

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER, ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY, 3rd MARCH, 2021 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Keaveney

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Bail: Cllrs. T. Broderick, D. Connolly, D. Geraghty, Dr. E. Parsons.

Oifigigh: Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services; Mr. J. Cullen, Director of Service, Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Mr. E. Mulryan, Acting Senior Executive Engineer; Mr. E. Moloney, Administrative Officer, Mr. E. Lydon, Executive Engineer, P. McLynn, Assistant Engineer; Mr. N. Raftery, Technician Grade 1, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer; Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator.

As a mark of respect for the late Mr. MacDara Connolly, R.I.P nephew of Cllr. M. Connolly, it was agreed by all to adjourn the meeting for a period of 5 minutes.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th DECEMBER 2020 MDB20058

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday, 9th December 2021 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Geraghty.

Matters arising from the Minutes

With reference to MDB20055 Page 1, Cllr. Geraghty expressed disappointment with the response received from Roscommon County Council in relation to the November 2020 Resolution regarding Castlerea Fire Station. Cllr. D. Connolly requested that further engagement continue with Roscommon County Council and Offaly County Council with regard fire services. Cllr. Parsons stated that the extension of the fire service areas was putting pressure on existing fire services and stated that the current Fire Station in Ballinasloe was in need of upgrading and investment.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB20055 Page 3 with regard to the deterioration of HSE properties in Ballinasloe, Mr. Hanrahan advised that he had not received a response from the Health Service Executive on this matter. Mr. Hanrahan advised that Galway County Council is in discussion with the HSE regarding the purchase of properties from the HSE.

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference to MDB20055 Page 2, Mr. Hanrahan advised that he will request Mr. Ciaran Wynne, Senior Executive Engineer, Regeneration Team to provide a detailed report on the Ballinasloe Street Enhancement Scheme. The members expressed disappointment with the grant of €80,000 for the 79 applicants and asked that additional funding be provided towards the Scheme. Cllr. Broderick queried whether any of the extra funds provided to the Council as a result of the rates waiver could be applied to this scheme. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that he would contact the members prior to the announcement of the allocations for the Scheme.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE STANDING ORDERS

MDB20059

On the proposal of Cllr. Broderick which was seconded by Cllr. Parsons it was agreed that the Standing Orders as circulated be adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT NOMINEE TO THE BALLINASLOE OCTOBER FAIR CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

MDB20060

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Keaveney and agreed by all, it was agreed to defer this item until the April Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District.

APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT NOMINEE TO THE JOINT DIRECTOR BOARD OF BALLINASLOE AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (BACD) COMPANY

MDB20061

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Keaveney and agreed by all, it was agreed to defer this item until the April Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District.

TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE 2021 ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED WORKS OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE. A) DRAFT – MUNICIPAL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF WORKS 2021 FOR ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING, RECREATION AND AMENITY AND B) DRAFT 2021 ROADS PROGRAMME

MDB20062

Mr. Hanrahan presented the Draft – Municipal District Schedule of Works 2021 for the following Service Areas: Environment, Housing and Recreation and Amenity.

Cllr. D. Connolly expressed disappointment with the reduction in the Parks and Open Spaces Budget. In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly and Parsons, Mr. Mulryan advised that the Dunlo Recreation Park remained closed due to Level 5 restrictions.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Housing Maintenance Budget referred to routine maintenance. Mr. Hanrahan advised that a sizeable retrofitting programme of local authority housing properties would take place in 2021.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Litter Control Budget was for the purchase of small equipment to be distributed to local communities for Spring Clean-Ups etc. Cllr. Parsons expressed concern at the increase in illegal dumping in the area and asked for an update on whether monies received via litter fines comes back to the Municipal District. Cllr. Parsons asked for an update on when the National Spring Clean-Up would commence.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan advised that the Community Wardens undertake inspection of GCC playgrounds with essential repairs executed in line with available resources.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Draft Municipal District Schedule of Works 2021 - Roads Programme 2021 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe. The members thanked Mr. Mitchell and the staff involved in the preparation of the Draft Roads Programme 2021. Mr. Cullen thanked the members for their support and advised that while road grant funding had increased over the last numbers of years with a subsequent improvement in road conditions, the amount available from Galway County Council's own resources had not increased and was a cause for concern.

