

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices,
Blessington on 28rd of May 2018, at 10.30 a.m.**

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

In Attendance: Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services
Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer
Mr Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Ms. Dionne Dixon, District Administrator
Ms. Sharon Mulhall, Assistant Staff Officer

Cathaoirleach Cllr Vincent Blake opened the meeting and extended the condolences of the Municipal District to the family of Jastine Valdez of Enniskerry, who passed away in tragic circumstances recently. Cllr Gerry O'Neill proposed a vote of sympathy that was seconded by Cllr Jim Ruttle to the family of Mick Balfe, Lacken, who was an ex employee of Wicklow County Council. A minutes silence was observed for both by the meeting.

1. To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 23rd of April 2018.

Cllr. Pat Doran proposed the confirmation of the Ordinary meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 23rd April 2018, seconded by Cllr. Jim Ruttle

2. Matters Arising

Cllr Cullen asked for it to be noted that the request for a report on the possible construction of a footpath at Donard Primary School was proposed by Cllr Cullen and Seconded by Cllr Timmins

3. Correspondence

The members agreed to take correspondence at this point of the meeting. Ms. Dionne Dixon advised the meeting that she had received a reply from the Chief Executive, Mr Frank Curran, in relation to the Proposal made by the members at April's Municipal District meeting regarding the negative impact the current County Boundary between Kildare and Wicklow is having on both Blessington and Wicklow County Council. The Chief Executive has responded to the Proposal and agreed to meet with Kildare County Council and revert back to the members in due course. Ms Dixon advised that no reply had been received from the ESB in relation to the request that they carry out maintenance works to the car parks and bridges in Blessington. A response has been received from TII in relation a request for a member of TII to come to a future Baltinglass Municipal District meeting to discuss the decision not to process with the N81 Tallaght to Hollywood upgrade. TII advised that they could not send a representative to a Baltinglass Municipal District meeting due to staff shortages. The members requested that a further response be issued to the TII as their response is not acceptable given the gravity of the situation and once again request the attendance of a member of staff from the TII to attend a future Baltinglass Municipal District meeting to address the concerns of the

members regarding the indefinite suspension of the N81 Tallaght to Hollywood Road Improvement Scheme.

4. Road Reports

A report on national and non-national roads was circulated to the members detailing the planned road works. Mr Geraghty advised the meeting that works would be starting on the 5th of June in the Blessington area and that Surface dressing would be commencing in around the last week of June. Mr Geraghty also advised the meeting that two sites on the N81 are to be resurfaced, one at Hempstown and one at Piperstones. Tenders are out for this works. Cllr O'Neill advised that meeting that a petition was taken up by residents in the Deerpark area of Shillelagh asking for the speed limit to be reduced back to 60KPH. A petition was also taken up by residents of Hollywood in relation to the construction of a footpath and bus stop in Hollywood. A request was to be sent to Declan O'Brien to ask for speed limits to be reviewed in Deerpark. The members agreed that a representation from the Municipal District should attend a meeting that has been arranged with Deputy Doyle and the Minister for Transport and local action groups in relation to the decision not to proceed with the Tallaght to Hollywood bypass. Members also asked that Kildare County Council be contacted to ask for a time line for the completion of works at Poulaphuca Bridge.

4. To discuss Municipal District Discretionary fund – Proposed works.

Following on from the last meeting when the members discussed the possibility of using discretionary funds for the construction of footpaths in both Hollywood and Donard .Mr Geraghty advised the meeting that he had met with a landowner in Hollywood in relation to the purchase of lands in order to construct a footpath and he feels that more negotiation is needed and he does not feel that works will take place year. He also advised that following a meeting with landowners in Donard that the construction of a proposed footpath in Donard would be in a position to go ahead and that he needed to talk to fisheries in relation to the re routing of a stream. The members then discussed the possible division of the Discretionary funds in order to cover the costs of the works. Cllr Doran and Cllr Blake advised that they had allocated their portion of funding to projects and that these projects had been submitted to Mr Graham for completion. The members did not reach an agreement on the possible division of the funds available to Cllr Cullen, Cllr Timmins, Cllr Ruttle and Cllr O'Neill to fund the possible construction of the above footpaths. Members were requested once again to submit any works they wish to have completed to Mr Geraghty before the next meeting.

5. To consider the allocation of Estate Development Grants

A report detailing the amounts allocated to each estate that applied for the grants. Ms Dixon advised the meeting that a total of 14 applications has been received this year, however, two estates were deemed ineligible as they did not have any social or local authority house in them. Of the 12 estates that were eligible, a number of applications did not specify the costs of the projects, so she had allocated each estate €250 and then depending on the number of social houses within each estate recorded on iHouse, the remaining grant monies were divided up on a pro rata basis, as this seemed the fairest way to allocate the monies. An Estate Development Awards evening would be organised and the members would be advised of the date.

6. To discuss contribution towards the Coollattin Canadian Connection (Homeward Trek 2018)

A request from Coollattin Canadian Connection was received requesting funding towards the costs of the Homeward Trek 2018. A Twinning Budget of €3,000 is available to members to distribute this year. It was proposed by Cllr Doran and Seconded Cllr O'Neill that €2,000 be allocated to Coollattin Canadian Connection and €1,000 be allocated to support the Blessington/O'Neill County Nebraska proposed twinning when the twinning committee make an application to the members for funding support.

7. AOB

Cllr Cullen requested an update on the dog fouling signs and he was advised by Ms Dixon that according to her discussion with Jim Callery, the Environmental Awareness Officer, the signs cost approximately €30 each and that each District had been allocated 6 signs. He also noted that the signs on public bins were proving to be a success. Cllr Cullen advised that he wished to allocate €300 of his discretionary funding towards buying dog fouling signs to be erected in the area. Cllr Cullen also enquired about a pumping station outside Baltinglass at the old convent and advised he thought it was an eyesore. It was agreed that it would need to be established whether this was in the ownership of Irish Water or not, as it may be an Irish Water Asset and in which case it could not be touched. MS Dixon advised that the next town team meeting was taking place on 29th of May 2018 at 5pm in Blessington.

There being no more business Cllr Blake closed the meeting the Annual General Meeting of the District taking place this on 25th of June at 10.30 am in the office in Blessington, followed directly afterwards by the Ordinary Meeting.

Signed: 

Cathaoirleach

Signed: 

District Administrator

Dated: 25th June 2018