

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass
held in The Civic Offices, Blessington on 19th October 2015 at 10.30 a.m.**

Present: Councillor Vincent Blake
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

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor James Ruttle, opened the Ordinary Meeting.

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

Councillor Pat Doran proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 21st September 2015 and Councillor Gerry O'Neill seconded the proposal.

Cllr. Vincent Blake stated that with reference to item number 9, it was stated that the sewerage works were on the lane but that this was incorrect and requested that this be amended in the minutes.

2. Housing Report

Joe Lane, Director of Housing & Corporate Estate, Breege Kilkenny, Senior Engineer, Housing & Corporate Estate and Noelle Sweeney, Executive Architect attended the meeting.

Ms. Kilkenny gave an update with regard to the progress of the refurbishment works at Glending, Blessington. The members made the following comments:

- Compliments on lowering the number of vacant properties.

Ms. Sweeney presented a draft scheme for Mountain View, Blessington which has the potential to provide twelve units of social housing together with enhanced entrance to the estate and improved sporting facilities. The meeting was advised that the layout of the additional housing would lessen the potential for anti social behaviour in the estate. The members made the following comments:

- Not in favour of more housing going into the area.
- Was the green space not to be upgraded?
- What is being done with 7-a-side pitch?
- What is status with regard to sewerage? Irish Water was not answering queries.

Mr. Lane advised that the plans would remain pre-Part VIII until sewerage connection was agreed and that zoning would allow for this type of development. Ms. Sweeney stated that the lands were zoned as residential per Local Area Plan and that a soccer pitch wouldn't fit in but that a playground could be used by more residents. Permission for the project is dependent on Irish Water.

Mr. Lane gave a report on housing in the municipal district and advised that housing units were being purchased where needed and that some housing units had been procured through NAMA. Mr. Lane stated that houses were being looked at around the county but that Tinahely was slightly overpriced relative to other areas but that housing units would be purchased in Blessington shortly. There was still no word with regard to a proposed Tenant Purchase Scheme.

Housing & Corporate Estate will make enquiries to Irish Water regarding Mountain View and Carrig Glen but not a general query.

Councillor Vincent Blake proposed the adoption of the Mountain View Scheme. This was seconded by Councillor Pat Doran. A vote was taken as follows:

For: Councillor Vincent Blake
 Councillor Pat Doran
 Councillor Gerry O'Neill
 Councillor James Ruttle
 Councillor Edward Timmins

Against:

The above motion was carried.

3. N81 Knockroe Realignment Scheme

Members of the Kildare National Roads Office gave an update with regard to the N81 Knockroe Realignment Scheme and advised that consultations with landowners was well progressed. The members made the following comments:

- Could footpath to Hollywood Village be considered? The meeting was advised that this was not a national road.

4. Roads Report

Mr. Tom O'Leary, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation & Roads gave an update with regard to the N81 – Ballinacrow surface dressing was now complete. Pavement, kerb and drainage works at Troopersfield and hedge trimming along N81 was now complete. Construction of a new drainage channel in Blessington was ongoing. Analecky crash barrier works are expected to be completed in November. Members made the following comments:

- Will road surfacing be done in Baltinglass? The reply was next year.
- Could traffic calming at Crosschapel be looked at?
- Would it be possible to extend speed limit on southern side of Silverhills?

5. Environment / Community Fund 2015

The members were advised that €6,000 was available to the municipal districts in respect of the Environment / Community Fund 2015. It was agreed to use €5,000 for the provision of bins in the municipal district on the proposal of Councillor Pat Doran, seconded by Councillor Vincent Blake and it was agreed to use €1,000 for the provision of a 1916 Gardens of Remembrance Project, proposed by Councillor Pat Doran and seconded by Councillor Edward Timmins.

6. Burial Ground Policy

The members discussed the burial ground policy and made the following comments:

- Where is the policy of closing and not extending the burial ground coming from?
- Who said it was the policy of the department not to allow extensions?
- Access to Scurlocks graveyard had disappeared with building of house beside it in 1980's.
- Community groups were not allowed into graveyards to do maintenance works unless insured, would it be possible to have this covered under IPB policy

The members stated that they wished for the burial ground policy to include the following:

- (1) Family plots
- (2) Extension of rural graveyards where possible.
- (3) No extra charge where a parish is in two counties, i.e. a person living outside County Wicklow but in the parish should be considered local.

7. Gardens of Remembrance 1916

It was agreed to consider a project but that it would be discussed at a later date.

8. Deputation from Donard Focus Group

It was agreed to have the November meeting in the Village Hall in Donard and to receive a deputation from the Donard Focus Group who wished to discuss a number of issues including Palladius Park, the new Council Depot and derelict sites.

9. Speed Limits

The draft Road Traffic (Speed Limit) (County of Wicklow) Bye-Laws Local and Regional Roads No. 1 of 2015 was adopted on the proposal of Councillor James Ruttle, seconded by Councillor Pat Doran.

10. Any Other Business

- (i) Cllr. O'Neill stated that he hoped to get support at the full council meeting re. His notice of motion for lands at Burgage More.
- (ii) Cllr. Blake stated that he felt that delays regarding the consideration of notices of motion on the agenda at the full council meeting weren't relayed back to the member who proposed it. Councillor Ruttle stated that he would discuss notices of motion with the Cathaoirleach.

- (iii) It was agreed to hold the next ordinary meeting in the Village Hall in Donard.

- (iv) It was agreed to hold the draft Budgetary meeting on 2nd November 2015 in the Civic Offices, Blessington.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: *Jim Ruttle*
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: *Máire Halvey*
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 16th November, 2015