

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in Blessington Civic Offices on Wednesday 17th December at 10.30am

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
- Mr. Marc Devereux, Director of Services via Zoom

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

Votes of Sympathy

Cllr. O' Neill expressed his sympathy on the passing of a man who lived in Blessington for years, unsure of his correct name and no next of kin but known locally as David, he was buried in Burgage. Cllr. O' Neill thanked Ms. Theresa O' Brien and her Team for their help with this situation.

Cllr. O' Neill also expressed a vote of sympathy to the family of Kate Crampton, Stratford on Slaney and formerly Hollywood, Co. Wicklow who passed away on Saturday 13th December. Cllr. O' Neill extended a vote of sympathy to the family of Robert Richardson who passed away on 13th December 2025 and also to the family of Margaret (Cis) Fitzsimons nee Murphy, Brittas, Co. Dublin who passed away on December 11th 2025.

All of the councillors asked to be associated with these votes of sympathy with Cllr. Pat Mahon adding an expression of sympathy to the family of Mary Flanagan nee Rooney, Carrig Glen, Blessington, Co. Wicklow who passed away on 9th December 2025.

May they all rest in peace. A minutes silence was observed.

1. To confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 17th November 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mulhall, seconded by Cllr. Glennon and unanimously agreed by all members to confirm and sign the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 17th November 2025.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising

3. Update on Blessington RRDF

Mr. Marc Devereux informed the members that he has written to the Department and is awaiting a response in relation to the re-using the HSE building, primarily as a tourist hub/community building.

Members Comments and Observations

Cllr. Mulhall asked if there is a timeline available on the Department's decision as we have been waiting for years for this project to commence and he pointed out that the building has been vandalised recently. Cllr. Glennon added that it needs to be progressed, pointing out that the proposed redevelopment of the site includes the creation of some much needed extra parking spaces for the area.

Mr. Devereux replied that he is expecting a response early in the New Year but has no official timeline.

4. Update Baltinglass RRDF

Mr. Devereux advised that he has spoken with officials in the Department regarding the Baltinglass RRDF project, he informed the meeting that he is awaiting approval from the Department for this scheme to go to tender. He said that with the rising cost of inflation, the scheme has been reduced and is now planned to be done on a phased basis. A quality audit also must be completed and it can't go to tender without this audit being completed first.

Members Comments and Observations

Cllr. O' Neill queried the amount spent to date on the town square project. Mr. Devereux replied that €600,000 approximately has been spent which includes the upgrade works to Baltinglass Park.

A query was raised about the poor condition of the footpaths in Baltinglass town centre, Mr. Dermot Graham informed the members that NBI recently laid ducting and have repaired footpaths from the school in Baltinglass down as far as the Doctors surgery.

Cllr. Mahon queried if it is just the quality audit that is holding things up on the Town Centre project. Mr. Devereux stated that it is the quality audit and the tender approval from the Department that is causing the latest delays to the commencement of the project.

Cathaoirleach Cronin added that this is extremely frustrating and asked if there any timelines available for the project to commence.

Mr. Devereux estimated that approval and the tender process could take up to six months.

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

Mr. Pat Byrne presented the National roads report.

Members Comments and Observations

Cllr. Glennon remarked that it is great to see the Hollywood traffic calming scheme nearing completion pointing out that it will be a major piece of much needed infrastructure for West Wicklow, he added that he feels a park & ride facility is still very much needed to enhance the scheme. He also suggested that there is a need for a bus shelter and better public lighting at Annalecky crossroads .

Cllr. Glennon also asked Mr. Byrne for an update on the LIS scheme in Lemonstown. Mr. Byrne advised that in relation to a bus shelter at Annalecky this will prove difficult to facilitate this request as you require eight meters of ground from the edge of the road and that currently this space is not there. In response to the LIS schemes Mr. Byrne said applications are dealt with in date order, longest on the list first to be considered, there is no scope for selecting projects outside of this as it is National Policy to deal with applications in this manner. Mr. Graham added that the District continue to be very proactive about delivering on LIS.

Cllr. Mulhall stated that there is an issue with speeding on the old Ballymore Road and asked Mr. Byrne if more ramps could be installed. Mr. Byrne advised that he will assess this road to see if anything can be done to reduce the speed.

Cllr. O' Neill said he is delighted to see works at Hearn's cross being progressed but he feels that the park & ride is very much dependant on a better bus service for the area, he feels a submission should be made to allow the number 65 bus travel as far as Hollywood. Cathaoirleach Cronin remarked that two of the Baltinglass MD members have made submissions at the Regional Assembly regarding upgrading the 65 bus service. On foot of their submission they met with the Minister for Transport to discuss this matter further. She advised that the feedback from the Minister was that Wicklow County Council will need to bring proposals to the Department in order to push things through.

Mr. Graham presented the non-national roads reports.

Members Comments and Observations

Cllr. Stapleton remarked that under the update on the RI schemes , some roads in Carnew have been marked as complete but there are still no road markings on these roads. Mr. Graham responded that road marking crews are on site today to carry out this work, he said it was delayed because of the poor weather conditions. Cllr. Stapleton also asked if there is a timeline in relation to the scheme at Lugduff. Mr. Graham said that this is being delivered through the NTA Delivery Team.

Cllr. Glennon thanked Mr. Graham for his report adding that it is great to see work happening at Burkes Bridge. He also asked if there are any plans for a cycle lanes in Baltinglass. He raised an issue regarding the upgrade of road markings in Kiltegan. He highlighted the public lighting outages in Lacken and Hollywood that the need for this to be looked into. Mr. Liam Cullen said he had reported the problems of street lights in Hollywood being out and expected this to be sorted in the near future. Wicklow County Council Engineer, Mr. Larry Roe is currently working with the lighting contractor to resolve these problems. Mr. Byrne stated that any remaining lighting issues are predominantly ESB issues.

Cllr. Mahon asked about signage for cyclists in Baltinglass, Mr. Graham said he has the signs in the council depot and that he will have them erected as soon as possible. Cllr. Mahon also suggested the Kiltegan College road is in a bad state of repair and that it needs work to be carried out on it. Mr. Graham advised that this road is on the 2027 Roads programme.

Cllr. Mulhall thanked both engineers for all their work throughout the year. He said that recent heavy rain and subsequent frosty period has resulted in potholes developing at Tomacork/Coolattin Oaks. He also pointed out that there are drainage issues in this area which is resulting in a lot of surface water on the roads.

Cllr. O' Neill asked if the white lines can be re-instated on the road from Hollywood to Dunlavin. Mr. Stapleton remarked that as part of the recent Wicklow County Council budget €100,000 was allocated for white line marking and he said he would like to see this funding being utilised.

Cathaoirleach Cronin expressed thanks for the no dumping signs that were recently erected in Dunlavin, s he said that she is hopeful this will help resolve the littering problems in the area. She also pointed out the safer routes to school programmes has recently been announced and said she is delighted to see that three schools from the Baltinglass District have been included, Talbotstown, Manor Kilbride and Rathdangan. Cathaoirleach Cronin also thanked both engineers for all their work during the year.

6. Correspondence

Mr. Cullen informed the members that in relation to the proposed Oris project for the Russelstown to Russborough scheme the department have requested further information.

7. Any other Business

Cllr. Stapleton asked Ms. Theresa O' Brien if she had an update on the status of Knockananna Graveyard. Ms. O' Brien responded that there are currently grave spaces available in the graveyard and that she will have a more comprehensive report in the New Year.

Cllr. O' Neill also asked if anything can be done with the heating in Blessington library which hasn't worked for a year and the situation it is affecting both customers and staff. Ms. O' Brien said that the energy team has done a survey and they are looking at various options.

Mr. Graham informed the members that he recently had to close Tinahely Park as there were safety concerns after it was vandalised. Mr. Byrne added that there is a huge undertaking in looking after parks and playgrounds.

Ms. O' Brien urged the members to identify items to be done under the discretionary fund. Cllr. Stapleton suggested that councillors consider using discretionary funds to finance repairs to footpaths in the District.

Mr. Cullen advised the members that Baltinglass Bulldogs have requested to attend a meeting in the New Year to give a presentation on a proposed sports development project planned for the area.

Cllr. O' Neill spoke about a Graveyard at the bottom of red lane called Scourlocks Graveyard, he queried if it would be eligible for a Community Monument Grant

8. Date and venue of next meeting.

The date of the next meeting has been set for 26th January 2026

Ms. O' Brien wished the Baltinglass MD Members and staff a happy Christmas and also thanked the staff in the district for all their hard work during the year.

Cathaoirleach Cronin thanked Theresa for always fighting for Baltinglass MD & thanked all the Municipal District staff and there's always a lovely atmosphere in the office. She concluded by thanking the members for all their advice and guidance.

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

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: