

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held on Zoom on Wednesday 30th March, at 10.30am

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

In Attendance: Mr. Marc Devereux, Senior Engineer, Environment
Mr. Pat Byrne, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Mr. Liam Cullen, District Administrator
Ms. Andrea Connolly, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Ms. Breege Kilkenny, District Manager

Cathaoirleach Cronin welcomed all and opened the March meeting of the Baltinglass Municipal District.

1. To confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 28th February 2022.

Cllr. Glennon proposed the minutes of the February meeting and Cllr. Mullen seconded them.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Blake queried if there was any update on the suggestion to make contact with Wexford and Carlow County Councils with regard to improvement works on the Derry river. Mr. Graham, Executive Engineer, replied that he had tried to make contact but to no avail.

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

Mr. Pat Byrne, Senior Executive Engineer, briefed the members on the N81 Progress Report. He advised that funding has been approved for minor drainage and surfacing works at Mullcagh, Hollywood and Tinode, Blessington. Funding has also been approved for one kilometre of surfacing works at Monaspick on the N81 and this is currently out to tender. There are currently landscaping works ongoing at Knockroe bends in order to comply with the safety audit carried out earlier in the year. The upgrade of vehicle restraint systems barrier works on N81 is continuing with works ongoing at Carrigower currently. Mr. Pat Byrne, continued with the update on the non-national roads report. He advised the meeting that the annual Wicklow County Council allocation for the Restoration Improvement Works amounts to a total of €2.4 million for the overall district divided equally between the Tinahely and Blessington areas. The total allocation for restoration maintenance works for the district is €591,000 and there may be extra funding available for surface dressing works. He advised that there has been a price increase of between 15% to 20% on haulage and materials and this may have an impact on works and some may need to be cut back. He continued that the allocation of €403,700 from the department for CIS schemes has been received and currently there are four live applications for the district with the four located in the Tinahely area. He added he would encourage more applicants for CIS projects as local territory roads are hard to get included on the roads schemes programme. The annual allocation from the department for LIS projects has not yet been received and future projects will be based on funding received. Cllr. Mullen asked if the list of works for 2022 are based on last years prices and if there would be less works completed on each project or would one project be eliminated completely. Mr. Byrne advised that they were but did include an addition to allow for inflation but with the increase of tenders rising by up to 15% there would be an increase on the cost of these works. He stated he was confident all RI works would be completed this year. Cllr. Mullen also queried if there was any update on footpath funding from the NTA and Mr. Byrne advised that an allocation of €2 million over two years for rural areas had been approved and a list of footpath works would be received and ranked according to priority next week. Cllr. Blake stated that he had not received a copy of the three years roads programme and asked if it could be redistributed. He also queried if white-lining could be completed this year and Mr. Byrne advised that funding would have to be sourced. Cllr. O'Neill raised concerns over the weight limit on bridges over Blessington lakes and asked if stress testing could be carried out on them. Mr. Byrne stated that a full structural survey would need to be completed on every aspect of the bridges before Wicklow County Council could take charge of them. Cllr. O'Neill asked if cantilever bridges were still an option on the lakes. Cllr. Glennon stated that it was his understanding that in advance of planning permission granted for the Blessington eGreenway cantilever bridges are not being ruled out.

4. To discuss and consider Estate Development Funding applications 2022.

A report on the Estate Development Funding applications had been distributed to members for their consideration. Mr. Liam Cullen, District Administrator, advised the members that a total of twenty two applications had been received and funding had been allocated by the number of local authority houses per estate with a minimum allocation of €100 and a maximum of €750 per application. Cllr. Glennon queried why one committee from Oak Drive, Blessington was allocated more funding than the other and Mr. Cullen advised that one was a late application and rather than not give funding the minimum amount was allocated. Cllr. Glennon proposed increasing the amount to Oak Drive by €100. All members were in agreement and Cllr. Blake proposed these allocations and Cllr. Mullen seconded this proposal.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

6. Any other business

Cllr. Blake queried if it was possible to install driver feedback signs on the Shillelagh Road at Coolruss and if there was any update on the lighting issues at Beechwood, Tinahely. Mr. Graham, Executive Engineer, advised that driver feedback signs are effective in reducing speeds in certain areas and will look at installing at Coolruss and would follow up with SSE Airtricity on the lighting issue at Beechwood. Cllr. O'Neill voiced his disappointment that his proposal to amend the part 8 application at Burgage was not successful and raised concerns on car parking spaces opposite the graveyard. He sought clarification on the removal of car parking spaces opposite the graveyard and asked if they are included in the masterplan for Burgage. He stressed the importance of members being consulted on these issues and the input from local councillors. Cllr. Cronin suggested that the district write to Mr. Michael Nicholson, Community & Enterprise, and ask for an update on the Masterplan for Burgage and stress the need for consultation with members. Cllr. Glennon advised that he had spoken to Ms. Lorraine Gallagher on the issue of parking and that he was informed it would be included on the masterplan and members will be consulted on this. Cllr. O'Neill stated he did not want to be updated but consulted on these issues. Cllr. Blake noted that he had not spoken about Blessington eGreenway at the last Wicklow County Council meeting held on Monday 28th March and he did not vote for Cllr. O'Neill's proposal to amend the Part 8 application.

Mr. Cullen advised members that they would need to submit their list of works to be funded by their discretionary budget. Cllr. Cronin thanked all present and advised that the next Baltinglass Municipal District meeting will take place on 25th April 2022.

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

Signed: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: _____