

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER, ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 AT 2.00p.m.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. Keaveney

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

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

**Oifigigh:** Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services; Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Mr. E. Mulryan, Acting 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 THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020** MDB20049

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. T. Broderick and seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly.

**Matters arising from the Minutes**

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB20044 Page 3, Mr. Hanrahan advised that he would raise the matter of St. Brigid's Complex and other HSE properties located in Ballinasloe Town at the next meeting with the Health Service Executive including the HSE's future proposals for the properties, deterioration of the properties and their visual impact on the Town.

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference to MDB20043 Page 2 with regard to the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme in Ballinasloe, Mr. Hanrahan advised that he would revert following consultation on this matter with the Acting Director of Services for Economic, Rural and Community and Corporate Services.

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference to MDB20043 Page 2, Mr. Mulryan advised that the final snagging on the Town Enhancement Project was being undertaken with priority being given to completion of works which necessitate interference with traffic

flow with a view to having the works completed in advance of the Christmas shopping period.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB20048 Page 5 regarding the Municipal District of Ballinasloe's Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting, Mr. Hanrahan advised that consultation takes place with the Corporate Policy Group in relation to drafting the Council's Draft Budget and in this regard he advised that a number of meetings have to date taken place.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty and with reference to MDB20045 Page 4, Mr. Mulryan advised that he would arrange to assess the flooding issue at Ballyforan and asked that Cllr. Geraghty provide him with specific details.

In response to Cllr. Dr. Parsons and with reference to MDB20048 Page 5 with regard to the public swimming pool in Ballinasloe Leisure Centre, Mr. Hanrahan advised that ongoing discussions are taking place with Coral Leisure. Mr. Hanrahan stated that while the swimming pool is now closed in line with Covid 19 restrictions, Galway County Council is committed to re-open the pool when restrictions are lifted. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Council had applied for additional national funding for the swimming pool which he stated was being made available towards the management of public swimming pools. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the financial requirements of the public swimming pool for 2021 was being looked into by a sub-group. In response to Cllr. Broderick in relation to Coral Leisure's management fees Mr. Hanrahan advised that he would revert.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly and with reference to MDB20043 Page 1, Mr. Mitchell advised that Tara Mines would assess the damage to Route R328 when Covid-19 travel restrictions have been lifted.

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

**MDB20050**

Mr. Hanrahan advised that a total of €8m had been announced for the construction of a new bridge over the river Shannon in Athlone as part of the Dublin to Galway Greenway. All of the members welcomed the announcement.

Mr. Hanrahan advised that a response to the September 2020 resolution of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe had been received from Roscommon County Council advising that it was not their intention to re-open the Fire Station in Castlerea. Mr. Hanrahan advised that a copy of the response had been circulated to all of the members. Cllrs. D. Connolly and Geraghty expressed disappointment with the response. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and Dr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Fire Services emergency response was co-ordinated on a Regional basis which he stated provides a 24 hour/365 day call answering service for the public to contact fire services when they have an emergency. Cllr. M. Connolly stated that it was important that Galway County Council maintains and continues to invest in the existing Fire Stations. On the proposal of Cllr. Geraghty which was seconded by Cllr. Keaveney the following resolution was agreed: "That Roscommon County Council should re-open Castlerea Fire Station as the people of Williamstown, Ballymoe, Glenamaddy, Glinsk, Creggs and Dunmore are left in a black hole with a service

lost in the area that is so important to the people in the above townlands. That Roscommon County Council be asked to explain why this service has been discontinued and how they are going to ensure that an adequate service is being provided which is not the case at the moment”.

