

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha an Rí

Municipal District of Athenry

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 14th May 2024.

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. J. Charity (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. J. Cuddy
Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn
Cllr. A. Dolan
Cllr G. Cronnelly
Cllr. D. Collins

OIFIGIGH: Ms J. Carroll, Dos
Mr. L. Hanrahan, DoS
Mr. S. Whelan, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr P. Gavin, Executive Engineer,
Ms. M. Jordan, Administrative Officer
Ms G. Cooley, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies Cllr L. Carroll

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the last Athenry MD meeting of the five-year term. He welcomed Ms. Carroll, DoS to the meeting and explained that Mr Hanrahan would be the Dos for the Athenry Area MD from June 2024.

To confirm Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 5th March 2024. AMD 209

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Cuddy, SECONDED by Cllr Cronnelly the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on the 5th March were approved.

To confirm Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in Aras an Chontae, on Monday 11th March 2024. AMD 210

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Dolan, SECONDED by Cllr Collins the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on the 11th March 2024 were approved.

Matters arising

Cllr Collins raised a query in relation to the Motion that was passed at the last meeting on the park and ride scheme for galway. He asked if a response had been received from the NTA. Ms Carroll said that the motion had been sent to the NTA on the 28th March 2024 and a reminder on the 18th April 2024 but a reply had not been received to date. She said that a follow up would be made. Cllr Charity said that in his experience it was difficult to get a response from the NTA.

Cllr Cuddy said that the NTA was responsible for transport and that the public were advised to use public transport, but it is not readily available in the county.

In reply to a query from Cllr Charity in relation to the N84 Mr. Whelan said that the required repair works for the road have been notified to the TII and GCC are awaiting a response. He said that he will provide an update to members on the N84 Galway to Curraghmore Project for upgrade of the road.

Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence.

AMD 211

Ms Carroll said that there was funding available under the Community Recognition fund for those areas that were hosting large numbers of Ukrainians. She said that Oranmore could apply for the funding and that Mr Coyne, Executive Officer for Rural, Community Development and Integration was the contact person. She also said that she would circulate information on the funding to the members. She highlighted that May 24th was the closing date.

Cllr Dolan said that tier 1 of funding has been allocated and tier two for Monivea. Another application will be submitted.

Cllr Herterich Quinn said that Athenry was successful in securing funding for the playground and some works have been carried out to date. However, more funding is needed. She enquired if projects that had commenced could get extra funding. She said that the requirement of the 2024 scheme means that the funding is available to areas hosting Ukrainians and Athenry is the nearest town to Esker so should be considered.

Ms Carroll said that she will examine other sources of funding. She said that the funding is very specific and must be of benefit to the whole community. The consultation is ongoing through webinar.

Cllr Collins welcomed the consultation process with the community and said that it should be used going forward. Infrastructure needs to be for the wider community.

Cllr Dolan expressed his frustration that the lights are still not operational at Glenaslat and asked that the area office follow up with the provider. Mr Whelan explained that a further request is with ESB.

Cllr Herterich Quinn thanked the staff of the Area Office and fellow Members and welcomed Mr Hanrahan as the new DoS for the area. She highlighted the ongoing issue of cars speeding on local roads. She said that the completion of the Elbow in Athenry was a priority.

In reply to a query from Cllr Herterich Quinn on the National speed limits Mr Whelan said that it has not been finalised by the Department. There are updates from the department available which will be circulated.

Cllr Collins asked if recycling bins could be provided in Claregalway as the expanding area needs to be able to use these facilities. Mr Whelan said that the Local Authority is actively seeking a site. Cllr Charity suggested that consideration could be given to the Council lands at Lakeview.

Cllr Cuddy explained that this was his last meeting, and he complimented the staff of the area office for all the work they have carried out in the areas considering the financial constraints of the Local Authority. In relation to the speed limits, he said that a garda presence would make a difference to curtailing speeding cars on rural roads.

He also commented on the Members input to the County Development Plan and said that the Members put a plan forward, but it was changed. The National Planning Framework is reducing the number of people living in Rural Ireland, communities are disappearing, and post offices are closing. It will have a serious consequence on the three schools in Claregalway. There is a number of infrastructure areas that need to be addressed. The Pedestrian crossing at Oranmore is going to design stage and is a priority.

The Claregalway Relief Road needs to be advanced, and funding needs to be secured. Flooding on the coast road in Oranmore must be dealt with as houses built in the area are in danger of flooding and priority works are necessary.

Cllr Charity paid tribute to Cllr Cuddy and said that he has the respect of every Member in the Chamber. He was co-opted in 2003 to the Council and has had a long career here.

Cllr Collins said that Cllr Cuddy has had 56 years public service between working as a member of the Gardai and the Local Authority. He worked hard and has a legacy to live up to and wished him the best.

All the members concurred with this and there was a round of applause.

Cllr Herterich Quinn asked about government CCTV funding for maintenance and installation of new bring banks and requested funding for the upgrading of the current CCTV at the car parks in Athenry.

Ms Carroll said that she will be the DoS for Environment from June and will provide an update for members.

Any other business (AOB)

AMD 213

Cllr Charity and the members thanked the staff of the area office and the administrative staff of the Athenry MD. He said that since 2019 there has been a number of Directors which have provided the Members with a wealth of experience.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by

James Charity
Cathaoirleach

Date: 9/6/2024