

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices, Blessington on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 at 10.30 a.m.

**Present:** Councillor Edward Timmins  
Councillor Vincent Blake  
Councillor Jim Ruttle  
Councillor Gerry O'Neill  
Councillor Pat Doran

**In Attendance:** Mr. Michael Flynn, A/Director of Services  
Mr. Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator  
Ms. Sharon Mulhall, Assistant Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Councillor Tommy Cullen  
Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services

### **1. Presentation from Laura English from Disability Federation Ireland.**

Councillor Timmins opened the meeting and introduced Ms. Laura English from Disability federation Ireland who is now working with Wicklow County Council. Following Ms. English's presentation on her role as a community Development Worker and the issues facing persons with disabilities, the members made the following comments ..... "there is a lot of duplication in the organisations that currently exist in the area of disabilities and how the possibility of moving person from congregated settings in to the community would be a cause of concern to the families of many persons" ..... "that the HSE needs to do more to move the issues along" ..... "that the need for care for persons with disabilities in the community needs more resources" ..... "that it is a disgrace that the UN convention on the rights of people with disabilities has not been ratified in Ireland and how WCC has not met it obligations to hire persons with disabilities". Ms. English advised with regard to moving persons from congregated settings that the HSE are trying to arrange a merger of organisations but it is a slow process and that there is no plan currently in place for the movement of persons and that funding is not available.

### **2. Confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

Councillor Pat Doran proposed the confirmation of the Ordinary meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016, seconded by Councillor Edward Timmins.

### **3. Confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017**

Councillor Edward Timmins proposed the confirmation of the Ordinary meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017, seconded by Councillor Vincent Blake.

### **4. Matters Arising**

Councillor Blake asked if the residents' association grants had been processed yet. Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator, advised that they were not completed as yet but would be

allocated by the March Meeting. Ms. Halvey also advised that the draft tourism brochures are being amended to take cognisance of the members' comments. The meeting was also advised that local groups that are involved in works in graveyards are not covered by IPA insurance. Councillor Blake asked that this been taken in to account when funds are allocated that the cost of insurance will need to be met. A representative of Housing was unable to attend the meeting.

## **5. Roads Reports (National and Non National)**

Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer, presented a report to the meeting re national roads and the funding available. Councillor Timmins asked about the junction in Baltinglass town centre and was advised that there are still some outstanding issues in relation to this. A directional sign for Carlow to be placed at the N81 Junction for Castledermot was also requested. Mr. Dermot Graham, Area Engineer, advised that he would ask Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) if this would be possible. Councillor O'Neill asked that the speed limit on the Rathvilly side of Baltinglass be moved back to its original position approximately 500m from its current position. Councillor Ruttle asked if any decision had been made on Hangman's bend and Mr. Declan Geraghty advised that no funding was available for it as yet. A review of speed limits is currently taking place and the speed limit may be reduced to 80km for all the N81.

A report on Non National roads was also circulated detailing the works to take place in the coming year. Clarification was sought and received by Councillor Blake on specific of locations of works to take place in the areas of Coolboy and Knockananna. It was advised that the Knockananna road was scheduled to be started in the next six to eight weeks in conjunction with the construction of the proposed wind farm. Councillor Timmins also sought and received clarification regarding locations in Deerpark, Rampere and Dunlavin. Mr. Declan Geraghty advised that meeting that a budget allocation of €95k was given to the district this year for the specific use on footpaths, more specifically on the construction of new footpaths. It has been decided that €47.5k would be allocated to the engineering areas of Blessington and Tinahely respectively. Mr. Declan Geraghty advised that he proposed the use the allocation for Blessington Engineering Area on footpaths in Dunlavin. Councillor Blake asked that the Tinahely allocation be spread out as best as it can be between all towns. Councillor Ruttle asked regarding footpaths in Hollywood village. Declan Geraghty advised that there are issues surrounding landowners and this need to be resolved. Councillor O'Neill raised the issue of a Gentleman living in Hughestown Lane and the fact that the lane way he lives on has no vehicular access. He advised that this gentleman's residence is in Kildare. The other members advised that the information be passed on to local representatives in Kildare for action. Councillor Blake handed in a petition from residents in Shillelagh asking for traffic calming measure to be put in place on the Tullow road end of the village. Mr. Dermot Graham advised that the area is currently in a 50km zone and that the bridge at the entrance to the village is a natural speed reducing measure in itself. It was agreed that a report would be put together for the members in relation to this issue. Councillor O'Neill asked if there was any update on the proposed redevelopment plan for Baltinglass Town Centre Declan Geraghty advised that Ms. Margaret Hartnett, Senior Engineer in Roads and Transportation has advised him that no funding was available. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to NTA to see if funding could be made available.

## **6. Twinning Report**

Councillor O'Neill thanked the many people that helped put a report together on possible twinning with O'Neill town in Nebraska in the USA. He advised that there was interest in

Dunlavin about a possible twinning with another area in Nebraska. It was decided that the proposal be forwarded to the protocol committee of the full council for consideration.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

A formal request was received from full council for €10k to be donated to Wicklow Hospice from Baltinglass Municipal District. This was approved by the members. Councillor Ruttle asked for clarification on the number of General Operatives to be hired the Baltinglass Municipal District. Clarification is to be sought for the next meeting. Councillor Ruttle also advised that the residents in Carrig Glen feel that the tree planted to replace a tree that was removed is too small and could a bigger one be sourced.

There being no more business, Councillor Timmins closed the meeting.

SIGNED: Edward Timmins  
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CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED: Máire Halvey  
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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017