

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices, Blessington on 16th September 2019, at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Cathaoirleach Gerry O'Neill
Councillor Edward Timmins
Councillor Vincent Blake
Councillor Patsy Glennon
Councillor Avril Cronin
Councillor John Mullen

In Attendance: Mr. Sean Quirke, District Manager
Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer
Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Mr. Garvan Hickey, District Administrator
Ms. Caroline Fox, Administrative Officer, Community & Enterprise
Ms. Andrea Connolly, A/Assistant Staff Officer

1. To confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 22nd July 2019.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. O'Neill welcomed all to the September meeting and noted that it was Mr. Declan Geraghty's, District Engineer, last Municipal meeting.

Cllr. Blake proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 22nd July 2019 and this was seconded by Cllr. Timmins.

2. Matters Arising

Allotments in Blessington

Cllr. Timmins asked if there had been an update on the allotments in Blessington. Mr. Hickey advised the members that he had been in touch with the Housing section regarding developing a site for the Community Allotments in Carrig Glen. He had walked the proposed

site with Dónal McCormack from the Blessington Allotments Committee. The committee were interested in getting the site developed and once word was received back from the Housing section he would inform members.

Walkway at Glending Woods

Cllr. Timmins enquired if there had been any progress made on the walkway at Glending Woods. Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer, advised that no progress has been made as he had tried, with no success, to get in contact with the GAA.

Dunlavin Playground

Cllr. Gronin enquired if there was an update on the lights at Dunlavin playground. Mr. Garvan Hickey replied that he was awaiting an update from Declan O'Brien. The fault has been logged with Airtricity and the Council is waiting for them to come and carry out the necessary repairs.

3. Correspondence

Mr. Garvan Hickey informed the members that he had received correspondence from the Irish Society for Autism inviting members to an Autism Support Talk to be held in Dunlavin on 18th September 2019 between 10am and 1pm.

The District Administrator advised the members that he had also received correspondence by email from County Wicklow Partnerships' regarding a free eight week Community Studies Women's course. The course is being delivered under the SICAP Programme, in collaboration with Glending Community Development Group, Carnew Hub and KWETB. It will be delivered in both Glending and Carnew. He advised a copy of email would be distributed to all members.

Cllr. O'Neill advised members that he had wrote to Director of Services, Mr. Colm Lavery, regarding the works on the N81 and concerns over the cost of these works. He received a reply from Mr. Lavery explaining the reason for these works and a copy of his reply was distributed to members.

4. To receive a presentation from the West Wicklow Swimming Pool Committee

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the committee members from the West Wicklow Swimming Pool Committee and chairperson, Ms. Deirdre McCormack presented the members with a detailed report on the campaign for swimming pool campaign for Blessington. She outlined the campaign history and the future plans for the campaign including the commitment to raise one million euro over the next year. Copies of the presentation were distributed to members.

Following the presentation the members thanked Ms. McCormack for her presentation and there were a number of questions from members.

Cllr. Timmins raised a number of concerns including the feasibility study which had been published and proposed that a copy, of such, be made available to the members. He added that any information that could be of help to the campaign should be accessible to the committee. He also questioned what stage the application for further funding is at. Ms McCormack advised members that funding application was submitted in April but no decision had been received to date from the Department. She also advised that the identification of a site is one of the major issues which need to be dealt with.

Cllr. Mullen enquired if any other towns had been identified as a location and Ms McCormack replied that Blessington had been chosen as it was the fifth largest town in Wicklow and that the majority of schools were willing to travel to Blessington to use the facilities.

Cllr. Cronin congratulated the committee on the success of their one year anniversary and launch of their fundraising campaign. She also questioned why the feasibility study was not made available to the members and the West Wicklow Swimming Pool Committee and Mr. Hickey explained that Holohan Group have the copyright on the study at present but this needed to be looked into with a view to providing the Committee with an executive summary.

Cllr. O'Neill and Cllr. Blake both voiced their support of swimming pool campaign and the importance of identifying a site in Blessington area. Mr. Sean Quirke advised members there was a detailed shortlisting process which would have to be undertaken to select the correct site and noted that funding would be a key factor. He also noted that there was huge local

commitment to the campaign and congratulated the committee for their enthusiasm. Mr. Quirke also noted that proposed co-location with Irish Water Safety was interesting development which would have to be explored and assessed fully.

