

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices, Blessington on 27th March, 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. Máire Halvey, District Administrator
Ms. Susan Nichols, Senior Staff Officer
Ms. Sharon Mulhall, Assistant Staff Officer

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Edward Timmins made a presentation of Long Service award to Declan Geraghty, District Engineer on the occasion of his 25 years service to local authorities.

Votes of Sympathy

Councillor Vincent Blake proposed a vote of sympathy for Tom Doran from Tinahely and acknowledged his contribution to the upkeep of Tinahely. Councillor Gerry O'Neill proposed a vote of sympathy for the former first minister of Northern Ireland Martin McGuinness.

1. Confirmation of minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 20th of February 2017

Councillor Vincent Blake proposed the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 20th of February 2017, seconded by Councillor Pat Doran and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Councillor Vincent Blake commented on the presentation from Laura English from Disability Federation of Ireland in relation to moving people from shared living to independent living and how this is not always possible and can be costly.

Councillor Jim Ruttle asked if there was an update on the staffing issues and how many outdoor staff would be assigned to the Baltinglass Municipal District. Máire Halvey advised that this information was not available but would be available for the next meeting. A discussion then took place with regard to the lack of outdoor staff and Councillor Tommy Cullen asked for details of the number of outdoor staff in all districts for the next Meeting and also for a comparison between indoor and outdoor staff numbers. Sean Quirke is to supply this detail at the next meeting.

Councillor Edward Timmins advised that the speed limit issues were to go to the full council meeting. Sean Quirke advised that a report was attached from Tom O'Leary and is on the agenda for discussion.

Councillor Gerry O'Neill asked if there was an update on proposed construction of 22 social houses in Dunlavin. Máire Halvey is to have update for the next meeting.

3. Roads report National and Non National

A report from Tom O'Leary in relation to national roads was read out to the meeting. Councillor Tommy Cullen asked in relation to Baltinglass Junction if all landowners and parties involved were in agreement. Sean Quirke advised that as no agreement has been reached in the relation to the design of the junction so all parties involved cannot yet be approached. He also asked if works on N81 could be started at 8.30am to avoid commuter issues. Declan Geraghty advised that if contracts were not in place, this could be included.

Councillor Gerry O'Neill asked what the archaeological works on the Knockroe bend realignment entailed. Sean Quirke advised that it is not envisaged that this would cause major delay.

A report from Tom O'Leary re signage in Baltinglass for Carlow was presented to the meeting. A discussion took place and Dermot Graham is to talk to the NRA on this issue.

Councillor Gerry O'Neill asked if there was any update on the upgrade of the N81 from Jobstown to Hollywood as the lands have been frozen in terms of planning. Sean Quirke advised that this is not on the current agenda.

Councillor Edward Timmins proposed that the Current Minister of Transport be contacted with a view to attending a meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District to advise the members on any update on the N81. This was seconded by Councillor Jim Ruttle.

Councillor Jim Ruttle commented on the N81 at Jobstown in South County Dublin and the issues that it causes to commuters. It was suggested to approach South County Dublin County Council with a view to a meeting between both authorities to discuss this issue.

A report on speed limits in the Baltinglass area from Tom O'Leary was read out. After a discussion it was decided that a letter would be sent to TII and the NRA advising that residents in Baltinglass wish to have the speed limit moved.

A list of improvement on Non National Roads was submitted to the meeting. Councillor Blake asked if footpaths outside Tinahely National School were to be done, He was advised that there was no funding at the moment. He also asked that when footpaths in Shillelagh were being done could ducting for any future cables could be put in place. Dermot Graham it to talk to ESB to see if this is feasible. Dermot Graham advised that a traffic survey is taking place in Shillelagh re speeding issue and a full report on this will be available for the next meeting.

4. Municipal District Discretionary Fund – Proposed Works

A report was circulated with a list of proposed works and costing of same. €170k is the amount available and this is to be split evenly €85k each between each area. The meeting was also reminded that €10k had been donated to the Wicklow Hospice. A discussion took place and the following were suggested as possible projects:

- traffic calming measures at Rathdangan School
- road crossing at Blessington Community College at the Ballymore Eustace Road.

There was also a discussion in relation to other areas that the funds could be used. It was agreed that the members would put together proposals as to where they would like to use the funds and they would submit these proposals for costing at future meetings.

5. Any Other Business

The meeting as advised that the works for playgrounds in Baltinglass and Carnew are out for Tender. Cllr Cullen stressed his objection to the proposed location of the skate park in Baltinglass due to the proximity of older residences and the possibility of anti social behaviour in the area.

Councillor Blake advised the meeting that the proposed twinning between Blessington and O'Neill City is to be discussed by the Protocol meeting and it was agreed that the district would support this twinning. Councillor Cullen asked for clarity of any legal or financial implications that may exist. This is to be clarified for the next meeting.


Correspondence was received from Carnew Agricultural Show requesting financial support for the show. It was agreed that this issue would be revisited when the grants for festivals is in place.

Councillor O'Neill asked if any update was available on the Graveyards. Councillor Doran advised that the meeting to discuss the graveyards had been cancelled so no update was available.

As there was no more business Councillor Timmins moved to close the meeting. He thanked Máire Halvey for all her help and support she had given in her role as District Administrator and wished her well in her new role.

Next meeting will be held on the 24th of April 2017.

Signed:


Cathaoirleach

Signed:


District Administrator

Dated:

