

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Blessington Civic Offices, Blessington on 24th October 2022 at 10.30am

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

In Attendance: Ms. Breege Kilkenny, District Manager
Mr. Pat Byrne, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Mr. Liam Cullen, District Administrator
Ms. Aideen Russell, Assistant Staff Officer

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Mullen, opened the October meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District and welcomed Aideen Russell to Blessington Area Office in her new role as Assistant Staff Officer. It was agreed by all members that the presentation by Blessington AFC would go first to allow the speakers to return to work.

1. To Receive a presentation from Blessington AFC

Alan Moore (Club Chairman), Ken Lynch (Hon Treasurer) and Edwina Hardy (Registrar) presented members with a comprehensive development document for Blessington AFC Crosschapel, Wicklow detailing their History, Vision, Current Club Details, Facilities, Growth Potential, S.W.O. T. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) and Club Aims.

A club founded in 1968 with a single senior team who have grown their membership to over 650 members and outgrown their current facilities in Crosschapel. The Club are looking for the support of the Councillors and Wicklow County Council to enable them to return home to Blessington and have facilities to suit their needs in walking distance from the Town, which can be used in all weathers.

Blessington AFC are in discussions with developers locally who have many suitable lands available. The club's ambition is to have ownership / long term lease of same in place before they are eligible to apply for funding. They are appealing to the Councillors and WCC to assist them in obtaining these lands, by help with funding, zoning and planning permission.

Following the presentation all the members expressed their support for Blessington AFC and congratulated Alan, Ken and Edwina on an excellent presentation. They thanked them for their work in the community.

The Members raised the following points:

- Keep options open and consider both Cairn Homes and Avon lands.
- Make enquiries about FAI support.
- Engage jointly with other clubs, example Athletics.
- Make contact ASAP with CCSD – Michael Nicholson.

2. To confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 26th September 2022

- **Amendment**
- Cllr Blake noted that item 5 of the minutes for the Municipal District of 26th September 2022 referred to *blocked shores at Upper Ballard* which should have read *blocked shores and Upper Ballard Junction*. This amendment was noted.
- Cllr. Glennon proposed the minutes of the September meeting and Cllr. Cronin seconded them.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Update on Baltinglass RRDF project

Ms Kilkenny, District Manager ensured the Councillors that WCC are being proactive on this matter and advised that discussions are ongoing with the relevant government department in order to seek the extra funding required to carry out the project as planned. She also advised that negotiations are currently ongoing with the ARUP (consultants responsible for the project) with a view to seeing what options are available to Wicklow County Council in order to progress the project as soon as possible

Footbridge – Alternative funding needs to be applied for.

The Park – Procurement elements have begun.

The Playground – Separate funding has been secured from CCSD for a total refurbishment.

The Baltinglass RRDF project will be discussed further at November’s MD meeting

5. To consider the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Baltinglass for the financial year ending 31st December 2023 (copy attached)

A copy of the Draft Budgetary Plan had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting. The Draft Budgetary Plan was agreed by all Members. Cllr. Blake proposed the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Baltinglass Municipal District for the financial year ending 31st December 2023 and Cllr. Glennon seconded the motion.

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

The District Engineers updated the members on the Baltinglass MD national and non-national roads, reports on both were circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

Members Comments and Observations:

- **Baltinglass Bridge:**

The members requested that funding for the upgrade works for Baltinglass Bridge be sought under “The Active Travel Scheme”.

- **Wicklow Gap Signs**

Cllr Timmins requested for both “Wicklow Gap” signs at the top of the gap to be replaced as they are in bad repair. Baltinglass MD Engineer advised that this matter would be referred to the Wicklow MD engineer for their attention.

- **Knockieran Bridge:**

Cllr O’Neill enquired about the resurfacing of Knockieran Bridge and queried who is responsible for same.

- **Line Marking:**

Cllr Cronin enquired about the possibility of upgrading the road-markings at Hollywood Cross and Dunlavin Road, Hollywood. The District Engineer advised that this matter has been brought to the attention of TII.

Cllr Blake enquired about the upgrade of white-lining throughout the district. The District Engineer confirmed that proposed works have currently gone out for tender and work will commence in 2023.

- C.I.S.:

Cllr Mullen requested an update on the progress of C.I.S. projects at Driver's Lane Ballyrahan.

- Active Travel Schemes:

Cllr Mullen requested an update on the proposed Baltinglass MD, Active Travel Schemes for 2022 & 2023.

- Safety Measures at Ballard Junction:

Cllr Blake enquired about the possibility of the introduction of safety measures at Ballard Junction. The District Engineer advised that funding has been applied for under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Works Scheme.

- Shores and Drains:

Cllr Blake enquired if any extra provision has been made for the clearing of blocked shores and drains. Cllr Blake pointed out that this has become a major issue following recent storms. The District Engineer advised that works are ongoing on same.

7. To consider the distribution of funding to interested groups of Christmas Light Funding

Mr. Cullen, District Administrator, had previously distributed a report on the Christmas Lights Allocation of Funding for 2022 (copy attached). A budget of €10,450.00 and amounts to be distributed to interested groups were agreed by all the members. Cllr. Timmins proposed this motion and Cllr. Glennon seconded it.

2021 Christmas Lights Allocation of Funding	
	Amount Agreed 2022
Shillelagh Christmas Tree & Lighting Fund	€500
Coolboy & District Tidy Towns	€500
Tinahely Illuminations Committee	€1,000
Kiltegan Tidy Towns	€500
Blessington Tidy Towns	€1,000
Baltinglass Community Development	€1,000
Grangecon Tidy Towns	€400
Dunlavin & District Forum	€1,000
Stratford Tidy Towns	€400
Carnew Christmas Lights Committee & Sub Committee of Old Coolattin	€1,000
Ballyconnell Community Enhancement Group	€300
Knockananna Youth Projects	€400
Askanagap Area	€250
Valleymount & Ballyknockan	€400
Manor Kilbride Community Group	€400
Donard Tidy Towns	€500
Hollywood Tidy Towns	€500
Lacken Tidy Towns	€400
Ballinglen Christmas Lights	€300

8. Correspondence

Mr. Cullen, District Administrator advised the meeting that correspondence was received from Blessington twinning group via Castel Maggiore twinning inviting representatives from Baltinglass Municipal District to attend a meeting in Castel Maggiore, Northern Italy in order to sign a friendship pact between both towns. The proposed dates to attend for the meeting are expected to be late 2022 or early 2023. The members agreed that representatives from Baltinglass Municipal District should attend this meeting and sign the friendship agreement in person. Cllr. Glennon proposed this motion and Cllr Timmons seconded it.

9. Any other business

- The members were advised that the “Draft” Speed Limit Bye-Laws together with associated maps are available for inspection on the WCC website as well as hard copies available at all WCC offices until the 16th November 2022, the latest date for receipt of objections or submissions regarding this matter is 12:00 noon on this date.

The Members requested that the information re the review of the draft speed limit byelaws be highlighted to the public so that they are aware the process is taking place.

- Cllr. O'Neill queried the cost of running the toilet in Blessington and requested a costing to build and maintain a permanent toilet facility. Cllr Timmins questioned, if the facility was removed what is the alternative. He agreed with Cllr. O'Neill's request to find out what it would cost to build and maintain a permanent toilet facility.

9. Date of next meeting

The next Baltinglass Municipal District meeting will be held on the 21st November 2022.

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

Signed: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: _____