

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in the Blessington Civic Offices, Blessington on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 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. Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive
- Ms. Breege Kilkenny, District Manager
- Mr. Pat Byrne, Senior Executive Engineer
- Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
- Mr. Liam Cullen, District Administrator
- Ms. Andrea Connolly, Assistant Staff Officer
- Mr. Declan Marnane, Senior Engineer, Housing
- Ms. Emma Hickey, Executive Architect, Housing
- Mr. Merlin Ovington, Administrative Officer, Environment

Mr. Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, welcomed all to the new council chamber of Baltinglass Municipal District and officially opened the new chamber.

**1. To confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Cllr. Mullen proposed the minutes of the April meeting and Cllr. O’Neill seconded them.

**2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **3. To discuss and consider the adoption of part 8 relating to the decommissioning of existing Rath Luain WWTP and installation of a new wastewater pumping station**

Mr. Merlin Ovington, Environment, presented the meeting with a report on the part 8 to decommission the existing Rath Luain waste water treatment plant and install a new wastewater pumping station and foul sewer in Dunlavin. He advised the meeting that the original planning permission was granted allowing the construction of a temporary waste water treatment plant on site which was to be disconnected when Dunlavin WWTP was upgraded and a connection to the public sewer network was to be made. The planned upgrade of the Dunlavin WWTP has now been completed but the temporary WWTP has not been decommissioned and is still in use. It is proposed that the existing waste water treatment plant be decommissioned and disposed of offsite and a new sump and pumping station connecting to the public network be installed. Notice of the Part 8 was on public display from 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and no submissions or observations were made. All members unanimously supported this proposal with Cllr. Blake proposing the adoption of this motion and Cllr. Glennon seconding it.

### **4. To discuss and consider the adoption of part 8 relating to 20 Social Housing Units and all associated works at School Road, Lugduff, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow**

The members received a presentation from Ms. Emma Hickey, Executive Architect, and Mr. Declan Marnane, Senior Engineer, on the proposed development of 20 social housing units at Schools Road, Lugduff, Tinahely. Mr. Marnane advised the meeting that following feedback from submissions received the design of the housing units now include more substantial back gardens with the public open space now more accessible than the original design. Cllr. O'Neill queried if affordable housing units were included and if the issues with Irish Water had been resolved. Mr. Marnane advised that the site was too small for affordable housing and with market rates in the area too high it was not suitable. The issues with Irish Water are subject to an upgrade of the plant but there is currently enough capacity at present. Cllr. Blake raised concerns that there were no four bedroom units included in the plans and asked if at least one four bed unit could be included. He also noted that if the current hedgegrow is to be retained it would need some work and welcomed this development to the Tinahely area with some small alterations. Cllr. Mullen thanked Mr. Marnane and Ms. Hickey for their presentation and stated that all concerns raised have now been addressed but queried if there were sufficient traffic measures in place and if the development was suitable for universal access. Ms. Hickey replied that the development has been designed in line with building regulations and Mr. Marnane advised that a traffic survey is due to be completed but there will be no major changes to the traffic and parking layout. Cllr. Timmins welcomed this new development but raised concerns at the lack of affordable housing and noted that a lot of young people are being locked out of housing schemes due to this. He stated that affordable housing should be available in every

area and should not be dismissed. He also queried if the development included provision for the elderly. Cllr. Blake noted that there are a number of affordable sites in the Tinahely and Dunlavin areas. Cllr. Cronin agreed with both Cllr. Timmins and Cllr. Blake and asked why these sites are not being developed to give younger people the opportunity to buy. Mr. Marnane advised the members that all one bedroom units are fully accessible for the elderly with accessible showers and level entries. Cllr. O'Neill queried if the part 8 can be amended to include a four bedroom unit and following some discussion it was agreed that this can be accommodated if necessary. All members welcomed and supported this development with Cllr. Blake proposing the adoption of the part 8 and Cllr. Mullen seconding it.

## **5. Update on the Housing Development at Ballard, Shillelagh**

Mr. Marnane updated members on the part 8 housing development at Ballard, Shillelagh and advised that there are no changes to the original part 8. He advised the meeting that full approval has been granted from the Department of Housing and negotiations are ongoing with landowners on the sewerage connection which will go through adjacent fields. He added that this should be finalised within the next week and a contractor will be appointed within the next few weeks. Cllr. Mullen queried when works can commence on this development and Cllr. Blake noted there had been difficulties with Irish Water but stated the importance of engaging with landowners. Mr. Marnane advised the meeting that negotiations with landowners are positive with once an agreement is reached works can commence in September or October. The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Hickey and Mr. Marnane for both reports and updates.

