

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Hollywood Centre, Hollywood on 26th September 2018, at 10.30 a.m.

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

In Attendance: Mr. Fergal Keogh, Acting / District Manager
Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer
Ms. Dionne Dixon, District Administrator
Ms. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Mr. Derek Cullen, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Councillor Pat Doran
Mr. Sean Quirke, District Manager

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tommy Cullen, opened the ordinary meeting.

1. To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 23rd July 2018.

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

Councillor Gerry O' Neill wanted it noted that he did not say he was related to General John O' Neill during the meeting.

Councillor Tommy Cullen and Councillor Edward Timmins stated that this exchange did take place during the meeting

2. To confirm the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 9th August 2018.

Cllr. Edward Timmins proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 9th August 2018, seconded by Cllr. Vincent Blake.

Councillor Gerry O' Neill informed the meeting that he regrets that his proposal, to invite veteran members of the Irish Defence Forces who were involved in The Congo, was not seconded and that this was not recorded at the meeting.

Councillor Tommy Cullen stated that he and Councillor Edward Timmins met with service men recently and that an invite has been extended to them to attend the ceremony in Baltinglass Sunday 4th November.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 20th August 2018.

Cllr. Edward Timmins proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 20th August 2018, seconded by Cllr. Jim Ruttle.

4. Matters Arising

District Administrator, Ms. Dionne Dixon informed the members of the following matters arising.

Use of Wicklow County Council logo

In relation to the Use of the Wicklow County Council crest, Councillor Tommy Cullen asked for clarification on who approved the use of the Wicklow County Council crest at the protocol committee. He also stated that he would like this decision reviewed and referred back to the protocol committee with a recommendation that Blessington Twinning Committee are not permitted to use the logo for the purpose of twinning with O' Neill City, Nebraska.

Councillor Tommy Cullen proposed this recommendation go back to the protocol committee and this was seconded by Councillor Edward Timmins. It was then put to a vote.

VOTE	
For	Against
<i>Councillor Tommy Cullen</i>	<i>Councillor Vincent Blake</i>
<i>Councillor Edward Timmins</i>	<i>Councillor Gerry O' Neill</i>
<i>Councillor Jim Ruttle</i>	

Councillor Tommy Cullen stated that he doesn't want the Wicklow County Council logo given to some group who are associated with a historical terrorist invasion of Canada through General O' Neill. He added that this shouldn't be associated with Blessington.

Councillor Edward Timmins also stated that he has serious reservations about twinning Blessington with O' Neill City, Nebraska, U.S.A and the plan to twin with Nebraska is completely premature.

Councillor Gerry O' Neill stated that he has seen both Councillor Cullen and Councillor Timmins celebrating the lives of 'so-called terrorists' in Michael Dwyer and Michael Collins as they had similar roles in the history of this country. He also added that the Catholic Church did a lot for the Irish in Nebraska at this time.

Tourism Projects 2018

The District Administrator, Ms. Dionne Dixon, informed the members of correspondence received from the Community, Cultural and Social Development department in Wicklow County Council.

It advised that the proposal submitted in respect of tourism projects for the Baltinglass Municipal District was approved by the Community and Cultural SPC at a meeting held on 10th September 2018.

This proposal stated the following *'One third to be spent on the provision of tourism signage in the Tinahely area, one third to be spent on the provision of tourism signage in the Blessington area and one third to be spent on the provision of a water feature for Baltinglass Square to enhance the public space.'*

The correspondence added that the members be advised that projects submitted for approval should be a single project rather than a combination of different projects. It was agreed to approve the proposal this year but that in future (subject to available funding) only single project proposals would be approved.

Commemoration Ceremony

District Administrator, Ms. Dionne Dixon informed the members that she had received a reply on behalf of the Defence Forces Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Mark Mellet. This correspondence wished to thank the Baltinglass Municipal District members for the kind invitation to the commemoration ceremony that is being held on 4th November 2018 in Baltinglass but unfortunately, due to prior commitments, the Chief of Staff will be unable to attend. However, a member of the Defence Forces will attend as a representative of the Chief of Staff on the day.

Ms. Dixon also informed the meeting that Baltinglass Municipal District is looking for approval from the members to invite Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to the planned Commemoration Ceremony at Baltinglass, 4th November 2018.

Cllr. Edward Timmins proposed that this invite be extended to Garda Commissioner Harris and this was seconded by Cllr. Jim Ruttle.

5. Discussion with Sorcha Walsh, Senior Planner regarding the draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES).

Ms. Sorcha Walsh, Senior Planner, informed the members of the draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy. She stated that the Regional Assembly are tasked with preparing a Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy which will replace the current Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022. She also stated that the Regional Executive had carried out public consultation earlier in the year and had subsequently engaged in workshops with various stakeholders throughout 2018, including local authorities, infrastructure providers, Government departments and other agencies such as employment agencies, with a view to preparing a draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy.

Ms. Walsh added that this process was still in train and that she understood that a proposed draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy was to be issued to the members of the regional assembly this week. She also advised that she could not advise regarding the content of same as this proposed draft had not been finalised or published.

