

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Courthouse, Baltinglass on 23rd November, 2016 at 10.30 a.m.

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

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Budgetary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 24th October 2016.

Councillor Vincent Blake proposed the confirmation of the Budgetary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass held on 24th October 2016, seconded by Councillor Pat Doran Blake.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 24th October 2016.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Edward Timmins proposed the confirmation of the ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass held on 24th October 2016, seconded by Councillor Vincent Blake.

3. Roads Reports (national and non-national roads)

(i) Non National Roads Report

Mr. Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer delivered the report for the Blessington Engineering Area. Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer delivered the report for the Tinahely Engineering Area and he also stated that works on the main street in Shillelagh were substantially completed and were a huge improvement and that the works on the Main Street, Coolafancy will be started and completed in early 2017.

Councillor Vincent Blake stated it was a great job and that Morrisseys were always reliable. He stated concerns about speed of traffic as road so improved and safety at the playground in Shillelagh. He informed us that locals are raising a petition about the matter. Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer informed him he was looking at the T junction, playground and considering the best option to slow down traffic, possible solutions would be a ramp, raised cushion or "slow down" signs as used in Kildare. Councillor Pat Doran expressed his concerns too at lorries traveling to and from Kerry Foods and a raised option might be best. Mr. Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer stated it the road was wide there and that ideally, any works to be done needed to be done in conjunction with improving the footpaths but that there was currently no funding available. Councillor Vincent Blake informed the meeting that there was a once off payment in the budget and that it might be possible to use this funding. Mr. Geraghty agreed to look at funding.

(ii) National Roads Report

Ms. Maire Halvey, District Administrator read the N81 Progress Report. Councillor Tommy Cullen enquired about the feasibility study for Blind Man's Corner. Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services informed him he would contact with T.I.I. to check the current status of the study and report back to the members.

Councillor Vincent Blake asked what was being done about parking on Main Street Blessington and at Lacken School. Mr. Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer said that the Road Safety Authority were drafting a plan and considering a bus bay and right angle parking. Mr. Geraghty said that he would seek a report on the matter and advise the members accordingly.

4. Discretionary Funding

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Edward Timmins, delivered the report on discretionary fund outlining where it was proposed to disburse the funding. Councillor Timmins stated that while the proposed amounts for white lining and tourist signage were small, it was a start. Following a discussion, the members agreed that the funding be disbursed as follows on the proposal of Councillor Edward Timmins, seconded by Councillor Vincent Blake:

Group / Purpose	Amount Of Funding
Blessington Forum	2,250.00
KARE Tinahely	500.00
Kiltegan Tidy Towns	750.00
Tinahely Tidy Towns	1,000.00
Blessington Tidy Towns	1,000.00
Shillelagh Community Alert	300.00
Shillelagh Grotto Heritage Project	300.00
Tinahely Men's Shed	500.00
Knockananna Tidy Towns	500.00
Shillelagh People's Property Company Limited	500.00
Coolboy & District Tidy Towns	500.00
Grange Con Tidy Towns	750.00
Baltinglass Christmas Lights Committee	2,000.00
Stratford Tidy Towns	500.00
Dunlavin & District Forum	1,500.00
Carnew Traders	1,500.00
Rathdangan Community Group	250.00
White Lining	4,000.00
Signage	2,500.00

The members thanked Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator for preparing the report.

5. Twinning

Councillor Gerry O'Neill suggested Baltinglass Municipal District enter into a twinning arrangement with O'Neill City, Nebraska, USA because of the city's links with West Wicklow and that it would be beneficial to the county. Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services, advised that there would be a lot of work involved and that we would have to pick a town and consult with the local authority in that town. Following discussion on the current situation of twinning in County Wicklow in general, Councillor O'Neill agreed to prepare a report on the possibility of twinning with O'Neill City for the members.

6. Any Other Business

(i) Tree Felling

The matter of a tree being cut down in Carrig Glen was raised by Councillor Jim Ruttle and that the residents hadn't been informed and he wanted better communication with residents in the future. Mr. Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer, advised the meeting that the tree was cut down on health and safety grounds in the interests of public safety and that there wasn't time to inform the residents on this occasion but that residents would be informed in the future where possible.

(ii) Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2016

Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator, informed the meeting that an application for funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2016 had been successful and the following projects in the Municipal District had received funding – Playgrounds for Rathdangan and Carnew, looped walk/signage/cycling trail for Dunlavin and Shillelagh interpretative project

(iii) Votes of Sympathy

Councillor Vincent Blake proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Mr. Michael Lambert of Lamberts Hardware, Hacketstown who died in a tragic accident at the weekend. Councillor Edward Timmins also proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Mr. David Hallahan, former principal of the Scoil Chonglais in Baltinglass.

7. Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Monday 19th December 2016 at 10.30 a.m. in Blessington Civic Offices.

SIGNED: Edward Timmins

CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED: Máire Halvey

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED: 12 December 2016