

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices, Blessington on 25th July 2016 at 10.30 a.m.

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

In Attendance: Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services
Mr. Pat Clarke, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator
Ms. Margaret Coyne, Temporary Clerical Officer

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Edward Timmins, opened the meeting. He welcomed the Glending Residents Group. He acknowledged the presents of a group of Traders from Baltinglass to hear a discussion on Item 5 on the agenda (N81 Baltinglass VRU Improvement N81/R747Junction) Councillor Timmins suggested that item no. 5 be moved up on the Agenda for discussion after deputation from the Glending Group. All members agreed with this proposal.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 27th June 2016.

Councillor Blake proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal district of Baltinglass held on 27th June 2016. Councillor Doran seconded the proposal.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 27th June 2016.

Councillor Ruttle proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal district of Baltinglass held on 27th June 2016. Councillor Blake seconded the proposal.

3. Deputation from Glending Residents Group:

Ms. Carmel Cashin, Mr. Noel Murphy and Ms. Mary Millet attended from Glending the main concerns of the group were lack of services for the estate. Children are leaving school early and there is an increase in drug use and they are concerned about attempts at suicide. There are no family resources available and some families are waiting up to 2 years to see a social worker. They are liaising with various groups (Garda, Halo, Tulsa and drugs task force groups) they requested the Wicklow County Council come on board and also work with these agencies. Councillor Timmins asked the group to get in a letter with a list of the agencies and the Council would help to put more pressure on for services. Councillor O'Neill and Councillor Ruttle acknowledged that problems existed with the Glending estate from the start and they assured the group that they would support and assist them in any

way they can. Councillor Doran and Councillor Blake thanked the group for their presentation and assured them of their support. Councillor Timmins requested an update at the next meeting and suggested a representative from housing in WCC join the group.

4. N81 Baltinglass VRU Improvements (N81/R747 Junction):

Councillor O'Neill proposed a suspension on standing orders to allow the Baltinglass Traders to have an input into the discussion. Councillor Blake seconded this. Mr. Simon Murphy spoke on behalf of the group, the main concern being the potential loss of 23/24 parking spaces resulting in loss of trade for this thriving market town. Mr. Murphy requested that local traders have an input into the solution. Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services, reported that six submissions have been received and will be reviewed by early August. He said that while it may be possible to incorporate some amendments to facilitate traders, standards would have to be adhered to. He informed the meeting that funding had been secured for this project for 2016/2017 and this may be lost if the project is not completed this year. Councillor Timmins summed up by saying safety at the junction was a priority while he hoped for minimal loss of parking spaces.

5. Roads Report:

Councillor Ruttle proposed that best wishes for a speedy recovery be sent to Mr. Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer. Councillor O'Neill seconded this.

The national and non-national roads reports were presented to the meeting. Councillor O'Neill enquired who is responsible for hedges on secondary roads where hedge trimming is not taking place. Mr. Sean Quirke advised that it is the responsibility of land owners to keep hedges in order and stated that an advertisement is displayed every year and only in serious cases will the land owner be written to. Councillor Blake stated that he has some concerns about the state of hedges in the Carnew area.

Councillor O'Neill queried the new white lines at Crosschapel and he was informed that this was the remit of the TII and a new warning line system is in operation. Councillor O'Neill suggested the ESB clean the bridges over Blessington lakes. Councillor Timmins enquired if the ESB could enhance the bridges in some way to make them more of a feature of the area. Councillor O'Neill proposed a letter be sent to the ESB with these suggestions. Councillor Ruttle seconded this proposal. Councillor Blake informed the meeting that there was a drainage problem on the Coolboy to Coolroe Road. Mr. Dermot Graham Executive Engineer informed the meeting that the Finoge bridge has been repaired and arches cleared. Councillor Doran mentioned that the Knockananna road is becoming unsafe as large dips are appearing in the road. Mr. Dermot Graham responded by saying additional signage has been placed on the road and new wind turbines are to be erected in the area and the company erecting them will be responsible for road improvements. Councillor O'Neill enquired if the Council could repair a private lane at Toolestown, Dunlavin as there is a disabled person on the lane. Mr. Sean Quirke responded by stating the Council were not responsible for private lanes but they could apply under the Local Improvement Scheme for a grant for repairs up to 40% of the cost could be claimed back. He stated that the budget for this scheme was used up for this year.

6. Tourism Projects:

(i) Tourism Brochure.

Ms. Deirdre Burns, Wicklow Heritage Officer and Mr. Fred Verdier, County Wicklow Tourism were contacted by Ms. Máire Halvey. However they were unable to attend today's meeting. Ms. Máire Halvey read out a report compiled from correspondence from Ms. Burns and Mr. Verdier. Ms. Burns had recently worked on a local heritage recording project in Blessington and accumulated a lot of information about the area. They are in support of this initiative and sent in a sample brochure for discussion. Cathaoirleach Timmins suggested Deirdre Burns should be invited to attend the September meeting and an allocation of €1,000 be made for this brochure. He hoped that a similar approach could be extended to Baltinglass and South Wicklow.

(ii) Contribution towards Coollattin Canadian Visit.

An application has been received seeking grant aid toward the staging of the "Homeward Trek". This project is an initiative which aims to provide a link with tens of thousands of Canadians who have roots in south Wicklow. A detailed list of costs was sent to Ms. Máire Halvey. Approximately 34 people will visit the area in August. The Canadian Ambassador has visited the area and gives his full support. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Edward Timmins suggested this project be supported and he proposed a sum of €2,500. After a discussion between the members, it was agreed to allocate €3,000. An itemised account of how this money is to be spent was requested by the members. Councillor Doran assured the members that this would not be a problem.

7. Any other Business.

Councillor O'Neill enquired if a cattle grid could be placed at Kylebeg to prevent sheep coming on to the road. Mr. Sean Quirke replied that there could be a legal issue here. Mr. Pat Clarke is to investigate this matter.

8. Next Meeting.

Next meeting will be on 26th September at 10.30 a.m. in Civic Offices, Blessington.

SIGNED: Edward Timmins

CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED: Máire Halvey

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED: 27th September 2016