

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE PAROCHIAL HALL, WILLIAMSTOWN, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 2.00 p.m.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. D. Geraghty

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Cllrs. T. Broderick, M. Connolly, D. Connolly, P. Keaveney, E. Parsons

**Oifigigh:** Mr. L. Hanrahan, Mr. D. Troy Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn Executive Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Ms. A. Spelman Meetings Administrator

Cllr. Geraghty welcomed all the members, executive and public to Williamstown and invited Mr. Leo Finnegan, Williamstown Heritage Committee to make a presentation.

Mr. Leo Finnegan made a presentation to the members on the Temple Togher Hill project. Mr. Finnegan outlined the background of the project explaining that it had commenced 25 years ago and its progress to date. Mr. Finnegan paid tribute to all involved in the project from the Williamstown Heritage Society, Williamstown Tidy towns Committee and Galway County Council along with the backing of the community in Williamstown. Mr. Finnegan advised that the Williamstown Heritage Committee had been awarded the National Heritage Award in the National Tidy towns Competition in recognition of their achievements. The members thanked Mr. Finnegan for his presentation and commended the work achieved by the Williamstown Heritage Committee.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

**MDB24008**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Broderick.

**Matters arising from the Minutes**

Cllr. Parsons requested that the following amendment be made to the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 - MDB24006 Any Other Business: The following wording to be removed from the minutes "In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Cllr. Parsons advised that she would seek clarity as to

whether there would be a net gain of 50 beds for the hospital via the Regional Health Forum of which she is a member". This was agreed by all.

Cllr. Broderick requested that the following amendment be made to the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 – MDB240065 Any Other Business "Cllr. Broderick welcomed the An Bord Pleanála decision to grant planning permission to Easyfix Ltd for the whiskey maturation storage warehouse at Perssepark, Ballinasloe".

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that Galway County Council were currently awaiting guidelines from the LGMA with regard the use of CCTV. Mr. Hanrahan advised that there was an audit taking place with regard our current camera stock and that the environment section were working on CCTV for illegal dumping. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that funding for CCTV for illegal dumping will be available.

In response to Cllr. Broderick regarding legal opinion sought from the Law Agents office about traffic fines, Mr. Hanrahan advised that he would seek clarification on same.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Troy advised that an application for flood alleviation measure at Clonfert had been made to the OPW and that he was awaiting a response on same.

Cllr. Parsons advised that the 50 new beds at Portiuncula had been repurposed and modernised and that there was an overall net gain of 12 beds in Portiuncula Hospital.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Ms. Lowe advised of the process with regards prioritising climate action applications. Ms. Lowe advised that financial impact, safety impacts, impact on households are all taken into consideration by Galway County Council prior to submission to the Department at which stage the Department analyse our lists and make a final assessment on same.

#### **TOURISM OFFICER INPUT – Mr. JOHN NEARY**

**MDB24009**

Mr. Neary made a presentation to the members on tourism in the County with specific focus on the Just Transition Fund, County Galway Tourism Strategy, and his work with Fáilte Ireland and other strategic partners. Mr. Neary stated that he was working specifically on the Just Transition Fund and had met with Fáilte Ireland regarding this fund. All the members welcomed Mr. Neary to Galway County Council and thanked him for his presentation. Mr. Neary advised that there were different strands to the Just Transition Funds and the Public Realm Projects proposed for Ahascragh and Aughrim formed part of the Strategic Strand. Mr. Neary advised that an assessment was underway of trails and walkways in the county. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Neary advised that the digitization to be done at Aughrim Heritage Centre was going to be via their website. This would form part of a larger application for Aughrim Heritage Centre. Mr. Neary advised that there was a network of Just Transition Activators and that they were in contact and working together

to progress projects. The members asked that the focus on East Galway continue as this area had been neglected from a tourism point of view. Cllr. Geraghty asked that a continued focus take place with regard the Suck Valley Way. Cllr. Parsons asked that accessibility for all form part of any project.

**THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY ALERT – MR. GERARD COSTELLO**

**MDB24010**

Garda Gerry Davis and Mr. Ger Costello, Muintir na Tire made a presentation to the members with regard the Community Alert Programme which addresses the issue of community care, community safety and community crime prevention and is operated between Muintir na Tire and An Garda Siochana. Mr. Costello explained how the system worked and advised all the members to contact him with regard setting up of Community Alert Programme or how to access the pendant system, which is in operation for persons over sixty-five. Mr. Costello explained the differences between the Community Alert System for rural areas along with the Neighbourhood Watch system for urban areas. Both Garda Gerry Davis and Mr. Costello advised that members of the public ring 999 in cases where they were concerned for their safety. The members thanked them for their presentation.

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS**

**MDB24011**

Mr. Hanrahan advised that he and Mr. Troy would meet with the Creagh Community Development Council to discuss issues raised by them. Mr. Hanrahan advised that he would revert back to the members with an update on the meeting. Mr. Hanrahan advised that Galway County Council were awaiting national guidelines with regard bye laws for Graveyards.

Mr. Hanrahan advised that a contract had been signed for social housing project at St. Joseph's Place. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the tender was due to be signed shortly for the social housing project at Dunlo Street/Dooley's Corner. Mr. Hanrahan advised that he would provide an update on allocation timelines for the social housing project in Ahascragh. Mr. D. Connolly asked that sufficient staffing was in place to support these new social housing developments.

Mr. Hanrahan advised that discussions were ongoing with the HSE with regard the proposed domestic violence refuge in Ballinasloe. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan confirmed extent of site and advised that the property was not a protected structure.

Mr. Hanrahan advised that funding had been secured to conduct a feasibility study for a swimming area in Ballinasloe and Rinvile, Oranmore and that this study would take approximately 6 months.

Ms. Lowe and Mr. Troy provided an update on Creagh Junction. Mr. Troy advised that the pedestrian crossing project was underway.

Mr. Hanrahan advised that all the public areas of Sli Esker estate had been taken in charge by Galway County Council. Mr. Hanrahan advised that Galway County Council would not be taking in charge car parking areas of housing estates.

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

**MDB24012**

Cllr. Geraghty asked that the members would support the Suck Valley Way Conference.

Cllr. Geraghty welcomed the introduction of the Increased Cost of Business Grant.

Cllrs. Geraghty and Keaveney asked that the issue of fallen eircom poles be addressed directly with Eircom. Following discussion, the following resolution was proposed by Cllr. Peter Keaveney and seconded by Cllr. Michael Connolly and agreed by all that the Ballinasloe Municipal District 'write to Eircom to immediately repair fallen wires where older people are dependent on pendant alarms. Ms. Lowe asked that any locations be reported to the Area Engineer for follow up.

Cllr. Geraghty expressed concern with how difficult it was to recruit GPs to rural areas. Cllr Geraghty paid tribute to the local GP who was leaving the practice and wished him well.

Cllr. Geraghty paid tribute to former Cllr. Pat Hynes who passed away. RIP.

Following discussion, the following resolution was proposed by Cllr. Dermot Connolly and seconded by Cllr Declan Geraghty and agreed by all that the 'the Ballinasloe Municipal District call on the Minister for Transport, Climate, Environment and Communications to prioritise a PSO service from Dublin to Galway with multi stops in light of Aircoach exiting the route from the 8<sup>th</sup> of April'.

Cllrs. Geraghty and Keaveney expressed concern with the decision by the RSA to require tractor drivers to obtain a CPC.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

**MDB24013**

**Vote of Congratulations**

Congratulations to Laura Fox from Moylough for reaching the final of Dancing with the Stars.

Creggs Rugby Club Team on their recent achievements.

**Votes of Sympathy**

The Nolan Family, Cloonlyon, Ballygar, Co. Galway

The Divilly Family, Leitra, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway

The Keegan Family, Forestview, Ballygar, Co. Galway

The Kelly Family, Clooncullane, Creggs. Co. Galway  
Fr. Anthaiah Pudota on the sad passing of his mother  
The Bird Family, Ashford, Wicklow  
The Ruane Family, Kiltullagh, Athenry, Co. Galway  
The Kilkenny Family, Portnick, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**MDB24014**

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Troy advised that funding had been received from the OPW for Mountbellew lake. Mr. Troy advised that a report on same was being prepared by consultants which would determine how the project would proceed. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Troy advised that the condition of the sluice gates was being monitored.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Ms. Lowe said that the future direction of the Ballinasloe Townparks Road project would be discussed with the incoming Director of Service and that she would revert back to the members with an update.

Mr. Hanrahan stated that a request to review the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan by a local group was being referred to the Law Agent for advice.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Troy advised that the installation of a new heating system at the Coral Leisure complex in Ballinasloe was now complete and that the swimming pool would open within a week. In response to Cllrs. Parsons and Broderick, Mr. Hanrahan stated that he would request that Corporate Services provide monthly updates to the members of maintenance issues at Coral Leisure. Mr. Hanrahan advised that Galway County Council had landlord responsibilities at Coral Leisure and that they work with Coral Leisure to ensure proper maintenance at the site.

The Members thanked Cllr. Geraghty for bringing the Municipal District out to Williamstown.

Cllr. Broderick wished Cllr. Geraghty best wishes with his newly formed political party Independent Ireland.

It was agreed that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District would take place on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 at 2pm.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Signed: 

**Date:** 10.04.2024