

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 10th May 2023 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. E. Parsons

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. T. Broderick, M. Connolly, D. Connolly, D. Geraghty, P. Keaveney,

Oifigigh: Mr. L. Hanrahan Director of Services, Mr. F. Fahey Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. Batty Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn Executive Engineer, Mr. N. Raftery Technician Grade 1, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th APRIL **MDB23014**

Cllr. Parsons requested that the following be included as amendments to the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on the 12th April 2023:

1. MDB23006 - Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe Held on Wednesday 8th March Page 2 Paragraph 7 "In response to Cllr Parsons and with reference to MDB23003 Page 3, Ms. Lowe advised that she would request an update on the Ballinasloe Townparks Relief Road project"
2. MDB23011 – Municipal District of Ballinasloe Cathaoirleach’s Business Page 4 Paragraph 2 "Mr. Hanrahan advised that a meeting would be arranged between Mr. Farrell and the members of the Ballinasloe MD to discuss funding applications for the Just Transition Fund".

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 12th April 2023 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney and seconded by Cllr. Broderick.

Matters arising from the Minutes

In response to Cllr. Broderick with reference to MDB23008 Page 3, Mr. Hanrahan advised that no response had been received with regard the April Resolution about the Jobpath contract.

With reference to MDB23009 Page 3, Cllr. Broderick thanked Mr. Melody for organizing a further Teams presentation on the East Galway Eco Park to the members. Cllr. Broderick asked for an update on outstanding funding via the East Galway Community Grant Scheme Fund. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the naming of the Eco Park will form part of the consultation process.

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference to MDB23007 Page 2, Mr. Fahy advised that an application for funding for an upgrade of Cappataggle Cross will be made for inclusion in the 2024 Roads Programme. Mr. Fahey advised that the preparation of the submission will be coordinated between the Loughrea and Ballinasloe Municipal Districts.

In response to Cllr. Parsons and with reference to MDB23006 Page 1, Mr. Fahey advised that there was no update on timelines for noise mapping on the M6 and that he would ask Mr. Prendergast to provide same to the members. Cllr. Geraghty advised that he would be able to provide the name of a company who deals with private noise mapping requests which may be requested via the planning process.

In response to Cllr. Parsons and with reference to MDB23006 Page 1, Mr. Fahey confirmed that the speed survey had been carried out on Sarsield Road.

In response to Cllr. Parsons and with reference to MDB23009 Page 3, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the tenders had been assessed for the appointment of consultants to prepare a preliminary report on the development of an amenity at Poolboy Landfill and that a contract would be entered into once the standstill period had expired.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly and with reference to MDB23013 Page 5, Mr. Fahey advised that that upgrade works at Creagh Junction would now be assessed by the Active Travel Team to ensure it links in with Cycle Connect and Ballinasloe Local Area Transport Plan. Cllr. M. Connolly expressed concern at the length of time the active travel projects are taking. Cllr. M. Connolly welcomed the announcement with regard new industry coming to Athenry and urged that the upgrade of Creagh Junction be fast-tracked to ensure Ballinasloe is looked favorably upon when looking to attract new industry to the town.

Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed the road safety works proposed at the entrance to Duneeda Road and requested that the project be completed shortly. Cllr. D. Connolly expressed concern at the lack of funding available to progress road safety project.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB23015

Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Part 8's for St. Joseph's and Dunlo Street would be brought before the Plenary Council for the July Meeting.

Mr. Hanrahan provided an update on the proposed domestic violence refuge to be in Ballinasloe. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the development of same will be coordinated between the Department of Housing and Justice. Mr. Hanrahan advised that a number of refuges are going through renovation and build at present, and these are progressed under Priority 1 projects. Ballinasloe will be among the next number of projects to progress. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that the refuge will be a regional centre. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the funding for the project will be via the Capital Acquisitions Scheme. The next steps involved engaging consultants to do surveys of the building in question prior to purchase of the building. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that it was expected that detailed drawings would be prepared by mid-2024 and that a planning application could be submitted by late 2024. Mr. Hanrahan cautioned that these timelines were tentative based on surveys, purchase of site etc. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the refuge as planned was to be solely for women and children.

Mr. Hanrahan advised that contracts for Road Reconstruction and Surface Dressing Projects had been signed to the value of €4.5 million and that work was due to commence on same.

Mr. Hanrahan provided a short background on the Just Transition Fund and the phases involved in same. Mr. Hanrahan advised that funding of €169 million was to be provided under the Just Transition Fund for the midlands and would be managed by the East and Midland Regional Assembly. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the first round of funding will be €69 million for sustainable tourism projects and will be managed by Failte Ireland. Mr. Hanrahan advised that Galway County Council had received no further detail from Failte Ireland to date. Cllr. Geraghty welcomed the fund of €169 million but when divided out between the various districts that it was relatively small. Cllr. Keaveney welcomed the funding and hoped that the funding could be used as a co-funding measure to be used with other schemes. Cllr. M. Connolly welcomed the funding however advised that this funding would not substitute for the loss of economic activity in the region. Cllr. Broderick expressed concern that the next round of funding was being coordinated by Failte Ireland as he felt East Galway was ignored with regard tourism initiatives. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the funding was solely for areas impacted by job losses in the midlands. Cllr. Parsons stressed the need to ensure funding is applied for the Ballinasloe Municipal District and to ensure that a competitive quality application is made. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that a recruitment process was underway for a Tourism Officer.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan gave specific detail on how house allocations are made in Galway County Council, including how shortlisting happens based on area of choice, number of bedrooms required etc. Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that an applicant on the housing lists must provide an area of choice. Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that only

persons on the housing waiting lists that specify Ballinasloe as an area of choice are offered accommodation in Ballinasloe. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that there is no possibility of inter-county transfers. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Hanrahan explained how and when Garda Siochana vetting was carried out and the specifics of the Garda Matrix that was in use. Mr. Hanrahan provided detail to the members on the processes involved prior to a house being allocated to a person with clients being interviewed, along with their partners and the various checks carried out via the Department of Social Protection, Tusla, HSE among others. Mr. Hanrahan advised that if persons are residing illegally at a Council House that tenancy warnings would issue. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that Galway County Council works to ensure compliance with the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People and work with the HSE with regard agreeing care packages etc. Cllr. Parsons queried policy with regard allocating housing to applicants who are on the sex offender's register. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Garda vetting process for applicants takes approx. 2 weeks and that applicants are subject to this process prior to them getting an allocation. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Hanrahan advised that they had received no further update on Croi Conaithe Fund Scheme.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that he was not aware of imminent water shortages in Ballinasloe Town and asked that information regarding same be relayed to Mr. Pender DOS and he would pursue same with Irish Water.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB23016

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that Galway County Council had not received any information on the Rent a Room Scheme for local authority tenants.

Cllr. Parsons congratulated all involved in the Galway Forged Gates Project and in particular the work carried out by Skehana Heritage Group and hoped that it would be rolled out in the wider Ballinasloe area. Cllr. M. Connolly thanked the Atlantic Technological University/Mountbellew Agricultural College for holding the event.

Cllr. Parsons thanks the local area staff who organized the lighting up of the Le Paor Trench Monument which has been involved in several lighting up awareness projects so far in 2023.

Cllr. Parsons asked that proposed bike stand at the Civic Offices be erected as soon as possible.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

MDB23017

Vote of Congratulations

Congratulations to the Glenamaddy Drama Group on holding a very successful 2023 All-Ireland Confined Drama Finals

Congratulations to Eoin Hardiman, Housing Section on his recent marriage

Vote of Sympathy

The Ruane Family on the death of Esther (Essie) Ruane, Liscune, Ballymacward, Ballinasloe
The McDonagh Family on the death of Dolores McDonagh, Ballinastack, Moylough, Ballinasloe

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB23018

Cllr. Geraghty asked that any member who wishes to have an issue raised at the Joint Policing Committee could do so by emailing him with the details.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Fahey asked that he provide the Area Engineer with specific location details with regard culverts to be cleaned and faded signs to be assessed.

Cllr. Geraghty expressed concern at the level of service being provided in our public hospitals. Cllr. Parsons advised that she would bring the concerns of the members to the upcoming Western Health Forum of which she is a member.

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 14th June @ 2 pm.**

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

 14/6/2023