

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in Blessington Civic Offices on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 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

**Presentations:** Mr. Stephen Begley, Baltinglass Bulldogs  
Mc Garry Consultants working on behalf of Baltinglass Bulldogs

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

**Note:** Cllr. Peter Stapleton arrived at 10:48am.

**Votes of Sympathy**

Cllr. Mulhall expressed a vote of sympathy to the family of Lorcan Mc Mahon, Santry Hill, Blessington, Co. Wicklow, who passed away recently. All Councillors present asked to be associated with this vote of sympathy.

May he 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 December 2025.**

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

## **2. Matters Arising.**

Cllr. O' Neill asked if there was any update on getting the heating system fixed in the Blessington Library as it hasn't been working for over a year now. Cllr O' Neill also highlighted that there is no disabled access to the library.

Cllr. Mulhall wished to show support and congratulate a local person , Ms. Erin King who has been recently announced as the new Captain for Ireland women's national rugby team, he also mentioned her achievement of representing Ireland at the 2024 Summer Olympics, pointing out she is a great role model to young people.

## **3. To receive a presentation from Baltinglass Bulldogs Basketball committee on the proposed sports campus development in Baltinglass.**

Representatives from Mc Garry Consultants delivered a presentation on the proposed plans for a new sports campus at Whitehall in Baltinglass. In the presentation they explained that the proposed development can incorporate a space for a number of sports clubs, the complex will be two storeys and will include changing rooms and a large indoor space/hall. Plans for the development were circulated to the members at the meeting

The Project is expected to cost 17 – 18 million euros and the committees plan is to apply for LSSIF funding, if successful they expect to receive up to two thirds of the cost of the project with the project committee being required to fund the remaining one third of the project cost

## Members Comments and Observations

Cllr. Glennon thanked the consultants for their very professional report and remarked that it is a big task to finance the project however he wished them well in their endeavours. He also remarked that there is currently an active campaign for a swimming pool in West Wicklow which the council have been asked to support pointing out that they will also be seeking LSIF funding . Liam from Garry Consultants responded that the Sports Complex is very different to the swimming pool project and while he wishes the swimming pool well, he feels that the sports complex offers more possibilities to a wide range of users.

When asked about the proposed location, Mr. Begley stated that the particular land in Whitehall has been zoned as business use which he has been informed could also incorporate a sports complex, he advised that his committee intend to apply for the relevant planning permissions in order to take it to the next stage.

Cllr. O' Neill thanked the consultants adding that he had worked hard with Mr. Billy Timmins and Mr. Edward Timmins to get this land rezoned and he feels this project is not comparable with the swimming pool project. He pointed out that The Bulldogs are already well established and have a huge membership, he said that a sports complex is much needed for West Wicklow and he fully supports the project going ahead.

Cllr. Mahon agreed that this would be a fabulous facility for West Wicklow and is much needed, he queried if this will all be dependent on the LSSIF Funding. Mr. Begley responded that the project can only be successfully completed if they secure LSSIF Funding . He pointed out that the next stage is to get support from Wicklow County Council and to seek planning permission on the site.

Cllr. Mulhall believes that this is an excellent project and noted there is a lot of community support for it and stated that with the development intended to be a multi-use building , this is an added bonus. He also queried if the project could be done in phases, Liam from McGarry consultants said the design for the development allows for it to be done on a phased basis

Cathaoirleach Cronin said she attended the recent Bulldogs workshop and remarked on the enthusiasm in the community for the project . She also pointed out that if successfully developed the sports complex will benefit not just the people of Baltinglass but also the people from the surrounding towns and villages, a huge catchment area would benefit from such a facility.

Cllr. Stapleton said that he thought it was an incredible project with great potential pointing out that it will have a huge positive impact on West Wicklow if it goes ahead. He who will be applying for the funding, will be the Bulldogs or will it be Wicklow County Council. Liam from Mc Garry Consultants advised that it would be Wicklow County Council making the application on behalf of the committee

Mr. Graham queried if there was an option to try to include the provision of a swimming pool as part of the project. Liam from Mc Garry Consultants felt the space is too limited for that option.

Cathaoirleach Cronin thanked Mc Garry Consultants for the presentation

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

Cathaoirleach Cronin recommended that the members take the reports as read as they were circulated to them by email prior to the meeting and just go straight to members questions.

#### Members Comments and Observations on National Roads

Cllr. O' Neill raised the ongoing issue of the upgrading of the N81 and pointed out the current dangerous state of this road. He proposed that a formal request be made to the Minister of Transport requesting that the Minister meet with a delegation from the Baltinglass Municipal District to discuss and progress this matter. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Mahon and agreed by all members present. Mr. Cullen said that he would write to the Minister and ask for a meeting to be arranged as per Cllr O'Neill's request. Cathaoirleach Cronin stated that she has raised the N81 issues with the Chief Executive who in turn has discussed with the CE of Carlow, Kildare and Dublin County Councils. She also said that at a recent meeting with Minister O'Brien, attended by Cllr Glennon and herself, he suggested Wicklow County Council need to push this issue.

Cllr. Mulhall asked Mr. Byrne if there is any update on Blessington South to which Mr. Byrne replied that the preliminary design is done, it will then go to part 8 for approval.

Cllr. Mulhall asked Mr. Graham if he has an update on the signage for the Bike-Trails in Baltinglass. Mr. Graham advised that he has the signage but has not yet had the chance to erect them yet.

