

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the St. Kevin's Community School, Dunlavin on 27th July 2020, at 10.30 a.m.

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

In Attendance: Ms. Sorcha Walsh, Senior Planner
Mr. Dermot Graham, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Pat Byrne, Executive Engineer
Mr. Garvan Hickey, District Administrator
Ms. Andrea Connolly, Assistant Staff Officer

Cllr. Glennon opened the Baltinglass Municipal District meeting.

1. To confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 22nd June 2020.

Cllr. Timmins proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 22nd June 2020 and this was seconded by Cllr. Cronin.

Amendment

Cllr. Timmins requested an amendment to exclude the comment "Cllr. Timmins commented that the Hollywood Community Involvement Scheme was very welcome in Hollywood" from the minutes and this was noted.

2. To confirm and sign minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 22nd June 2020.

Cllr. Mullen proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 22nd June 2020 and this was seconded by Cllr. Blake.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Correspondence

Mr. Hickey, District Administrator, advised members there was no correspondence to report on.

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

Mr. Graham, A/Senior Executive Engineer, briefed members on the non-national roads report. Mr Graham advised the members that outstanding road improvement works in Blessington area would be completed next week and hoped that works would commence in Tinahely area in early August after the bank holiday weekend. He added that surface dressing works in Blessington are completed with four out of five schemes completed in Tinahely. With respect to Knockananna the design of the road layout in is currently being reviewed. He advised members that procurement was commencing on the safety improvement scheme Aughrim to Rathdangan road and design works were ongoing on Kenny's corner junction in Carnew. Mr. Pat Byrne, Executive Engineer, updated members on projects on the N81.

Cllr. Timmins thanked Mr. Graham and Mr. Byrne for their detailed reports and welcomed the opening of the new road at Knockroe and their timely completion. He questioned if further works on the N81 could also be looked at notably Hangman's Bend as it would be a similar sized project. Mr. Pat Byrne replied that works have been proposed on Hangman's Bend and it is at the design stage and hopefully will progress. Cllr. Blake thanked both engineers for their reports and asked when road improvement works would begin on Kevin Street in Tinahely and stressed it was important to have a definite start date. He also raised concerns over two council owned sites, one in Kilcommon View and the other on the Shillelagh Road in Carnew and on a number of potholes in the Carnew area. Mr. Graham pointed out that the site in Kilcommon View comes under the housing directorate and they would have to authorise works on that site. He added that a two man crew had been out for

the last two weeks in Carnew area tidying up and the pothole crew are out and fully operational. Mr. Graham noted that there was a lot of work needed on the roads in the Carnew area and they would require significant budgets. In relation to works on Kevin Street he advised members that he is hoping to have the contractor on site after the bank holiday weekend. Cllr. Mullen proposed a letter be circulated to local businesses before works commence, encouraging their staff to park elsewhere whilst these road works are ongoing to leave spaces for customers. Mr. Graham noted that this could cause issues as staff would not have a choice in where to park in the town and maybe pay parking could be considered as Baltinglass Municipal District is the only district with no pay parking. Mr. Graham proposed that the parking bylaws in the District should be reviewed to consider the introduction of pay parking in some towns in the District to encourage and facilitate the turnover of parking bays. Cllr. Mullen stated this would be a last resort in Tinahely and didn't think it would be welcome.

Cllr. O'Neill noted that with a new Minister for Transport now in place it might be a good time to pursue the upgrade of the N81. He advised that a planning application for a landfill from Roadstone had been made which will impact on traffic numbers on the N81 so now may be the time to tackle this for once and for all. Cllr. Glennon commented that it was great to see Knockroe section of N81 now open and questioned if there was any update on a proposed walkway on the back road. Mr. Byrne advised that Transport Infrastructure Ireland will not approve footpaths on a national road with a speed limit of 100km unless the speed limit is reduced. Cllr. Timmins asked if the Municipal District could expedite a change of speed limits on this section of road and Mr. Byrne explained that a review of speed limits is due next year but TII have the final say on national routes. Cllr. Glennon proposed that a meeting be organised with the new Minister for Transport, Eamonn Ryan, in order to get the N81 upgrade back on the agenda. Cllr. Cronin asked if there was any update on the request to get support from South County Dublin Council on this issue and Mr. Hickey advised that they had agreed to bring this motion to the full Wicklow County Council meeting for consideration. Members agreed to defer looking for a meeting with the Minister for Transport until the pandemic had declined and more members could attend the meeting with the Minister.