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly, Geraghty and Keaveney, Mr. Cullen advised that the issue of upgrading to a more modern and efficient fleet for Galway County Council was being considered by the Executive Team.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Mitchell advised that funding for upgrades to bridges was based on structural surveys and as such was not apportioned between Municipal District Areas. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Mulryan advised that the East Bridge in Ballinasloe Town formed part of the overall Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme.

In response to Cllrs. Broderick and Keaveney, Mr. Mitchell confirmed that the remainder of the 2020 Community Involvement Scheme would progress in 2021 subject to the community contributions being agreed. Mr. Mulryan confirmed that 22 schemes are proposed for the Ballinasloe MD.

In response to Cllrs. Geraghty and Keaveney, Mr. Mitchell advised that there is a limited budget for winter maintenance and that the focus was to ensure heavily trafficked routes were treated. In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Mulryan advised that the objective of the programme was to ensure that strategic primary routes connecting larger local towns are treated to allow safe passage of road users & minimize delays due to winter weather. He

further confirmed that in the event of a prolonged severe weather event the winter maintenance programme would be expanded.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Mitchell advised that the allocation of Notice of Motion Funding to local community groups would have a severely negative impact on local road maintenance funding.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Mitchell advised that approximately €340,000 had been allocated to the Ballinasloe Municipal District for drainage works in 2021.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Mitchell advised that local community groups should contact their Area Engineer to discuss any projects they intend to progress. Mr. Mulryan advised that there was an application process for such projects, the approval of which would be subject to applicants complying fully with the requirements in terms of Works activities proposed, Insurance requirement & Health & Safety legislation compliance

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Cullen advised that while it was difficult to estimate maintenance costs for greenways/cycleways as they were unlike roads in terms of wear and tear, he would revert on the matter.

In response to Cllrs. Geraghty and D. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that current staffing levels would be maintained and retiring members of staff would be replaced.

In response to Cllr. Broderick with regard a local road which did not provide access to large machinery i.e. milk lorry, Mr. Mulryan requested Cllr. Broderick provide him with specific's and he would investigate.

On the proposal of Cllr. Geraghty, seconded by Cllr Broderick the 2021 Annual Schedule of Proposed Works of Maintenance and Repair to be carried out in the Ballinasloe Municipal District was adopted.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB20063

No business arising.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB20064

No business arising

VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATION

MDB20065

The McGeehan Family, Williamstown, Co. Galway
The Halvey Family, Kilkerrin, Co. Galway
The King Family, Clonberne, Co. Galway

The Connolly Family, Moylough, Co. Galway.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB20066

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Mulryan advised that the upgrade of public lighting at Hopsons Lane and Woodslip Lane in Ballinasloe Town would be subject to funding availability

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Hanrahan advised that he would discuss the planning enforcement officer position with the Director of Services, Planning.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Mitchell advised that the subject of taking in charge of private estates was complex and that each case is different. Mr. Mitchell advised that a large volume of work had gone into this area with the €100k funding provided by the members.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan advised that he would examine the issue of the wooden bridge at Derreen.

Cllr. Parsons welcomed that launch of the Shannon Tourism Masterplan with proposed funding of €70 million euro and advised that it would be a huge benefit to Ballinasloe and environs

Cllr. Parsons asked that the public toilets in Ballinasloe be upgraded.

Following discussion on the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Geraghty, the following resolution to be forwarded to the Minister of Finance, Paschal Donohoe TD and the Oireachtas Members of the Galway Roscommon Constituency *“That the Ballinasloe Municipal District ask the Minister for Finance Pascal Donohue T.D. to intervene on behalf of the local communities in Ballygar and Dunmore with the Financial Institutions to maintain banks staying open in these locations.”*

Following discussion on the proposal of Cllr. Broderick seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly, the following resolution was agreed *“that as soon as possible, the executive outlines to the members of the Municipal District, the implications for the Municipal District going forward regarding deficits in infrastructure in our villages e.g. New Inn, Kilconnell, Aughrim, Kiltormer, Menlough, Castleblakeney.”*

It was agreed that the next Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on **Wednesday, 14th April, 2021 at 2 p.m.**

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed,

Pete Heaverty
(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

14 - 4 - 2021
(Date)