

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

**Councillor Joe Behan,
Councillor Christopher Fox
Councillor Steven Matthews
Councillor Oliver O'Brien
Councillor Michael O'Connor
Councillor John Ryan
Councillor Brendan Thornhill
Councillor Pat Vance**

Also present:

**Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Mr. David Forde, District Administrator
Mr. Liam Bourke, District Engineer
Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer**

Absent

Apologies:

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to the families of Aaron O'Kelly and Sean Devlin who recently passed away. A minute's silence was observed, as a mark of respect.

It was noted that a vote of sympathy to the family of Liam Temple was omitted from the minutes of 5th December 2017.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting dated 5th December 2017.

Councillor Vance proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray dated 5th December 2017 and Councillor Thornhill seconded the proposal.

2. To Receive the Housing Report

The following report was circulated to the members.

Oldcourt Energy Efficiency Works

Work on the third tranche of 8 dwellings is progressing well and on target for handover on December 7th Tranche No.4 is scheduled to commence on the 8th January 2018 and will involve works to 9 dwellings. Beyond this there remain a further 33 properties to which works have yet to be carried out. These will be subdivided in to 4 further tranches with a target completion date of Dec 2018.

Cedar Court

The electrical works are complete. Outstanding works concern the fitting of door release systems to the units sharing a common door at street level.

Kilbride Lane

Tenders in relation to Kilbride Lane/Murphy's lands issued on the 3rd of November 2017 with a return date of 12th December 2017. Once tenders have been assessed by the Councils appointed Consultants the successful candidate will be awarded the contract for the works.

The members raised the following point;

- The Winter Scheme Initiative how long will it operate and what is the take up on this scheme. It is an excellent initiative?

The Administrative Office, Housing Section informed the members that this Cold Weather Initiative is administrated centrally by Wicklow County Council. People may be referred for a night or more following an assessment. The Centre operates from 10pm to 9am and will continue until the end of March i.e. 12/13 weeks. The amount of people availing of the facility varies from night to night with the maximum of 5 people to date.

3. To receive a Report on Roads and Traffic.

The District Engineer circulated the following report to the members,

Roads Programme

The proposed roads programme for 2018 is set out in table below:

Location	Works	length	Estimate
Glencree Rd-Cloon	SR	2250	190,000
Calary Upper	SD	925	10,700
Calary Lower	SD	1000	11,418
Calary Lower	SR	800	56,000
Glencormick	SR	482	45,700
Rocky Valley	SD	1850	33,300
Old Long Hill	SR	720	49,500
Ballybawn Lower	SD	1500	33,700
Knocksink	SR	300	40,000
Meath Road, Bray	RR	150	157,000
			627,318

The members raised the following points;

- I recognize that all this work is necessary but am disappointed that the six estates that need to be reinstated have even made it to the list. I propose that the list is amended to include at least one of the estates; the members are allowed an input.
- It is not a mystery which estate/estates need to be done again.
- The extension of the Herbert Road car park do we have a price for the demolition of the house, site clearance and construction costs?
- The cost per space seems high are there any reports on other sites in the town?
- How did we arrive at the decision that this is best use funds?
- I would like to congratulate everyone in the Florentine Centre, this deal is exceptionally good. Parking is necessary in the town.
- The Council has taken control of the Church's part of the car park; this is forward thinking and I fully support this parking option in the middle of the town.
- Every business person in the town is asking when is the Florentine Centre coming on stream and the car parking.
- We as Councillors need to work together to ring fence money to improve the town.
- The Florentine Centre is going on for 25 years, we have to bear in mind that there is a housing crisis in the country.
- We were told before Christmas that the Council was looking to buy this property and no one objected.
- I fully agree and congratulate everyone on their foresight for managing to secure this without causing a huge delay and avoiding the necessity of having a multi storey car park which will less impact on the residents. I am also amazed at how much was paid.
- It is a good solution and gives us the opportunity to increase the parking on the western side of the town.
- If planning does not go through I propose that we utilize the house for the benefit of those who are really homeless. To use it as an emergency housing hub for mothers and children.

