

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices, Blessington on 28th January 2019, 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. Sean Quirke, District Manager
Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer
Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Mr. Derek Cullen, Assistant Staff Officer
Ms. Andrea Connolly, Clerical Officer
Ms. Noreen Ardill, HOPE Cottage

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

1. To confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 18th December 2018.

Cllr. Jim Ruttle proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 18th December 2018 and this was seconded by Cllr. Vincent Blake.

2. Matters Arising.

Amendment

Cllr. Vincent Blake pointed out that it was recorded in the minutes of December meeting that he had referred to water and sewerage issues being unique to Carnew but it was in fact Tinahely he was referring to and he requested that this be amended.

Traffic Lights

Cllr. Edward Timmins asked if the timing of the pedestrian lights in Dunlavin had been corrected.

Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer, stated that the timing had been corrected and increased to 7 seconds.

Public Lighting

Cllr. Jim Ruttle raised the issue of public lighting at the football field in Blessington.

Mr. Declan Geraghty stated that three lights were working but seven lights were not. He added that he was awaiting a response from the Planning Department on how to proceed.

Blessington Local Area Plan

Cllr. Gerry O'Neill requested an informal meeting of the members to discuss the Blessington Town Plan before the Special Meeting to be held on 8th February so members can discuss their opinions and air their concerns.

Mr. Sean Quirke, District Manager, advised members that the matter could be included on the agenda for the proposed special meeting.

Following a discussion between the members it was agreed that any concerns or requests should be put in writing to Sorcha Walsh in the Planning department to review before the special meeting. All members were in agreement of this.

3. Presentation from Hope Cottage

Ms. Noreen Ardill, Regional Family Support Co-ordinator, from Hope Cottage gave an overview of the services provided by Hope Cottage. She described how they work with families living with drug and alcohol misuse and how their support services are provided in a confidential and safe manner. Ms. Ardill also spoke about the challenges facing the group, which includes the following; staff shortages, funding and the difficulties with sustaining a regular outreach service in the West Wicklow area. It was also noted that Hope Cottage is the only family support group within the North Kildare to Wicklow border. Ms. Ardill finished by thanking the members for their time and for the opportunity to make them aware of the

services provided by Hope Cottage and if the members were in a position to offer any funding it would be extremely helpful

The members thanked Ms. Ardhill for the presentation and then raised the following points:

- How many clients from the West Wicklow area in use of this service approximately?
- There is support for an Outreach centre in West Wicklow but what kind of funding is required?
- Is this service linked in with the Drugs Task Force in Blessington? It is difficult to get people involved in this task force but there is a problem and it needs to be addressed.

Ms. Ardhill replied to the members with the following:

- Between 10 and 15 clients are referred from the West Wicklow area and in most cases it was the mother who initiates their support.
- Similar application has been made to Kildare County Council and funding was granted through Local Property Tax.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tommy Cullen commended Ms. Ardill on her excellent presentation and informed that she could now proceed with her application for funding on behalf of Hope Cottage.

4. To discuss the development of a walkway from Blessington Ring Road to Glending Woods.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tommy Cullen noted that access to Glending Woods on the Naas Road is highly dangerous and that the public who walk this route are at risk. He proposed that Baltinglass Municipal District carry out a survey on access routes. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Edward Timmins.

Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer, indicated that the nearest point of contact is through the GAA football pitch or through private property. He added that he will have to research the matter further and revert with suggestions to the members.

A discussion followed with all members in unanimous agreement that this matter required attention as it was a hazard to pedestrians. Cllr. Blake highlighted the work that Brian

Fennell from Wicklow Partnership has done in negotiating with landowners in the Tinahely area and recommended getting in touch with him. Cllr. Cullen noted that this would not be resolved immediately and it was agreed to wait for Mr. Geraghty's report on the matter.

5. To consider the Roads Report (National and Non-National Roads)

Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer presented a report to the meeting on non national roads and copies of same were distributed to the members. He advised the members that funding has been provided by TII for the retrofitting along the N81 of old timber post and rail fencing. The majority of fencing is made up of timber post and rail and these are a contributory factor in accidents and as such will be replaced with X Fencing. Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer, gave a detailed description of X Fencing and explained that an example of this can be found at Sruhaun junction.

Cllr. Edward Timmins raised the following points:

- Concerns in relation to the €750,000 allocated to Hangman's Bend, Irishtown and Knockroe Bend. The members stated that this money has been allocated to a project in Wicklow but is being dealt with from TII's Design Office in Naas.
- Request a report from the TII on how they propose to spend this money?
- Is the €250,000 funding for each project for reports?

