

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER, ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020 AT 2.00 p.m.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. A. Dolan

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Cllrs. D. Connolly, M. Connolly, D. Geraghty, P. Keaveney

**Oifigigh:** Mr. A. Farrell, A/Director of Services, Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Mr. E. Mulryan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. E. Lydon, Executive Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator.

**APOLOGIES** Cllr. T. Broderick

Cllr A Dolan, Leas-Cathaoirleach took the Chair in the absence of Cllr T Broderick.

As a mark of respect for the late Mrs. Anne Geraghty, R.I.P mother of Cllr. Geraghty, on the proposal of Cllr. Connolly which was seconded by Cllr. Keaveney it was agreed by all to adjourn the meeting for a period of 5 minutes.

When the adjournment period finished and the meeting recommenced, Mr. Farrell stated that the advice from the Department was that virtual Meetings of Council, Plenary and Municipal Districts have been ruled out due to legal concerns, stating that statutory business should be done in person. With regard to attendance and operation of the Meetings of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe, Mr. Farrell stated that all of the Members had been circulated with Health and Safety Protocols and he asked that these protocols be strictly adhered to with the main focus on carrying out statutory business.

Mr. Farrell advised that consideration had been given to holding Municipal District of Ballinasloe Meetings in the Ballinasloe Civic Offices' but as there were concerns in relation to social distancing requirements Mr. Farrell stated that it was agreed that the meeting should be held in County Hall.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020** **MDB20018**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Geraghty.

## **Matters arising from the Minutes**

In response to Cllrs. M. Connolly, Geraghty, Keaveney and with reference to MDB200015 Page, 2, Mr. Mulryan acknowledged the disruption caused to homeowners and landowners following the flooding at the Glenamaddy Turlough. Mr. Mulryan outlined the works carried out by Galway County Council to assist with this matter. Mr. Mulryan advised that there are two potential engineering solutions being considered by Galway County Council with initial site survey works to commence in the coming weeks. Both solutions Mr. Mulryan advised will be assessed and costed to determine if they form the basis of a potential flood relief scheme. Mr. Mulryan stated that the preferred solution, if any, will be subject to Hydrological & Environmental assessments, reports and consents along with cost benefit analysis as part of any Minor Works Scheme funding application to the OPW. Mr. Mulryan further advised that any Environmental assessment will involve liaison and interaction with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan advised that a Minor Works Scheme application was made to the OPW for the Cottages in Clonfert, which he advised was not approved. Mr. Mulryan advised that the application has now been reassessed and resubmitted to the OPW for consideration.

## **DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993**

**MDB20019**

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

**(a) Toomard, Newbridge, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway**

Road commencing at junction with L-2307 (168914, 254355) in the townland of Toomard and extending South for a distance of 172 metres in the townland of Toomard and finishing at the boundary of Brogans house, Deerwood (169031, 254480) in the townland of Toomard.

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

**(a) Road at Ballynalahy, Newbridge, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway**

Road commencing at end of junction with the N-63 (169314, 250353) in the townland of Ballynalahy and extending South for a distance of 200 metres in the townland of Ballynalahy and finishing at the boundary ditch at Cunningham's house (169156, 250478) in the Townland of Ballynalahy

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

- © Shankill, Mountbellew, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway  
Road commencing at end of L-32042 (165150, 246430) in the townland of Shankill and extending South for a distance of 165 metres in the townland of Shankill and finishing at the boundary of Hibbitt's house (165173, 246095) in the townland of Shankill.

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

MDB20020

Mr. Farrell circulated an up-to-date briefing note on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme and advised that if the Members needed any further information, they should contact Mr. Brendan McDonagh, Executive Engineer directly.

Mr. Mitchell provided an update to the Members on the Ballinasloe Town Enhancement Project. Mr. Mitchell advised that work on this project had stopped since the onset of COVID – 19 as work on this project was not classed as essential under Government Guidelines. Mr. Mitchell advised that work on this project would recommence on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 under Phase 1, subject to compliance with Covid-19 Risk Assessments. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell confirmed that only essential works had been carried out by Galway County Council's outdoor staff since the onset of COVID - 19 to date.