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

MDB20051

No business arising

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATION**

MDB20052

The Family of the late Billy Murphy, Crosse, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway  
The Family of the late Brian Traynor, High Street, Ballygar, Co. Galway  
The Family of the late Michael Hennelly, Lurgan, Caltra, Ballinasloe, Co Galway  
The Family of the late Kathleen Golden, Pollaneyster, Williamstown, Co Galway  
The Family of the late Laurence (Lar) O’Reilly, St. Joseph’s Place, Ballinasloe, Co Galway  
The Family of the late Michael Jarlath Treacy, Castletogher, Williamstown, Co Galway  
The Family of the late Canon Trevor O’Sullivan, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway  
The Family of the late Margaret Donoghue Family, Ballinastack, Moylough, Co Galway  
The Family of the late Mary Cunniffe, Clooncun, Glenamaddy, Co Galway  
The Family of the late Nora Reilly, Gortnageer, Glenamaddy, Co Galway  
The family of the late Robert Fisk, Journalist

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

MDB20053

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the budget for the operation of the Ballinasloe October Fair was managed by the Corporate Services Department.

Cllr. Broderick asked that the matter of illegal parking in the town be addressed which he stated is causing frustration to business owners.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Mulryan advised that Galway County Council had no jurisdiction or control over speed van enforcement activity which he stated falls under the remit of An Garda Síochána.

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly and Dr. Parsons, Mr. Mulryan advised that upgraded signage would be erected at Dunlo Recreation Park. Mr. Mulryan stated that the current opening hours for Dunlo Recreation Park are as follows: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed on Sunday’s and Bank Holidays’s. In response to Cllr. Dr. Parsons, Mr. Mulryan advised that he would discuss with the Corporate Services Department the suggestion that on Sundays volunteers would manage the operation of the running track.

Following discussion in relation to current rules for livestock marts on the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney the following resolution was agreed: “That Ballinasloe Municipal District call on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Charlie McConalogue, T.D. to impact positively on behalf of farmers who are experiencing

difficulties because of restrictions at marts and broadband difficulties with on-line purchasing”.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Mitchell advised that 091-509069 is the appropriate number for logging all out of hours emergency calls. As all incidents need to be logged, recorded and passed onto the rostered supervisor on call or to the emergency services Mr. Mitchell advised against contacting the General Services Supervisor for the area directly.

In response to Cllrs. Geraghty and Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that the number of outdoor staff employed by Galway County Council had decreased from approximately 327 in 2008 to approximately 125 at present. Mr. Mitchell advised that while he would welcome the employment of additional staff he stated that the Municipal District of Ballinasloe has more outdoor staff proportionally than the other Municipal District Areas.

Cllr. Dr. Parsons stated that she welcomed the news that Mr. Denis Naughton, T.D. had asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment to request that the Western Region Enterprise Committee implement a co-ordinated strategy for future investment in Ballinasloe following the announced closure of Aptar.

In response to Cllr. Dr. Parsons, Mr. Mulryan advised that Consultants have been engaged to prepare the necessary documentations and reports to facilitate the progression of a Part 8 Planning Application for the proposed Bus Stops. Mr. Mulryan stated that the progression of the project to construction would be subject to planning approval and funding availability.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Mitchell advised that the Declaration of Public Roads is a Reserved Function under the Roads Act, 1993. Mr. Mitchell advised that the Council's ability to maintain the current road network would be impacted on should monies be re-directed from Local Road Maintenance Funding and/or Notice of Motion Funding. Mr. Mitchell advised that each application for taking a road in charge must be looked at and decided on a case by case basis.

In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Hanrahan advised that with limited exceptions, all businesses will be granted a rates waiver from 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 up to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020. Mr. Hanrahan advised that specific queries should be addressed directly with the Rates Department.

Cllr. Keaveney requested that additional water tables be opened in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

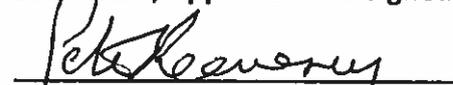
In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Mulryan advised that excessive speeding on the R364 Kilkerrin road is primarily an enforcement issue for An Garda Síochána. Mr. Mulryan stated that an assessment of the location for potential Traffic Safety Measures would be undertaken.

Cllr. Keaveney paid tribute to Mr. Joe Biden on becoming the President Elect of the United States of America.

It was agreed that the next Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on **Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 2 p.m.**

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved and Signed

  
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(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)