

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices, Blessington on 28TH of November 2017, at 10.30 a.m.

- Present:** Cathaoirleach Vincent Blake
Councillor Jim Ruttle
Councillor Tommy Cullen
- In Attendance:** Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services
Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Ms. Dionne Dixon, District Administrator
Ms. Susan Nichols, Administrative Officer
Ms. Sharon Mulhall, Assistant Staff Officer
- Apologies:** Councillor Edward Timmins
Councillor Pat Doran
Councillor Gerry O'Neill
Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer

1. To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 23rd October 2017

It was proposed by Cllr. Tommy Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Jim Ruttle and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 23rd of October 2017.

Cllr. Blake opened the meeting by congratulating the recent success of various groups in the District. He noted that Blessington has been awarded the Enterprising Town award for Leinster in their category. Cllr Blake noted the great work by the Council Staff and Blessington Forum. Sean Quirke, Director of Services, noted that this award highlighted the strong working relation between the Blessington Forum and Wicklow County Council. Susan Nichols advised the meeting that the Enterprise Town Award Trophy is to be displayed in various business in Blessington. Cllr Blake also congratulated Blessington natives, Sean and Conor Price on their recent appearance on X-Factor.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matter arising

3. To Consider Roads Reports (National and Non National)

A report from Tom O'Leary, Senior Executive Engineer, in relation to the N81 was circulated to the members. The report detailed the works to be carried out at Annalecky should commence in 2018. Works on Knockroe bend will be carried out in 2018. Works in Baltinglass town centre are complete in two outer sections. The remaining works will be carried out when other remedial works are complete. Cllr Cullen asked if there was any update on Hangmans bend. Sean Quirke advised that he may have an update for the next meeting. Cllr Cullen raised the issue of wild deer on the N81 around the Embankment. Cllr Ruttle advised that the over population of deer is a national issue and is under the control of

the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to South Dublin County Council requesting the possibility of erecting more signage and deer fencing. Cllr Cullen also asked what department was responsible for monitoring the Red Kite birds in Wicklow as he felt they were having a detrimental effect on the wild Native Hare population. Dionne is to write to the department with responsibility. Cllr Cullen asked Dermot Graham for an update on the junctions that have been widened for the delivery of wind turbines. Mr Graham advised that both himself and Mr Declan Geraghty had approached some landowners with a view to the keeping the junctions as they currently are. Mr Graham advised that financial compensation will be needed in order for the council to purchase the land. Mr Sean Quirke advised that priority should be given to the worst bends. All works on non national roads are complete.

4. To note the Road Works Programme for 2018

Members are asked to submit requests for roads that they wish to be considered for road works programme for 2018. Submissions to be forwarded to Dionne for December meeting. Members asked for a copy of the current 3 year programme to be circulated.

5. To Consider proposals for hosting a civic reception to recognise achievements within Baltinglass Municipal District

The members agreed to move this issue to the next meeting as some members were not present and may wish to make a submission

6. Any Other Business

Cllr Cullen asked if district was ready for severe winter weather. Mr Quirke advised that the salt stores were full. Cllr Ruttle asked if there were any funds available to be given to Hollywood Lights Committee as they had made a late submission for funds. It was agreed that €500 from Cllr Ruttle's Discretionary Fund would be used. Cllr Blake congratulated Cllr Ruttle on his retirement from the Department of Agriculture and wished him well. Mr Sean Quirke echoed the good wishes on behalf of the staff of Wicklow County Council.

There being no more business Cllr Blake closed the meeting. Next meeting to be held on the 18th of December 2017 in Blessington Civic Offices.

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Signed: 
District Administrator

Dated: 18th December 2017