

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of
Municipal district of Conamara held in the Council Chamber,
On Friday 26th July 2024**

CATHAORILEACH:

Cllr. Tom Welby

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Cllr. Noel Thomas, Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin, Cllr. Gerry King, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Cllr. Séamus Walsh, Comh. Pádraig Mac An Iomaire, Comh. Máirtín Lee and Comh. Michael Leainde.

OIFIGH:

Mr. U. Finn, Director of Services; Mr. T.J. Redmond, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. N. O'Conaola, Executive Engineer; Mr. L. Tierney, Executive Technician; Ms. I. Martyn, Meetings Administrator/Administrative Officer; Ms. S. Murray, Staff Officer.

APOLOGIES:

Comh MAC An Iomaire

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the annual meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 25th June 2024

On the Proposal of Comh. Ó Curraoin and Seconded by Cllr. Mannion the minutes of the annual meeting of the Connamara MD held on 25th June 2024 were agreed.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 25th June 2024

On the Proposal of Cllr. Mannion and Seconded by Cllr. Leainde the minutes of the meeting of the Ordinary Meeting held on 25th June 2024 were agreed.

Matters Arising:

- Cllr. King outlined that hedge cutting needs to take place immediately along the N59 as parts of the road are very dangerous and he queried if funding was allocated by the TII.

- Comh O Curraoin expressed concern about the growth of hedgerows on the local roads making it dangerous for road users and his frustrations with the time restraints in place regarding hedge cutting.
- Cllr. Leainde concurred and enquired regarding signage.
- Cllr. Welby highlighted that a countywide policy is required on the hedge cutting process.

Responses to Matters Arising

- Mr. Redmond outlined the procedure for hedge cutting and explained it will begin in September once the bird nesting period is over. He will compile a list of locations and prioritise them, to include the junction on the N59 mentioned by Cllr. King. He agreed to start hedge cutting earlier in September than planned.
- Mr. Redmond explained the funding structure for hedge trimming and Mr. Finn added that funding is down more than 40% nationwide.
- Mr. Finn told the meeting that there is increased growth of hedgerows this year due to the mild weather.

3. Introduction to Anti-Litter Ambassador Programme

Mr. Molloy, Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer made a presentation on the Anti-Litter Ambassador Programme and asked the elected members to endorse it within their communities to encourage ambassadors to sign a pledge not to litter and support any anti-litter initiatives led by Galway County Council. A photo was taken with the members to advertise the programme.

4. Island Grants

Mr. Redmond summarised the report distributed and noted that any queries can go to Piers and Harbours section headed by Mr. Prendergast.

5. Standing Orders

Cllr. Welby enquired if there were any amendments to the Standing Orders and no amendments were suggested. On the Proposal of Cllr. Mannion and Seconded by Comh. Lee, Cllr. Welby announced the Standing Orders were adopted.

6. Municipal District of Conamara Director's Business

Mr. Tierney gave an update on the Oughterard Car Park upgrade. He advised that the tender was advertised in June and the contract was awarded and works will commence in September or early October 2024 with completion within 4-6 weeks. He replied to queries on the number of carpark spaces and stated there will be 65 parking spaces which includes 6 disabled parking spaces and 5 bus parking spaces and spaces were not lost due to extending into the adjoining old Galway County Council chip depot.

Cllr. Mannion welcomed the news and suggested that a traffic management plan was necessary to improve traffic in Oughterard.

Cllr. Welby thanked Mr. Tierney for the update and said it will be a great addition to the town.

7. Municipal District of Conamara Cathaoirleach's Business

No issues brought to Cllr. Welby.

8. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations.

No sympathies

9. A.O.B.

Cllr. Mannion asked for an update on the Clifden Regeneration Plan for the next meeting.

Cllr. Mannion highlighted that a campervan parking policy should be drawn up for the introduction of bye-laws in relation to campervan parking.

Cllr. Welby explained that the bye-laws need to be brought to the SPC.

Cllr. Welby proposed to add the Clifden Regeneration Plan to the agenda for next month's meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 13th September 2024 at 3 p.m.

Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Signed:

Tom Welby

Cllr. Tom Welby
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____