

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices, Blessington on 27th September, 2016 at 10.30 a.m.

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

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. Deirdre Burns, Wicklow County Council Heritage Officer

Apologies: Mr. Declan Geraghty, Senior Executive Engineer

The Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Vincent Blake, opened the meeting pending the arrival of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Edward Timmins. Councillor Blake welcomed Ms. Deirdre Burns, Wicklow County Council Heritage Officer and suggested that item number four on the agenda to discuss Tourism Projects be moved to item number two and this was agreed by the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 25th July 2016.

Councillor Pat Doran proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal district of Baltinglass held on 25th July 2016, seconded by Councillor Jim Ruttle.

2. Matters Arising:

- (i) Councillor Gerry O'Neill enquired about a response from the ESB with regard to the tidying of the bridges under the responsibility of the ESB and stated that it was very dangerous at Annacarney with people having to walk on the road to avoid bushes. Mr. Pat Clarke, A/Senior Executive Engineer stated that he would arrange with Mr. Declan Geraghty to contact the ESB again.

3. To Discuss Tourism Projects

Ms. Deirdre Burns, Wicklow County Council Heritage Officer discussed the possibilities for brochures for various areas within the Municipal District e.g. Blessington, Baltinglass/Kiltegan and Tinahely/Shillelagh/Carnew/Coolattin and gave an estimate for the cost of 10,000 brochures for each area as being approximately €1,000.00. Following a discussion, it was agreed to ring fence €7,000.00 for the production of two additional brochures for Baltinglass/Kiltegan and Tinahely/Shillelagh/Carnew/Coolattin as the

brochure for the Blessington area is almost ready to go to print and three print runs (one for each area). Ms. Burns advised the members that the information would also be available on the web via links to Wicklow County Tourism's website and Wicklow County Council's website. Slogans highlighting the west of the county are to be considered, e.g. "Baltinglass – Ring Fort Capital of Ireland". Also, the Ring Fort at Glen Ding is to be added to the Blessington Area brochure. Ms. Burns is to seek quotations for the production and printing of the brochures for the next meeting.

4. Roads Reports (National and Non-National)

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

Councillor Tommy Cullen stated that two accidents had occurred at the Embankment, and that it was a very dangerous situation that cannot be allowed to continue and that it should be checked with the Roads and Transportation Department regarding responsibility in the event of a serious accident. It was agreed that South Dublin County Council should be written to asking them to contact the landowners regarding deer-proof fencing. It was also stated that some of this land is owned by the Department of Forestry and the Health Services Executive.

With regard to N81/R747 Baltinglass Junction Improvement Scheme, the Members enquired about accommodation for parking being made in respect of Borza's Chipper, Supervalu and McGreal's Chemist which are all situated at the junction of N81/R747. The members were advised that the first priority of Wicklow County Council is to make the junction safer and that a portion of the footpaths on Edward Street will be improved as part of the scheme.

Enquiries were also made about the stocks of salt and grit. The members were advised that there is a programme in place to restock all depots countywide and that those with the lowest supply levels will be done first but that the three main depots in the municipal district being Carnew, Baltinglass and Blessington have supplies.

Enquiries were also made about traffic calming measures being put in place in Shillelagh with members stating that a lot of articulated lorries were going through the village to Kerry Foods. Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer, advised the members that within the speed limit zone, counts have been done and that a review was currently being done of the noise and drainage issues and that there were line markings and signs in place.

Members also enquired about the turn at Kilcommon School, Tinahely and were advised that ramps and warning signs were already in place.

5. Proposed Speed Limit Amendments for Baltinglass Municipal District

Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services, advised the members that it is hoped to publish the proposed Speed Limit Amendments early in October and that any members who wished to request an amendment should do so by the end of this week.

6. Discretionary Funding

(i) Contribution towards Coollattin Canadian Visit

The members enquired if the confirmation of expenditure had been submitted by the Carnew Enterprise Centre in respect of the Coollattin Canadian "Homeward Trek" and Ms. Máire Halvey, District Administrator, confirmed that it had and that payment had been made to the group and should be in their bank account today.

(ii) Funding of local groups

The members agreed to advise other local groups in the district to apply for funding in Festivals and Economic Development & Promotion allocations.

7. Any other Business.

(i) Town and Villages Renewal Scheme

Applications are due in by 30th September and submissions should be made to the Cultural, Community and Social Development Section who were making an overall submission for County Wicklow.

(ii) Draft County Development Plan 2016-2022

The members enquired about the rezoning of lands in Baltinglass stating the management wanted it back in the zoning. The members agreed with the original decision not to have the lands zoned industrial. The members were also concerned about zoning of lands around the Abbey Area in Baltinglass and the meeting was advised that the Church of Ireland Parish were concerned regarding future expansion.

(iii) Tidy Towns Awards

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Edward Timmins congratulated the towns and villages in the municipal district and County Wicklow on their achievements in the Supervalu Tidy Towns Awards especially those within the district who had received special awards.

8. Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be on Monday 24th October 2016 at 10.30 a.m. in Civic Offices, Blessington.

SIGNED: Vincent Blake

LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED: Máire Halvey

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED: 24 October 2016