

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting
of the Municipal District of Baltinglass
Held in Civic Offices, Blessington on 10th June 2019 at 10.30 a.m.**

Present: Councillor Vincent Blake
Councillor Gerry O'Neill
Councillor Edward Timmins
Councillor Patsy Glennon
Councillor John Mullen
Councillor Avril Cronin

In attendance: Mr. Sean Quirke, District Manager
Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer
Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Mr. Garvan Hickey, District Administrator
Ms. Andrea Connolly, A/Assistant Staff Officer

Mr. Sean Quirke, District Manager, opened the meeting by welcoming the elected members and the three new members – Cllr. Patsy Glennon, Cllr. John Mullen and Cllr. Avril Cronin. He noted that this was an historical moment as Cllr. Cronin was the first female Councillor to be elected to the Baltinglass Municipal District. He commented that as a small group, it was important that we all work together for the benefit of the area. He advised members that an extra item was added to the agenda and this item was to appoint a member to Corporate Policy Group.

1. Election of Cathaoirleach

Mr. Sean Quirke called for nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Patsy Glennon nominated Cllr. Gerry O'Neill for the position of Cathaoirleach. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Edward Timmins. There were no other nominations and the members agreed that Cllr. O'Neill be elected as Cathaoirleach. Mr. Sean Quirke congratulated Councillor O'Neill on behalf of all the staff and advised that he looked forward to working with him over the next year as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. O'Neill thanked his proposer and seconder, and said it was a great honour to be elected as Cathaoirleach of Balinglass Municipal District and that he would strive to be fair. He congratulated the other members present on their election and hoped that all would work together in harmony. Cllr. O'Neill also thanked the engineers and staff of Baltinglass Municipal District for their work.

Each member paid tribute to Councillor O'Neill and wished him well for the coming year.

2. Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach called for nominations for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Patsy Glennon was proposed for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach by Councillor John Mullen and this proposal was seconded by Councillor Edward Timmins.

There were no other nominations for the position and the members agreed that Cllr. Glennon be elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach.

3. Appointment of 2 members to the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee

Cllr. Blake advised the members that he was a member of this committee and was willing to step aside if needed. Cllr. Timmins questioned the schedule of meetings and Cllr. Blake informed the members that they met four times a year and meetings coincided with Council meetings. Cllr. Mullen noted that if Cllr. Blake was to stay on as a representative from the south of the district, he suggested that a member from the north of the district be nominated. Cllr. Timmins proposed Cllr. Cronin and Cllr. Glennon seconded this. Cllr. Blake and Cllr. Cronin were duly nominated to County Wicklow Joint Policing Committee.

4. Appointment of 1 member to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

The Cathaoirleach asked if this was a new position for the west but was advised that Cllr. Doran had previously sat on this committee. Mr. Garvan Hickey, District Administrator, gave a brief outline of the objectives of the committee. The Cathaoirleach put forward his name to sit on committee and all members agreed.

5. Appointment of 1 member to Wicklow County Tourism Ltd

Councillor Patsy Glennon was proposed by Councillor John Mullen and this proposal was seconded by Councillor Edward Timmins.

6. Appointment of 1 member to Corporate Policy Group

Mr. Sean Quirke advised the members that there were two options to appoint this member

- i. To appoint a member for the two and a half year period or
- ii. The Cathaoirleach each year would take up the position

He explained that these meetings would be held prior to Council meetings where they would go through each agenda and was quite an important role. Cllr. Blake proposed the Cathaoirleach would take the position and Cllr. O'Neill seconded this. This was agreed unanimously by members.

7. Adoption of Standing Orders

A copy of the Standing Orders was circulated with the agenda and the Cathaoirleach advised members to familiarise themselves with these. Cllr. Timmins questioned if any changes had been made from last year and if districts had more responsibility. Mr. Quirke advised that no changes were made that the standing orders mainly outlined the protocol for meetings. Cllr. Blake proposed the adoption of Standing Orders and Cllr. Mullen seconded these.

8. To agree Schedule of Meetings for July 2019 to May 2020

The Schedule of Meetings as circulated with the agenda was agreed by all elected members. Mr. Hickey, District Administrator, advised the members that the ordinary meeting scheduled for the 24th June would have to be rescheduled as it clashed with the orientation day organised for all County Wicklow councillors. It was agreed by all to reschedule this meeting for Tuesday 18th June and Mr. Hickey would notify all members in writing.

9. Any Other Business

Mr. Quirke, District Manager, advised members that they would be more informed about the workings of the council following their orientation day and explained that certain functions are only dealt with through Wicklow on a central basis. Cllr. Blake advised that new members need to be aware of the Chief Executive's Orders which are available to members to view.

Mr Quirke advised that maps of the District would be circulated to the members within the next few days setting out the engineering and GSS areas.

Cllr. Mullen asked how staffing levels in the district were and Mr. Quirke outlined the difficulties experienced during the downturn when staff numbers were reduced. Cllr. Blake asked Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer, if extra outdoor staff had been taken on in the Tinahely area. Mr. Graham replied that a new staff member had started today on a one year temporary contract but that due to 2 staff members were out on long term sick leave.

The Kiltegan water issue was addressed by Cllr. Mullen who raised concerns over the lack of communication between Irish Water and the Municipal District. He noted that Irish Water should be keeping the District informed on updates on this situation. Cllr. Timmins requested an update on this issue and asked that it be added to the agenda for next meeting.

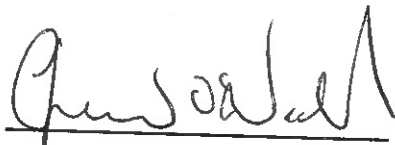
Cllr. Timmins raised the matter of Baltinglass Town Park which has fallen in to disrepair. Mr. Hickey, District Administrator, explained that there were two applications for funding in the process of being submitted, one through Town and Village Renewal Scheme and another through the Outdoor Recreation funding. He advised that this project had been submitted for funding last year but had not been successful. Cllr. Timmins acknowledged that a new lawnmower had been purchased but it was his belief that the boardwalk in the park was a health and safety issue and that the park should be closed. Mr. Graham, Executive Engineer, noted that the boardwalk has been in place for eleven years and is now not fit for purpose and they are trying to maintain the park as best as possible.

Cllr. Blake commented that Baltinglass Municipal District does not have its own Cathaoirleach's chain and that the present one has been borrowed from Wicklow. He suggested that enquiries be made into the costings of a new chain.

Mr. Hickey reminded the members the Blessington Town Team meeting was due to take place the following evening at 5pm and all members were welcome to attend. There was a discussion on membership of the Blessington Town Team,

The Cathaoirleach wished all the best of luck and brought the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass to a close.

Signed:


CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:


DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 18/06/2019

