

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER, ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 10th JUNE, 2020 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Keaveney

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. T. Broderick, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, A. Dolan, D. Geraghty.

Oifigigh: Mr. A. Farrell, A/Director of Services, Mr. J. Cullen, Director of Services, Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Mr. E. Mulryan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. F. O'Meara, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. E. Lydon, Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, Assistant Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13th MAY 2020

MDB20027

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday, 13th May, 2020 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Geraghty.

Matters arising from the Minutes

In response to Cllrs. M. Connolly, Geraghty and Keaveney and with reference to MDB20018 Page 2 in relation to flooding at the Glenamaddy Turlough, Mr. Mulryan advised that a Site Survey Works has been carried out of the two possible engineering solutions and a preferred option has been identified. Mr. Mulryan further advised that Galway County Council are liaising with the OPW on this project and that the progression of this scheme will be subject to a cost benefit analysis as part of any Minor Works Scheme funding application to the OPW. Mr. Mulryan stated that the progression of this scheme will also be subject to approval of funding the completion of Hydrological, Environmental and any other necessary assessments, reports and consents. Mr. Mulryan advised that due to the complexity of the project the timeline for the potential delivery of any scheme will almost certainly extend well beyond 2020. In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Mulryan advised that the proposed scheme would involve an overflow mechanism and that insurance issues in Glenamaddy are a matter for individual insurance companies.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB20020 page 3, Mr. Mulryan confirmed that an archaeological area of has been uncovered on Society Street near the

Church Hill junction which he advised is currently being investigated in conjunction with the relevant authorities.

With reference to MDB20020 Page 3, Cllr. Dolan requested an update from SIAC in relation to timelines for the Town Enhancement Scheme Project.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ABANDON A SECTION OF A PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 12 OF ROADS ACT 1993

MDB20028

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Broderick, the Council approved the notice of intention to abandon a section of a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:

- (a) Access road in the townland L6322 Winfield Cross, Newbridge.

L6322 roadway commencing at its junction with the N63 in the townland of Winfield/Cloonavihony & extending for a distance of 88m in a westerly direction in the townland of Winfield/Cloonavihony.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan confirmed that a turnaround area would be provided at “Dempseys Cross” and that this project would be completed under an N63 Safety Improvement Scheme.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR’S BUSINESS

MDB20029

Mr. Cullen provided an update on the Galway to Athlone Greenway. Mr. Cullen stated that the 140km Galway to Athlone section of the Greenway is being developed with a fresh new start. The project is being jointly managed by Westmeath, Galway and Roscommon County Councils in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland, with Westmeath as the lead authority. Consultants, RPS, were appointed earlier in 2020 to develop a route for the Greenway. A project office has been established above the Library in Ballinasloe and will be staffed by personnel from the County Councils and RPS. Staff he advised had begun to move into the office but had to move out due to Covid restrictions. Mr. Cullen stated that some minor fit-out works are required and it is intended to re-open the Project Office in line with Government health and safety guidance to enable direct contact with the public and landowners. In the meantime, Mr. Cullen stated that the team is working remotely on preparing for public consultation activities in the coming months. Mr. Cullen advised that there is a strong emphasis on consultation and that there will be 5-6 members of the project team, RPS and Council staff, fully dedicated to landowner liaison.

Mr. Cullen advised that there is more that 100km of the Galway to Dublin Greenway between Maynooth and Athlone open to the public. A new cycle bridge is to be constructed across the Shannon next year connecting this section to Athlone Castle. The proposed Galway to Athlone Greenway will extend from Athlone Castle to a location in Galway City on the east side of the City. Galway City Council and the NTA will together undertake the planning and development of the Greenway across the City to link with the proposed Connemara Greenway. The project team he advised will be approaching the

selection and location of a new route with a completely open mind. Mr. Cullen stated that the first stage is a Constraints Study which is now underway and the study area is being considered as a blank canvas. The Project Team are initially assessing and determining the lands within the study area that are already in state ownership, including those owned by Government Agencies, Government Departments and Local Authorities. It is hoped he stated that the first public consultation will be held in early August, 2020 in line with Covid 19 guidance at the time.

Cllr. A. Dolan welcomed the update and referred to the support and momentum that had built up in the last two weeks in favour of the project. Cllr. Dolan stated that she would like to see the office launched and visibility for the project website. Cllr. Broderick said it was of the utmost importance that lessons are learned from the previous time this was promoted as he stated it generated a lot of opposition from landowners from the very start. Cllr. Broderick stated that the landowners concerns need to be addressed properly. Cllr. M. Connolly also referred to the previous project and the level of opposition to it and stated that if the landowners were left to feel ignored then the project would be in difficulty from the start. Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed the update and the fact that the project was a fresh start with a blank canvas and that the people's worries would be properly heard and addressed. Cllr. Geraghty said he recognized the value that greenways and walkways bring, but it was vital that sufficient time is spent on consultation so that landowners with concerns are brought on board with this concerns listened to. Cllr. Keaveney thanked Mr. Cullen and Mr. O'Meara for the presentation and reiterated the importance of consulting to the widest extent possible to advance a positive outcome.

