

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices, Blessington on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019, at 10.30 a.m.**

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

**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

- 1. To confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**

Cllr. Blake proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and this was seconded by Cllr. Timmins.

- 2. To confirm and sign minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

Cllr. Blake proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and this was seconded by Cllr. O'Neill.

**3. To confirm and sign minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

Cllr. Blake proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and this was seconded by Cllr. Timmins.

**4. To confirm and sign minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Cllr. Mullen proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 this was seconded by Cllr. Cronin.

**5. Matters Arising**

***Allotments in Blessington***

Cllr. Timmins enquired if there had been an update on the allotments in Blessington following the Baltinglass Municipal District meeting in April. Mr Garvan Hickey, District Administrator, advised the members that a meeting was scheduled for next week and he would have an update for the next meeting.

***Part 8 Housing in Shillelagh***

Cllr. O'Neill enquired if there was an update on the part 8 housing application in Shillelagh. Mr. Garvan Hickey, District Administrator, advised members that there was no update on this but would make enquiries with the Housing Section.

***Estate Development Grants***

Cllr Timmins proposed an amendment to the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May. He proposed to include the following wording in part 2 of the minutes: "that all expenditure has an audit trail showing where the money was spent and procedural guidelines are followed." All members were in agreement of this amendment.

Cllr. Blake asked if the Estate Development Grants had been given out and Mr. Garvan Hickey explained that he was awaiting the return of declaration forms from each estate but

did suggest that a date be organised for this event in the near future. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. O'Neill, suggested that each Councillor would distribute these grants to the estates in their own areas but Cllr. Timmins proposed that two events, one for the successful estates in the south of the district and one for the north, take place as was the usual protocol. Cllr. Glennon suggested that the Cathaoirleach and Councillors from respective areas would attend each event. This was seconded by Cllr. Blake and all members were in agreement.

## **6. Correspondence**

Mr. Garvan Hickey informed the members that at the previous Special Meetings held it was agreed that a letter be sent to Minister Eoghan Murphy and the five TD's in Wicklow asking for their support on the inclusion of the N81 in the EMRA report. This letter was sent and a reply was received from the Ministerial Office which Mr. Hickey read out.

Cllr. Mullen asked for a copy of this letter to be distributed to all members and questioned when the four week period started. He stated that it was a matter of urgency to clarify when this four week window began, for amendments to be made, as it was not clear from the correspondence. Mr. Hickey advised members the letter received was an acknowledgement of receipt of Baltinglass Municipal District's request but would seek clarification on when this period began. Mr. Sean Quirke, District Manager, advised members that the EMRA report would be reviewed and if the N81 is excluded, the upgrade of the relief road in Blessington should be considered and funding sought. It was agreed that the District Administrator would write back to the Minister urging to keep N81 upgrade works to the top of the list as it is the only road out of Dublin not be upgraded and is of vital economic and social importance. This was proposed by Cllr. Glennon and seconded by Cllr. Timmins. The Cathaoirleach advised members that this item could be further discussed under item 8 on the agenda.

## **7. To consider National and Non National Roads Reports**

Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer presented a report to the meeting on non national and national roads and copies of same were distributed to the members. He advised members that road improvements works were ongoing at present and the road maintenance programme had started in Blessington area and would be ongoing for approximately two weeks and once finished, works would begin in the Tinahely area. Cllr. Blake questioned when works would

commence on Kevin Street in Tinahely and Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer, informed him once the crews were finished works in Cappagh they would move on to Kevin Street. Cllr. Blake also commended works that were completed last year on the Coolkenno Road but 200 metres on the Coolkenno side remained unfinished and questioned if this section would be completed this year. Mr. Graham replied if budgets permitted then these works would be completed.

Cllr. Blake raised concern over the junction at Killavaney, Tinahely and asked if improvement works on this could be looked at. Mr. Dermot Graham outlined the works that were required at this junction including linemarking, signs and footpaths needed reviewing. Cllr. Mullen echoed Cllr. Blakes concerns on Killavaney junction and noted that Ballybeg House, a busy wedding venue, was nearby which caused extra traffic on this junction. He questioned the three year roads programme and asked if these works were included on it. A discussion followed on the three year roads plan and both engineers outlined the procedure on how roads are rated and included in this plan. It was agreed that a copy of the three year plan would be circulated to members and it was noted that the programme can be amended to take into account the impact of severe weather conditions.

Cllr. O'Neill asked if a review of the speed limits was due to take place. Mr. Sean Quirke, District Manager, replied that the county review had been done a number of years ago and advised that in the absence of a speed limit being included in the byelaws, all roads defaulted to a limit of 80 km per hour. Cllr. Glennon raised concerns over the speed limits on the N81 at the Manor Kilbride junction and enquired if a traffic calming measure could be installed. Cllr. O'Neill advised members that this had been looked at numerous times in the past and proposed that members views on this should be submitted to TII in writing. Cllr. Timmins also raised concerns over the Crehelp junction at Knockrue and deemed this as a very dangerous junction. Mr. Geraghty explained that TII check all junctions and if there is a history of accidents at these then TII will decide on improvements. Cllr. Blake advised members that a document had been issued from the Department of Transport on speed limits a while back and suggested that this document be circulated to all members as it contained a lot of useful information.

After much discussion on road safety on the N81 and different junctions it was agreed that all members initially submit their concerns on the following junctions: Knockroe, Hollywood and the Lamb at the next Baltinglass Municipal District meeting in July. This motion was proposed by Cllr. Glennon and seconded by Cllr. Timmins. Cllr. O'Neill noted that it was important that all concerns are documented. It was agreed that a letter would be drafted to the TII following the July meeting outlining all the concerns regarding junctions on the N81.

Cllr. O'Neill raised concerns over the Local Improvement Schemes. He commended the great work that has been done through these schemes but did note that if one person out of ten objects then it can cause problems and hold up schemes. Mr. Sean Quirke gave a brief outline of the protocol for Community Involvement Schemes and the Local Improvement Schemes.

Mr. Declan Geraghty outlined the works on the National Roads Report. He advised members that contractors were due to begin works on Knockroe in August. Cllr. Timmins questioned works on the footpaths at Edward Street, Baltinglass and urged that they be looked at. Mr. Declan Geraghty advised that funding for these works had been submitted but has not been formally approved yet.

#### **8. To consider the development of a Baltinglass Municipal District Health Check**

Notes were distributed to the members on the development of a Baltinglass Municipal District Health Check for their consideration. Cllr. O'Neill explained that the development of a Health Check for the area should include any major issues or concerns that impede on development of the Baltinglass Municipal District. This Health Check can then provide the basis for the development of a workplan for the Municipal District for the next five years.

After some discussion all members welcomed this development and it was agreed that each member send their ideas to Mr. Hickey, District Administrator, who will then draft a plan and will include on agenda for next meeting.

## **9. To discuss Kiltegan water Supply**

Cllr. O'Neill asked if there had been any update on the water issue in Kiltegan. Mr. Sean Quirke, District Manager, informed the members that there was a strong possibility that the boil water notice would be lifted in Kiltegan by the end of the month and that works were ongoing on the installation of a water infiltration system. Cllr. Mullen raised concerns over the lack of communication from Irish Water and noted that Kiltegan had been on a boil water notice since the 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. Cllr. Mullen proposed writing to Irish Water over the lack of communication to Local Authorities as Irish Water are not keeping members informed. Cllr. Cronin noted that it was important that Irish Water take the concerns on board and pointed out that it IW should be aware of our dissatisfaction with the level of communication.

## **10. To receive a briefing on the Tinahely Recycling Centre Part 8 Application**

Mr Garvan Hickey presented a briefing on the Tinahely Recycling Centre Part 8 Application to the members which had been circulated to all. Cllr. Blake questioned the timeline of this project. Mr. Hickey advised members that the planning application was the first stage and that the advertisement would be submitted next Wednesday and plans of development on public display in Blessington & Tinahely Area Offices, and from the library in Tinahely. There would be four weeks of public consultation and submissions could be accepted up to 20<sup>th</sup> August. Mr. Hickey advised members that a special meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District would need to be arranged for the first two weeks in September to consider the Part 8 Application. This was agreed by members.

## **11. Any other business**

Cllr. Blake questioned the number of outdoor staff within the Baltinglass Municipal District. Mr. Graham, Executive Engineer, advised that there had been two new general operatives appointed a one year temporary contract in the Tinahely area. Mr. Geraghty explained that additional funding is required for extra staff requirements.

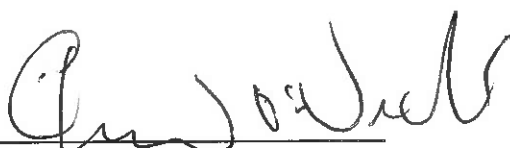
Cllr. Cronin advised that Dunlavin & District Forum had requested, by email, an update on drainage works and on the council yard in Dunlavin. Mr. Geraghty advised that drainage works would commence in August and that the council yard could not be relocated until a replacement was sourced. Cllr. Glennon noted that the Dunlavin Tidy Towns proposed erecting fencing around the council yard as a short term solution. Mr. Hickey advised members that costings had been sought to plant hedging and erect fencing around the council depot in Dunlavin.

Cllr. Glennon proposed a review of public services within the Municipal Districts and to work to get them restored for the benefit of the community. Cllr. O'Neill suggested that this could be included in the Baltinglass Municipal District Health Check.

Mr. Hickey asked if all members had been set up on emails and if they were included on the members group email. It was agreed that e mails to be members would also use their private e mail addresses until the Council e mail became fully operational. .

There being no other business the Cathaoirleach closed the meeting and reminded members that next meeting would be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July in Blessington Civic Offices.

Signed:

  
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated:

24/07/2018

