

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices, Blessington 20th August 2018, at 5.00 p.m.

Present	In Attendance
Cathaoirleach Tommy Cullen	Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services
Councillor Edward Timmins	Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer
Councillor Jim Ruttle	Ms. Sharon Mulhall, Assistant Staff Officer
Councillor Gerry O'Neill	Ms. Andrea Connolly, Clerical Officer
Councillor Vincent Blake	
Councillor Pat Doran	
Apologies: Dermot Graham, Dionne Dixon	

Cathaoirleach Cullen thanked all for attending.

1. The purpose is to discuss:

"The extraordinary events of Monday afternoon August 13th whereby a meeting was held between Wicklow TD John Brady and Minister Ross at the car park of Wicklow County Council offices in Blessington, without any contact with or invitation to the democratically elected Councillors of the Baltinglass Municipal District."

Ms. Sharon Mulhall read correspondence received from Deputy John Brady via email, a copy of which had been circulated to the members beforehand, outlining the details of the meeting which took place on Monday afternoon in the car park of Blessington Civic Offices, Wicklow County Council.

Cllr. Timmins expressed his dismay that the Cathaoirleach and local Councillors were not invited to attend this meeting and in his view this meeting was handled incorrectly. Cllr. Timmins continued by reading a resolution he had drafted, **"The N81 is the only national route out of Dublin that has not been upgraded. The route is also not covered by a rail line. Based on surveys over the years the N81 is one of the most dangerous stretches of road in Ireland.**

In light of the above and given the recent approval of €200m spend on improving the N11 and that the total cost of the N81 is €320m we call on the Minister to support that funding be allocated for the provision of a new N81 for which a route selection has already been agreed and that the planning and CPO process be put in place immediately."

Cllr. Timmins proposed this resolution be forwarded to Minister Shane Ross TD and this was seconded by Cllr. Ruttle. Cllr. Cullen commended Cllr. Timmins on how well put together the resolution was and all members unanimously agreed that this should be included with a letter to Minister Ross requesting a meeting.

All members expressed their concerns and disappointment that no elected representatives were invited to attend meeting. Cllr. Ruttle advised the members that he did meet Minister Shane Ross in Leinster House the following day, Tuesday 14th August, and Minister Ross claimed he was not aware of any correspondence sent from the District Administrator's Office. Cllr Ruttle also advised that the Minister indicated that he would not be in a position to meet with Councillors as a specific group and asked could he relay this to the members at meeting this evening. Following a brief discussion it was proposed that a letter would be sent to all five TDs representing County Wicklow to request that they offer their support in this regard by facilitating a meeting between Minister Shane Ross, and members of the Baltinglass Municipal District and a number of Councillor delegates. Cllr. O'Neill advised that notice be given to Kildare County Council as part of

the N81 is in Kildare, Cllr. Cullen proposed a letter to Kildare County Council out of courtesy and this was agreed by all members.

Cllr. Cullen proposed the setting up of a sub committee consisting of the Chairman and two elected members to deal with the N81 and meet with officials. He proposed Cllr. Ruttle and Cllr. Timmins sit on this committee and this was seconded by Cllr. Doran.

There being no more business Cllr Cullen closed the meeting. The next meeting will be the scheduled September Municipal District meeting.

Signed: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: 
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 26 September 2018