

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. M. Connolly

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

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

Oifigigh: Ms. J. Carroll Director of Service, Mr. T. Prendergast Senior Engineer, Mr. E. Gallagher Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. J. Swannock Integration Support Co-Ordinator, Mr. D. Troy Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. Batty Executive Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Ms. L. Potter A/Meetings Administrator

An Cathaoirleach M. Connolly and all the members welcomed the official opening of the new 50 bedded ward block at Portiuncula University Hospital Ballinasloe which was attended by the Taoiseach Simon Harris.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th JULY AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

MDB24042

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 11th July were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Harney and seconded by Cllr. Parsons.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

With reference to MDB24041 Page 8 and in response to Cllrs. D. Connolly, Mr. Troy advised that a draft safety scheme was being prepared which incorporates Sarsfield Road. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Troy advised they incorporate Station Road into the plan. Mr. Troy advised that the design of the scheme has begun, and he would revert when completed.

With reference to MDB2409 Page 2 and in response to Cllrs. Harney and Parsons, Ms. Carroll advised that there is a CCTV Oversight Committee in place which is tasked with dealing with all aspects of developing a CCTV Policy for Galway County Council. Ms. Carroll advised that the Environment Section had appointed a consultant to prepare a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for specific sites. Ms. Carroll stated that the

DPIA must be very precise and follow stringent guidelines for evidence to be used in Court. Ms. Carroll advised that CCTV in local authority estates would fall under the remit of the Housing Directorate. Ms. Carroll advised that an update would be provided at the next MD Meeting.

With reference to MDB24041 Page 8, Cllr. Parsons asked if a response had issued from the NTA with regard the cessation and reductions in bus services between Galway and Ballinasloe.

With reference to MDB24029 Page 1 and in response to Cllrs. M. Connolly, Geraghty and Keaveney, Mr. Troy advised that he would seek further clarity on the proposals for improved bus shelter facilities in the Municipal District. The members welcomed the approval of bus shelters in Ballymoe and Glenamaddy but expressed concern that no bus shelter would be provided at Williamstown.

With reference to MDB24031 Page 3, Cllrs. Parsons and Geraghty expressed disappointment with the delayed project timelines and the increase in costs with the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme. Mr. Troy advised that he would seek a further update on these issues from Mr. Brendan McDonagh.

With reference to MDB24037 Page 7 and in response to Cllr. Geraghty, Ms. Carroll advised that 4 applications had been received for the post of Chairperson of the new Local Community Safety Partnership and that recruitment was ongoing. Cllr. Geraghty asked that the formation of the Committee be expedited as there is a very serious issue with rural crime and that this forum was necessary to help tackle this issue.

NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT REVIEW – LOCAL ROADS

MDB24043

Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Prendergast provided an update on the National Speed Limit Review – Local Roads. The members thanked Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Prendergast for their presentation.

In response to Cllr. Parsons with regard local input when preparing this submission, Mr. Gallagher advised that the Engineering Staff in the Ballinasloe Municipal District had reviewed the local road network in their area and worked within the Department guidelines when assessing all the roads for inclusion by the Roads Department. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Prendergast advised that the reclassification of roads from local to regional was outside the remit of this exercise and that he would revert with information on the process involved. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Prendergast advised that the procurement of signs and poles was carried out centrally and that it was envisaged that 3,000 signs would be required and the erection of the poles and signs would be carried out by Contract. In response to Cllrs. Parsons and Keaveney, Mr. Troy advised that the junction at Creggs was submitted as a proposal under Low-Cost Accident Scheme and he would revert with information on this in due course. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Prendergast advised that the changes to speed limits in Urban and Built-Up Areas would be brought before the members in mid-2025. In response to the members,

Mr. Prendergast advised that the enforcement of speed limits was the responsibility of An Garda Síochána. Cllr. Geraghty expressed disappointment in the underfunding of our road infrastructure and that it was unfair to the rural people of Ireland. In response to Cllr. Harney, Mr. Prendergast advised that all schools should have the benefit of Periodic Speed Limits and that full clarification has not been received from the Department on the Urban Speed Zones. In response to all the members, Mr. Prendergast advised that the new local road speed limits were legislated for under the Road Traffic Act 2024 and that the four roads identified to remain at 80km/h would form part of new bye laws which would be brought before the plenary Council in November.

PRESENTATION FROM LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATION TEAM

MDB24044

Ms. Swannock provided an update on the work of the Local Authority Integration Team of Galway County Council. The members thanked Ms. Swannock for her presentation.