Mr. Cullen thanked the members for their input. Mr. Cullen stated that lessons were learned from the previous project and that consultation and consideration of landowner's concerns was of particular importance and he stated that is why the consultation would take place as part of the Constraints Study. Mr. Cullen said that the project would be in operation as soon as was possible and while there wouldn't be a launch as such, he advised that the website would be up and running as soon as possible. Mr. Cullen stressed how important it was to balance the desire of those who want the project to proceed without delay against those who had genuine concerns about its impact on them.

In response to the members, Mr. Farrell advised that input had been sought from all the stakeholders involved in the organization of the Ballinasloe October Fair and that it was intended to organize a meeting of the Ballinasloe Fair & Festival Coordinating Committee where a decision would be taken on whether the Ballinasloe Fair would or would not take place in 2020. Mr. Farrell stated that public health advise would guide the decision making. Cllrs. M. Connolly and D. Connolly asked that in consultation the HSE, Garda Siochana and Department of Agriculture public safety concerns would be taken into consideration. Cllr. Dolan expressed concern from a public health perspective in relation to Ballinasloe October Fair getting the go-ahead. Cllrs. Broderick, Dolan, Geraghty and Keaveney stated that due to COVID-19 they were not in favour of the Ballinasloe October Fair taking place in 2020 and asked for a decision to be taken on this matter as soon as possible in order to bring clarity to the situation. Mr Farrell stated that he considered that it would not be possible to proceed and that this was based on engagement with the HSE but that he considered it

was important to bring it through the coordinating mechanism representing the various interests.

Mr. Farrell provided an update on the various Community and Rural Grant Schemes open to communities and the public and advised that details of same are available on the Council's Website and also directly from the Economic, Rural and Community Development Department. With regard specifically to COVID-19 - Town and Village Renewal Schemes, Mr. Cullen in response to Cllr. Broderick advised that Galway County Council were looking for communities to come forward with proposals for outdoor recreation areas and the use of public spaces, advising that all proposals would be considered. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Cullen advised that the provision of outdoor seating is subject to Planning Legislation and a licensing process. Mr. Farrell advised that the Council's Regeneration Team are working with the developmental staff in his unit that are coordinating the scheme and that there was ongoing effective collaboration with the Municipal District staff and senior engineer. Mr. Farrell said that it was important that businesses and groups in communities worked together as he stated there can be conflicting interests and opinions on use of spaces. Mr. Farrell stated that it was important that there was local agreement and stated that the various units of the Council would be engaged in working to help find solutions to address issues relating to Covid-19. In response to Cllr. Keaveney with regard to accessing funding via the various schemes, Mr. Farrell advised that the Economic, Rural and Community Development Department are working with local groups via the Public Participation Networks on same. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Farrell advised that information on Restart Grants for Small Businesses was available on both social media and traditional media.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB20030

No business arising

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

MDB20031

The Mannion Family, Shanbally, Williamstown, Co. Galway.

Mrs. Eileen Collins, New Forest, Newbridge, Galway.

Mrs. Clare Flynn, Ballymacward, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

The Family of the late Martin Joe Costello, O'Keefe Park, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway.

Votes of Congratulations

St Killian's College, New Inn on receiving approval for a major upgrade.

Coláiste an Chreagáin Mountbellew on receiving funding for a new Science Laboratory Building from the Department of Education.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB20032

With regard water restrictions at Clontuskert and Laurencetown and in response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Cullen advised that both Clontuskert and Laurencetown are Group Water

Schemes and advised that the Trustees of both schemes be contacted in order to ascertain the reason/reasons for the restrictions.

In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Cullen advised that Irish Water who is the Statutory Body responsible for water and waste water is responsible for the decision taken in relation to the hosepipe ban from 09th June, 2020 to 21st July, 2020.

Cllr. M. Connolly stated that additional capacity needs to be provided by Irish Water on a number of public schemes throughout the county.

Cllrs. D. Connolly and Broderick asked that road accidents in Ballinasloe Area be assessed.

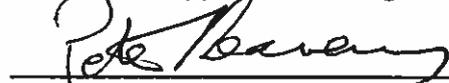
In relation to funds provided by Galway County Council towards Galway 2020, Cllr. Broderick asked if there was a likelihood of any of same being returned.

In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Farrell advised that Online Trading Voucher applications were being processed via the Local Enterprise Office and that demand had been significant.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday, 10th June at 2 p.m.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed



(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

(Date)