

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 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 (via Teams)

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

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**  
**MDB24002**

Cllr. Parsons requested that the following be included as an amendment to the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - MDB24001 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe Held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Page 1 : "Cllr Parsons asked that it be noted that she arrived late to the Ballinasloe Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December due to commitments in her role as Leas Cathaoirleach and was not in attendance for items raised on minutes". This was agreed by all.

Cllr. Broderick requested that the following be included as an amendment to the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 – MDB23062 Any Other Business Page 4: "Cllr. Broderick proposed that a flag of peace be flown in St. Michael's Square Ballinasloe, and this was seconded by Cllr. Parsons". This amendment to the minutes of the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 was agreed by all.

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. Parsons and seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly.

**Matters arising from the Minutes.**

Cllr. Parsons requested that the proposal to use Irish Phrases as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge be deferred until the March Ballinasloe Municipal District Meeting. This was agreed by all.

Cllr. Broderick welcomed the works carried out by Iarnród Éireann in Ballinasloe.

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly and Parsons, Mr. Troy advised that tenders were due back shortly on the repair to the traffic lights at Creagh Junction and it was expected that work would commence shortly on same. Mr. Troy advised that the Taughmaconnell Road part of the Creagh Junction forms part of NTA re-design of the Junction and would be progressed as part of an Active Travel Project. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Troy advised that no temporary safety measures were proposed for Creagh Junction.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney and seconded by Cllr. Parsons the following resolution was agreed that 'active travel funding should be still allowed to be used in smaller towns and villages'.

In response to Cllrs. Keaveney and Parsons, Mr. Troy advised that the recruitment process for the Just Transition Officer was ongoing and that he was not able to provide an update on the number of applicants. Cllr. Geraghty advised the members that Mr. Neary, Tourism Officer for Galway County Council was filling the role at present. Cllrs. Keaveney and Parsons asked that the members be kept updated as the position was vital in ensuring projects would go forward for the Ballinasloe Municipal District. Cllr. Parsons asked that an update be provided on the Aughrim Heritage Digitization Project.

Cllr. Parsons advised that Eibhlín Byrne, civic engagement lead for the Department of Integration's rapid build programme has agreed to meet with the members of the Ballinasloe Municipal District to provide an update on the project in Ballinasloe.

Cllr. Parsons congratulated Carmel Grealy on being the winner of the Her Sports Community Awards 2024 for her 50-year involvement with the Ballinasloe Community Games.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Troy advised that no response had been received from the Law Agent regarding Cllr. Broderick's request for legal advice. On the proposal of Cllr. Broderick, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney the following resolution was agreed: 'that our law agents as a matter of urgency furnish our next M.D. meeting with a previously requested opinion which was are awaiting for over three months'.

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

**MDB24003**

Mr. Troy provided an update to the members on the draft Roads Programme 2024. Mr. Troy advised that no allocation had been received from the Department of Transport, but the preparation of the Roads Programme was ongoing based on 2023 Budgets. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Troy advised that projects selected are taken from the 3 Year Roads Programme 2021–2024. In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Troy advised that all roads within the 3-year Programme will be completed by the end of 2024. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Troy advised that local projects proposed under the Climate Adaption funding are prioritized locally and then projects are combined centrally for prioritizing. Mr. Troy advised that he would update the members on the status of applications. Mr. Troy asked that the members contact him to provide specific information on projects of interest and he would provide an update and ensure that projects were included going forward. In response to Cllrs. Geraghty and Keaveney, Mr. Troy advised that applications are being made to the NTA for footpath projects in villages, but they are currently not being approved. Cllrs. Geraghty and Keaveney asked that a focus be put on villages and that they not be forgotten under active travel projects or that a different funding stream be created to deal with footpaths in small towns and villages. Cllrs. D. Connolly and Parsons welcomed the monies provided for active travel in Ballinasloe Town. Mr. Troy advised that he seek an update from the Active Travel Team on status of projects in Ballinasloe Municipal District – to include for Ballinasloe Bus Shelter at the Marina. Cllr. D. Connolly asked that road improvement works would be carried out at the same time as works on footpaths and cycle lanes. In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly and Parsons, Mr. Troy advised an assessment of proposed bus stop shelters in the County was being done at present and this would include Mountbellew.

#### **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS** **MDB24004**

Cllr. Geraghty expressed concern at the reduction of grass cutting in private housing estates in Ballinasloe from 16 cuts to 12 cuts due to safety concerns in green areas where children play during the Summer.

Cllr. Geraghty reminded the members of the briefing being provided by the OPW to the members on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March.

On the proposal of Cllr. Geraghty seconded by Cllr. Keaveney and agreed by all it was agreed to hold the March Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District in Williamstown. Cllr. Geraghty asked that the following be invited: Garda Mick Walsh and Ger Costello from Muintir na Tire, Mr. Neary, Tourism Officer, Galway County Council Mr. Leo Finnegan, Temple Togher Mill Project.

Cllr. Geraghty expressed support for retained firefighters in the County. Cllr. D. Connolly advised that he had raised concerns regarding retained firefighters at the Corporate Policy Group Meeting.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

**MDB24005**

**Vote of Congratulations**

Congratulation to Ms. Carmel Grealy on being the winner of the Her Sports Community Awards 2024 for her 50-year involvement with the Ballinasloe Community Games.

Congratulations to Aoibhinn Reilly and Beibhinn Parsons on being part of the winning Ireland Women's Rugby Sevens First World Series win.

**Votes of Sympathy**

The Dillion Family, Newforest, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe.  
The Donohue Family, Tuam Road, Mountbellew.  
The Forde Family, Mountkelly, Glenamaddy,  
The Hannon Family, St. Brendan's, Ballygar.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**MDB24006**

Cllrs. Broderick, Keaveney and Geraghty expressed concern at the Returns Scheme in operation at present and the cost to small business. On the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney seconded by Geraghty, the following resolution was agreed: 'that GCC through our Environment section would look for resources from the relevant government dept, to roll out the return machines (value €20,000) through the county where there is a deficit, and without this roll out, we will create a huge displacement economically on small rural businesses/communities. Mr. Troy advised that he would request a briefing from the Environment Scheme with regard to the scheme and that it be circulated to the Municipal District Members.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Troy advised that he would request an update from the Environment Section regarding when the use of CCTV for illegal dumping would become operational.

Cllr. Broderick welcomed the An Bord Pleanála decision to grant permission for the whiskey maturation storage warehouse at Ahascragh Distillery.

Cllr. Parsons welcomed the progress on the new 50 bed unit at Portiuncula Hospital which is due to be opened in August 2024. 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.

Cllr. Geraghty wished all the members a Happy Valentines Day.

It was agreed that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District would take place on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 2pm.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

**Signed:** 

**Date:** 13.03.2024