In response to Cllr. Parsons with regard the maintenance of the modular homes site in Poolboy, Ms. Swannock advised that overall maintenance is the responsibility of Tuath and the OPW. Ms. Swannock advised that there was a Residents Coordinator in place and that she would email their contact details to the members. In response to Cllr. Harney, Ms. Carroll advised that because Ballinasloe did not have a significant number of Ukrainians living in the town, it was not eligible for projects under Window 1 of the Community Recognition Fund. She advised that Window 2 of the Community Recognition fund was now open for expressions of interest for projects in Ballinasloe Town and other eligible areas. Cllr. Parsons welcomed the provision of GP services in Galway City for the tenants in the modular homes and this would ease pressure on GP clinics in Ballinasloe. Cllr. D. Connolly stated that there was an infrastructure deficit in the town and asked that funding be provided for public realm projects in Ballinasloe. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Ms. Swannock advised that she would revert with the number of Ukrainians in the Ballinasloe MD once the Glenamaddy figures had been moved from the Tuam MD to the Ballinasloe MD figures. In response to Cllrs. Geraghty and Keaveney, Ms. Swannock confirmed that members are notified when new accommodations are being provided in the County irrespective of if they are being provided directly by the Department or via private contractors. Cllrs. Geraghty and Keaveney stated that no notice was given to the members or the communities when accommodation was provided in Glenamaddy and Williamstown. Ms. Carroll advised that it was now standard practice that all members were notified prior to accommodation being provided in the County. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Ms. Swannock advised that the open day in the Shearwater Hotel was a success in helping the Ukrainian community make links with local employers, provision of information on training services available, and providing information on all services available to them. Cllr. Geraghty asked that more integration happen with other agencies, namely the Department of Transport with regard to school bus services. Cllr. Parsons asked that funding be provided to improve playground facilities in town.

NOMINATION OF ELECTED MEMBER TO CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

MDB24045

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly that Cllr. Geraghty be appointed as a member. This proposal was not seconded.

It was proposed by Cllr. Parsons and seconded by Cllr. Keaveney and agreed by all that Cllr. M. Connolly be appointed as a member to the Corporate Policy Group.

OFFICIAL TWINNING VISITS PROCEDURE

MDB24046

Ms. Carroll provided an update on the annual Town Twinning visit to Chalonnees Sur Loire. Cllr. Parsons recommended that a member of the executive attend at the visit to support the Cathaoirleach.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB24047

Ms. Carroll provided an update on the EU Just Transition Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme 2023-2026, the Community Recognition Fund, Ballinasloe Fair and Ballinasloe Fire Station. Ms. Carroll requested that the October Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District be moved from the scheduled 9th October to the 16th of October. This was agreed by all.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB24048

No matters arising.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

MDB24049

Votes of Sympathy

The Hughes Family on the passing of Tom Hughes, Annaghbeg, Ahascragh, Co. Galway

Votes of Congratulations

Congratulations to the organisers of the annual Feile Larry Reynolds Festival which was a great success.

Congratulations to the village of Williamstown for being put forward for the National Pride of Place Competition.

Congratulations to Beibhinn Parsons on representing her country at the 2024 Olympics.

Congratulations to Richael Timothy on representing her country at the 2024 Paralympics.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB24050

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly with regard to dangerous junctions and inadequate sightlines on the N63, namely Marless Cross and Horseleap Cross, Mr. Troy advised that he would discuss this issue with the Road Design Office.

Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed that Galway County Council were assisting the Ballinasloe Fair & Festival Committee with provision of insurance for the Fair.

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly, Harney, Parsons with regard traffic management issues during roadwork projects in the town, Mr. Troy stated that notices had been issued on social media prior to work commencing, however he stated that communication to residents and businesses could have been improved upon and that efforts had been to improve the situation. Mr. Troy confirmed that a full road closure had not been in place at any location and road access was available to local traffic and emergency vehicles.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Troy advised that priority was now being given to hedge cutting in the Municipal District and this work was underway. Mr. Troy confirmed that the work was being carried out by our own employees along with hired contractors and that sufficient machinery was available.

In response to Cllrs. Connolly, Harney, Parsons with regard Creagh Church Junction and Taughmaconnell Road Junction, Mr. Troy advised that pedestrian improvement works at Creagh Church Junction were to be done at the end of October. Mr. Troy advised that an application for a specific improvement grant application is being prepared for Taughmaconnell Road part of Creagh Junction. Mr. Troy advised that a roundabout is being considered as an option at the location"

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Troy advised that discussions were still ongoing with landowners at Beechlawn and once agreement was in place, it was expected that the project would go to tender.

Cllr. Harney welcomed the provision of keypad access at Dunlo Recreational Park.

In response to Cllr. Parsons with regard to timelines being met for the preparation of a feasibility study for a swimming area in the River Suck which had been funded under Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund, Ms. Carroll advised that there was sufficient time available to get the Consultants appointed and to get the report completed.

Cllr. Geraghty asked that the members support the hospitality sector with regard a reduction of the VAT rate for the industry.

In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Troy advised that he would request an update from the Roads Department on the number of Local Improvement Schemes awaiting completion.

In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Troy advised that he had received no further update on Glenamaddy Turlough.

It was agreed that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District would take place on 16th October 2024 at 2pm.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Signed:

Michael Connolly

Dated:

16/10/2024