

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 9th JULY AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. P. Keaveney

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. D. Connolly, M. Connolly, D. Geraghty, A. Harney, E. Parsons

Oifigigh: Mr. D. Mitchell, Director of Services, Mr. D. Troy Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, Executive Engineer, Mr. P. Batty, Executive Engineer, Ms. M. McGann, Meetings Administrator, Ms. M. Dolan, Assistant Staff Officer

1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON 11TH JUNE 2025 **MDB25042**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 11th June 2025 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly.

Cllr. D. Connolly asked to take a few minutes to discuss the HSE announcement, which had just been made prior to the commencement of the meeting, that “high-risk” pregnancies are to be moved from Portiuncula University Hospital, Ballinasloe to other locations. The Members expressed their utmost concern regarding this decision and agreed that they will resist any attempt to downgrade services at Portiuncula University Hospital. It was noted that patient safety and delivery of a full maternity service is paramount to the locality. It was agreed that the Members will issue a joint letter to the Minister for Health outlining the need for additional funding and resources to ensure continued high level service delivery for the Maternity Unit in Portiuncula University Hospital.

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON 11TH JUNE 2025 **MDB25043**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 11th June 2025 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Geraghty and seconded by Cllr. Harney.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

Cllr. Harney requested an update on the delivery of the Roads Programme.

In reply to Cllr. Harney and Cllr. Parsons regarding the need to move forward on the establishment of the Local Community Safety Partnership and the Ballinasloe Taskforce and subsequently the roll out of CCTV, Mr. Mitchell stated that a guidance document regarding Local Community Safety Partnerships is currently being prepared and this document, along with the regulations, will provide a framework for the establishment and operation of the LCSP. Mr. Mitchell said he will have an update regarding same for the next meeting. Cllr. Harney stated the need for the involvement of An Garda Síochána at policy stage in order to ensure real time access to CCTV footage when the policy is rolled out.

Cllr. Harney enquired if the Bring Banks in Mountbellew, which are located across the road from the cemetery, can be moved to a new location.

In response to Cllr. Harney regarding the Local Area Plan, Mr. Mitchell replied that a review of the distribution of lands to be zoned is underway and further information is awaited.

In reply to Cllr. Geraghty, Cllr. D. Connolly and Cllr. Keaveney's enquiry if the Council seek funding from central government to carry out works in regard to safety at junctions, Mr. Mitchell referred to the Low Cost Accident Scheme and stated that the Council would secure funding under this Scheme for any works in this regard. Mr. Troy referenced discretionary and local road grants which he stated could also be used to carry out relevant works. In reply to Cllr. Geraghty's query regarding the possibility of getting hedge-cutters out earlier to commence work at junctions and perhaps allow for an additional cut to be done, Mr. Troy said the Council must be cognizant of the nesting season.

Cllr. Parsons enquired about the possibility of members of the public carrying out these works and if Council permissions are needed in this regard. Mr. Mitchell highlighted the need for public liability insurance when works are being carried out on a public road. Mr. Troy added that under the Roads Act, it is a landowner's responsibility to maintain trees, shrubs, hedges and/or other vegetation on the side of public roads.

3. UPDATE ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

MD825044

Mr. Troy provided the meeting with an update on Municipal District activities. In relation to the Roads Programme, he advised that due to a change in procurement practices which meant lower prices being achieved in initial contracts, it was possible to run a third contract and the tender process for this is now complete. He added that additional works are currently being considered and it is hoped that works will commence soon. The Members welcomed this news. Cllr. Harney asked if it would be possible to extend works on roads previously done, when additional works are being considered.

Mr. Troy referenced other projects, namely 6 Local Improvement Schemes, 6 Community Involvement Schemes, 3 Climate Change projects, and 1 Low Cost Safety Scheme. He highlighted the street cleaning completed on prioritised sections of Ballinasloe town centre and the renewal of road markings at several town centre pedestrian crossings, and new markings installed in the vicinity of Moher and Garbally Roundabouts adjoining the M6.

He advised that in the last 2/3 weeks, maintenance works have begun throughout the Municipal District on cutting back vegetation at junctions and at locations with safety concerns, on a prioritized basis.

In regard to the feasibility study for Swim/Water Recreation Park at the river and surrounding areas in Ballinasloe, Mr. Troy advised that the tender process is complete, and consultants have been appointed to undertake a feasibility study and preliminary design, with a 6-month timeline for completion.

Mr. Troy welcomed Community Recognition Funding for playgrounds and public conveniences and advised that tender documents are being prepared for the upgrade of 2 playgrounds in Ballinasloe. He said that early-stage survey work is beginning in advance of design works on the Public Toilet upgrade project at St Michaels Square. In response to Cllr. Parsons query regarding the renovation of the public toilets at St. Michael's Square and the need for a high level of accessibility, Mr. Troy stated that this will be a key consideration in the retrofit works, subject to space and funding.

Mr. Troy advised that the final stage of the Active Travel Plan was nearing completion. In reply to Cllr. Parsons, Cllr. Harney and Cllr. D. Connolly regarding funding for repair works in relation to footpaths, he advised that there is no specific funding for these works and that footpaths are now dealt with under the Active Travel Plan. Mr. Troy referenced discretionary grants, which he advised could be reviewed with a view to using with Notice of Motion monies, for specific footpath repairs. Cllr. Harney asked that an accessibility review is undertaken when works to footpaths are being considered, as trees hanging down on paths can cause accessibility issues. In reply to Cllr. Parsons and Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Troy advised that Phase 3 of Beechlawn Footpath project is substantially complete.

Mr. Troy gave a breakdown of the various stages that flooding projects are at in respect of Clonfert, Glenamaddy, and Mountbellew Lake.

Mr. Troy advised that early-stage preparatory work is underway in regard to the annual October Fair.

He referenced Creagh junction and advised that the Council are continuing to liaise with the Department of Transport on the Specific Improvement Grant application.

In response to Cllr. Parsons query about Lawrencetown Pass, Mr. Troy advised that the tender competition is finalized and it is hoped that works will commence shortly.

In response to Cllr. Parsons query regarding Community Involvement Schemes, Mr. Troy advised that the Scheme is closed at present and a public notice will be issued when it

opens again for applications. In reply to Cllr. Harney regarding more funding be made available for Local Improvement Schemes, Mr. Troy advised that €1m is allocated county wide per year. He added that some years additional funding is allocated but the timeframe in which to carry out additional works can be restrictive.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly regarding traffic calming measures for Sarsfield Road, Mr. Troy advised that this road will be resurfaced this year. He advised that the road is on the Low Cost Safety Annual submission list and it is hoped to begin traffic calming measures at a later stage. Cllr. M. Connolly referenced the need for additional funding to address traffic calming, specifically in Menlough, Newtown and Mountbellew. Cllr. Harney and Cllr. Parsons referenced the need for more An Garda Síochána speed check points at various locations.

Cllr. P. Keaveney highlighted safety concerns at McGann's Cross, Clonberne and Mr. Troy stated that he is liaising with An Garda Síochána in relation to same. He added improvements will be made subject to available funding.

In reply to Cllr. Geraghty regarding funding of the Road Works Programme, Mr. Troy advised that €5m was allocated for each Municipal District this year, which was a slight increase on previous years.

4. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS **MDB25045**

The Members welcomed Mr. D. Mitchell and wished him well in his new role. In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly's query regarding the closure of Coral Leisure for renovation works, Mr. Mitchell said he will seek an update regarding same.

5. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS **MDB25046**

No business arising.

6. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS **MDB25047**

Votes of Sympathy:

The Forde Family, Creagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
The Barrett Family, Lower Salthill, Galway

Votes of Congratulations:

Georgina Hussey, Glenamaddy on her successful selection with the Ireland Women's Masters Basketball Team at the World Championships in Switzerland.
Connacht Fleadh Committee
Killure National School
Galway Senior Footballers

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB25048

In reply to Cllr. Harney's query regarding the rejection of 13 applications from farmers in County Galway seeking exemption from Residential Zone Land Tax, Mr. Mitchell advised that the Council are seeking clarification in relation to same. Cllr. M. Connolly and Cllr. Geraghty stated that more flexibility is needed in relation to the zoning of lands in the County Development Plan and Local Area Plans.

Cllr. D. Connolly requested that a representative from the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme project team provide the meeting with an update in the coming months.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN


Cathaoirleach:

10-09-2025
Date:

