

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Baltinglass Municipal District held in the Civic offices, Blessington on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Present:** Cathaoirleach Avril Cronin

Councillor Patsy Glennon

Councillor Gerry O'Neill

Councillor Jason Mulhall

Councillor Peter Stapleton via Zoom

Councillor Pat Mahon

**In Attendance:** Ms Theresa O' Brien, District Manager

Mr. Liam Cullen, District Administrator

Mr, Patrick Byrne, Executive Engineer

Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer

Ms. Christina Brophy, Clerical Officer

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

Cllr. Peter Stapleton joined the meeting via Zoom. The Cathaoirleach asked the members if they were agreeable to Cllr Stapleton fully participating in the meeting via zoom. This request was unanimously agreed by all members.

**Votes of Sympathy**

Mr. Pat Byrne extended a vote of sympathy to the family of Mr. Kevin Fluskey, Ballinacrow Upper, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow who passed away on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Mr. Fluskey was a former driver based working most recently as part of the Donard crew, he worked for Wicklow County Council for 40 years.

Mr. Byrne also extended a vote of sympathy to Mr. Jim O' Keeffe (former GSS in Donard) and family, on the passing of his wife Mrs Teresa O'Keefe (nee Lynch) who passed away on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Cllr. Mahon expressed his sympathy to the family of Mr. Paddy Toomey, Donard, Co. Wicklow who passed away on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Cllr. Glennon, Cllr. O' Neill and Cllr. Cronin asked to be associated with all of the above votes of sympathy.

Cllr. O' Neill expressed his sympathy to the family of Darach Keane, Blessington, Co. Wicklow who passed away unexpectedly on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2025.

May they rest in Peace.

A minutes silence was observed.

**1. To confirm and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Glennon, seconded by Cllr. O' Neill and unanimously agreed by all members to confirm and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

**2. Matters Arising**

Cllr. Mulhall conveyed his appreciation to Ms. Theresa O' Brien for the clarification that she provided regarding the West Wicklow swimming pool application for the large scale sports infrastructure fund

Cllr. O' Neill asked Ms. O' Brien if there was a further update on his query regarding IPASS residents with appropriate qualifications being allowed to gain employment, he feels that they should be allowed to contribute to the economy by being allowed the opportunity to seek employment. Ms. O' Brien stated she had contacted the LAIT but they were unable to attend our November meeting but she advised that they do intend on coming to a Baltinglass MD meeting in the near future. She advised that this would provide an opportunity to get answers to questions such as the ones raised by Cllr O'Neill

**3. To consider roads reports (national and non-national roads)**

Mr. Byrne and Mr. Graham presented the National and Non National reports to the members.

Mr. Byrne informed the members that a contractor will be on site in Baltinglass Graveyard next month to carry out the restoration works on the pathways.

**Members Comments and Observations**

Cllr. Glennon asked if there is any further update on the park and ride at Hollywood to which Mr. Byrne responded that there has been no further progress in sourcing a suitable location to develop as a carpark.

Cllr. O' Neill raised the issue of the lack of upgrade to the N81, he stated that in relation to Blessington South a route was agreed 12 years ago but still there has been no progress, he suggests that the councillors should demand action on this issue. He also said that Wicklow County Council bought lands 16 years ago at Hempstown which included acquiring some homeowners front gardens with a view to providing a new carriageway. Cathaoirleach Cronin advised Cllr. O' Neill the N81 was raised recently by both Cllr Glennon and herself at a regional assembly meeting and she pointed out that the N81 has been included in the NTA strategy. Cllr. Mahon advised that he had raised the issue of the need for upgrade works on the N81 at a recent meeting that he attended with the Tánaiste. Cathaoirleach Cronin said that TD Timmins has also raised the issue in the Dáil and she stated that she has personally raised the issue in the Wicklow Council Chamber. Cllr. Glennon asked Ms. O' Brien to relay

the Members frustrations on this issue to the senior management team in Wicklow County Council re: the lack of progress on the N81.

Cllr. O' Neill said that the newly surfaced road from Hollywood to Dunlavin has no road markings and is quite dangerous. Mr. Byrne said there is no budget for white-line marking, Cllr. Stapleton also voiced his concern at the lack of road markings throughout the District, saying that he has raised the issue of lack of funding for road markings in the Council Chamber, he said he is hopeful that something will be added into the budget and that he is hopeful it will be voted through next week. Cllr. O' Neill remarked that roads should not be resurfaced without an allocation of funding to reinstate the line markings.

Cllr. Mahon asked if the road leading up to St. Patricks College in Kiltegan could be assessed by an engineer pointing out it is in very bad condition. Mr. Graham responded that this road is on next years roads programme.

Cathaoirleach Cronin asked if a crash barrier or extra signage be placed at the bend on the Milltown Road, Dunlavin.

Ms Cronin also raised the issue of rubbish being dumped on the Merginstown Road she said that she previously raised this issue at the full council meeting. Ms. O' Brien informed the members that in relation to dumping on the Merginstown Road, the waste management section are looking at the possibility of installing cameras and signage in the area.

Ms. O' Brien also wished to thank all the Baltinglass Municipal District GSS's and their teams for all their hard work last Friday and Saturday in dealing with the storm.

Cllr. O' Neill asked for an update on Knockieran Bridge. Mr. Byrne informed the members that the last update he had for the Bridge is that the ESB are developing a detailed design. Cllr. O' Neill said the slow progress is very frustrating but thanked Mr Byrne for his continued efforts

#### **4. Correspondence**

Mr. Cullen received correspondence from Baltinglass Kayak Club, they are looking for a location to store their kayaks and equipment. In their correspondence they said that they are desperately seeking a location as fears grow that they could have to cease operating due to the fact that they have nowhere to store their equipment .

Mr. Graham said the site they are requesting is a location beside the weir and he pointed out that it is an environmental protected area and it is in a flood zone.

After a lengthy discussion on it was agreed to revert back to the Kayak committee with two options. The two options being

- Council owned land at Whitehall across the road from Whitehall and Sli Slaine estates, part of this land will be used to build a new Fire station in the near future however there may also be a space there to store a container, this could be a temporary /medium term solution to their issue of finding a location. This option would be subject to terms and conditions and final approval from Wicklow County Council.

- The other option suggested was to choose their preferred location and look for planning permission at this location, if it is in close proximity to the river it will be subject to environmental screening and assessment as part of the planning process. If the area is council owned , it was pointed out that this option would involve getting agreement with Wicklow County Council to lease a piece of land from the council subject to being successful with their planning application.

Mr. Cullen advised the members that Wicklow county Council were successful in securing ORIS Funding for a walkway that would link Russelstown to Russborough

## 5. Any other business

Cllr. O' Neill congratulated the Irish Soccer Team on their recent win adding that it is a boost for the country.

Cllr. O' Neill highlighted the growing number of anti social behaviour issues arising in the Glending Housing Estate. Currently there are 18 residents looking for transfers out of there. Cllr. O' Neill also stated that the Allocations Team should listen to Councillors before allocating houses and asked if someone from housing can attend the next meeting. Ms. O' Brien said she will speak to Mr. Michael Nicholson, Director of Services regarding the ongoing problems in the estate. Cllr. Mahon said there should be a zero tolerance policy much like other housing bodies who would have pointing out that offenders should be evicted, currently there does not appear to be any consequences for tenants who cause trouble. Ms. O' Brien reminded the members that the Council is a last resort for people and they have a duty of care to house people. Cllr. Mulhall concurred with Cllr. Mahon adding that it appears that offences have serious repercussions but bad offenders suffer no apparent consequences.

Cllr. Mulhall has received complaints about dirt on the road down by Aldi.

He also requests that the footpaths from Red Lane to Holyvalley be cleared of leaves

He said that in Rockypool Crescent there is an issue with leaves gathering which makes it dangerous for pedestrians walking in the area.

Cllr. Stapleton asked if Ms. O' Brien could get clarification on Knockananna Graveyard as he has heard reports that the graveyard is at full capacity and an expansion is required. Ms. O' Brien said the registrar will have records of the amount of spaces remaining in the graveyard. Mr. Graham said this issue has been ongoing for 25 – 30 years. Ms. O' Brien stated she will seek information on this matter and report back to the members at the next meeting

Cathaoirleach Cronin asked if there is an update on the Columbarium Wall for West Wicklow. Ms. O' Brien said that funding is available and Burgage graveyard in Blessington has been identified as a possible site for a columbarium wall.

Cathaoirleach Cronin also wishes to acknowledge the work done by the Baltinglass Bulldogs Basketball Team in progressing their proposed sports complex development in Baltinglass, proposals for the development were recently on display at a public consultation evening in Baltinglass

She also enquired if it would be possible to explore the possibility of acquiring land in Dunlavin for the use of soccer pitches as the club are in need of more space, pointing out that they are operating at full capacity at the moment.

#### **6. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next ordinary meeting will be Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30am.

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

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

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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

**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

Dated: 17/12/2025