

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ONLINE (VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS) ON WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021 AT 2.00 p.m.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. D. Connolly

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

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

**Oifigigh:** Mr. L. Hanrahan Director of Services, Mr. D. Mitchell Senior Engineer, Mr. F. Fahey, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. N. Morrissey, Executive Engineer, Mr. B. McDonagh, Executive Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Mr. E. Moloney Meetings Administrator.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021** MDB21103

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Geraghty and seconded by Cllr. Broderick.

**Matters arising from the Minutes**

In response to Cllrs Geraghty and Keaveney and with reference to MDB21102 Page 5, Mr. Fahey advised that the Screening Report on Glenamaddy Turlough had been completed and forwarded to the OPW. Mr. Fahey advised that approval from the OPW is required prior to works commencing. Cllrs. Geraghty and Keaveney expressed great disappointment with the situation and the lack of progress and felt that the matter had been left far too long without work being undertaken.

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993 AND SCHEDULE 14A OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2021** MDB21104

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Broderick, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:

- (a) Glentaun Village, Glentaun, Creagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway**  
Glentaun Road House No. 1 and Glentaun Close Houses Nos 1 to 7 (inclusive)  
Glentaun Road House No. 6 to 8 (inclusive)

Glentaun View Houses Nos 1 to 2 & 37  
Glentaun Avenue Houses Nos 1 to 8 (inclusive)  
Glentaun Road Houses Nos 9 to 18 (inclusive)  
Glentaun Close Houses Nos 8 to 43 (inclusive)

**DRAFT MULTI ANNUAL ROADS PROGRAMME 2022 – 2024**

**MDB21105**

The programme was circulated to members prior to the meeting along with a map outlining the works under the programme. The basis upon which roads were included in the programme was explained. In response to Cllr Geraghty, Mr. Fahey advised that the annual budget estimates were based on allocations received for Restoration Improvement Grants in 2021. In response to Cllr. Parsons and D. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that additional projects can be added to the 3 year programme if additional funding is received. Cllrs. M. Connolly and Keaveney asked that emphasis be placed on local tertiary roads as they were in such a bad state. Cllr. Geraghty expressed disappointment with the omission of the Williamstown Castlerea road from the plan. Cllr. Keaveney asked that Church Street, Glenamaddy be assessed for an upgrade. Cllr. Keaveney complimented the use of DBM instead of Clause 804 when resurfacing roads.

A number of members, while commending the work of the engineering staff on preparing the programme stated that the funding levels were wholly inadequate and that tertiary roads in particular were deteriorating badly. It was pointed out that the level of funding would only improve a very small percentage of the roads in the district and that the Oireachtas members in the area should be doing more to get extra funding. Mr. Mitchell advised that this Multi Annual Roads Programme 2022 – 2024 is dealing specifically with Restoration Improvement Grants. Mr. Mitchell advised that while funding is inadequate, the trajectory with funding has been increasing approx. 20% each year with €19.5 million received in 2017 to €35 million received in 2021. He stated that this programme is only one element of the overall roads programme which has a number of other measures. On the proposal of Cllr. Broderick seconded by Cllr. Parsons, the members approved the Draft Multi Annual Roads Programme 2022 – 2024.

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

**MDB21106**

Mr. McDonagh presented an update on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme. The members thanked Mr. McDonagh for his continuous updates and assistance with queries on the project. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. McDonagh advised that the project is six to seven months behind schedule due to Covid but that it was expected that this could be clawed back. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. McDonagh advised that a Ryan Hanley Environmental Consultant is working with the National Monuments Service and preparing a report on the East Bridge. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. McDonagh advised that commencing minor flooding projects could adversely affect the benefits of the overall project. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly who expressed great disappointment at the pace with which the project is proceeding, Mr. McDonagh acknowledged the frustration of the

members, however he advised that the OPW must go through the statutory process in place. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. McDonagh advised that the OPW is the lead client for the project and that Galway County Council are on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme Steering Group and offer an advisory role. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. McDonagh advised that he would revert to the OPW regarding whether works at Station Road could be fast tracked but cautioned that any unapproved works at Station Road could potentially create a flood risk down the line and advised waiting the results of the overall options assessment. Mr. McDonagh advised that he provide an update on the issue of flooding at Clonfert and that the priority is always to protect family homes.

Mr. Hanrahan provided an update on the cancelled Ballinasloe October Fair. Mr. Hanrahan thanked the Municipal District staff and Community Wardens for their work and for liaising so well with An Garda Siochana. Mr. Hanrahan advised that there was a small “unofficial” gathering with no major incidents reported. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the focus now would be on securing additional funding for the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in 2022 and working with the Ballinasloe Fair & Festival Co-ordinating Committee and partners. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Hanrahan advised that he would provide a financial update on what was spent in 2021 and also any income accruing to the Council from Fair activities. Cllr. D. Connolly advised that unofficial activities in 2021 showed that there was a return to basics with regard the fair and showed that it is all about the Horses. Cllr. D. Connolly asked that a focus be put back onto how the fair can help the local businesses and the agricultural hinterland.

#### **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH’S BUSINESS**

**MDB21107**

Cllr. D. Geraghty advised he would be bringing a motion to the next full Council meeting regarding the issue of Fishing Permits on the River Suck and asked that the members would support it .

Cllr. D. Connolly also read from a reply received by Deputy Claire Kerrane from Inland Fisheries Ireland in the same matter.

All the members agreed it would have a tourism and local amenity benefit to the County.

#### **VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

**MDB21108**

None.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**MDB21109**

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Fahey advised that the digging of graves in Creagh was carried out by Council Staff. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and M. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the issue of staffing at Creagh Graveyard was being assessed by management.

In response to Cllr. Parsons who noted a lack of outdoor workers, Mr. Hanrahan advised that overall staffing levels for was being discussed at the CPG. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that recruitment was ongoing for the Technician for the Ballinasloe Municipal District.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Mitchell advised that contractors had been appointed to carry out site investigation works for the Bus Stop at the Marina and these were expected to be completed by end of November. Mr. Mitchell confirmed that funding had been ringfenced for the project.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that there are ongoing discussions with Tara Mines with regard to assessing the damage to the R328 Clonberne Road.

In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Hanrahan advised that he would enquire how boil water notices issue. This follows on from the Boil Water Notice which is in place in Glenamaddy.

In response to Cllr. Broderick who queries what could be done to get repossessed buildings to be better maintained, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the vacant sites levies possibly could be used to force owners to upgrade their buildings but repossessed buildings or buildings owned by vulture funds are hard to manage. Mr. Hanrahan advised that while the Streetscape Projects were welcome, it was important that the Council engage with the owners to bring the buildings back to life for business or residential purposes. Mr. Hanrahan advised that businesses need to draw down their monies for the Streetscape Enhancement Project.

Mr. Moloney advised that the Ballinasloe Municipal District Budget Meeting was scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 at 2 p.m. in County Hall.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney seconded by Cllr. Geraghty it was agreed that the November Monthly Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District would take place on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 after the budget meeting in County Hall.**

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

**Submitted, Approved and Signed**

  
**(Cathaoirleach to sign here)**

3/11/2021  
**(Date)**