Mr. Farrell advised that Galway County Council had a Business Continuity Plan in place and that in this regard there was a Covid-19 Response Team comprising a number of Directors and key staff to manage the response and advise the Executive Team who were working closely with the Corporate Policy Group and the Members. Mr. Farrell advised that in order to ensure ongoing compliance with guidance including Health and Safety matters, procedures were being put in place throughout all the County Council offices and sites.

Mr. Farrell acknowledged the work carried out the Community Response Forum to date. Mr. Farrell stated that Community Response Forum had dealt with over 600 calls and had been very involved in the organization of services at a local level. Mr. Farrell paid tribute to the good work carried out by local communities during COVID 19 stating while the Council were playing a coordinating role which was very important, the role of community and volunteerism was critical. He paid tribute to colleagues in the Economic, Rural & Community Development and Information Systems teams for the work they carried out in a very quick and responsive manner. Mr. Farrell advised that the Community Fund allocation for Galway was €85,789. Mr. Farrell stated that under the Community fund, €50k had been allocated for 29 applications with regard to the delivery of frontline services such as provision of PPE Gear, Meals on Wheels services etc. In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Farrell advised that all unsuccessful applicants for Community Funding had been or would be contacted directly and advised accordingly. Mr. Farrell advised that the Dormant Accounts Funding Scheme under Pobal with a fund of €35 million and was due to come on stream on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 the details of which he advised would be circulated directly to the Members.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Farrell advised that the Civic Amenity Sites which had been closed in line with Public Health Guidance were now open.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Farrell advised that the Housing Department are aware of the anti-social behavior issue in Ballinasloe and he advised that this matter should be raised with them and the Gardai as he understood there were some matters which would fall within their responsibility. In response to Cllr Dolan, he advised it could be raised at the next Joint Policing Committee Meeting and stated that the Garda Síochána are responsible for issues that are criminal in nature.

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly and Geraghty with regard to the protection of Ballinasloe Town Centre and a current application that was submitted, Mr. Farrell advised that planning applications are subject to statutory processes and that each Planning Application is looked at individually on its own merits in line with the Development Plan. He advised that observations could be made in accordance with the statutory provision and public consultation process.

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

MDB20021

Cllr. Dolan referred to the Return to Work Safety Protocols for small businesses and asked if the Health and Safety Authority will be policing this matter.

Cllr. Dolan asked if an update could be provided in relation to provision of funding for shop fronts in Ballinasloe Town.

In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Farrell advised that he would bring forward updates on: a) the Greenway Project and b) Regeneration Scheme, stating that consideration would be given as to whether this would be done by way of a briefing document, online or at the MD meeting depending on public health advice.

In response to Cllr. Dolan regarding locations for Council and MD meetings during COVID – 19, Mr. Farrell stated that consideration had been given to this and it was deemed that the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae was the best fit for the MD meetings having taken both cost and logistics into account. Mr. Farrell advised that he considered this matter would be discussed further at a CPG Meeting.

#### **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

MDB20022

Mrs. Mary Ferguson, Glentaun, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Mr. Elton Murray, c/o 61 St. Joseph's Place, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

The Family of the late Mrs. Sadie Feeney, Dunmore Road, Williamstown, Co. Galway.

The family of the late Pat Joe Guinnessy, Derrymullen, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Mr. Michael Higgins, Cloonlara, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway.

Mrs. Nancy Walsh, Creagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Mr. Henry and Mrs. Bernie Wade, Mountbellew, Co. Galway

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

MDB20023

In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Mitchell confirmed that the Ballinasloe Roads Programme would commence on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

Following discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. M Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney it was agreed by all that the Annual General Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District would take place in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 at 1.30 p.m.

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

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved and Signed

Pete Keaveney  
(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

10.06.2020  
(Date)