

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices, Blessington on 18th of December 2017, at 10.30 a.m.

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

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

Cathaoirleach Vincent Blake opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He thanked District Administrator, Dionne Dixon for organising the presentation of the Estate Development Grants which were recently held in Tinahely and Blessington.

1. To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 28th of November 2017

It was proposed by Cllr. Jim Ruttle, seconded by Cllr. Vincent Blake and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 28th of November 2017.

2. Matters Arising

Dionne Dixon advised the meeting that she had received a reply from the Department of Social Protection in relation to a representation made for the reopening of a Local DSP Office in Blessington. The DSP advised that no Local Office would be reopened and the people residing in the Blessington area can access services as required by appointment at the Intreo offices in The Square, Tallaght. Ms Dixon also advised that she had received a reply from South Dublin County Council stated they had received her correspondence in relation to deer fencing and they would revert with a reply. She also advised that letters had been sent to the Department of the Arts Heritage and Gaeltacht in relation to the wild deer population and to the National Parks and Wildlife Office in relation to the impact of the Red Kites on the wild hare population and she awaits a response to both.

3. Roads Reports (National and Non National)

All works on the Non National roads is complete.

A report from Tom O'Leary, Senior Executive Engineer was circulated to the meeting. Sean Quirke, Director of Services advised that an update from Kildare NRO in relation to the N81 realignment was received and he would hope to have a more detailed report in regards to budgets for the next meeting.

4. To Consider Roads Work Programme for 2018

A list of the current plans for roads works in 2018 was circulated to the members prior to the meeting. Members are to email details of requests for roads to be included in the 2018 schedule to Mr Sean Quirke with the road number and segment quoted as soon as possible. Funding will be allocated in 2019. If any road is determined to be in need of more urgent attention than roads already included in the current Roads Work Programme, then priority will be given depending on the condition of the road.

5. To Discuss the Pedestrian Crossing outside of Dunlavin National School

A report was circulated to the members advising that the costing for lights on the crossing at Dunlavin School would be approx €11,800. Mr Declan Geraghty, District Engineer, advised the meeting that he felt the current crossing was adequate and this was a view also held by the local Garda and Mr Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer. Cllr Doran expressed his view that works should go ahead as this was a small price to pay for child safety. Members expressed a view that lights may cause traffic issues in the town and asked if the lights could be put on a timer to work only at school times. Mr Geraghty confirmed that this could happen. Mr Geraghty advised the meeting that the safest option would be a School Warden to be employed. Mr Quirke advised that this would involve a new position to be created and funded and he was unsure if this would be possible.

6. To Consider proposed use of Baltinglass Courthouse

Correspondence was received from received from Deirdre Whitfield, CCSD in relation to an application made by the Baltinglass Town Renewal Group which operates under the wing of Baltinglass Forum who has submitted a proposal under the Town and Village Scheme 2017 for use of the courthouse in Baltinglass. Under the proposal the Group seek agreement of Baltinglass Municipal District for a change of use for the Courthouse and a ten year lease to be granted. The Group propose to use the Courthouse as a local interpretative centre and a co-working location. The Members were positively disposed to Baltinglass Town Renewal Group's proposal for the use of Baltinglass Courthouse subject to further details/a business plan being made available to the Members to allow them to reach a final decision on the proposal. It was agreed that the Baltinglass Town Renewal Group would be invited to make a presentation to the Members at the next Meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District so that a final decision can be made on their proposal.

7. To Consider hosting a Civic Reception in Baltinglass Municipal District

The members were asked for submission as to persons or groups from the district it was felt should be given a civic reception. There was a discussion on to the creation of an award to be given to recipients of the civic receptions. Member are to liaise my Ms Dionne Dixon re nominations for the receptions.

8. AOB

Cathaoirleach Vincent Blake wished all presents a Happy Christmas and a Happy New year. There being no more business he closed the meeting. Next meeting on 22nd of January 2018.

Signed: Siwéat Bhe

Cathaoirleach

Signed: Quao

District Administrator

Dated: 22nd January 2018