In response to questions raised by the members Ms. Sorcha Walsh advised that:

- The only population figures available are in the National Planning Framework and this includes the population for the county.
- It would appear that there will be no targets in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for towns and villages except for Bray as a larger town and Wicklow as the County Town.
- The Minister has not explicitly stated that the Council has to review or amend the county development plan.
- The County Development plan exists in a hierarchy of plans and the Council must have regard to these plans.
- The working papers to date haven't referred to anything outside of Bray and Wicklow relating to population growth.

Mr. Fergal Keogh also added the following:

- There is no superseding plan and there is no priority given as such.
- If there is a new core strategy in place then limiting growth would be a concern.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tommy Cullen requested that the members write to the T.D's regarding this issue. This was agreed by the other members.

The members thanked Sorcha Walsh for her attendance.

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

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tommy Cullen proposed to the meeting that legal advice is sought from the Law Agents Department in Wicklow County Council regarding defamation in the use of Social Media. This was seconded by Councillor Edward Timmins.

Councillor Gerry O' Neill stated that he did not support this proposal and stated that he wants to go through the minutes from that meeting and he would like his name removed from any suggestions of wrongdoing. A vote was then called for on the matter.

Vote	
For	Against
<i>Councillor Tommy Cullen</i>	<i>Councillor Gerry O' Neill</i>
<i>Councillor Edward Timmins</i>	
<i>Councillor Jim Ruttle</i>	
<i>Councillor Vincent Blake</i>	

The Acting District Manager, Mr. Fergal Keogh stated that Wicklow County Council is bound by its own social media policy and what the members are requesting needs to be narrowed down. Mr. Keogh then suggested that this item be deferred until another meeting as Councillor Pat Doran was not in attendance.

The members were in favour of this suggestion.

Councillor Gerry O' Neill then stated that he wished to make a statement to reply to comments made against him on this issue.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tommy Cullen, informed Councillor Gerry O' Neill that he would not allow this as the matter has been deferred.

A disagreement ensued between Councillor Gerry O' Neill and The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tommy Cullen and as a result the meeting was adjourned for fifteen minutes by the Cathaoirleach.

Upon the recommencement of the meeting, Councillor Gerry O' Neill stated that he wanted it recorded in the minutes that Acting District Manager, Mr. Fergal Keogh offered a compromise and Councillor Tommy Cullen had rejected this.

Councillor Tommy Cullen rejected this comment and stated that the meeting is moving to the next item on the agenda.

7. To discuss Footpaths, the Speed limit at Hollywood Cross and the Bus Stop in Hollywood and the footpaths at Donard School.

District Engineer, Mr. Declan Geraghty gave the members a progress report on these issues.

Councillor Jim Ruttle requested that the Council expedite the matter relating to the Bus Stop in Hollywood and asked if we could write to the T.I.I. Councillor Ruttle also asked if we could have a revised plan on what can be done.

Councillor Edward Timmins proposed that Baltinglass Municipal District Council write to the T.I.I. in relation to changing the speed limit at Hollywood Cross on the N81 to 80KM. This was seconded by Councillor Jim Ruttle.

8. To discuss the closure of the Post Offices in Donard and Coolboy.

In relation to the proposed closure of the Post Offices in Donard and Coolboy, the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tommy Cullen proposed that a Special Meeting be held in Donard Community Hall on Wednesday 3rd October 2018. Councillor Cullen also proposed that Baltinglass Municipal District council write to the relevant authorities to state this council's opposition to the closures. This was seconded by Councillor Edward Timmins.

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

District Engineer, Mr. Declan Geraghty gave the members a progress report on the roads reports.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tommy Cullen requested a report for the next meeting.

Councillor Gerry O' Neill asked for an update on the footpaths and Main Street in Blessington.

District Engineer, Mr. Declan Geraghty stated that the works will be finished before the end of the year.

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

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

11. To consider application for financial support from South Wicklow Drama Festival Committee.

District Administrator, Ms. Dionne Dixon informed the members that correspondence had been received by the South Wicklow Drama Festival Committee (letter received was read to the members), in which this Committee are seeking funding of a grant of €5,000 for St. Brigid's Hall, Carnew.

Councillor Vincent Blake stated that the council made a promise of a €15,000 contribution to this group over two years and this request is for the final €5,000. Councillor Blake proposed that the request for financial support from the South Wicklow Drama Festival Committee be granted. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Tommy Cullen.

12. Correspondence.

District Administrator, Ms. Dionne Dixon informed the members that correspondence had also been received from Kiltegan Drama Group in relation to a request for a donation towards a play they are planning to perform.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tommy Cullen proposed €1,000 donation is made to the Kiltegan Drama Group in relation to this request. This was seconded by Councillor Edward Timmins.

13. Any Other Business.

District Administrator, Ms. Dionne Dixon informed the members that at the Cathaoirleach's suggestion, a motion by Councillor Vincent Blake -

"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"

- will be included on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Councillor Vincent Blake wished Ms. Sharon Mulhall, Assistant Staff Officer all the best in her new role in Wicklow County Council. This was shared by the other members.

Councillor Gerry O' Neill stated that he would like to wish the Hollywood Senior G.A.A team all the best in their fixture against St. Patricks G.A.A, Wicklow Town in the semi-finals of the County Wicklow G.A.A. football championship.

Signed:


CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:


DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated:

27/11/2018