

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Civic Offices,
Blessington on 25th June 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, Director of Services
Mr. Declan Geraghty, District Engineer
Mr Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Ms. Dionne Dixon, District Administrator
Ms. Sharon Mulhall, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Councillor Pat Doran

1. To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 28th of May 2018.

Cllr. Vincent Blake proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 28th of May 2018, seconded by Cllr. Edward Timmins

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

3. To consider Road Report (National and Non National)

A report on the national and non national roads was circulated to the meeting and Mr Declan Geraghty advised the meeting that road improvement works were ongoing in the Blessington area and were due to start in the Tinahely area soon. The surface dressing's works in the area are due to start, weather permitting, on Wednesday 27th of June in the Blessington Area. Mr Geraghty advised the meeting in relation to national roads that archaeological investigations were concluded at Knockroe bends and works will be going out to tender. He also advised that resurfacing works were to take place in four areas on the N81, two of these areas have contracts awarded and two are out for tender. Mr Geraghty also advised that resurfacing works are to take place in Baltinglass town on the N81. Cllr Timmins asked if the repairs to footpaths in Baltinglass at Edward Street and Mill Street were to form part of this works. Mr Geraghty advised that resurfacing works only were planned. Mr Sean Quirke advised that the resurfacing works would be funded by TII and that improvement of pedestrian facilities by the NTA. Mr Dermot Graham advised the meeting that works to identify perceived accident "hotspots" for footpath repairs in Baltinglass was ongoing.

4. To Discuss Municipal District Discretionary Funds- Proposed Works

A report on the proposed works with the discretionary funds was circulated. All members agreed to the proposed works and works will commence on the individual projects.

5. To Review the Wicklow County Council Burial Grounds Policy

The burial ground policy that had previously been before the members at the ordinary meeting of September 2017 was circulated. The members agreed that on item 3 of the policy in relation to new extensions – Lawn Cemetery Style that they still want the amendment to the burial ground policy that was submitted in September 2017 namely:-

"That the traditional burial policy is to remain in Rathbran cemetery with regard to the placement of headstones and that Rathbran cemetery be left as open plan, not a lawn cemetery."

The members were advised that this would necessitate the removal of existing foundation plinths for headstones and that no finance had been provided for these works.

Cllr Blake proposed that on item 8 – Capital Programme, in relation to the graveyard at Knockananna the following line be removed:-

"Only option for additional spaced is if the Church developed their graveyard but not something the Local Authority will be involved in."

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Timmins.

Cllr Ruttle also asked that the District be given assurances in relation to item 8 of the burial grounds policy when finalised namely the following item:

"Baltyboys and Templeboden, Can be served by works at Burgage and new extensions already at Manor Kilbride. In addition all local options to extend graveyard will be explored."

Cllr O'Neill enquired about the removal of trees at Burgage cemetery in Blessington and he was advised by Mr Geraghty that this would be costly and that not funds were currently available to carry out this work.

6. To discuss contribution towards Blessington Twinning Committee proposed Twinning with O'Neill City Nebraska

Correspondence had been received from the Blessington Twinning Committee requesting funding support from Baltinglass Municipal District to assist them in their efforts to advance a twinning proposal with O'Neill City in Nebraska, U.S.A. Cllr Timmins advised that he felt that maybe the project needed to be more advanced before funds were made available and he also highlighted the need for full public support for the twinning project. Cllr Cullen advised the meeting that he also had reservations about allocating funding to this particular project as he felt that they history of O'Neill City founder was not something that Wicklow County Council should be associated with. Cllr O'Neill advised that O'Neill City had passed a resolution in relation to twinning with Blessington. Cllr O'Neill advised that the Blessington and District forum had unanimously backed the twinning project and he advised the twinning would proceed with or without the backing of the council. A lengthy discussion then followed where the members discussed the twinning proposal and also whether an alternative twinning project with Brittany could be explored. It was also noted that the decision to grant financial support from the Twinning Budget to Blessington Twinning Committee had been previously agreed at the ordinary meeting dated 28th of May 2018. The members agreed to adjourn further discussion until the next meeting to allow Ms. Dixon to write to the Blessington and District Forum

to establish the views of the Forum to the twinning proposal and whether they are in support of the project.

7. To discuss the Blessington Local Area Plan

Mr Sean Quirke advised the meeting that the Blessington Local Area plan was up for review in January 2019 and he envisaged that the public consultation process could commence in the coming months but an update from the Regional & Spatial Economic Strategy is needed before the plan can be opened for public consultation as there may be a change in the population forecast for Blessington. The members agreed to hold a special meeting to discuss the plan when the consultation process is started.

8. Correspondence

Ms Dionne Dixon advised that meeting that she had received a reply from both Kildare County Council and TII in relation to the works at Poulaphoca Bridge and she advised that the work were to commence on 20th of June and be complete by the 21st of July. She further advised that she had written to TII again requesting they attend a meeting of the Municipal District to date she had not received reply. Ms Dixon also advised the meeting that she had written to Mr Declan O'Brien to ask him to include a review of the speed limit at Deerpark Shillelagh on foot of a petition presented from the locals in the area. Cllr Timmins requested that Airtricity be contacted to ask them when we can expect the connections to newly installed public lights to be installed.

9. AOB

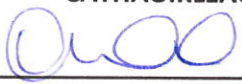
Cllr Blake advised the meeting that he and Cllr O'Neill along with a delegation from the local area attended a meeting with Minister Shane Ross in Dail Eireann in relation to the decision to not proceed with the Tallaght to Hollywood upgrade of the N81. He advised the Minister Ross may be in the Blessington area in July and he had indicated that he would be open to meeting the elected members to discuss the issue further. It was agreed that Ms. Dionne Dixon would write to Minister Ross and invite him to attend to meet with the Elected Members during his planned visit in July.

Cllr Blake also asked if the practice of requiring those in receipt of small grants for housing adaption's to get three quotations could be reviewed as he feels that people are struggling to get these quotations. He was advised that the grants are administered by the main housing section and it was agreed that housing would be contacted to see if this could be reviewed. Mr Sean Quirke advised the members that there will be a Part 8 application submitted by the Housing Section for the proposed construction of 34 new houses in Whitehall, Baltinglass.

There being no more business Cllr Cullen closed the meeting. The next meeting will be held on the 23rd of July 2018 at 10.30am.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: 
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 23rd July 2018