

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ON FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 AT 10.00am**

**CATHAORILEACH:** Cllr. N. Thomas

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:** Comh. D. Ó Cualáin, Comh. T. Ó Curraoin, Cllr. G. King, Cllr. E. Mannion, Cllr. A. McKinstry, Cllr. S. Walsh, Cllr. T. Welby and Comh. Mac An Iomaire

**OIFIGH:** Mr. M. Owens DOS, Mr. T.J. Redmond SEE, Mr. N. O' Conaola EE, Mr. L Tierney E. Technician, Ms. D. Gibbons EE, Ms. I. Martyn AO. Ms. R. Dooley CO.

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

**CMD 21134**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Walsh and seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin subject to an amendment to record the address of the late Maire Hernon as Gortachalla, Moycullen.

**Matters Arising**

**CMD 21135**

Comh. Ó Cualáin and Comh. O Curraoin expressed concern in regard to Cuan Na Loinge and the issue with flooding and requested an update on the Causeways.

Comh. Mac An Iomaire requested that the Feasibility Study for the R336 be progressed immediately as the R336 is experiencing heavy flooding as a result of the damage caused by the heavy goods vehicles. He acknowledged the commitment given by Mr. Pender to progress the feasibility study.

Mr. O'Conaola, replied that there was a specific improvement grant in amount of €30,000 for Cuan na Loinge and consultants would be secured to carry out assessments this year. Regarding the R336 he advised that discussions were ongoing with the Department.

Cllr. McKinstry referred to the issue raised at previous meeting regarding the transfer of funding for the Galway City Ring Road and he enquired in relation to progress on the slipway on the Moycullen bypass.

Cllr. Mannion acknowledged Mr. Pender's commitment to the R336 and queried in relation to the study commencing. Cllr. Mannion also queried funding for footpaths and lighting from Derrylea to Clifden.

Mr. Redmond replied that the slipway on the Moycullen bypass is a matter for the NRPO.

He also noted that in relation to funding allocated for the Galway City Ring Road, Ms. Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer had previously clarified that this funding is not transferable.

Mr. Redmond confirmed that a study for the crossing in Letterfrack would be progressed in late spring early summer.

He further advised that the Active Travel team will address public lighting and footpaths from Derrylea to Clifden.

Cllr. McKinstry requested a meeting with the NRPO to discuss Active Travel plans, traffic management plans including the Moycullen Bypass slipway as previously mentioned.

Cllr. Welby wished to park his previous request to meet with Minister Darragh O'Brien in relation to progress on the N59.

**Declaration of a road to be a public road: Ardbear, Contae na Gaillimhe.**

**CMD 21136**

On the proposal of Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. King it was agreed to declare the road commencing at junction with R-341 (N = 465,817; E = 749,814) in the townland of Ardbear and extending East for a distance of 657m in the townland of Ardbear and finishing at (N = 466,432; E = 749,853) L-51252 in the townland of Ardbear, as a public road, the statutory requirements having been met.

**Declaration of a road to be a public road: Cill Mhuirbhigh, Contae na Gaillimhe.**

**CMD 21137**

On the proposal of Comh. Ó Cualáin, seconded by Comh Ó Curraoin it was agreed to declare the road commencing at junction with L-52008-0 (53.131008, -9.747753) in the townland of Cill Mhuirbhigh and extending West as appropriate for a distance of 290 metres in the townland of Cill Mhuirbhigh and finishing at (53.130989, -9.751811) in the townland of Cill Mhuirbhigh, to be a public road, the statutory requirements having been met.

## Update Bus Shelters

CMD 21138

Ms. Gibbons gave a presentation to the members on the provision of bus shelters under the Active Travel Scheme.

The members welcomed Ms. Gibbons to Galway County Council and thanked her for the presentation.

Cllr. Thomas enquired if bus shelters could where appropriate be positioned with the glass at the front to protect pedestrians from the rain and wind in certain locations.

Cllr. McKinstry agreed and highlighted that connectivity is key and the local service should link in with city service to provide a realistic travel system and that bus stops/shelters should be designed to facilitate same.

Cllr. Mannion said that the bus stops/shelters on the busy routes e.g Roundstone, Ballyconneely, Letterfrack need upgrading.

Comh. Ó Cualáin said that bus shelters are urgently required for An Spidéal and Bearna. He added that the bus frequently passes at full capacity leaving pedestrians stranded at the side of the road.

Cllr. Welby questioned if the area of land required for bus shelters could be reduced.

Comh. Mac lomaire agreed with Comh. Ó Cualáin that An Spidéal and Bearna needs to be addressed and if the NTA would consider extending the city service to Bearna.

Comh. Ó Curraoin said that children and the elderly should not have to stand in the rain waiting on a bus and the city service to Knocknacarra should continue to Bearna.

Ms. Gibbons responded as follows:

- In relation to connectivity comments will be considered.
- Agree that adequate shelter for the public should be in place.
- Aware of the requirement for bus shelters in An Spidéal and Bearna.
- Bus capacity responsibility lies with the NTA.

## Municipal District of Conamara Director's Business

CMD 21139

Mr. McDonagh gave an update on the Clifden Flood Relief Scheme.

Cllr. King expressed his concerns regarding the safety of the residents.