Cllr. Mulhall remarked that the EV chargers in Blessington are still not repaired and Mr. Byrne informed the members that these are looked after by the Environment Department and that they have arranged for this repair work to be carried out.

Cllr. Mulhall informed the members that he has heard there are changes coming this summer to the 65 bus route and he asked if Mr. Cullen could write to the NTA for clarity on the situation.

Cllr. Mahon advised the members that there is still an ongoing issue with street lights not working at Dempsey's lane and on the Naas road in Blessington.

Cllr. Glennon expressed his thanks to Wicklow County Council officials for the works done on the N81 to date and he is delighted to see the Hollywood project coming to fruition. He remarked, it's great to see progress but stressed that a Park and Ride is still required. Mr. Byrne stated that there is still 3-4 weeks work left to be done on the project such as resurfacing, landscaping, fencing and lighting ect. Mr. Byrne advised the members that the Junction from Hollywood would be closed completely for a half a day to facilitate surfacing works.

Cllr Glennon expressed his gratitude to WCC Senior Engineer Michael Flynn and District Engineer Pat Byrne for their work in sorting out the public lighting issues in Hollywood, he was very grateful to them both

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

Cllr. Stapleton queried the works at Lugduff in Tinahely and asked if the Bollards will be left there permanently. Mr. Graham replied that this was designed by the Active Travel team, he said that all the design plans were in the section 38 application such as the realigned junctions and Pedestrian Crossings advising that they have been upgraded to current standards and requirements. Mr. Byrne added that the Bollards are forcing motorists slow down going around a junction consequently making the road safe for all road users.

Cllr. Stapleton asked if there is a timeline on footpath works. Mr. Cullen advised that he spoke with Mr. Con Cashen, Engineer for Wicklow County Council and he anticipated this would be completed by the end of April 2026.

Cllr. Mahon asked if there is any further update on the overhanging tree onto the footpath in Rathdangan. Mr. Graham said the owner of the land was written to and he will check if there has been any correspondence since then.

Cllr. Mahon also asked if a streetlight could be erected at Tinoran, Baltinglass. Mr. Byrne advised him that there is no funding for street lights in rural areas, Mr. Graham concurred with this.

Cllr. Mulhall asked Mr. Graham for an update on the footpaths in Coolboy, Mr. Graham replied that there is work happening in the background to progress these works. Cllr. Mulhall also pointed out the new footpath from the school in Coolafancy is still waiting for the street lights to be connected. Mr. Graham will follow up with the ESB.

Cllr. Mulhall asked for the ramp at St. Aidan's in Carnew to be re-installed. Mr. Graham said the contractor will reinstate the ramp but in the short-term there will be no ramp.

Cllr. Mulhall requested an update on the BOI building in Carnew querying, what are the next steps. Mr. Cullen read out an update which was provided by Wicklow County Council Economic Development section. The report state that unfortunately the Town and Village funding application for the project was unsuccessful and that they are now looking at alternative funding options

Cllr. Mulhall queried if there are any updates on the HSE Building. Cllr. Glennon suggested inviting the WCC Engineer Marc Devereux to the next meeting to give an update on this project. Cllr. Mahon agreed with this suggestion.

Cllr. O' Neill asked for an update on Knockieran Bridge stating that it is still in a shocking state and it requires a new surface . Cllr. Mahon agreed stating that the ESB are difficult to get an answer from on issues such as streetlights and bridges. Mr. Byrne informed the members that after meeting with the ESB on the issue of resurfacing of the bridges, a decision was made that Wicklow County Council would be responsible for resurfacing the Bridge but this can only be done after structural works are carried out by the ESB. Once Wicklow County Council receives a report stating the bridges are structurally sound they can then commence resurfacing works. Cllr. O' Neill suggested that the District Administrator write to the ESB to request a timeline for this report.

Cllr. Stapleton queried about the provision of bus stop facilities for the Local Link buses that stop in Tinahely and Shillelagh on the way to and from Tullow. Mr. Byrne stated that there is funding available for bus stops.

## **5. Correspondence**

Mr. Cullen informed the members that the Carnew St. Patricks Day committee have been in contact to advise the parade this year is cancelled due to lack of volunteers and growing costs. He also mentioned that Baltinglass, Blessington and Carnew St Patricks Day committees were issued guidelines by Wicklow County Council recently, these guidelines relate to the event management for their parades. Cllr. Mulhall stated that it is disappointing to that the Carnew St Patricks Day committee has had to cancel this years parade but understands that it's not just the cost involved, it's also the lack of man power. Cllr. O' Neill asked if Mr. Cullen would forward on to him, the email from the Carnew Committee. Mr. Byrne replied that over the years Baltinglass Municipal District have been the only District not to officially close roads during the parades and that this year all St. Patricks Day Parade committees have been advised by WCC roads section to close roads on which parades are taking place, we must adhere to proper procedure regarding same. He said that he does not like to see parades being cancelled but health and safety requirements must be met when running such events

Cllr. O' Neill wondered if Wicklow County Council should oversee parades, he would not like these parades to become a thing of the past because of obstacles put in their way.

## **6. Any other Business**

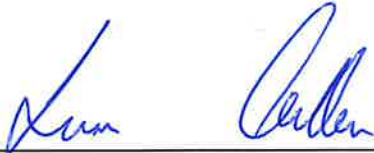
Cllr. Mulhall requested that an update be obtained on the housing development at Burgage stating that this project needs to be progressed without further delay

**7. Date and venue of next meeting.**

The date of the next ordinary meeting will be Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of February at 10:30am.

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

Signed:   
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:   
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026