- We have the right to represent the views of the public, they should be heard.
- I hate the idea of a house being demolished but it has to happen. The idea that we strangle the town more by not having more parking; we have to make the decision. I am in favour.
- One area I do have a problem with is a multi storey car park. I would still like the Council to investigate the cost of digging down, that is what I would do with the money from the Florentine Centre.

The District Engineer stated that the costs in relation to the Herbert Road car park works would be approximately €400,000 or slightly more. I did request that the members identify which estate would take priority. All the roads listed fall below the standard set out by the Department and we have to go with their guidelines.

The works on the Meath Road will take approximately one third of our available funding. Herbert Road has been deferred due to necessary sewage works. There are also water main works planned for the Vevay Road. These works need to be carried out first.

The District Manager stated that the car park has been raised at meetings and we have looked at various options; we are still have talks regarding using the Golf Club Lands as an overflow option. We have also investigated deck parking but generally costs are lower per space for surface car parking. This option is good value for money. Some of our parking fund went towards the Shanganagh Treatment Plant and we have ring fenced parking funds for this project. The Florentine Centre should provide a fresh injection and spend per capita in the District. This is not a fait accompli it is a Part 8 process. If the disposal notice is rejected I would say it is the end of the Florentine Centre. It is our job to listen to the members and the members have been behind the Florentine Centre for years.

The Cathaoirleach stated that everyone's views are respected around this table.

4. To Receive an Update on the Florentine Centre

The District Manager informed the members that one tender was received and opened; there were two parties at the pre-qualification stage. If the disposal notice is approved by the members then the developer is keen to go and is committed to getting on site in May. This will be down to the members at the meeting next Monday in Wicklow. We could have a look in 2019 at going down in the Herbert Road car park but this would mean closing at least half the car park if we were doing this work.

The members raised the following point;

- Have you any comment on the article in the Sunday Business Post?

The Cathaoirleach stated that he did not think that we should speculate on newspaper articles, we don't want to go down that road.

5. Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (05/12/2017)

That this Council prepares a programme of expenditure of the arrears of rent received recently from Nechouka/Starwood which is discussed and adopted by the 8 members of Bray Municipal District at the January monthly meeting.

Response

The District Engineer is currently examining proposals for expenditure and will bring these to the February Meeting for discussion.

The members raised the following point;

- Do we have an input into the final decision, who decides on these expenditure items?

The District Manager stated that it is a budgetary matter for the members to decide.

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (05/12/2017)

That this Council installs yield signs at the junction on the Wurzburg Road with the roads leading to the Southern Cross Business Park, Ballywaltrim Business Park, Schools Road and Boghall Road. That this Council also constructs two metal speed ramps on the approach to this junction from Boghall Road and that this Council

constructs a small 'doughnut' type roundabout at this junction all to improve pedestrian and traffic safety at this dangerous junction.

Response

There are already "stop" line markings at the junction of Southern Cross Business Park with the Wurzburg Road and the junctions of Wurzburg Road with Schools Road and Boghall Road. There is a yield line on cul-de-sac from Ballywaltrim Business Park direction. A stop sign had been erected at exit from Southern Cross Business Centre in 2017.

Line markings will be renewed as required at these junctions at the earliest opportunity subject to weather and contractor availability. Signs are generally not provided at tee junctions with adequate visibility. However at the Southern Cross Business Park, the adequacy of signage will be checked and replaced if required. The proposal for the mini roundabout at this location has been assessed. Land acquisition is required at the corner at the rear of Boghall Cottages in order to provide required sightlines to construct.

