

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices,
Blessington on 23rd of April 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
Ms. Dionne Dixon, District Administrator
Ms. Sharon Mulhall, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Mr Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer

1. To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 26th of March 2018.

Cllr. Pat Doran proposed the confirmation of the Ordinary meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 26nd March 2018, seconded by Cllr. Edward Timmins

2. Matters Arising.

Cllr. Cullen asked if there had been any response from TII in relation to a representative of the TII attending a future Municipal District meeting to discuss the indefinite suspension of the Tallaght to Hollywood Cross Road Improvement Scheme. Ms Dixon advised there had been no further correspondence received from the TII other than the letter of the 13th March which had been circulated to the Elected Members at the Municipal District Meeting held on March 26th. Ms. Dixon had received a letter from Minister Ross dated 29th March in which he confirmed he had forwarded on her correspondence to the TII to address the issues raised. Ms. Dixon confirmed that she will write again to the TII requesting that their attendance at a future Municipal District meeting to address the Elected Members questions over the suspension of the Tallaght to Hollywood Cross RIS Scheme.

The Elected Members discussed the proposed Pedestrian Bridge in Baltinglass and the possibility of the Council purchasing the public house "The Dutchman's Inn" in Baltinglass. It was agreed the Mr Quirke would approach TII and the NTA about funding the acquisition of the premises as that would possibly lead to the realignment of the junction of the R747 and the N81 and the construction of a pedestrian bridge. However Mr Quirke was doubtful that the TII and NTA would be agreeable to such a suggestion based on his previous experience.

3. To consider the Roads Report (National and Non National)

A report was circulated to the Elected Members from Mr Tom O'Leary, Senior Executive Engineer, in relation to the National Road and Mr Declan Geraghty addressed any questions that arose in relation to the report on behalf of Mr Tom O'Leary. A report on the Non National Roads was also distributed to the Elected Members and Mr Declan Geraghty, District Engineer, also answered any queries that arose in relation to same.

4. To consider the proposed N81 Division Routes

A report on the division routes for the N81 north of Blessington was distributed to the Elected Members for their consideration. Ms Deidre Forde, Executive Engineer, advised the meeting the diversion routes outlined in the report will be only used in the case of an emergency situation that requires the closure of the N81 and signage will be erected to advise road users of the diversion route. The diversion routes were put together in conjunction with Kildare County Council and South Dublin County Council and at the request of the Gardaí. The Elected Members agreed to approve the diversion routes as outlined in the report.

5. To discuss the Municipal District Discretionary Fund- Proposed Works

The Elected Members discussed the Proposed Works to be carried out with the Discretionary Funds. Mr. Declan Geraghty informed the Elected Members that the allocation of €131,250 made available to the Municipal District by Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance (IPBMI) to be used to help eliminate future claims by fixing trip hazards on various footpaths throughout the District, must be used in Blessington and Baltinglass. It was proposed by Cllr Cullen and Seconded by Cllr O'Neill to accept the proposal from Mr Geraghty and Mr Graham for the footpath renewals in the two towns.

The members asked that Mr Geraghty would prepare costing for the construction of footpaths at Hollywood Cross and Donard Primary School for the next meeting. Cllr Ruttle advised the meeting that the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Frank Curran, had visited Hollywood Cross and advised that the council may be in position to fund 50% of the cost of works. Mr Geraghty advised that Bus Eireann has agreed a location for a bus stop on the N81 at Hollywood Cross. Mr Quirke agreed to enquire if TII would be in a position to fund a footpath from the new location. Members will discuss the allocation of the remaining Discretionary Fund monies when the costing for the footpaths has been advised at the next meeting.

Cllr O'Neill asked for a letter to be sent to the ESB to request that they undertake maintenance of the the five bridges at Blessington Lake that are under their control. Cllr O'Neill also proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Ruttle that the ESB be asked to clarify their responsibility as regards the maintenance of the bridge and associated road works.

6. To discuss the problem with dog fouling on footpaths

Cllr Cullen advised that he felt the issue of Dog Fouling needed to be dealt with and possibly an education programme put in place. Cllr Cullen advised that the use of dog fouling litter fine warning signage had been very successful. Ms. Dixon advised the Members that she had spoken with both the Senior Staff Officer in Waste Management and the Environmental Awareness Officer in relation to this issue. Unfortunately successful prosecution of offenders for dog fouling depends on positive identification of the offender and the dog and unlike illegal dumping where a discarded utility bill could be used to trace and prosecute the offender it was more problematic in the case of dog fouling.

Nonetheless the Waste Management Section has successfully issued two fines for dog fouling and one case had been brought before the Courts and a bench warrant issued. It was agreed that Ms. Dixon would speak to the Environmental Awareness Officer again to seek a costing on 100 dog fouling signs and to discuss a future awareness campaign with him. It is proposed that the signs would be erected in public areas and in park and open spaces. Stickers will be ordered and placed on all Public Bins throughout the District.

7. Correspondence

Ms. Dixon advised that she received a reply to her letter of 25th January in relation to the N81 Tallaght to Hollywood Cross Road from Minister Shane Ross advising that he has no responsibility for the construction, improvement and maintenance of individual national roads as it is a matter for the TII and he had forwarded Ms. Dixon's correspondence to the TII for their response. (as discussed under Item 2).

An email was received from Deputy John Brady TD requesting the Municipal District consider a proposal for extending the Wicklow/ Kildare County boundary as the current County boundary is negatively impacting on the development of Blessington. Cllr O'Neill advised that he had made a submission to the Local Electoral Boundary Commission (LEBC) in relation to this issue already and the LEBC will make a decision on the 13th of June 2018. It was proposed by Cllr Timmins and seconded by Cllr Ruttle that a Proposal be put to the Chief Executive to take up the issue of the Wicklow/Kildare County boundary with Kildare County Council.

8. AOB

Cllr Timmins advised that there is a rough sleeper in the park in Baltinglass. Ms. Dixon would bring the matter to the attention of the Housing Section.

Cllr Doran advised the meeting that illegal dumping was a becoming a major issue in south Wicklow and it was agreed that the district would make a statement to the local press in an effort to combat this. The next town team meeting in Blessington will take place on Tuesday 20th March at 5pm.

There being no more business Cathaoirleach Vincent Blake closed the meeting next meeting is to be 28th of May 2018 at 10.30a.m in the Civic Offices in Blessington.

Signed: Piobert Blaha

Cathaoirleach

Signed: OWOO

District Administrator

Dated: 28 May 2018

