

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Library in Dunlavin on 21st October 2019, at 10.30 a.m.

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

In Attendance: Mr. Sean Quirke, District Manager
Mr. Dermot Graham, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Pat Byrne, Executive Engineer
Mr. Garvan Hickey, District Administrator
Ms. Breege Kilkenny, Senior Engineer
Mr. Marc Devereaux, Executive Engineer
Mr. Benan Clancy, Executive Architect
Ms. Aisling Grace, Chairperson Dunlavin & District Forum
Ms. Antoinette Whelan, Secretary Dunlavin & District Forum
Ms. Andrea Connolly, A/Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Councillor Edward Timmins

- 1. To confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 16th September 2019.**

Cllr. Blake proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 21st Oct. 2019 and this was seconded by Cllr. Mullen.

2. Matters Arising

Blessington Swimming Pool

Mr. Hickey advised the members that the feasibility study completed by Holohan Group had now been distributed to members of the West Wicklow Swimming Pool Committee in infographic form for their use as had been requested at the previous Baltinglass Municipal District meeting.

3. Correspondence

Mr. Garvan Hickey informed the members that he had received two letters from Blessington & District Forum and one from Blessington Tidy Towns, copies of which have been distributed to all members.

The first letter was from Blessington & District Forum requesting an amendment to the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Baltinglass Municipal District of the 25th June 2018. Mr. Garvan Hickey read through the letter from Blessington and District Forum which outlined that Blessington and District Forum at an EGM on the 25th September discussed the town twinning and concluded that at no point in time has the membership of the Blessington and District Forum unanimously agreed to back the twinning initiative. Cllr. Glennon noted that the minutes of a meeting reflect what was said and that it would serve no purpose by amending minutes but that the concerns of the forum should be noted. After some discussion it was agreed not to amend the minutes.

The meeting then moved on to discuss the letter received from Blessington and District Forum dated 10th October 2019 and Blessington Tidy Towns letter in relation to the Blessington Town Twinning and the removal of the "Welcome to Blessington" granite stone.

Cllr. O'Neill noted that if a full meeting was required to discuss the Town Twinning it could be arranged but Cllr. Cronin noted that clarification was needed on this matter as there are three new Councillors who were not present at previous Municipal District meeting where this item was discussed previously and that it was important that all issues were cleared up.

Cllr. O'Neill advised members that back in 2016 a proposal was put forward to twin Blessington town with O'Neill City in Nebraska. He added that only a small number of people have an issue with this and that the correspondence received from Blessington & District Forum is not a true reflection of how the EGM transpired. He proposed that this item be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr. Mullen noted that correspondence from Blessington & District Forum stated that Mr. Sean Quirke stated that Blessington is not officially twinned with any town. Mr. Sean Quirke, District Manager, advised members that Baltinglass Municipal District at the July meeting members supported the recommendation that Baltinglass Municipal District supports the twinning committee in their efforts of twinning the town of Blessington with O'Neill City in Nebraska and wished them well in their efforts. At present Blessington is not officially twinned with anywhere this is a community initiative similar to the Coollattin Canadian Connection.

Cllr. Blake noted that this issue had been raised a number of times at different meeting and advised that Blessington & District Forum should have been consulted beforehand of any changes to this situation and should have had some input. Cllr O'Neill informed the members that three meetings had been held regarding twinning and that both members of Blessington Tidy Towns and Blessington & District Forum had been in attendance. He briefly outlined the history of Blessington Twinning Committee and advised the members that a new committee was now in place and they had been in full consultation with both groups. He added that the twinning sign had been erected by Wicklow County Council and suggested that Cllr. Blake propose to include this item on agenda for next meeting. Cllr. Blake agreed and proposed that the Blessington Twinning should be included on the agenda for the November meeting and Cllr. Cronin seconded this proposal. Mr. Hickey advised members that the welcome to Blessington Granite Stone was at present being stored in the Blessington depot yard.

Mr. Sean Quirke, District Manager, proposed that the minutes of past meetings referring to Blessington Twinning should be examined and made available to members.

4. To receive a presentation from the Dunlavin and District Forum

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the committee members from the Dunlavin and District Forum and their chairperson, Ms. Aisling Grace to the meeting. He informed all that it was ninety ninth anniversary of the first Council meeting being held in the courthouse in Dunlavin. The Cathaoirleach also congratulated Dunlavin GFC on their recent win and promotion from Intermediate to Senior football.

Ms. Aisling Grace gave a detailed presentation of issues that are a cause for concern with the Forum. One of the issues raised was the lack of street lighting on the Main Street in Dunlavin and the urgent need for public lighting to be increased on Kilcullen road, Chapel View and Stephen Street. It was also noted that the light posts on Stephens Street are of two different designs. The issues of surface water on Stephen Street, welcome signs, road, footpath improvements, and speed limits on Sparrow Road were also raised.

Ms. Grace also outlined the plans that the Forum have for the future including the development of a Heritage Trail and welcomed any guidance from Wicklow County Council on this matter. Copies of the presentation were distributed to members. Copies of the Dunlavin District Forum newsletter and details of HIVE @W91 Co working Space were circulated to members.

