

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in Blessington Civic Offices on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 at 11:00am**

**Present:** Cathaoirleach Avril Cronin  
Councillor Patsy Glennon  
Councillor Gerry O’Neill  
Councillor Peter Stapleton  
Councillor Jason Mulhall  
Councillor Pat Mahon

**In Attendance:** Ms. Theresa O’ Brien, District Manager  
Mr. Liam Cullen, District Administrator  
Mr. Patrick Byrne, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Christina Brophy, Clerical Officer

**Presentations:** Ms. Caroline Cullimore, Wicklow County Council  
Ms. Máire Halvey, Wicklow County Council

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

**1. To confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Mulhall, seconded by Cllr. Pat Mahon and unanimously agreed by all members to confirm and sign the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.

**2. Matters Arising.**

Cllr. Mulhall proposed that the wording concerning the Rás Tailteann be revised to improve clarity. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Cronin.

### **3. To receive an update on “the old Bank of Ireland building” in Carnew, Co. Wicklow.**

Ms. Cullimore provided the members with an update on the “Old Bank of Ireland building” project in Carnew. She advised that the building when renovated had previously been envisaged for use as a remote working hub, with potential for some community use, however, in recent times the requirement for remote working hubs has decreased and the emphasis nationally is now moved more towards providing community spaces.

Ms. Halvey advised that the managing of this project has moved from the Wicklow County Council Economic Development section to the Community section of the Council. It is envisaged that funding will now be applied for through the Community section of Wicklow County Council to renovate the building with a view to making the building available to local community groups when renovated.

Ms. Halvey advised that she will attend the next Carnew Town Team meeting in April to assess interest and demand among local groups. Ms. Halvey did however stress that any refurbishment and/or extension will be subject to being successful in receiving funding.

#### Members Comments and Observations

Cllr. Stapleton thanked both Ms Halvey and Ms Cullimore for the update, stating he thinks it is a positive development to change from a working hub to community building, however expressed his frustration with the timescale of the project pointing out that the building was purchased four years ago and it still has not been brought into use.

Cllr. Mulhall stated that he is pleased to see the project moved to the remit of the CCSD section and concurred with Cllr. Stapleton that the community is eager for the project to come to fruition. He also queried whether the current Part 8 approval would be sufficient.

Ms. Halvey confirmed that she is reviewing the matter and will seek clarification. These views were echoed by Cllr. Cronin.

Cllr. Glennon asked that the councillors be kept notified of developments on the project as they arise.

### **4. To consider and allocate the Baltinglass Estate Development Grants.**

Mr. Cullen circulated a proposed draft Baltinglass Estate Development Grants allocation. He noted that there were fewer applications this year compared to previous years and, for that reason, proposed allocating €6,000 from the €10,000 budget, while retaining €4,000 to accommodate housing estate requests for estate development works that may arise over the course of the year.

#### Members Comments and Observations

Cllr. O’ Neill stated that private housing estates should be considered for the Estate Development grants also as they pay property tax and other rates. He said engineer’s opinions should also be considered. Cllr. Stapleton felt that there is a responsibility for Wicklow County Council to contribute to estate development committees in private estates where there are council owned houses private landlords similar to the way landlords are expected to contribute to estate development committees. Cathaoirleach Cronin said the topic of Wicklow Council providing funding to private estates was discussed at last years

budget meeting, stating that it should be raised again at a full council meeting as it affects estate development throughout the County.

Mr. Byrne stated that €15,000 has been spent in Burgage over the past two months, largely due to an arborist's report. He noted that the annual allocation for footpath maintenance is €100,000, and that additional costs such as drainage must also be considered before addressing grass cutting in private estates.

Cllr. Glennon proposed to adopt the allocation as circulated to the members, this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Mulhall and agreed by all members.

#### **5. To consider Roads Reports (national and non-national roads)**

Mr. Byrne issued an update on the national roads and Mr. Graham issued an update on the non-national roads, reports on same were circulated to the members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Byrne advised the members that the Hollywood project is on schedule and will be completed in the coming weeks, the official opening is ear-marked for 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

#### Members Comments and Observations on National Roads

Cllr. O'Neill asked for an update on the Southern end of the relief road leading into Kildare. Mr. Byrne responded to the query regarding the southern end of the Inner Relief Road, informing the members that the road is to be constructed as a condition of the planning permission associated with Cairn Homes. He added that negotiations are ongoing.

