

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices, Blessington on 24th October, 2016 at 10.30 a.m.

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

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

Apologies: Councillor Edward Timmins

The Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Vincent Blake, chaired the meeting in the absence of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Edward Timmins who was unable to attend. The members welcomed Mr. Derek Cullen to the staff of Baltinglass Municipal District.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 27th September 2016.

Councillor Pat Doran proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal district of Baltinglass held on 27th September 2016, seconded by Councillor Vincent Blake.

Matters Arising:

Baltinglass Abbey

- (i) Councillor Tommy Cullen raised an issue regarding the Baltinglass Abbey grounds. Councillor Cullen stated that these grounds must be classed as a protected structure as soon as possible. He added that there have been earth works carried out near the site recently and the site must be treated sensitively, adding that it is similar to Glendalough and must be treated so.
- (ii) The Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Vincent Blake stated that his understanding of this situation was that the officials in the Planning Department would have no objections to this suggestion. He added that Councillor Tommy Cullen and Councillor Jim Ruttle should have consultation with the planning officials on this matter. This was agreed.

Lighting in Deerpark, Baltinglass

- (i) Councillor Gerry O' Neill asked if there had been any progress on the issue of lighting in Deerpark, Baltinglass. He added that there was anti social behaviour taking place in the area due to the lack of lighting.

- (ii) Councillor Tommy Cullen stated that this issue came up a number of years ago but there was no funding at that time to alleviate the concern. He added that he does not think there is an anti social behaviour problem in the area. Councillor Cullen then proposed that the council request funding to install lighting here, while Councillor Gerry O' Neill proposed that the council request funding from Central Government for this issue.

Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer, informed the members that this matter was examined two or three ago by Mr. Declan O' Brien, Executive Engineer, Wicklow County Council and at the time a cost estimate of €15,000 was quoted to install the seven lights in the area. He added that this was never followed up due to financial constraints, etc. but the exercise had been carried out.

Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services, stated that the members, if they so wish, will need to allocate money locally from the Municipal District if funding to install lighting is required and he added that Central Government will not give any funding for this. He also stated that there will be a schedule of Municipal District works coming up in the budget and a cost review can be carried out if the members wish.

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

The national and non-national roads reports were presented to the meeting.

The members raised the following points:

- Congratulate the Area engineer and the staff involved on the work carried out on the roads. They are a credit to the county.
- The residents in Knocknadrucce were very happy with the work carried out and wanted their thanks to be acknowledged.
- There a drainage problem in Coolafancy. Can this be examined?
- There is a serious need for traffic calming in Shillelagh and also the road from Coolafancy to Coolboy. Is this a high priority?
- Has a survey been carried out on Hangman's Bend?
- Can we allocate some money to do both re-surfacing and white lining on Wicklow Gap Road?

Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer, stated that the drainage issue in Coolafancy will be examined in the winter season. He also informed the members that Wicklow County Council is reviewing traffic calming measures for Shillelagh and also that the Coolafancy to Coolboy areas will be on the programme for next year.

Mr. Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer, informed the members that the car park in St. Josephs, Blessington will be completed in the next few weeks. He stated that the Council has been carrying out 2km of work each year in relation to the lining and surfacing on the Wicklow Gap road and that surface dressing is being carried out currently. He added that it will take three to four years to complete the works.

Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services, informed the members that the N81 Hearn's Cross to Knockroe Bend should be completed in the next day or so. He added that we will need to get a report from Kildare County Council regarding Hangman's Bend.

3. Tourism Projects

Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator, read out a report on Tourism Projects for West Wicklow from Ms. Deirdre Burns, Wicklow County Council Heritage Officer (report circulated) for the consideration of the members.

The members raised the following points:

- Is the printing going to be done by a local business?
- A photograph of Wicklow Sheep should be included in the brochure.

Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator, informed the members that the members need to agree to proceed on the quantity they require and the cost. She added that four quotes were received for the printing and one of the quotes was from Blessington.

Councillor Tommy Cullen proposed that 10,000 of each be ordered for €1,765 including VAT, as stated in the report. This was seconded by Councillor Pat Doran.

4. Discretionary Funding

The members raised the following points:

- Dunlavin Tidy Towns was omitted from the list.
- Laois County Council has nice signs in some of their towns. It was agreed that we would put money aside for similar signs for towns in West Wicklow. Should we allocate some funding for the Senior Executive Engineer to improve our signage?
- A lot of towns in West Wicklow have quite a few routes in and out of their respective towns.
- €20,000 would not go far. It would probably only provide one town with signage.
- Can the District Administrator draft up a report on regarding funding requested?

Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator, stated that Dunlavin Tidy Towns had not submitted a request and to be included, they must do so. She also stated that she would provide a report for the next meeting. Mr. Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer informed the members that the Council recently erected two signs in Hollywood in conjunction with the Hollywood Fair, similar to the ones in County Laois. Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services, stated that a number of these requests could qualify for community grants and they should be directed to apply.

The members agreed to leave this issue to the next Council meeting.

5. Any Other Business

(i) CLÁR Funding

Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator, informed the members that she had received a letter from Mr. Michael Nicholson, Director of Services, Community, Cultural and Social Development department in Wicklow County Council and that an application was being prepared for submission.

(ii) Estate Development Grants

Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator, informed the members that she had received an email from Ms. Kiara Kavanagh, Estate Development Officer, Wicklow County Council to advising that funding of €8,000 was available per Municipal District for residents' associations.

(iii) Maintenance of Bridges

Councillor Gerry O' Neill raised the issue of the cleaning of bridges, especially the Annacorney Bridge. He said that this bridge is in a bad state and the ESB have so far refused to maintain the bridge.

Mr. Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer, stated that the ESB had been contacted in relation to this issue and their response was that it was the Local Authorities responsibility and not the ESB. He added that the ESB are incorrect on this and the Council will request that these issues are sorted out by going to someone in a higher authority within the ESB if required.

6. Next Meeting.

It was decided to hold the next meeting on Monday 21st November 2016 at 10.30 a.m. in Baltinglass, once agreed to by all members.

SIGNED: Edward Timmins

CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED: Máire Halvey

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED: 23 November 2016