

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Courthouse Baltinglass, 09th August 2018, at 1.30 p.m.

Present	In Attendance
Cathaoirleach Tommy Cullen	Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services
Councillor Edward Timmins	Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer
Councillor Jim Ruttle	Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Councillor Gerry O'Neill	Ms. Dionne Dixon, District Administrator
Councillor Vincent Blake	Ms. Lisa Moore, Clerical Officer
Councillor Pat Doran	
Apologies: None	

Cathaoirleach T. Cullen thanked all for attending.

1. To consider approval for the erection of a memorial stone in the Baltinglass Town Centre, in proximity to the McAllister/Dwyer monument for Private Michael McGuinn and Garda Patrick O'Halloran to be unveiled on Sunday 4th November 2018 at 12 midday and to consider approval of the written request from Baltinglass Municipal District to the Defence Forces for a Colour Party, Bugler, Piper and Drummer to attend the commemoration Ceremony.

Copy of draft written request was attached

Cllr. Cullen proposed the erection of a memorial stone in honour of both men who died for the state and felt that it was fitting that we honour these men and it is also the anniversary of the Irish Army's involvement in the United Nations; this was seconded by Cllr. Timmins. All Councillors gave their unanimous agreement and support.

Cllr. O'Neill suggested that out of courtesy, that the Baltinglass Forum be consulted with regards to the location of the monument and also be invited to the unveiling. Cllr. Cullen expressed that time was of the essence and a decision needed to be made today.

Mr. Quirke requested that the wording and costing of work be agreed.

Cllr. Timmins said that he would get the wording agreed for the plaque for Garda O Halloran and Cllr. Cullen agreed that he would get the wording for Private Michael McGuinn and the wording would be along the lines of a similar monument in Carlow for Lt. Kevin Gleeson.

The wordings for both plaques are to be forward by email to Mr. Quirke.

Mr. Quirke confirmed that the request for the colour party from the defence forces would be send immediately after the meeting.

2. To consider approval for the naming of the Town Park in Baltinglass "McGuinn Park" in honour of Private Michael McGuinn who was born and raised adjacent to the Town Park at Parkmore, Baltinglass.

Cllr. Cullen proposed and Cllr. Timmins seconded the proposal to name the Town Park in Baltinglass "McGuinn Park".

Cllr. Ruttle made the suggestion that a plaque explaining the reason for the naming of the park be erected also.

3. To discuss how to spend the €10,000 Tourist Grant

Mr. Quirke informed that applications for the €10,000 tourism grant would be required before the next SPC meeting due 10th September and that grant money allocated would need to be spent by the end of the year or lose it.

Mr. Geraghty suggested using the €10,000 along with an additional €3,000 from the parks budget could be used to upgrade and resurface the Baltyboys car park which would provide approx. 35 car park spaces and erect a new car park signage, he also confirmed that these lands are owned by the council. Cllr. Ruttle would like to see the car park in Baltyboys looked at again in the future.

Mr. Graham proposed to split the €10,000 between the two engineer's areas of Blessington and Tinahely and to erect and upgrade tourism signs in both areas.

Cllr. Timmins proposed to split the monies three ways (Blessington, Baltinglass and Tinahely/Carnew) and was seconded by Cllr. J Ruttle. Cllr. Timmins suggested for Baltinglass a water feature. Mr. Quirke advised that the water feature may end up being dug up again if an application under the rural regeneration fund for Baltinglass square was successful.

Cllr. Doran, Cllr. Ruttle and Cllr. Blake also agreed to divide the money three ways.

Cllr. Doran was in favour of using the money for upgrading signage in the Tinahely/Carnew area.

Cllr Cullen asked if there was any update from Airtricity with regarding to the instillation of street lighting from last year's discretionary funding.

Mr. Graham confirmed that he had met with Airtricity on the 7th August and civil works were to start in the next 2-3 weeks.

Cllr. Ruttle had received correspondence from Hollywood and wanted to know if September's Municipal District meeting could be held in Hollywood Hall – All councillors were in agreement.

4. AOB

Cllr. Doran brought it to the attention of all present, that he had been contacted by a number of media organisations a number of weeks previous, to comment about allegations regarding crooked Councillors in the Baltinglass Municipal District Area.

Cllr. Doran said that he replied to these enquires that he didn't know anything about these allegations. Cllr. Doran requested that this topic be added to the agenda for the next Municipal District Meeting on 24th September as it is a very serious allegation and one that he personally finds very offensive and upsetting.

Cllr. G O'Neill seconded that proposal and it was agreed.

Cllr. G O'Neill asked the assembled councillors if anyone else had been approached by any media outlets regarding this issue. There was no response from the other attending councillors to this query.

Cllr. Doran indicated that he had been advised that these allegations had been published on social media and the internet, media tools with which he indicated he has little knowledge

and experience with. Cllr. Doran when pressed by Cllr. O'Neill as to who was alleged to have made these allegations of crooked councillors, responded to Cllr O'Neill that he (Cllr. Doran) was informed that it was Cllr. O'Neill who had allegedly made the allegations.

Cllr. O'Neill refuted that he was the source of such an allegation, and indicated that he wanted this allegation withdrawn and that he wanted this minuted. He denied in the strongest terms of having anything to do with allegations on Facebook or other digital media about crooked Councillors. When Cllr. Cullen asked Cllr. O'Neill if he published anything on Facebook regarding these allegations, Cllr. O'Neill repeated his previous rebuttal.

It was agreed at this stage that the matter would be more fulsomely discussed when it is raised on the agenda at the next meeting.

Cllr. O'Neill asked if Minister Andrew Doyle had given any update in relation to a meeting regarding the N81, with Minister Ross and local councillors. Cllr. Cullen asked had the District Administrator received a reply to correspondence to the Minister regarding a meeting. Ms. D Dixon indicated that she had written on multiple occasions to the Minister and had received no further reply since the letter received on the 4th July which had been discussed at the July meeting. Cllr. Cullen requested that the District Administrator urgently write to Minister Ross regarding the scheduling of a meeting with the elected representatives of Baltinglass Municipal District.

Mr Quirke advised that permission had been granted for permission for the use of the Courthouse to the West Wicklow Historical Society for the hosting of a musical performance on Wednesday 26th September @ 8pm if the members would be interested in attending. There being no more business Cllr Cullen closed the meeting. The next meeting will be the scheduled September Municipal District meeting.

Signed: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: 
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 26 September 2018