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

Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer, presented a report to the meeting on non national and national roads and copies of same were distributed to the members. He advised members that projects on the N81 are mostly complete with the exception of Pavement Works at Kiltel Junction to Blessington which are ongoing. He also advised members of works commencing on Knockroe Bend Realignment in mid September.

Cllr. Timmins expressed his concerns over the expenditure on the pavement works on the N81. He noted that no complaints had been received in relation to that section of the N81 and questioned if these works were a priority. He added that the total cost of works, €1.1 million, could have been spent on other areas that required improvement.

Cllr. Cronin raised the question of when this money was allocated to these works. Mr Geraghty advised members that funding had been given by Transport Infrastructure Ireland to the Roads Section in March/April of this year. Mr. Sean Quirke advised the members that funding had been allocated from the Pavement Asset Repair and Renewal and this funding could not be used on junctions and if not spent on N81 would have been spent on works elsewhere in the country.

Cllr. Glennon pointed out that as local representatives they should be informed of these major projects and noted that he has received complaints from members of the public regarding traffic delays because of these works.

Following a discussion on funding for the upgrade of the inner relief road in Blessington Cllr. Timmins proposed to invite both the Director of Services, Mr. Colm Lavery, and the engineer over N81 works, Mr. Pat Byrne, to attend the next meeting and this was seconded by Cllr. Glennon.

Cllr. O'Neill questioned if there was any update on Knockroe Bend realignment works and if these works will affect the planned bus stop at Hollywood cross. Mr. Geraghty informed the members that works were due to commence imminently and that the proposal from Wicklow County Council for the bus stop has not yet been passed by the road safety officer in the TII.

Mr. Geraghty advised members that there were very little outstanding works on the non national roads report, bridge works were almost complete and there were further footpath works due to commence in Westpark, Lakeside Downs and Main Street Blessington. Cllr. Blake noted that the ramps on Kellys Hill needed repainting. Cllr. Mullen agreed and advised that he has received notice of vehicles being damaged due to the lack of markings on these ramps. Mr. Graham advised members that tenders had been put out for these particular works.

Cllr. O'Neill questioned the number of Local Improvement Schemes in the Tinahely area and the funding that was made available. Mr. Graham advised that three had been completed and there were a further seven had enquired but some had been unsuitable. With regard to funding, only a certain amount is made available and there were a further six applications sitting on the books.

Cllr. Mullen enquired if Mangans Lane could be included in these schemes as being one of the main access routes for the Wicklow Way it gets a lot of footfall and is in need of improvement.

6. To receive a report from the Housing Section

Mr. Garvan Hickey advised members that at a previous meeting a request for Director of Services, Mr. Joe Lane, to attend this meeting and give a report on the allocation of houses for Baltinglass Municipal District had been made. Unfortunately Mr. Lane was not available to attend but did advise that the information requested was available on the Chief Executive's Report and provided a detailed report for the MD meeting. Mr. Hickey presented the report received from the Housing section to members. Among the issues highlighted in the report were the following Whitehall Rapid build, 34 units, Carnew Rapid build – 30 units, Shillelagh Rapid build – 30 units.

It should be also be noted, also, that a comprehensive presentation on housing supply was given to all the Elected Members at the Council meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2019, outlining pipeline delivery to the end of 2021. Mr. Hickey informed members that technical staff from the Housing Section would be in attendance at a Baltinglass Municipal District meeting in October or November to present on the Part VIII for Shillelagh.

Cllr. O'Neill expressed his disappointment that Mr. Lane was unable to attend. Cllr. Timmins requested that a representative from the Housing Section attend next meeting as there were specific issues relating to Baltinglass Municipal District that were not covered in the Chief Executive's Report that needed to be raised. Cllr. Cronin agreed with Cllr. Timmins and noted that presentation in Wicklow was very good but that it was important that the Housing section address Baltinglass Municipal District's concerns. Cllr. Mullen echoed these concerns and proposed that Housing Section attend next meeting. Cllr. Glennon seconded this proposal and asked that Senior Management also attend.

The District Manager, Mr. Sean Quirke, advised members that in order for the relevant staff members to attend a meeting, specific issues need to set out beforehand. After some discussion it was proposed to request an update on Burgage More from the Housing Section and any other issues members had could be discussed with technical staff at the next meeting. It was also noted that individual housing cases could not be discussed at an MD meeting. Copies of the Adopted Scheme of Letting Priorities was circulated to members.

Cllr. Blake noted that issues relating to the capacity of treatment plants and the supply of water continues to hinder developments but that it was good to see the Housing section continue to develop applications and proposals for social housing developments.

