

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass
held in Civic Offices, Blessington on 25th January 2016 at 10.30 a.m.**

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

Also Present: Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services
Mr. Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator
Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Engineer

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 21st December 2015

Councillor Pat Doran proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 21st December 2015 and Councillor Vincent Blake seconded the proposal.

2. Matters Arising

It was confirmed to the members that a letter had been sent to South Dublin County Council as requested by the members and that a reply had not yet been received. It was also confirmed to the members that a report on Homelessness was due to be published shortly and would then be made available to the members.

3. Draft Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022

Ms. Deirdre Whitfield presented the draft Wicklow Local Economic and Community 2016-2022 to the members with the members making the following comments: "IDA is involved in rural areas in other counties. North Wicklow has a big commuter workforce, South Wicklow doesn't. IDA seems to have a resistance to working with industries in rural areas and there is a need to push for developing the N81 for both economic and safety reasons. Any development seems to be viewed through planning guidelines rather than economic guidelines. Infrastructure needs to be put in place everything is built around that. Political clout is needed – invite IDA and the five TD's to West Wicklow."

Mr. Sean Quirke advised that key elements of the plan included the goal to develop infrastructure and measures that are positive and supportive to investment enterprise innovation and knowledge creation in strategic locations and, that leading from this, the actions to identify and prioritise locations within the county for inward investment and to prepare a marketing plan to proactively promote the county as an investment location highlighting the links between existing firms, third level institutions and local services were critical in this.

The members agreed to endorse the draft Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022 to the full council.

4. Roads Report

- (i) The national roads report prepared by Mr. Tom O'Leary, Senior Executive Engineer, was read out to the meeting. The Members commented on same with one enquiring if lighting at Crosschapel was not to be part of the report.
- (ii) The non national roads report was given by Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer. The members commented on same enquiring if there would be a review of small bridges and also the bridges under the control of the ESB. Mr. Declan Geraghty advised that the bridges were routinely inspected and also after special weather events. The members requested that a letter be sent to the Controller at Turlough Hill enquiring about the conditions of the bridges under the control of the ESB.

The members were advised that details of the annual allocation for roads maintenance had not yet been received.

5. Gardens of Remembrance 2016 Project

Following consideration of the various options for the memorial stone, the members agreed to go with the side-by-side option.

The members discussed the proposed location of the stone and following discussions, the following proposed locations were voted on:

- (i) Site at Blessington Green
– proposed by Cllr. Gerry O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Jim Ruttle
Votes for: Cllr. Gerry O'Neill
Cllr. James Ruttle
- (ii) Site at Knockananna
– proposed by Cllr. Edward Timmins, seconded by Cllr. Pat Doran
Votes for: Cllr. Vincent Blake
Cllr. Edward Timmins
Cllr. Pat Doran
Cllr. Tommy Cullen.

6. Correspondence

- (i) Letter received from Mr. Simon Murphy regarding derelict building at Mill Street, Baltinglass. Ms. Máire Halvey advised that she had been in contact with Environmental Services regarding same and was awaiting a reply. The members requested that Mr. Murphy be written to advising him of same.
- (ii) Letter received from South Western Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force to make a presentation to the members. It was agreed that the presentation be given at the February meeting.

7. Any Other Business

- (i) A vote of sympathy was passed by the members expressing sympathy to Mr. Pat Clarke on the death of his mother.

- (ii) Cllr. Jim Ruttle advised that there was a pandemic deer infestation in the area and Wicklow Deer Consultative Forum wished to pursue a policy of signage to warn motorists. Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer, advised that this would be very expensive and was not in the budget. It was agreed to start within pilot study area and erect signage at Sally Gap, Wicklow Gap, N81 and Lake Drive (8 no. signs at 4 no. Points).
- (iii) The members complimented Mr. Tom Culkin, Overseer, on his good work over the years and wished him well on his retirement.
- (iv) The members requested details of expenditure on Municipal District Discretionary Fund and it was agreed that same would be issued when finalised.
- (v) It was agreed to hold the February meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District in the Civic Offices, Blessington.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: Jim Ruttle

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: Máire Halvey

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 22nd February 2016