The members raised the following point;

- I appreciate the detailed response, this is a busy road used by the schools, the residents to the rear of Boghall Cottages and the Business Park. There have been a couple of near misses. More needs to be done to make it safer.
- A change of priority at this junction is needed; it would be safer if the Business Park had priority. Some don't realise that they have to stop.
- Can metal ramps be placed on the Boghall Road?
- There is a problem with the junction of Schools Road and Boghall Road

The District Engineer stated that we could work out the cost and talk to the landowners; we would need land to develop this. Cross Roads by their nature are the most dangerous type of junction. A mini roundabout would slow down traffic. We can't put metal ramps on a public road; we could talk to the owners of the Business Park and put them there. The shopping centre is adding to the problem at the Schools Road/Boghall Road junction.

6. Reports and Recommendations

The District Administrator stated that 3 reports have been circulated to the members.

- Ballywaltrim Playing Pitches
- IBAL Report
- Visitor Monitoring Report

7. Correspondence

The District Administrator informed the members that a letter has been received from Minister Simon Harris on foot of the letter which issued on behalf of the members of Bray Municipal District regarding spinal services. The letter stated 'The Health Service Executive has informed my Department that the spinal orthopedic service has been reinstated at St. Vincent's University Hospital'.

8. Any Other Business

Public Lighting

Councillor Behan sought clarification regarding public lighting stating that it is becoming a problem and repairs were not being carried out by the contractor. Public lighting is out of action for months and this cannot be tolerated in this weather. There is an issue with the replacement bulbs.

Councillor Vance stated that there were 190 lights out at Christmas time in the Bray area; in the past Bray would buy and have a supply of bulbs in stock. This has not happen since the amalgamation and Wicklow County Council only look to replace the bulbs when they go out. This is a disaster and we need to get a handle on this.

The District Engineer informed the members that there were approximately 400 lights out around the county. There is a limited amount of stock which is being rationed and it is hard to obtain stock for the replacements. A plan is being formulated at this time and we could be looking at May for same. Alternatives are being looked at.

Ballywaltrim Library

Councillor Behan stated that the members were not informed by the Chief Executive and staff when we voted at a meeting to allocate additional money to the libraries that they were shutting the Ballywaltrim Library. It is a tribute to the staff on the ground and them agreeing to be flexible that this did not happen.

Councillor Vance stated that Impact had to ok the staffing levels in the libraries and held this up. I can't believe it in this day and age when people are looking for work.

Swimmers Hut

Councillor Thornhill asked if there was any update on a hut for the Swimmers

The District Engineer stated that we are still waiting on the report from Irish Water; we have been asked to put in swimming warning signs for this area and are awaiting clarification on the type of sign.

Litter on the Southern Cross Road

Councillor Thornhill stated that he had received an email regarding litter on the Southern Cross Road and Boghall Road and especially the pedestrian walkway between Pinewood and Riddlesford. He also stated that we should be pushing the issue of a dog park.

The District Engineer stated that residents in the area are assisting us on a voluntary basis. Some of the litter is on private property. We will follow up on this.

The Right of Way on Ravenswell Road

Councillor Vance stated that this right of way has been there for as long as he can remember and we should write to Iarnród Éireann requesting that they take the gates down or we will take action. This could be a valuable asset to the town.

The District Engineer stated that one of the gates at the underpass is ours; we need to finish work on the east side. It is wide enough for single way movement and would need a signalized system.

Ballywaltrim Users Committee

Councillor O'Brien raised concerns regarding the Ballywaltrim Users Committee

The Cathaoirleach said he would contact Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer in relation to this matter.

The District Administrator referred to the report which was circulated to the members 'The Council has contacted the Ballywaltrim Users Group requesting a meeting to discuss the operation of the sports facility. The purpose of the meeting is to gather information on the operation and management of the facility.

In particular the Council seek confirmation of the number clubs involved, their current membership, the structure of the users committee and the regularity of its meetings. The Council will endeavour to work with all concerned to ensure that the interests of clubs having regard to pitch scheduling and annual maintenance works are dealt with in a fair and equitable manner'.

The Cathaoirleach stated that we would await their response and this place this item on a future agenda.

This was agreed by the members.

* * * *

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated:
