

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in Blessington Civic Offices on 27th May 2024 at 10.30am

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

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

Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery & Emergency Services

Mr. John Bowes, Senior Engineer
Mr. Brendan Doyle, Senior Executive Engineer

Cathaoirleach Edward Timmins opened the final meeting of the five year term of Baltinglass Municipal District and welcomed all present including the members of the public attending.

Votes of Sympathy

Cllr. Blake expressed a vote of sympathy to the family of Mary O'Reilly, (née Whelan) of Croneyhorn Upper, Carnew, Co. Wicklow, and formerly of Knockanna, Co. Wicklow. Cllr. Timmins asked to be associated with same.

Cllr. Glennon expressed a vote of sympathy to the family of Patrick (Paddy) Donohoe of Hollywood, Co. Wicklow, formerly of Manor Kilbride. Cllr. O'Neill asked to be associated with same.

Mr. Graham expressed a vote of sympathy to our former Colleague and Baltinglass MD Technician Mr. Roger Morrison on the passing of his Dear Mother, Anna Rose Morrison (Murphy), formerly of Clashmore, Co. Waterford and Ballinaboy, Co. Mayo.

A minutes silence was observed.

1. To confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 22nd April 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. Cronin, seconded by Cllr. Blake and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 22nd April 2024.

2. Matters Arising – None

3. Update on Baltinglass RRDF

Park

Mr. Graham advised The Members that works are ongoing on the park.

Town Centre

Mr. Byrne informed The Members that NBI ducting works will commence this week from the school to the church and will take approximately two weeks to complete.

Bridge

Mr. Byrne informed The Members he has not received an update from NTA.

Courthouse

Mr. Cullen advised The Members that minor plastering works are ongoing, which will be followed by the building being fully painted in the summer. Wicklow County Council's CCSD section is also in the process of appointing a contractor to carry out repair works to the roof.

Members Comments and Observations (Baltinglass RRDF)

- Cllr. Mullen requested that The Members receive an update on Baltinglass bridge, from the NTA ASAP.
- Cllr. Mullen also asked for confirmation that the footpath at the courthouse is a temporary measure.
 - Mr. Byrne advised Cllr. Mullen that as soon as he has an update from the NTA he will inform The Members of same.
 - Mr. Byrne confirmed that the footpath at the courthouse is temporary.
- Cllr. O'Neill enquired as to what is happening at the Dutchman's Pub. He expressed his concerns regarding properties being bought up in the area for emergency accommodation.
 - Mr. Graham said that he is aware of works being carried out and properties being sold but that it is hearsay as to what the properties are to be used for.
- Cllr. Glennon stated that the update and works on the bridge should be pursued in vigour.

4. To Consider Roads Reports (national and non-national roads)

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

Members Comments and Observations (national roads)

- Cllr. Glennon complemented all involved in the Lockstown,Valleymount Junction project stating that it was an impressive job, improving the safety of the junction.

- Mr. Byrne thanked Cllr. Glennon and asked that Mr. Con Cashman's management of and hard work on the Vallemount Junction be recognised.
- Cllr. Glennon reiterated the importance of a new N81 stating that the current one is not fit for purpose.
- Cllr. O'Neill stated that a five year term has passed and still no improvement on the N81.
- He complimented the Area Engineers for the wonderful work they do throughout the District, acknowledging that they have to work with unfair and inadequate funding.
- Cllr. Timmins welcomed the works at Tuckmill to Saundergrove.

Members Comments and Observations (national roads)

- Cllr. Mullen thanked the engineers and their teams for all their hard work. He reiterated the urgent need for immediate funding to improve drainage in the district.
 - Mr. Devereux asked if OPW minor works funding could be applied for and was advised by Mr. Graham that the district's applications for the OPW minor works funding had been unsuccessful to date. He stated that both he and Mr. Byrne are working to ensure all funding accessible to the district is / has been applied for.
- Cllr. Blake requested that direction signs from Tinahely to Arklow be replaced.
- Cllr. Blake also requested that Mr. Graham have the Ballyconnell footpath reinstated ASAP.
- Cllr. Glennon complimented the engineers on the high standard of work carried out on the footpath from Hollywood to the GAA Club.
- Cllr. Glennon asked Mr. Graham for a progress update on the required Kiltegan road safety measures, he was informed by Mr. Graham that a topographical survey was carried out, that he is working on same and works should be started by the end of 2024.
- Cllr. Glennon reiterated ongoing problems with public lighting in Baltinglass.
 - Mr. Byrne informed The Members that public lighting maintenance is being tendered as Enerveo have abandoned public lighting maintenance completely.
- Cllr. O'Neill asked Mr. Byrne how long it would take for white lining to be completed once road resurfacing was carried out.
 - Mr. Byrne explained that resurfacing works need a couple of months before white lining can be added.
- Cllr. Cronin welcomed the news that the public lighting contract was being tendered as Enerveo had not kept to the agreement in place resulting in many.
- Cllr. Cronin requested that blocked drains on Church Road, Dunlavin be addressed.
- Cllr. Cronin stated there is a growing problem with speed on the Tulfarris road and asked if deer signs could be erected.
- Cllr. Timmins requested that safety on the road outside Talbotstown School be addressed.
 - Mr. Graham advised that some works have been carried out at the Talbotstown School, stating that funding is the issue.
 - A discussion was held amongst The Members regarding the lack of safe routes to school funding for rural areas as they are completely different to urban areas. With far less numbers in a position to walk, cycle to school due to distance etc. Cllr. Mullen asked if a letter could be sent on The Members

behalf advising that the scheme is not designed to accommodate rural areas.

5. To consider the proposed Part 8 for the N81 Hollywood Cross Traffic Calming Road Safety Improvement Scheme.

Mr. Brendan Doyle gave a brief summary of the scheme stating that four submissions had been received, all of which supported the scheme.

- Cllr. Glennon stated that one home owner will be most affected by the scheme and asked that any reasonable requests by the owners be met. He also requested that they be kept informed on the progression of the scheme.

All The Members welcomed the scheme and progress of same.

It was proposed by Cllr. Glennon, seconded by Cllr. Cronin and unanimously agreed to adopt the Part 8 for junction improvements at Lockstown, Vallemount.

6. To consider Baltinglass Municipal District Schedule of works.

Mr. Cullen asked The Members if they had considered the schedule of works which was circulated to them prior to the meeting. All agreed they had and it was proposed by Cllr. Timmins, seconded by Cllr. Mullen and unanimously agreed to accept the Baltinglass Municipal District Schedule of works.

7. Bus Services in Baltinglass Municipal District.

Mr. Cullen asked The Members what action they would like to take regarding the inadequate bus services in the district. A lengthy discussion was held amongst The Members and all agreed that Mr. Cullen write to the Chief Executive of Dublin Bus to voice major concerns regarding the lack of adequate public transport serving Blessington and surrounding towns and villages.

8. To consider locations for Baltinglass CCTV.

Mr. Cullen asked The Members if they had considered the locations for Baltinglass CCTV which were circulated in a report to them prior to the meeting. Mr Cullen advised the Members that once locations had been agreed by the Department of Justice they could not be added to or amended. All agreed they had considered the locations for Baltinglass CCTV and it was proposed by Cllr. Mullen, seconded by Cllr. Timmins and unanimously agreed to accept the locations for Baltinglass CCTV.

9. Correspondence

Mr. Cullen advised The Members that he had received correspondence requesting that a Palestinian Flag be flown in the Square in Baltinglass.

A discussion was held amongst The Members and it was proposed by Cllr. Blake, seconded by Cllr. Cronin and agreed by all that Mr. Cullen seek guidance from the Protocol Committee regarding the request before issuing a response.

10. Any other business

Mr Cullen advised that a new Baltinglass Municipal District chain of office had been recently purchased, he pointed out that new chain was acquired as a result of there being no chain of office for the District. As the Baltinglass Municipal District only came into being in 2014 and in that time the District had been borrowing a chain from Wicklow County Council, the chain that was being borrowed was WCC chain that was no longer in use. He pointed out that it had no relevance to the

district and that it was only ever intended to be used on a temporary basis. Mr. Cullen presented the Members the new chain to the members but advised that he had to return it back to the suppliers for further works, he hoped to have it back and useable in the coming months.

Kippure

Mr. Devereux advised the room that the Planning and Environment Sections of Wicklow County Council have open files on Kippure which might lead to legal proceedings. While he welcomed comments he asked that everyone be mindful of the above when speaking.

- All The Members present expressed and discussed concerns that have been brought to them from members of the public.
- Suspension of Standing Orders
 - It was proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Timmons and unanimously agreed to suspend standing orders to allow one member of the public gallery to speak.
 - Mr. Devereux stated that specific concerns will be investigated.

Greenway

- Cllr. O'Neill proposed that The Members seek a three month extension to the submission date on further information received by An Bord Pleanála from Wicklow County Council. Stating that the submission period did not allow enough time for the further information to be analysed and responded to.
 - There was no seconder for the proposal.

11. Date of next meeting

The next Baltinglass Municipal District annual and ordinary meeting will be held on the 24th June 2024.

There being no other business, Cllr. Timmins, concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 24th June 2024