Cllr. Mannion highlighted the requirement for continuous engagement with the residents.

Cllr. Welby stated that a common-sense approach is required in relation to the benefit-cost ratio and queried if there was a short term solution for the residents.

Cllr. McKinstry requested that the draft report should be circulated to the members before it is finalised. He envisaged increased population and land use change as factors for consideration.

Cllr. Mannion questioned if the damage to homes is factored into the cost ratio and a short term solution for the residents.

Comh. Ó Curraoin agreed with his colleagues, and he stated that the regulations need to change to protect the people.

Mr. McDonagh responded as follows:

- Land use change is not within the Local Authority remit.
- Consultants are considering land use.
- Damage to homes is factored in.
- Flood gates can be a short-term solution for homeowners.
- Cost ratio is not based on population.

#### **Municipal District of Conamara Cathaoirleach's Business**

**CMD 21140**

Cllr. Thomas expressed his concerns in relation to Health & Safety with the proposed works on Cloonbinnia Junction and stated that the works should be suspended.

Mr. Redmond replied that he would consult with the NRPO in relation to the proposed works and he would provide an update.

Mr. Owens advised that a member of the NRPO staff would attend the next meeting to provide updates in relation to the N59 and requested that any specific issues be flagged in advance where possible to allow for appropriate consideration and full reply at the meeting.

#### **Votes of Sympathy**

**CMD 21141**

Cllr. Thomas wished to offer sincere condolences to the family and friends of Terry Keenan former Chairman of Forum Connemara. Terry was a highly regarded community activist and an excellent chairman of the Forum and he will be greatly missed.

Cllr. Mannion wished to join Cllr. Thomas and offer her condolences to Terry's family and colleagues. Cllr. Mannion also wished to offer her condolences to the family of Rian Sheridan, Renvyle, Co Galway who tragically passed away on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.

Cllr. Welby joined with the Members offering his condolences on the sad passing of Terry Keenan.

Comh. Ó Curraoin offered his condolences on the passing of Terry Keenan and wished to offer his sympathies on the tragic passing of Una, Ciara and Saoirse Bowden.

Cllrs. Thomas, McKinstry and Mac An Iomaire joined Comh. Ó Curraoin in offering condolences on the tragic loss.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mannion a minute's silence was observed.

### **Votes of Congratulations**

**CMD 21142**

Cllr. King congratulated Connemara RFC who are the Connacht Junior Cup Champions and it is the 6<sup>th</sup> win in the clubs history.

### **A.O.B.**

**CMD 21143**

Cllr. King queried the status of the Summer Ready Programme.

Cllr. Mannion requested a meeting with Teisce Éireann to discuss issues including new homes not being connected to the water supply.

Cllr. Mannion expressed her concerns regarding the roll-out of the EV charger highlighting that an adequate supply of EV charges needs to be provided.

Cllr. McKinstry agreed and requested a report on the roll out of the EV Chargers for the next meeting and noted that the Council should be working with Community Groups in relation to the roll out of the EV Chargers.

Comh. Mac An Iomaire agreed that the roll out of EV chargers should be prioritized and he acknowledged the works carried out by the staff on the Knock Road.

Comh. Ó Curraoin and Comh. Ó Cualáin joined Comh. Mac An Iomaire in thanking the staff involved for all their hard work and dedication. There is a lot of damage to our roads due to the poor weather conditions and the staff are to be commended for all their hard work.

Comh. Ó Cualáin spoke about the recent announcement by Minister Naughton where grants of up to €30,000 will be awarded for projects that enable broader participation in outdoor swimming. He requested that consideration be given to submitting an application for this grant to provide shower facilities at Trá Mór Beach, Inverin.

Comh. Ó Cualáin stated that he had received numerous complaints regarding the new roundabout in Moycullen and road users confusion on navigating the roundabout.

Mr. Redmond informed the members that they are compiling a draft Summer Ready report and will continue to update.

Mr. Owens in response to Comh. Ó Cualáin's query on applying for funding to upgrade facilities advised that the funding applications are via the Sports Partnership.

Mr. Owens undertook to convey the request from Cllr. Mannion for a meeting with Fisce Éireann.

**Notice of Motion**

**CMD 21144**

Cllr. McKinstry: That the Council investigate the options and costs of providing, whether directly or by tender, waste disposal services for roads that are not serviced by commercial providers presently.

Cllr. McKinstry to clarify his request told the meeting that if Barna Waste trucks have any difficulty travelling down certain roads the solution offered is to drag the bins up to the collection point or use bin bags. This is not an effective solution for the elderly and those who may not be capable of dragging heavy bins.

Cllr. McKinstry requested a more detailed report from the Environment Section addressing the substance of the NOM.

The Members supported Cllr. McKinstry and agreed this is an issue leaving members of the public without an adequate bin collection service and relying on the help from family and neighbors which is not always feasible.

Members agreed to communicate with Barna Waste to find a solution to provide a correct bin collection service to all. Relations with Barna Waste have been extremely positive in the past with any queries being raised and rectified with ease commented Comh. Ó Curraoin & Cllr. Welby.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 11.00a.m.

Signed: Noel Thomas  
Cathaoirleach

Date: 26/7/24

\*\*\*\*\*