These points were reiterated by the other members.

Mr. Sean Quirke, District Manager, advised that a quarterly report can be requested from TII. Mr. Quirke also advised that he considered the €250,000 was for survey and design work to progress the proposals.

Cllr. Blake advised the members that when he met with the Minister for Transport and the Roads Authority last year they had advised him that an upgrade of the N81 was unlikely but to pursue the upgrade of the Ring Road in Blessington and apply for funding.

Mr. Geraghty, District Engineer, advised the members that regular meetings are held with TII and they are kept up to date on these projects. He added that TII only fund national roads and that the Ring Road is not regarded as a national road.

Cllr. Cullen proposed requesting a quarterly report from TII in order to monitor progress on these projects and this was seconded by Cllr. Timmins.

Cllr. O'Neill proposed that the Ring Road in Blessington be prioritised for funding as it would ease some of the traffic from the Main Street. Cllr. Ruttle seconded this proposal..

A discussion then followed on funding for the Blessington Ring Road.

Mr. Declan Geraghty advised the members that funds have not been allocated yet with regards to the Non National Roads Report. Cllr. Blake raised concerns over how badly damaged some of the footpaths in Tinahely were and queried if funding could be set aside.

Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer, gave a detailed report on works that had been completed on Kelly's Hill and these had included footpath repairs.

Cllr. Timmins queried works on footpaths in Baltinglass and Mr. Graham replied that footpath works would be starting within the next month and would cover the area from O'Reilly Stores to the first cul de sac at Lathaleere.

Cllr. Ruttle enquired if there had been any update on the Hollywood and Donard footpaths.

Mr. Declan Geraghty reported that he had met with landowners and the Fisheries Board and they looked at diverting the stream. He indicated that they would now draw up a design and costings and he would have available for next month's meeting.

6. To discuss the erection and repair of public lighting in the Baltinglass Municipal District area.

Cllr. Gerry O'Neill enquired if the lights issue in Deerpark, Baltginlass had been sorted.

Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer, reported that the connection agreement with ESB was delaying the matter. Mr. Geraghty also gave a detailed report on outstanding public light works from 2017 and 2018 and advised the members that during 2019 three public lights in Lathaleere, Baltinglass and three lights in Talbotstown were requested by the members under discretionary funding

7. To discuss grant funding for groups in the Baltinglass Municipal District area.

Cllr. Timmins noted that a lot of funding has been made available to Baltinglass Municipal District through Town Renewal, Urban Renewal and LEADER and this is very visible in area. He enquired if it was possible to get a list of all funding that has been made available to each group in the area as it would better inform the members in making decisions on funding and ensure the allocation of funds be more transparent.

Cllr. Timmins then proposed that Baltinglass Municipal District be made aware of all funding granted to groups through Wicklow County Council. Cllr. O'Neill seconded this proposal and all members agreed unanimously.

8. Discretionary Funding

District Manager, Mr Sean Quirke, advised the members that the district administrator would provide a full report on the members discretionary funding for the February ordinary meeting.

9. Correspondence

Mr. Derek Cullen, Assistant Staff Officer, advised the members that a letter had been received from West Wicklow Festival requesting funding of €5,000 in order to support delivery of the 2019 Festival. He added that the District Administrator, Mr. Garvan Hickey, is proposing to seek funding for this from the Arts Office and will revert with a decision on whether funding can be obtained at the February Ordinary meeting.

10. Any other business

Cllr. Ruttle queried if there had been an update on the email received from Ms. Antoinette Whelan from Dunlavin and District Forum on 25th January.

Mr. Declan Geraghty advised the members that District Administrator, Mr. Garvan Hickey, would respond in due course and email would be distributed to members at the next meeting in February.

Condolences

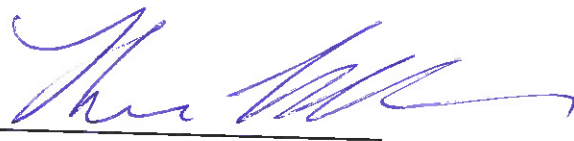
The members offered their condolences to District Administrator, Mr. Garvan Hickey on the death of his Uncle.

Invitation

Cllr. Gerry O'Neill informed the members that he had been invited to act as Grand Marshall at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in city of Omaha, Nebraska...

There being no other business, Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tommy Cullen concluded the meeting.

Signed:



CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated:

25/2/2019.