Following the presentation the members thanked Ms. Grace for her presentation and there were a number of comments from members.

Cllr. Cronin congratulated Ms. Grace on her presentation and noted that the Forum had made a great difference to the community over the last number of years. She added that the Pure Mile was a great success and good initiative for the local community. She wished them every success for the future.

Cllr. Glennon thanked Ms. Grace for her presentation and wished them well. He agreed that the speed limit at the football field needed reviewing and would make a difference to the children using these facilities. Both Cllr. Mullen and Cllr. Blake raised concerns over the vacant position of Estate Development Officer and commented that it was a big loss to the county.

Mr. Dermot Graham advised members that the discretionary fund could be utilised for welcome signs for the Dunlavin area and the issue of lighting on the Main Street. It was noted that seven welcome to Dunlavin signs would be required. Mr. Sean Quirke, noted that with the upgrade of the public lighting system to LED lights being rolled out, that now would be an opportunity to enquire about getting extra lights installed on the Main Street.

There was a discussion on the supply of drinking water in Dunlavin and the question was raised if the forty new houses built recently had been connected to the main water supply.

Mr. Pat Byrne, Executive Engineer, pointed out that Irish Water had been testing boreholes in the area and would check with Irish Water if the new houses had been connected.

Ms. Grace raised the issue of dog fouling in the town, and the associated issues with it. Mr. Hickey advised members that extra signs had been erected but they were not having the desired effect, dog fouling was an issue across the MD.

There was a discussion on the speed limits in Dunlavin with a focus on sparrow road and it was agreed that Dunlavin should be included in the next review of speed limits in the county. Ms. Grace informed members that there was Property Marking Scheme meeting in Scoil Nioclais Naofa on Tuesday 22nd October at 7.30pm.

Cllr. O'Neill thanked Ms. Grace for her detailed presentation and advised that she keep an eye out for the public consultation on the County Development Plan and welcomed any new developments in the area but advised that infrastructure needs to be put in place first.

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

Mr. Dermot Graham, A/Senior Executive 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 projects on the N81 are mostly complete with the exception of Pavement Works at Killeel Junction to Blessington which are ongoing. Works on the bend realignment at Knockroe were progressing well and should be earthworks should be complete by the end of the year.

He also updated members on two road improvement projects which are ongoing at present on Kevin Street, Tinahely and on the Aughtim Road, Tinahely. Mr. Graham advised members that there were very little outstanding works on the non national roads report, bridge works were almost complete and there were further footpath works due to commence in Westpark, Lakeside Downs, Main Street Blessington, Stratford and Mallenswood towards the end of October. He also advised that minor repairs were due to commence on Preban Bridge and that the road would be closed for a short time.

Cllr. Blake questioned if the contract had been awarded for works on Kevin Street and Mr. Graham replied that tenders had been issued last week and would be awarded within the next week. Cllr. Glennon raised concerns over the visibility of whitelines on the top of the Wicklow Gap Road. Mr. Graham noted that this was an ongoing issue and he would need to speak to Wicklow Municipal District on this matter.

Cllr. O'Neill questioned if there was any update on the bus stop at Hollywood. Mr. Graham informed the members that they were still awaiting confirmation from the road safety officer in the TII and the NRA. Mr. Pat Byrne advised members that he was to meet with landowners next week and would have an update for the next meeting.

Cllr. Glennon questioned if the speed limit would be reduced at Hollywood junction whilst works were ongoing on Knockroe bends realignment. Mr. Pat Byrne advised that reduced speed limits would be applied whilst works were ongoing.

6. To consider report in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the proposed development of 22 housing units at Ballard (adjacent to Chapel Lane), Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow

Ms. Breege Kilkenny, Senior Engineer introduced Mr. Benan Clancy, Senior Architect and Mr. Mark Devereaux, Executive Engineer from the Housing Section in Wicklow. Copies of the Chief Executive report on the proposed development of the housing units at Ballard, Shillelagh had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Clancy presented the members with a report on the proposed development in Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow highlighting the amendments to the proposed scheme. The amendments to the scheme were made following input from the members after a presentation last March and copies of the plans were distributed to members.

Ms. Breege Kilkenny advised members that an upgrade of the waste water treatment plant is required in Shillelagh and this was highly dependent on Irish Water. She explained further that Irish Water have requested a feasibility study be conducted at a cost of €40,000 before upgrade works can go ahead and clarification was needed on who would foot the cost of this. Mr. Mark Devereaux pointed out that Irish Water would not look at this matter until planning permission was granted for this scheme. Cllr. Blake noted that Irish Water have sent contradictory emails regarding the capability of the plant in Shillelagh and welcomed the amendment of reducing the number of houses from twenty two to twenty.

Following Mr. Clancy's report all members welcomed the modifications to the proposed development and conveyed their thanks to staff for taking their considerations on board. The adoption of the scheme was proposed by Cllr. Mullen and seconded by Cllr. Blake. A vote followed with all members giving unanimous approval that the scheme should proceed.

