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**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 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, E. Parsons.

**Oifigigh:** Mr. L. Hanrahan Director of Services, Ms. R. Lowe Senior Engineer, Mr. D. Troy Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. Batty Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn Executive Engineer, Mr. E. Monahan, Technician Grade 1, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Ms. A. Spelman Administrative Officer, Mr. P. Matthews, Failte Ireland.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**MDB23041**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Broderick and seconded by Cllr. Keaveney.

**Matters arising from the Minutes**

Cllr. Parsons welcomed the re-commencement of the footpath projects on Beechlawn.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Community CCTV scheme is now a Garda Siochana scheme which will be funded by the Department of Justice.

Cllr. Parsons paid tribute to events organized to highlight World Mental Health Day.

In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Troy advised that there was no further update on the reports being prepared on Glenamaddy Turlough.

**PRESENTATION ON FAILTE IRELAND, TOURISM AND JUST TRANSITION**

MDB23042

Mr. Matthews, Head of Operations, Irelands Hidden Heartlands made a presentation on the “EU Just Transition Fund Regenerative Tourism & Placemaking Scheme for Ireland’s Midlands 2023” which included an update on the Just Transition Fund which includes investment grant aid scheme for private and community small and medium enterprises, the strategic partnership agreements which were in place with Local Authorities and State agencies and the sanction of tourism activators. Mr. Matthews advised of the funding elements of the scheme, the type of projects envisaged, eligibility requirements, processes involved in making applications and the role of Activators. All the members thanked Mr. Matthews for his presentation. Mr. Hanrahan provided an update to the members on the Galway County Tourism Strategy and that it would be brought before the members for approval in the October/November plenary Meetings. Mr. Hanrahan advised that a Tourism Officer had been appointed and that the post of the Tourism Activator for the Just Transition Fund had been advertised. Mr. Hanrahan advised that a “Destination Development Plan” was to be prepared for East Galway.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Matthews outlined the breakdown of funding available that it was to be spread over eight Local Authority specific areas. Mr. Matthews agreed that the whole midlands area needed a financial boost in Tourism. Mr. Matthews advised that the Aughrim Interpretative Centre could come under funding via strategic partnership with Galway County Council.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Matthews advised that the idea of Bridleways was something that Failte Ireland were very interested in developing in Irelands Hidden Heartlands to include for trail networks to include for walkways, blue ways, bridleways an cycleways but the intention was to ensure connectivity between the trail network as opposed to individual trails and to co-ordinate with the Suck Valley Way and Beara-Breifne Way. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Derryfadda Greenway would link into this trail network.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Matthews advised that steering groups had been set up with the 8 Local Authorities at executive level. Mr. Broderick expressed disappointment that the members were not included on the Steering Groups. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Matthews advised that the Vintner Federation of Ireland would be consulted and that the development of Music Festivals to focus on local well-known musicians can be looked at. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Matthews advised an accommodation audit will be done as part of the Destination Development Plan for East Galway.

In response to Cllr. Broderick and Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Matthews outlined the role of the Activators and that they will work with local communities and businesses and work with them in making applications and ensuring that schemes are viable and sustainable. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Matthews advised that the Activator would focus on projects in the Ballinasloe Municipal District. Mr. Hanrahan advised that while the Activator would focus solely on Ballinasloe Municipal District, it was envisaged that the person would

commence work within the Tourism Unit to get to know the team/work underway in the County. Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that the Activator will have a base in Ballinasloe. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Matthews advised that the fund would not be split evenly between each Local Authority but that a minimum would be set aside for each LA.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Matthews advised that employment was part of the Key Performance Indicators of the scheme and included for direct and indirect employment. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Matthews advised of the specific dates involved from application dates to project completion dates. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Matthews agreed that accessibility tourism, surf and turf tourism destination and Saints and Soldiers trails were all good ideas and applications would be assessed as they were made. Regarding accessibility, Mr. Matthews advised that this would be a requirement for all applications being made and that certain funding would be available to upgrade areas for accessibility in towns and villages. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Matthews advised that heritage buildings such as Garbally House could be progressed depending on the detail of the project. Mr. Matthews advised that some large capital projects would also have higher operational costs and asked that these projects be assessed to ensure their viability in the future.

Cllr. M. Connolly welcomed the fund but stated East Galway was way behind with Tourism. Cllr. M. Connolly welcomed the “Derryfadda Greenway” as a kick start to tourism in the area. Cllr. M. Connolly cautioned that the fund would not compensate for the job losses in East Galway following the closure of Bord Na Mona sites.

Cllr T. Broderick and Cllr D. Connolly recommended that the Tourism Activator remains available at least 80% of the time at Ballinasloe M.D. offices for the duration of the Just Transition Fund.

Cllr. Geraghty welcomed all the ideas put forward and asked that details of the project be advertised to the communities involved.

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 ROADS ACT 1993 AND SCHEDULE 14A OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001: HAWTHORN PARK, BALLYGAR, CO. GALWAY.**

MDB23042

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

- a. Houses Nos 2 to 7 (inclusive) – Points A to B (inclusive) on Taking in Charge Map. Road commencing at its junction with the L-63791 and extending in an Easterly direction and ending adjacent to house no. 7 for a distance of approximately 70 meters (all in the Townland of Ballygar)

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 ROADS ACT 1993 AND SCHEDULE 14A OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001: CLOS AN IARNROID ESTATE, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY.**

MDB23043

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

- b. Clos An Iarnroid Estate, House No. 6a to 15 (inclusive) – Points A to B on Taking in Charge Map. Road commencing at Point A at its junction with the R358 adjacent to Clos An Iarnroid Estate House No. 6a and extending in a Southerly direction to Point B adjacent to Clos An Iarnroid Estate House No. 15 for a distance of approximately 102 meters (all in the Townland of Deerpark)

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

MDB23044

Mr. Hanrahan gave an update on the October Fair and thanked all involved in its operation. The members thanked all involved with the work involved with preparing and cleaning up after the Fair. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that staff from the ISPCA, Local Authority Vet, Fair and Festival Committee Vet, officials from Department of Agriculture and An Garda Síochána were in place to ensure there were no concerns with regard animal welfare.

Mr. Hanrahan advised that a leaflet drop, and information evening would take place in Ballinasloe with regard the Ukrainian Response and that further engagement with the members would take place over the coming weeks. The members expressed concern at the lack of information from the OPW (Office of Public Works) regarding timelines and costings.

Mr. Troy provided a progress report on surface dressing projects, surface reconstruction projects, hedge cutting and climate action projects in the Municipal District. Cllr. Parsons thanked the MD staff for the erection and lighting of the Orb. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Troy advised that the drainage project at Mackney would be done shortly. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Ms. Lowe advised that a submission for a Low-Cost Safety Scheme funding at Cappataggle Cross was being made to the Department of Transport. Cllr. Keaveney stated that the staggering of junctions at crossroads was the best solution. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Ms. Lowe advised that it was intended to refocus the Creagh Junction towards an active travel project. Ms. Lowe advised that a report on re-opening the lights at Creagh Junction was being considered and that she would revert on same. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Troy advised that dumping of grass at the verge of roads would be investigated by the Community Wardens under the Roads Act.

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

MDB23045

Cllr. Geraghty asked that the message go out to the public about pedestrian safety and the need for pedestrians to wear Hi-Vis vests.

Cllr. Geraghty asked that the issue of rural crime be highlighted and that that the message would go out to keep an eye on vulnerable neighbours. Cllr. Geraghty asked that the community alert scheme be re-activated. Cllr. Geraghty asked that Garda Mick Walsh and Mr. Ger Costello be invited to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss rural crime.

Cllr. Geraghty paid tribute to the 3 Fairs Dinner and the persons involved with the Twinning Committee. *Any up DATE*

Cllr. Geraghty asked that the issue of Section 39 to Section 38 workers being on the same pay be addressed.

Cllr. Geraghty stated that the October Fair was a great success and congratulated all involved.

Cllr. Geraghty asked that the message would go out to "Slow Down" on our roads following the tragic road accidents.

Cllr. Geraghty asked that the Winter Services Plan be brought before the members for discussion.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

MDB23046

Proposal by Cllr T Broderick to hold a civic reception for the Ballinasloe Golf Club mixed Foursomes Team and Management who brought the A.I. title to the club last month. This was seconded by Cllr. D Connolly.

Vote of Congratulations

Bundi Aki, Caolin Blade, Mark Hansen, Finlay Bealham and Cian Prendergast from the Connacht Province on their contributing success and involvement as part of the Irish Squad, representing Ireland in the Rugby World Cup and wishing all the Irish Team the best in Saturday's match against New Zealand.

The Junior Championship Hurlers playing against Killimor Daly in the final and the Under 16 Camogie County Champions.

Vote of Sympathy

The Higgins Family, Pollynoone Williamstown, County Galway  
The Mitchell Family, Treanboy, Ballymoe, County Galway  
The Ward Family, Ballymoe, County Galway  
The Higgins Family, Cloonkeen, Kilkerrin, County Galway  
The Keaveney Family, Milltown Road, Tuam, Co. Galway  
The Conlon Family, Slieve Donannon, Roscommon  
The Diskin Family, Cloonkell, Clonbeirne, County Galway  
The Desmond Family, Garbally Drive, County Galway County Council

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**MDB23047**

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Troy advised that consultants were being procured to develop a cycle/pedestrian route in the town and as such the bus stop project was on hold until this report was completed.

Cllr. Parsons thanked all in the Ballinasloe Library for their work in Positive Aging Week.

Cllr. Parsons asked for an update on whether the sweeper was being used less in Ballinasloe.

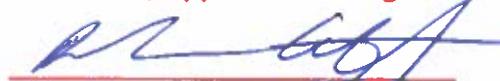
Cllr. Keaveney paid tribute to all involved in the Glenamaddy Show.

Cllr. D. Connolly asked that the issue of anti-social behaviour at sporting facilities in the town be addressed. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that a person making a complaint must give their name as Galway County Council cannot prosecute on anonymous complaints. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the complaint can also be made by elected officials or resident committees. Cllr. Geraghty advised that feedback from the JPC was that the Garda Síochána were not getting reports of anti-social behaviour in some locations and as such they were not able to investigate these issues.

It was agreed that the Budget Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District would take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm and Ordinary Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District would take place on 8<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

**Submitted, Approved and Signed**



**(Cathaoirleach to sign here)**

(Date)