6. To discuss Burgage Graveyard and possible works at the graveyard.

Cllr. O'Neill informed the meeting that he had asked for this item to be put on the agenda as he had been advised by the Burgage graveyard committee that Burgage only has remaining space for twelve graves and Lacken graveyard is also almost full. He also questioned if there had been any update on the proposal of a columbarium wall for Burgage graveyard. He added that local residents had raised a number of concerns, in the past, over the trees in graveyard and suggested if these were removed it would provide space for another seventy two graves. He also questioned if the budget of €21,250 allocated for graveyard maintenance for 2020 covered just Burgage graveyard or did it cover the whole district. Mr. Pat Byrne replied that the 2020 allocation covers the whole district and includes Hollywood, Dunlavin and Kilbride. Cllr. Glennon questioned if maintenance of graveyards in Tinahely were also included and Mr. Graham advised that there are at least six graveyards in that area and they also have an issue with space. Mr. Graham also advised that there is no separate budget for graveyards for the Tinahely area this is an issue which has been raised over a number of years. Mr. Byrne advised that he will have to look at the option of removing trees from Burgage graveyard and he will also speak to Theresa O'Brien regarding location of a new graveyard in Burgage. Cllr. Blake raised concerns over the lack of budget for maintenance of graveyards in Tinahely area and noted that Aghowle graveyard has a national monument on site and advised that the Office of Public Works should be contacted in order to obtain funding for maintenance. He also noted that Knockananna graveyard has an issue with space. Cllr. Blake also highlighted the need to respect tradition and the desire for people to be buried in their local area. Mr. Graham noted that it was his understanding that a columbarium wall was to be provided for each district and that Blessington graveyard had been chosen as the site for Baltinglass Municipal District. Cllr. Mullen outlined the need to communicate with people and communities regarding the lack of space. Cllr. O'Neill proposed an urgent meeting with the environment section and suggested someone attend next district meeting to discuss these issues. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Mullen.

7. To receive a report on the new Shop Local Campaign.

Mr. Hickey advised members that information packs had been distributed to all businesses within the Baltinglass Municipal District informing them of the supports and schemes that were available in order to get businesses back up and running. Included in the pack were posters urging the public to support local and the tag line “Wonderful West Wicklow”. He added that a reopening committee had been established in Blessington as a sub group of Blessington Town Team, consisting of representatives from the Blessington and District Forum, Town Team, business community, Cllr. O’Neill, Cllr. Glennon, and Council officials. He welcomed members input and suggestions but advised there was a limited budget.

Cllr. Mullen thanked Mr. Hickey for his report but noted that as Baltinglass Municipal District covers an area of 72 kms it may cause confusion and suggested templates to advertise each area. Cllr. O’Neill noted that it was raised at a meeting of the group that the Baltinglass Municipal District covers more than West Wicklow. Cllr. Timmins questioned how much was available in the budget and Mr. Hickey replied a budget of €3,000 was available. Cllr. Timmins pointed out that it had been raised previously the importance of increasing the economic development budget for the Municipal District. Cllr, Glennon noted that members should raise this at the upcoming budget meeting.

8. To pass a resolution for the holding of the September Ordinary Meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District in a venue at the discretion of the Cathaoirleach at 10.30am on Monday 28th September 2020 as set out in the Municipal District of Baltinglass, Standing Orders, regulating the business and proceedings of the Municipal District.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Glennon, proposed the September meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District be held at a location, to be decided. All members were in agreement of this proposal.

9. Any other business.

Cllr. Blake advised members that the chain of office that is currently in use for Baltinglass Municipal District dates back to the late 1800’s and as such is a valuable and historical piece

and needs to be returned to Wicklow County Council. He proposed the purchase of a chain for Baltinglass Municipal District at a cost of up to €10,000. Cllr. Blake suggested each member contribute €1,800 each from their discretionary fund from 2021. Cllr. O'Neill opposed this as he deemed this too expensive presently when other much needed areas required funding. Mr. Hickey advised that this proposal had been discussed previously and he had liased with Ms. Lorraine Gallagher and she had advised that a chain of office would cost in the region of between €6,000 and €10,000 depending on what the MD required. He advised that no funding was available centrally and the district would have to use its own budget to cover the costs for a new chain. Cllr. Blake noted that this was an investment for the future.

After much discussion it was agreed to put the following proposal to a vote.

“That the District Administrator is given authorisation to purchase a chain for Baltinglass Municipal District. That each member would allocate €1,500 of their discretionary expenditure 2021 toward the cost of the chain” Proposed by Cllr. Blake and seconded by Cllr. Timmins.

VOTE	
For	Against
<i>Councillor Vincent Blake</i>	<i>Councillor Avril Cronin</i>
<i>Councillor Edward Timmins</i>	<i>Councillor Gerry O' Neill</i>
	<i>Councillor Patsy Glennon</i>
	<i>Councillor John Mullen</i>

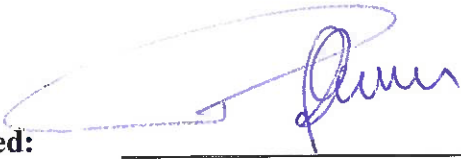
The Cathaoirleach deemed the motion defeated.

Cllr. O'Neill asked if the enquiry regarding the cost of the maintenance of the public convenience in Blessington he had made at the previous meeting had been looked into and Mr. Hickey advised that we are twelve years into a twenty year contract with JC Decaux for the maintenance of the public convenience at a cost of approximately €40,000 annually. This was supported at the time as the provision of a public convenience was seen as important in Blessington considering its role as tourist town. While the cost of operation is high and the income is minimal, the unit does provide a necessary service The APC were considered a suitable alternative to what was there previously and dealt with issues relating to cleaning and anti social behaviour which was an issue with public conveniences previously. Cllr. Glennon asked if Cllr. O'Neill wanted this motion brought up at the full council meeting in Wicklow.

Cllr. Cronin raised a concern over the issue of lime in the water in West Wicklow. Cllr. Cronin advised that she had raised this issue with Irish Water and they had not seen this as a priority. She asked if an Irish Water representative could attend the next meeting.

Mr. Hickey advised members that an unveiling of the interpretive panels in Lacken was to be held during the week and all members were welcome to attend.

There being no other business the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Glennon, concluded the meeting and thanked Ms. Sorcha Walsh for attending.

Signed: 

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: 

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 28/09/2020