## **6. To consider and adopt the Baltinglass Municipal District 2022 Schedule of Works**

A copy of the Baltinglass Municipal District Schedule of Works 2022 had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Cllr. O'Neill raised concerns over the amount of money spent on maintenance of the public convenience in Blessingtown Town Square and stated it was a waste of space and money. Cllr. Mullen queried what the Baltinglass Courthouse maintenance budget was and asked if the playgrounds in each area were installed by different contractors. Mr. Graham, Executive Engineer, advised the meeting that the budget for the courthouse relates to maintenance of the building including heating and insurance cover. He also advised that the playground in Tinahely was installed by a northern company and has been closed recently to carry out repairs as all playgrounds in the district need to be brought up to standard. Cllr. Blake asked if cameras could be installed at playgrounds in order to alleviate anti-social behaviour. He also proposed the budget for Economic Development, although small, could be used to host an awards scheme for recognition of what people have achieved in the district. Cllr. Glennon questioned the budget of €500 for Severe Weather Events and Mr. Graham explained that this budget is in place in the case of

a severe weather event. Cllr. Glennon proposed the adoption of the schedule of Works for 2022 and Cllr. Blake seconded it.

## **7. To consider 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 drainage works at Mullycagh and Tinode and these works will commence within the next few weeks. He added that the annual clean up of the N81 will commence shortly and tenders will be ran and awarded shortly. Cllr. Mullen raised concerns on the road markings at Baltinglass bridge junction and Mr. Byrne advised that he will speak with TII about getting road markings reinstated. Cllr. O'Neill questioned if there was any update on the Hollywood bus stop and Mr. Byrne advised that a bus stop on the N81 is currently not an option as landowners are not willing to sell. He added that a park and ride facility is favourable for Hollywood but that TII have will make that decision. Cllr. Cronin advised that she addresses these issues of the N81 at all EMRA meetings she attends. Cllr. Timmins raised the issue of reducing the speed limit at Hollywood junction to 80kph up to Poulaphouca and Mr. Byrne advised that TII have the final say on speed limits on national routes.

Following a report on the non-national roads by Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer, Cllr. Mullen queried when works would commence at Back Bawns Lane, Knockananna and if the road markings would be completed on the main street in Knockananna. He also queried if there was any update on the NTA funding for footpaths in the District. Ms. Kilkenny, District Manager, advised that the €1 million allocated to footpaths in rural areas will be finalised this week and will be issued the following week. Mr. Byrne noted that once funding has been allocated, prices for these works could be sought. Cllr. Timmins queried if there was a start date for the upgrade of Baltinglass Town Square and Park. Mr. Graham advised these works on the town square will commence in July with works on the town park commencing six weeks later. Cllr. O'Neill thanked staff for the works completed at Kilbride and Vallemount Villages and stated that these works are very much appreciated at local level. Cllr. Blake raised concerns at drainage issues at Coolafancy and queried if works at Glenashouk have been completed. Cllr. Glennon questioned if the plastic kerbing at Kilmalum junction is permanent and Mr. Byrne advised that metal kerbing is in place with beds of low level planting as there will eventually be a cycle path from the Naas Road to Kilmalum junction. Cllr. Cronin noted that the road from Lognatryna to Dunlavin is in very bad condition and asked if anything could be done to improve the road surface. Mr. Byrne stated that unfortunately there are roads in worse condition in the area but there is a possibility funding may be available at the end of year.

## **5. Correspondence**

Mr. Liam Cullen, District Administrator, advised the members that following Kiltegan Village winning the IPB Pride of Place award that an event would take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> June to acknowledge their achievement. He informed the meeting that the new Waste Water Treatment Plant in Ballyconnell would officially be opened on the 17<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am and all members were invited to attend. Following on from the proposal to set up a Greenway working Committee at the May meeting nominations could be submitted to Ms. Caroline Fox. He reminded members that the closing date for applications for festival funding was 30<sup>th</sup> May.

## **6. Any other business**

Mr. Byrne reminded members to submit their list of works to be funded by their discretionary budget.

Cllr. O'Neill raised concerns over a carpark operating in Burgage on Wicklow County Council property. He stated that fencing has been erected at a cost of €15,000 and this three quarter acre site is now charging €3 entry to park at the weekends. Ms. Kilkenny advised the meeting that Wicklow County Council had been made aware of the situation and the matter was being looked into. She stated the provision of parking on council land cannot occur without an agreement in place and no agreement exists. Cllr. O'Neill stated it was outrageous that council owned land has been taken over and used as a car park when there is currently no car parking facilities for Burgage graveyard. Ms. Kilkenny advised that Wicklow County Council were looking into the provision of parking at the graveyard which could be included as part of the Master Plan for Burgage.

Mr. Cullen advised the members that copies of submissions received on the Blessington Greenway were available for perusal in the Baltinglass Municipal District office.

## **10. Date of next meeting**

The next Baltinglass Municipal District meeting will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_