

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 2.00 p.m.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. D. Geraghty

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

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

**Oifigigh:** Mr. L. Hanrahan Director of Services, Mr. D. Troy Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. C. Kilcoyne, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. E. Murphy Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. A. Brogan Executive Engineer, Mr. P. Batty Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn Executive Engineer, Mr. E. Monahan, Technician Grade 1, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JULY** **MDB23036**

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 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2023:

1. MDB23029 – Consider Report under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2008 (as amended) - 8 No. Unit Housing Development at Garbally Demesne, St. Joseph’s Ballinasloe, Co. Galway “In response to Cllr. Parsons, Ms. Murphy advised that the project complied with fire regulations”.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 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**

With reference to MDB23029, Cllr. Parsons requested on an update on legal advice sought regarding development in St. Josephs, Ballinasloe. Mr. Liam Hanrahan advised that he would cover this item under DOS business.

Cllr. Parsons expressed concern at the Ukrainian Response in Ballinasloe and that more could be done.

Cllr. Parsons stated that she would like a Civic Reception to be held for Heather Payne. Mr. Hanrahan advised of the process involved in organizing this via the Corporate Policy Group and that Cllr. D. Connolly as a member of the CPG would bring the appropriate form requesting same to the next meeting of the CPG.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Hanrahan advised of the guidelines involved with the erection of timber framed homes/modular homes at sites.

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

MDB23037

In response to Cllr. Parson's query: Mr. Hanrahan provided an update on the Part 8 for St. Josephs, Ballinasloe. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Part 8 is open for viewing from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September to the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. Submissions will be accepted until the 13<sup>th</sup> of October at which stage the Chief Executives Report will be prepared. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Part 8 would be brought before either the November/December plenary meeting. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the previous Part 8 process for St. Joseph's had been nulled as submissions received were not brought to the attention of the Planning Office. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that all previous submissions would need to be re-submitted and that all persons who had made these submissions had been contacted and advised to re-submit. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Part 8's for St. Joseph's and Dunlo Street would be brought before the Municipal District Meeting. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that there was 1 submission from St. Joseph's Residents. Cllr. Parsons advised she was aware of its content and stated that she supported the submission.

Mr. Hanrahan provided an update on the Tourism Strategy and advised that a new Tourism Officer had been appointed to deal with same. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Strategy was in a draft format and was going through assessment with prescribed bodies. Once this was completed the plan would be brought back to the SPC. Mr. Hanrahan advised that with regard the Just Transition Fund, an advertisement had been placed for an officer to work on this project. Mr. Hanrahan advised that Mr. Farrell had met with Failte Ireland and that a subgroup had been set up in-house to engage with them regarding the Just Transition Fund for the Ballinasloe MD. Mr. Hanrahan advised that they were looking at various projects from Eco Park, Aughrim Interpretative Centre, possible RV parking location (similar to Boyle in Roscommon). Mr. Hanrahan advised that the team meet from next week and that the Officer for the Just Transition Fund would attend at MD Meetings once appointed. Cllr. Broderick asked that the members would be included from the start of the process and requested that they would meet with Failte Ireland and the Executive Team to discuss the project. Cllr. Parsons also stressed the need to be at the table with Failte Ireland from the start of the process. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the new Tourism Officer had a county wide remit whereas the Officer for the Just Transition

Fund would deal solely with projects under the remit of the Just Transition Fund which area is located within the Ballinasloe MD.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Keaveney the following resolution was agreed: "Proposed amendment to the Tourism Strategy (1) Under objective 9.2: The inclusion of Shannon Tourism Master plan to ensure the River Suck is part of the actions for the zone ( as similar to action 7.1 for Portumna as Ballinasloe is part of Shannon Masterplan which isn't evident from reading of strategy) (2) Include action for Aughrim interpretive center in objective 9, ( similar to that of Actions 10.2 for Ross Errily or 10.4 Knockma Wood or 8.3 Coole Park)".

Mr. Troy provided an update on the Ballinasloe MD Roads Programme and issues relating to surface dressing, road reconstruction and the different materials involved. Ms. Lowe advised the MD that a recent pilot trial by the Dept of Transport had taken place on the Mountbellew to Ballyforan Road with the assistance of Galway County Council. The road was examined many years ago when the original Guidelines for the Rehabilitation of Roads Over Peat were drafted. The aim of this pilot was to determine if manual ground investigations could be completed by staff to determine depths and nature of peat. This information could then be utilised to create models of peat along roads. The Department was very happy with how the pilot progressed. The current Guidelines are now decades old and are being revised.

The members thanked the MD Staff for the work involved in the Roads Programme.

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

**MDB23038**

Cllr. Geraghty welcomed Mr. Troy and thanked the MD Staff for their work in the district.

Cllr. Geraghty asked that Galway County Council work with Roscommon County Council in developing the Suck Valley Way project.

Cllr. Geraghty welcomed the appointment of Tourism Officer and Just Transition Fund Officer.

Cllr. Geraghty advised that there was a positive outcome following the JPC Meeting and congratulated An Garda Síochána for their work. Cllr. Broderick thanked Cllr. Geraghty for his work on the committee but stressed that An Garda Síochána were under resourced and could not deal with the drug problems in the County. Cllr. Broderick asked that an armed response unit be available in every town in Galway.

Cllr. Geraghty asked that the Community Alert Areas be activated and asked that Gerry Costello of Muintir Na Tire be invited to attend the Ballinasloe MD to discuss community alert.

Cllr. Geraghty stressed the need to send out the message for all pedestrians/cyclists to wear their H-Vis Jackets.

Cllr. Geraghty expressed concern at the level of anti-social behaviour in our towns and villages. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that there was a current Data Protection audit of CCTV in Galway County Council underway, and that Mr. Mulvey is working on same. Cllr. Parsons asked for an update on when the task force dealing with anti-social behaviour in Ballinasloe would reconvene. Mr. Hanrahan advised that there were ongoing meetings being held between Mr. E. Mulvey and members of the Garda Siochana and that it was expected that the task force meetings would recommence shortly.

Cllr. Geraghty welcomed the return of hedge cutting /verge cutting maintenance.

Cllr. Geraghty asked that the Winter Maintenance Plan be reviewed to include additional roads. Ms. Lowe advised that the annual review of the Winter Maintenance Plan was underway and that the addition of new routes is dependent on funding; however, additional funding is not expected at this time. Cllr. Keaveney asked that the Glenamaddy to Williamstown route be added permanently to the plan. Ms. Lowe advised that any representations that Councillors had made in respect of preventative salting had been passed to Mr Tom Prendergast's team for consideration. Cllr. Geraghty queried the availability of salt in Tuam last Winter; Ms. Lowe advised that there was no implication for salting of any routes. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Ms. Lowe advised that there was no issue with the supply of salt generally to local authorities.

Cllr. Geraghty expressed his condolences to all affected by suicide and wished to make known that all the members were available to talk to persons in distress. Cllr. Parsons thanked the staff of Galway County Council for their lighting up of the monument in Orange to mark World Suicide Prevention Day.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that there was no update on the purchase of St. Brigid's Hospital.

Cllr. Parsons advised that She intended to seek a response at the HSE Health Forum from the HSE.

## **VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

**MDB23039**

### **Vote of Congratulations**

Congratulations to the Ballinasloe Golf Club on winning the All-Ireland Mixed Championship 2023.

### **Vote of Sympathy**

The Ward Family on the death of Colm Ward, Corlackin, Creggs

The Rattigan Family on the death of Annie Rattigan, Corlackin, Creggs

The Collins Family on the death of John Collins, Ballaghmurry, Ballymoe

The Keaveney Family on the death of Nora Keaveney, Cashel, Glenamaddy

The Daly Family on the death of Dr. Madeline Daly, Ballygar

The Griffin Family on the death of Kevin Griffin, Ballymoe

The Cunningham Family on the death of Michael Cunningham, Meelick, Williamstown

The O' Reilly Family on the death of Cllr. Damien O' Reilly, Kilcock, Meath  
The Doroshkevich Family on the death of Oleg Doroshkevich, O'Keefe Park, Glenamaddy  
The Desmond Family on the death of Peggy Desmond, Ard Mhuire, Ballinasloe  
The Carey Family on the death of Michael Carey, Newtown, Creagh, Ballinasloe  
The Costello Family on the death of Mary Costello, Kilclooney, Ballinasloe  
The Keighery Family on the death of Mae Keighery (née Naughton), Ard Mhuire, Ballinasloe

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**MDB23040**

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Ms. Lowe advised that the active travel project in Beechlawn was currently going through a final design review by the NTA.

Mr. Hanrahan gave an update on the Ballinasloe Fair.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Troy advised that consultants were preparing a draft design for the project at Clonfert, and that MD staff were engaging with landowners.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the additional funding of €5.7 million allocated to Galway County Council would be for 2024 and going forward.

Cllr. P. Keaveney requested an update on the flooding issue in Glenamaddy.

Cllr. P. Keaveney wished luck to the Ballinasloe Show and the Glenamaddy Shows which were due to happen.

Following discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. P. Keaveney seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly the following resolution was agreed "I will propose the Ballinasloe MD write to the Minister for Agriculture to ask him to extend the slurry spreading date to the 15<sup>th</sup> of October. We have had an extremely wet summer and a lot of ground is still in poor condition".

Cllr. D. Connolly wished the Ballinasloe Junior A Hurlers in their upcoming County Final.

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District and the Ordinary Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District would take place on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October @ 2 pm.**

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

**Submitted, Approved and Signed**

  
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(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

  
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(Date)

