

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Imaal Dunlavin Community Centre, Dunlavin on 22th October 2018, at 10.30 a.m.

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

In Attendance: Mr. Sean Quirke District Manager
Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer
Ms. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Mr. Derek Cullen, A / Senior Staff Officer
Ms Lisa Moore, Clerical Officer

Apologies: Councillor Pat Doran
Ms. Dionne Dixon, District Administrator

Presentation from Dunlavin Forum

Ms Aisling Grace thanked Ms Dionne Dixon for her assistance to date, on behalf of the Dunlavin Forum and then handed out a sheet highlighting eight critical areas in need of attention within the Dunlavin area.

1. Road markings at the Market House	2. Location of the council yard
3. Lighting at the market House	4. Lighting in the Green Hollow, Playground
5. Water supply in Dunlavin	6. Speed limit reviews
7. Drainage Works in the Graveyard	8. Litter management

Cllr. Timmins responded to Ms Grace on Point 3 with regard to water supply and explained that anyone who obtained planning permission would have 5 years to build and could also apply for an extension to this period. Irish Water would have to honour any commitments made until planning permission would expire. Cllr. Ruttle confirmed that the drainage in the graveyard (Point 4) will go ahead as expected and Mr. Geraghty expects this work to be completed before the end of 2018. Cllr. Ruttle also said that with respect to the lighting at the market house (Point 2) that Mr Brendan Martin should sort out this issue as it is part of the Library. Mr. Geraghty explained that the library light was not a public light and the library would have responsibility for this – Mr. Geraghty is to make contact with Mr Brendan Martin in relation to this issue.

Mr. Geraghty responded to Point 1 by adding that 2 signs were in place and grant funded works must take priority so it will take another month to complete. On Point 6 (lighting in the playground) Mr Geraghty is to organise an electrician to fix lighting until the lights are taken in charge. Speed limit (Point 7) was addressed by Mr Geraghty by suggesting that speed checks to be done and on (Point 8) he would be ensuring that litter on both sides of the street would be collected.

Cllr. Cullen thanked the Dunlavin Forum for their presentation and the voluntary work they have done to date and welcomed the observations highlighted in the presentations as this shows great civic spirit. This gratitude was reiterated by the other Councillors and Mr Sean Quirke.

Ms Grace also thanked the Council for their support to date.

Cllr. G O'Neill through the Chair wanted to acknowledge the tragic deaths in the area of Dunlavin and Donard over the weekend. Motion of Sympathies - all agreed.

1. To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 26th September 2018.

Cllr. Blake proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 23rd July 2018, seconded by Cllr. Timmins.

2. Matters arising.

- a) An email from Ms. L Gallagher SEO was received regarding the request from the BMD to refer the recent decision of the protocol committee to grant permission to Blessington Twinning Committee for the use of the Council Crest. The protocol committee agreed that requests received to use the Council's crest should in the first instance be adjudicated upon by the relevant MD. If the relevant MD recommends the use of the crest then the request is to be referred to the protocol committee for approval.

Cllr. Cullen said the use of the crest was controlled by WCC and should be governed against misuse, this is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting for the acceptance of the proposal.

Cllr O'Neill felt this was a U turn, as no request came forward from all groups seeking grants

- b) An email from Ms. J Carroll SEO requesting approval for the name Sli na Slaine (Slaney Way) for the 34 units at Whitehall, Baltinglass as to give to the utility companies for this development. This was supported by all members.

There was a discussion regarding the receipt of letters from An Post by the members in relation to the closure of the Donard post office, all members expressed disappointment with the decision.

3. To discuss the issue of Social Media comments about Councillors

Item 3 to be deferred as Cllr. Doran was not in attendance.

