for this house have been drawn up for a family currently living in Glending with specific design requirements. The site is located near a large oak tree but there are no objections to this. Cllr. G. O'Neill appreciates the work being done on this project for this local family but raised concerns about anti-social behaviour in the area. He advised there was an onus on the landowner to erect a proper boundary fence. Following some discussion there was unanimous support for construction of this infill house and was proposed by Cllr. G. O'Neill and seconded by Cllr. J. Ruttle.

6. To consider Roads Reports (national and non-national roads)

In relation to Non National roads, Mr. Declan Geraghty reported that all works have been completed with the exception of a small section of road in Dunlavin. Report from Tom O'Leary, Senior Executive Engineer, in relation to progress on works on the N81 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. E. Timmins was glad to see surfacing works would be commencing shortly in Baltinglass Town Centre.

Sean Quirke advised the meeting of an update from Kildare County Council National Roads Office in relation to N81 realignment at Tuckmill, Hangmans Bend, Whitestown Lower and Irishtown West. KNRO are finalising the Phase 0, Scope and Pre-Appraisal for the four schemes and will be submitted to TII in November 2017. Cllr Cullen passed on his admiration for the works of Council Staff during recent weather event Storm Ophelia. All other members echoed this.

7. To consider report on lands at Burgage, Blessington as referred from meeting of Wicklow County Council held on 2nd October 2017

The members discussed the possibility of re-zoning the lands following which it was proposed by Cllr. T. Cullen and seconded by Cllr. P. Doran that the zoning of the land be left as per the report. Cllr. G. O'Neill asked for a review of the Blessington Town Plan take place immediately he was advised that the current plan is in place until 2019 and review will start in 2018.

8. To note the allocation of Estate Development Grants 2017

The members were advised of the amounts that are to be awarded to each estate who had applied for the development grants. Cllr. T. Cullen asked how expenditure was monitored and he was advised by Sean Quirke that receipts can be sought. The allocations were proposed by Cllr. P. Doran and seconded By Cllr. J. Ruttle.

9. To note the achievements within Baltinglass Municipal District area.

Susan Nichols advised the meeting in relation to funding secured under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme where Blessington received €56,000 and Baltinglass €88,000 for different projects. Cllr. E. Timmins welcomed the funding but was disappointed that Co. Wicklow had received a relatively small amount compared with other local authority areas.

Other achievements were noted including:

- The overall results in Tidy Towns showed an increase in points in all towns and villages in the district.
- The Shillelagh Stick Project was funded under the 2016 Towns and Village Renewal Scheme and work is expected to be completed by year end. The group have identified their next project which will entail the restoration of a fountain adjacent to the Shillelagh Stick.
- Susan Nichols gave an update on the Enterprising Town Awards for which the judging took place on the 25th of September. She advised the meeting on the details of the day's events. Results are due on the 15th of November.

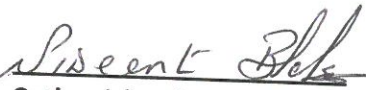
10. To consider proposals for Festival Funding.

It was agreed by the members that the allocation of funding for festivals would be made to Christmas Lights in towns in the district. It is to be divided on a pro rata basis to towns. Susan Nichols to liaise with elected members in relation to the amounts allocated.

11. Any Other Business

Cllr. V. Blake wished Susan Nichols well as she moved on from Baltinglass Municipal District and welcomed new staff to the district.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The Cathaoirleach advised that the next meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District will be held on Tuesday 28th of November 2017.

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Signed: 
District Administrator

Dated: 28th November 2017