Cllr. Glennon welcomes the developments on the N81 and he is happy to see the pedestrian bridge in Baltinglass has gotten the green light. He also pointed out that there is a dangerous section of the N81 road close to Russborough, he feels this section should be an un-broken white line.

Cllr O'Neill requested that the Hollywood project be officially opened by the local priest who initiated the works in Hollywood, along with members of the community, rather than by a Government Minister. He noted that the local community has been the driving force behind the project for the past 20 years. Ms. O'Brien advised the members that there are countywide protocols in place for such events and noted that the project was funded by TII. She added that she would relay the members' comments to the Roads Department.

Cllr. Glennon expressed his views regarding the official opening of the Hollywood project, noting that the priest referred to by Cllr. O'Neill is now residing in a nursing home. He also stated that both himself and Cllr. Timmins had funded the initial feasibility study for the project from their discretionary allocations, which helped initiate the project, he feels it would be appropriate to invite Deputy Timmins to the official opening along with local community representatives and members of the local clergy

#### Members Comments and Observations on Non-National Roads

Cllr. Stapleton queried whether there is a back up plan in place should the additional funding sought for the roads damaged in the recent storm does not become available,

noting that the prospect of securing extra funding remains uncertain. Mr. Graham informed the members that the funding allocated for RI projects may need to be rediverted to help cover storm damaged roads and this in turn will create a significant backlog for the three year RI programmes. He added that that an urgent decision is required from the Department.

Mr. Byrne stated that, even prior to the storm damage, the allocated funding was insufficient, and he urged the councillors to apply pressure on the Department to secure additional funding. Mr. Graham added that the costs to deliver these projects are increasing, the cost of Diesel has gone up by 20%, which will affect the price of black topping and other materials.

Cllr. Glennon thanked Mr. Graham for his comprehensive reports and acknowledged that the south of the county has experienced significant road damage. However, he noted that the west of the county has also been affected. Cllr. Glennon enquired if there had been any progress regarding the bus stop in Coolkenno, to which Mr. Graham replied that discussions have taken place and that he will endeavour to progress the matter.

Cllr. O Neill asked if pedestrian crossings in the district could be remarked as they are gone very faded and dull. Cllr. Stapleton advised he had secured extra funding for line marking, he expressed his surprise and frustration that this has funding has not been officially allocated to the districts yet.

Cllr. Mahon enquired as to when the "cycle routes" signage will be installed in Baltinglass. Mr. Graham advised that the paperwork has been arranged and it is ready to submit to the Roads Department in relation to the footpath in Rathdangan and regarding the "cycle routes" signage, he will allocate a crew over the next few weeks to get this taken care of.

Cllr Mahaon asked if there was any further update regarding the blocked footpath in Rathdangan. Mr Graham advised correspondence is ongoing with to land owner in question

## **6. Correspondence**

Mr. Cullen advised the members that he has had correspondence from the Lakeshore Striders, they would like to attend the next monthly meeting to give a presentation. This request was unanimously agreed to by all members.

Cllr. Mulhall has had correspondence from a Mr. Fiachra Garvey from the West Wicklow Music Festival who was enquiring if Wicklow County Council would provide funding for the event. Mr. Cullen advised that he will send that committee out an application form for Municipal District festival funding, the application will then be considered as part of the funding process

Cllr. Glennon asked Mr. Byrne if there was any issue to the mounds of clay placed on the green areas in Stratford by the Tidy Towns committee, to create raised flower beds. Mr. Byrne stated that one of the mounds may need to be pushed back as it could raise an issue with sight lines but there was no issue with the others.

## **7. Any other Business**

Cllr. O' Neill asked to meet with the other members to discuss the call for sites and the zoning of land. Cathaoirleach Cronin stated that there were two workshops last week and that there is a meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> March regarding same, it would be appropriate to wait until after that meeting to discuss.

**8. Date and venue for next meeting.**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 10:30am, following the JPC meeting at 9:30am.

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

Signed: Avril Cronin  
CATHAOIRLEACH

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

DATE: 27/04/2025

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

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