4. Notice of Motion submitted by councillor Vincent Blake on 24th September 2018

"That we, the members of Baltinglass Municipal District, call on Junior Minister John Halligan, with responsibility for school transport, to resolve the issue of providing sufficient concessionary passes for children attending primary and post primary schools in County Wicklow"

Cllr. Blake noted that there were 15 families affected in the Tinahely area and while Tinahely was in the catchment area of Hackettstown, there is a large number of students from Tinahely attending Carnew and this has been the case for many years. Cllr. Blake proposed a Motion to write to J. Halligan and this was seconded by Cllr. Ruttle

5. To discuss the 400th Anniversary of Kilranelagh Graveyard, Kiltegan.

Cllr. Cullen proposed a joint communal service/ceremony to mark the 400th anniversary of the non domination graveyard in Kilranelagh which is still open to burials and is one of the oldest graveyards in Ireland. Cllr. Cullen would like to see funding being made available next year for works to be carried out on the lane way so that cars can use it.

Cllr Ruttle showed support of this proposal and would like to see a notice board at the entrance with the history of the graveyard and why it is protected and if possible who is buried there.

Cllr. O'Neill also supported the proposal but asked if there is a graveyard committee and should they be invited to the meeting to present to the members their requests. Cllr. Cullen said that he had already met the committee.

Mr D Graham indicated that this road was included on the 3 year roads plan in year 3. However, he did highlight that there has never been budget for the maintenance of graveyards allocated to the Tinahely or Baltinglass as he has had pressures from other closed graveyard committees for maintenance. Cllr Blake suggested investigating if funding could be used from the CLAR fund

6. To consider proposals for Festival Funding.

Mr S Quirke advised the members that €9,000 now remains in the budget. It was agreed that this money should be used for Christmas lighting. Applications for this funding need to be made in writing to the Baltinglass Municipal District before the end of October 2018 for consideration.

7. To consider Roads Reports (national and non-national roads).

Mr. D Geraghty advised that all works on the N81 was now complete.

Cllr. Timmins welcomed the street in Baltinglass is now done and noted that markings were still not complete. Mr. D Geraghty stated that tenders had been prepared for footpaths Safety Improvement, Lackareagh, has been tendered and awarded and works to be completed in 2 weeks.

Mr. D Graham advised that works in his area were mostly completed and should be finished in the next 2-3 weeks. Surface dressing all done. There were three Community Involvement Scheme (CIS), all of which will be completed within the next 3 weeks.

Cllr O'Neill asked regarding the Knockroe bend and was advised that this is now at tender and closed November 7th.

Cllr. Cullen asked if there are adequate reserves of salt and grit available for the winter. Mr. Geraghty advised the depots are full and all is in place. Mr. Quirke advised that operational costs have been received from the Department but that no recoupment of damaged roads repair costs had been received.

Cllr. J. Ruttle thanked Mr. M. Flynn and Mr. Geraghty for his persistence on the work at the Branch junction which is of huge benefit to the area and also would like to thank the land owners for their cooperation. Mr. Geraghty said the junction will be lined on Wednesday 24th October.

Cllr. O'Neill asked if Merginstown road was on the 3 year plan and Mr Geraghty confirmed that it was on year 3 of the 3 year plan but had also been submitted as damaged roads but funding is not going to be as expected. Mr Geraghty also confirmed to the members that Cross Keys road to Tuckmill is also on the 3 year plan.

Cllr. O'Neill asked if there was any progress with reversing the decision TII made on the N81.

Cllr. Cullen responded saying that there had been a very successful RSES meeting and the N81 will now be included as an objective together with links to the M9 from Dunlavin and from Baltinglass and he thanked Cllr. Timmins and Cllr Ruttle (sub committee members) for their involvement in this. Cllr. Timmins explained that decisions are made at a higher level and including this in the regional strategy could help to advance the projects.

8. Any Other Business.


Cllr. Timmins - Letter re Baltinglass LEADER funding for Garden Centre for elderly, men's shed, west and south west Wicklow. Looking for 14,400 ask members consider supporting this.

Cllr. Ruttle and Cllr. O'Neill agreed to will support this in their discretionary funding

Cllr. Blake congratulated the Carnew U17 Minor hurling team and Tinahely on their win over Carnew in the Intermediate Football final. Commiserations to Carnew in both the Intermediate Football and Senior hurling finals.

Commiseration also to the Tinahely Ladies football team, who lost to Clontarf in the Leinster Club championship.

Best Wishes were extended to Ms Dionne Dixon for a speedy recovery.

Signed: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: Garvan Hickey
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 27/11/2016