

**Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Municipal district of Baltinglass held in Carnew Community Care
on 12th December 2016 at 10.30am**

Present: Councillor Vincent Blake
Councillor Tommy Cullen
Councillor pat Doran
Councillor Gerry O'Neill
Councillor Jim Ruttle
Councillor Edward Timmons

In Attendance: Mr Sean Quirke, Director of Services
Mr Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms Máire Halvey, District Administrator

Apologies: Mr Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Housing representative

Before the meeting started Councillor Doran proposed a vote of sympathy for the late Joe Horan and acknowledged his help with the funding to get Carnew Community Care up and running.

1. Confirmation of minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 23rd November 2016

Councillor Pat Doran proposed the confirmation of the Ordinary meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 23rd November 2016, seconded by Councillor Vincent Blake

2. Roads Report (national and non-national roads)

Non National Roads

Declan Geraghty reported that the report on roads was identical to last month and that Shillelagh had been completed and that the question of traffic calming in shillelagh and footpaths within the district would be considered when the budgets are designated next year. Councillor Blake complemented the staff on the great job in shillelagh but would like to see something done about the traffic calming.

Tommy Cullen questioned if there could be a review of the Green Lane in Baltinglass, a lot of people walk this and it is not very pedestrian friendly, Declan Geraghty said he was familiar with the area but that it was a very rural area and he had looked for funding previously but no funding has been made available so far. Councillor Cullen suggested if there wasn't funding for a footpath that maybe the edges would be paired back so pedestrians could step in away from traffic. Declan agreed it was unsafe for pedestrians, but stated that it would be impossible to make it pedestrian friendly, he also agreed to look at the road again.

Councillor Vincent Blake questioned if Coolafancy would be completed next year and Declan Geraghty told him that it would be started and completed in early 2017.

National Roads

There was no report available for National Roads.

3. Tourism Project

Máire Halvey stated she had emailed a draft of the brochures from Deirdre Burns and that any comments/observations should be sent to her either today or tomorrow at the latest. Councillor Cullen questioned why Glending Hill, Hillfort, Rathcurran and Rathbrane were not on it. Councillor Timmons said it would be a huge mistake if each village were not included. Councillor Blake said the most appropriate thing was to keep the brochures simple and logical and suggested the smaller attractions (including the Shillelagh Stick) could be mentioned as points of interest. Councillor Cullen said that tourists come to West Wicklow for the scenery and heritage and that the brochure has to be correct. Councillor Blake commended the map and the good job that has been done so far.

Máire Halvey told the meeting that the members will have the final sign off and that she hopes to have the updated final brochure for the next district meeting.

4. Twinning

Councillor Gerry O'Neill was to have a report prepared on the possibility of twinning with O'Neil City, Nebraska, but stated that in three weeks it was impossible to conclude a report and asked for it to be on the next agenda.

5. Housing

Councillor Cullen and Councillor Ruttle stated that there was more housing needed in the district, Councillor O'Neill stated that in Dunlavin there were people looking for houses and there was permission for 22 houses but there has been no movement because of lack of water and that Wicklow County Council should step in to sort the problem. Councillor Cullen asked if it would be possible that a housing representative could be present at the January meeting to answer questions about general housing allocations as there seems to be conflicting reports from staff about the purchasing or intention to purchase houses, Councillor Timmons noted that the district meetings would have always received Housing Reports (which included vacant houses) and asked if this report could be circulated again. He also would like to know what the budget is for purchasing houses. Councillor Blake asked what the situation was in Glending; Mr Sean Quirke advised that people are quite happy with the houses that are completed. Ms Halvey is to look in to the above and report back at the next meeting, but did advise that a housing representative was not available to attend today's meeting.

6. Residents' Association Grants

Ms Halvey stated that she had received 7-9 application forms and that some had gone to county buildings so a full assessment of the applications had not taken place yet. Councillor Cullen asked if Wicklow County Councils insurance covers tidy town committees/housing residents doing voluntary work maintaining estates etc. Mr Sean Quirke said he did not think so but Ms Halvey is to get clarification on this matter. Councillor Blake suggested that the grants available to these committees should include money towards purchasing public liability, Councillor Cullen agreed. Councillor O'Neill stated that we should not discourage these volunteers working by not having them covered.

7. Correspondence

Ms Halvey informed the meeting that the application for funding under CLÁR had been successful and the following projects had received funding ????????. Councillor complemented the staff of Baltinglass Municipal district on the successful application and hoped some of the funding would go towards drainage in Knockananna; Mr Sean Quirke commended Dermot Grahams work to get the funding with such short notice.

Ms Halvey also brought the Wicklow County Council DRAFT parking Bye-laws 2017 to the attention of the members, Councillors Blake's understanding of this is that if pay parking is introduced anywhere in the district the money will stay within the district, Mr Quirke confirmed that this was his understanding also.

8. Any other Business

- i. Councillor Cullen stated that there was a regional plan to take water from the Slaney to send to Dublin, and that the Department were looking for submissions. Councillor Cullen proposed to have this on the agenda for the next Wicklow County Council meeting in January to discuss the possibility of making submissions, he stated that Roundwood and Blessington played important roles in this and that Wicklow was not considered a stakeholder. He also stated that Wicklow County Council should be represented at these discussions. Councillor O'Neill agreed with Councillor Cullen's proposal.
- ii. Councillor Blake stated that the County development plan had rejected two submission one being the Wind Energy and the second being ?????? He also apologised for not attending the Working group meeting and Ms Halvey informed him that the meeting did go ahead and she was currently preparing the minutes and would be forwarding them to the committee as soon as possible.

9. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be the 23rd January in the Civic offices in Blessington. Councillor Timmons closed the meeting and wished everyone a happy Christmas.

Signed: Edward Timmins

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: Máire Halvey

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: 20th February 2017