7. To receive a report from the Housing Section

Ms. Breege Kilkenny, Senior Engineer, presented an update on the housing supply in Baltinglass Municipal District following a request from the members at the previous meeting. She advised members that the Burgage site has been included in the Local Area Plan and is zoned for housing and found no reason why the Burgage site cannot be used for housing. It was also noted that the upgrade of the waste water treatment plant has been approved and that

the appropriate environmental impact assessments are being carried out. Ms. Kilkenny outlined that the Burgage site would be developed along similar lines to the development on Convent Lands in Wicklow town which is being done as Public Private Partnership arrangement. Under this form of PPP, the contractor undertakes to design, build, operate and maintain the asset for a period specified in the contract. Wicklow County Council maintains allocation rights.

Cllr. Cronin questioned if the developer manages the property after they have been completed. Ms. Kilkenny explained that the developer would still be on board after completion. She advised that the Burgage site is part of bundle 3 and is awaiting approval and is with the Department at present. Ms. Kilkenny noted that that there is a massive need for social housing in the Baltinglass Municipal District area and hoped that progress would move quite quickly on the schemes once approval has been granted.

Cllr. Glennon welcomed the presentation and the development of 84 housing units in the Municipal District and also noted that West Wicklow Swimming Pool Committee had been looking at the Burgage site for the development of a pool and questioned if there would be enough room for both. Mr. Sean Quirke advised that this area has been zoned for employment/community development in the Local Area Plan..Cllr. O'Neill enquired if an application has been made to Irish Water to connect the proposed houses to the mains. Ms. Kilkenny advised members that an application has been put forward to Irish Water for a full connection.

Cllr. Cronin questioned if the housing development in Dunlavin has been taken over by a housing body and if people on the housing list will included. Ms. Kilkenny replied that 40 houses will be for social housing and they should be ready sometime next year. Circle Housing has taken over management of the estate and it is turnkey development.

8. To discuss the establishment of Baltinglass Municipal District Area Policing Plan Committee

Mr. Garvan Hickey, District Administrator, advised members that the at the Joint Policing Committee meeting held on the 2nd September 2019 it was proposed to set up five Policing Plan Committees, on in each Municipal Districts. These committees would replace the existing sub committees and would consist of members of Public Participation Network, the

Superintendent of the local Garda district, Municipal District elected members, Municipal District Engineer and Administrator. The PPC would meet up approximately four times over a 12 month period and these meetings would be held on the same day as Baltinglass Municipal District meetings. He asked the members for their support on this proposal to get the PPC established.

Cllr. O'Neill commented that it was a good attempt to improve on from the previous system and Cllr. Mullen proposed the establishment of the Baltinglass Municipal District Policing Plan Committee and Cllr. Blake seconded this proposal. Mr. Hickey confirmed that the first PPC meeting will be held at 9.30am before the Baltinglass Municipal District meeting in November.

9. Notice of motion

(i) Notice of motion in the names of Cllr. Blake and Cllr. Mullen (16.09.2019)

“That Baltinglass District through its Engineer in the Tinahely Office relocate the sign indicating ramps on Kelly’s Hill, Tinahely and that appropriate paint markings are provided on the two traffic calming ramps at this location in the interests of public health and safety.”

Mr. Dermot Graham advised members that the linemarking contractor was appointed last week and new sign has been erected between the two ramps.

10. To discuss Christmas light/festival funding 2019

The District Administrator advised the members that invitations for Christmas Lights Funding could now be accepted. The budget available is €10,000 and applicants would have to give a commitment and details on how funds will be spent. Cllr. Blake questioned if any other monies were available in the Economic Development Fund and Mr. Hickey informed the members that €3,000 was left in this budget. Mr. Hickey advised that any applications received will be approved at next meeting in November.

11. Any other business

Mr. Garvan Hickey advised members that An Gardai have launched a Rural Liason Officer Initiative which will mean there will be one contact for rural crime in the Baltinglass Municipal District Garda Adrian Nevin. The initiative was welcomed by members.

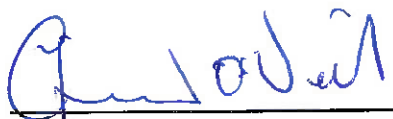
Cllr. Glennon raised concerns over the planned upgrade works on the N11 and wanted it emphasised that no money should be spent on upgrading the N11 until an upgrade of the N81 is approved. Cllr. O'Neill agreed with Cllr. Glennon's frustrations and proposed that a letter be written to the Minister requesting a meeting with elected members and the District Administrator. Cllr. Glennon seconded this proposal.

Cllr. Blake congratulated both Mr. Dermot Graham and Mr. Pat Byrne on their recent promotions and wished them well for the future.

Mr. Sean Quirke advised members that the next Baltinglass Municipal District meeting due to take place on the 25th November will coincide with the Annual Budget Meeting and suggested bringing forward the Baltinglass Municipal District meeting to the 18th November instead. All members were in agreement.

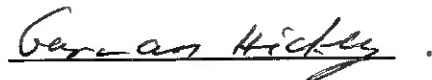
There being no other business the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. O'Neill, concluded the meeting.

Signed:



CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated:

18/11/2019