7. To receive an update on the proposed Blessington Greenway

Members received a report on the Blessington Greenway from Ms. Caroline Fox from the Community and Enterprise Section. In June of this year funding of €5 million was granted towards the construction of a 28km greenway around the Blessington Lakes. It was planned to extend this greenway to a total of 42km through funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. An application under this fund has been submitted to the Department.

Ms. Fox outlined the timeframe for this project and advised that by January 2021 successful contractor should be on site. Cllr. Timmins asked if there were adequate car parks included in plans and if a copy of plans could be distributed to the members. Ms. Fox informed the members that a total of twelve car parks en route and there were plans to develop the car park at The Avon as the main car park. Cllr. Mullen raised the question of the Greenway grant funding the entire project and Ms. Fox explained that a total of 28.7kms was being funded and in order for the project to be classed as a national/regional greenway it would have to extend 40kms in distance. The extra €3.5 million to complete this project would be sought through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.

Cllr. O'Neill raised concerns over the bridges around the greenway and questioned who would be responsible for maintaining them. Ms. Fox advised that ESB own the bridges but Wicklow County Council maintain the surface of them. She advised that negotiations were ongoing and that Wicklow County Council may have to take these bridges in charge but that the ESB fully supported this project. This would be subject to negotiations with the ESB. Ms. Fox outlined that the aim is to develop a national greenway up to the national standards. To be national greenway the route has to be over 40 kilometres in length. A copy of the map of the proposed greenway was circulated to members.

8. To consider report in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the proposed development of a recycling facility at School Road, Lugduff, Tinahely.

Mr. Garvan Hickey gave a brief outline of the proposed development of a recycling facility at School Road, Tinahely. He informed members that the recycling facility would initially be open for ten hours per week with the possibility of extending opening hours depending on demand. The site would be operated by Community Employment staff and all details were outlined in the Chief Executive's report which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Hickey noted that there should be no negative environmental impacts from the development and the main reason for relocating the Tinahely Recycling centre from its present location were

- To ensure that the recycling service required by the people of Tinahely is provided.
- To improve health and safety around the recycling centre by providing car parking spaces.

- In order to ensure that the service being provided is sustainable and has an ability to grow in the future.
- To facilitate ease of access to the recycling centre.
- To promote recycling and environmental awareness.

He noted that there were no objections to this proposed development and recommended that relocation works proceed. A copy of advertisement from the Wicklow People, site notice and location map were circulated to members.

Cllr. Mullen thanked staff for the application and informed members that he was a founder member of the original recycling facility so could not partake in the discussion on the Part VIII in case there was a conflict of interest. He advised members that Tinahely recycling facility was one of the first community run recycling centres in Ireland.

Cllr. Blake proposed the adoption of the Part VIII and it was seconded by Cllr. Glennon. Cllr. Blake noted that if there any plans to extend the opening hours of the facility consultation should be undertaken first with the local community.

9. Date of next meeting

It was agreed by all that the next meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District will be held on 21st October in Dunlavin Libray.

10. Any other business

Cllr. Blake congratulated the Tinahely ladies football team on their recent success on winning the county final, to Valleymount football on their recent success and to Baltinglass Junior football team and complimented all involved.

Cllr. Mullen echoed Cllr. Blake's congratulations especially to the Tinahely ladies football on their huge achievement of winning the county final five times in a row.

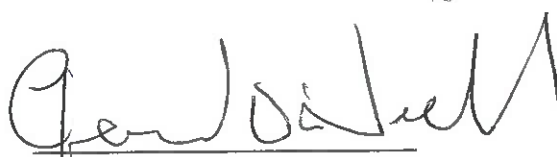
As this was Mr. Declan Geraghty's final Baltinglass Municipal District meeting as Senior Executive Engineer there were many thanks from all members for his service to the district over the last 20 years and best wishes were conveyed by all to him and his family on his

retirement. Members noted Declan was always accessible and cooperative to members. Mr. Sean Quirke on behalf of the staff wished Declan and his family a happy and healthy retirement. Mr. Quirke noted Declan's close working relationship with staff across the area and his ability to deal with people on the ground to ensure that the best job possible could be done.

Declan thanked all the members for their good wishes and informed the meeting that he had enjoyed working in Baltinglass MD for the last twenty years.

There being no other business the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. O'Neill, concluded the meeting.

Signed:


CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:


DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated:

21/10/2019

