

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES ON WEDNESDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2022 AT 2.00 p.m.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. D. Connolly

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

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

**Oifigigh:** Mr. L. Hanrahan Director of Services, Mr. Derek Pender, Director of Services, Mr. D. Mitchell Senior Engineer, Ms. Evelyn Curran, Administrative Officer, Mr. F. Fahey, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, Executive Engineer, Mr. N. Morrissey, Executive Engineer, Mr. N. Raftery, Technician, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Mr. B. Murphy, Meetings Administrator.

An Cathaoirleach and the members expressed their solidarity with the Ukrainian People and agreed that the Ukrainian Flag be erected in Ballinasloe Town.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE DEFERRED MONTHLY MEETING HELD 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

**MDB22010**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Broderick and seconded by Cllr. Geraghty.

**Matters arising from the Minutes**

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference to MDB22007 Page 5 in relation to works carried out by Iarnrod Eireann, Mr. Fahey advised that going forward additional information would be requested when processing Road Closure Applications and that if necessary a Road Opening Licence to be applied for at the same time.

With reference to MDB22001 Cllrs. Geraghty and M. Connolly asked that a policy be put in place to deal with trees growing on the side of public roads.

With reference to MDB22001, Cllr. Geraghty advised that the interagency forum on the development of the River Suck was due to take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> March.

With reference to MDB22007, Cllr. Geraghty thanked the Municipal District Staff for their work on the Glenamaddy Turlough.

**THE APPROVAL OF INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL IN RELATION TO THE PERFORMANCE OF FUNCTIONS BY THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE MEMBERS**

MDB22011

On the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly the approval of information to be included in the 2021 Annual Report in relation to the performance of functions by the Municipal District of Ballinasloe Members was adopted and agreed by all.

**TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE 2022 ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED WORKS OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE. A) DRAFT – MUNICIPAL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF WORKS 2021 FOR ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING, RECREATION AND AMENITY AND B) DRAFT 2022 ROADS PROGRAMME**

MDB22012

Mr. Hanrahan presented the Draft Municipal District Schedule of Works 2022. In response to Cllr Broderick, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the opening hours for Coral Leisure Centre formed part of the contract between Galway County Council and Coral Leisure. Cllr. Broderick asked for the opening hours to be forwarded to him. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the €12,000 budget for Litter Control referred specifically to small cleanups in the Municipal District. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that funding for CCTV was to be provided centrally. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the €39,811 budget was operate the Civic Amenity Site in Ballinasloe by Barna Waste. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the budget for Burial Ground Maintenance would cover Creagh Cemetery in 2022 including the new extension.

Mr. Pender and Mr. Mitchell presented the Draft Roads Programme 2022 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe. The members thanked Mr. Mitchell and the staff involved in the preparation of the Draft Roads Programme 2022. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Pender advised that the budget of €70,000 for the Athenry to Milltown Project was to cover Consultant costs for the preparation of the Feasibility Report. In response to Cllrs. Parsons and Keaveney, Mr. Pender advised that TII have approved funding for a Greenway Team consisting of four technical staff and one administration staff of which two posts had been filled and recruitment for other posts was ongoing. Mr. Pender advised that funding had been provided by the National Transport Authority for an Active Travel Team consisting of three technical staff and one administration staff. Mr. Pender advised that Ms. Paula Higgins had been appointed Senior Executive Engineer for the Active Travel Team and that

recruitment for other posts was ongoing. Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed the new template for engagement with Landowners when trying to progress Greenways. In response to Cllrs. Geraghty and D. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that the €60,000 set aside for a Technician for the Ballinasloe Municipal District was ringfenced. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Mitchell advised that the issue of Contractors having to honour prices submitted prior to current inflation rises would have to be assessed.

Following discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. Broderick the following resolution was agreed "That Galway County Council Roads make an application for funding for a feasibility study to advance the development and planning permission for the Ballinasloe Inner Relief Road. This is a specific policy project mentioned in the Draft County Development Plan and in the Local Area Plan for Ballinasloe and it needs to be advanced now".

Cllr. Broderick welcomed the completion of road markings on the R446 Aughrim Village. Cllrs Keaveney and Geraghty welcomed the Low Cost Remedial Project for Cashel Cross, Glenamaddy. Cllr. M. Connolly welcomed the provision of funding for the N63 at Ballinlass.

Following a discussion on Local Improvement Schemes and on the proposal of Cllr. Geraghty and seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly the following resolution was agreed "that a letter be sent to the relative minister for Local Improvement Schemes that the requirement for two herd numbers should be scrapped and that one herd number should be sufficient. Also that a larger amount of funding should be given to get through the backlog of LIS's. These roads are of huge importance to the people of rural Ireland. Property tax, motor tax and excise of fuel are paid by rural people and more funding should be given. We estimate that the current level of funding is only 10% of the demand for the Local Improvement Scheme".

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney the Draft 2022 Annual Schedule of Proposed Works of Maintenance and Repair to be carried out in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe for Environment, Housing, Recreation and Amenity was adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr. Broderick, seconded by Cllr. Geraghty the Draft 2022 Annual Schedule of Proposed Works of Maintenance and Repair to be carried out in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe – Roads Programme 2022 was adopted.

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

**MDB22013**

Mr. Hanrahan advised that the provision of a Domestic Violence Refuge is being provided by Cope with funding by Tusla and that he had met with representatives from Cope to discuss extending their services and new locations. Cllr. Parsons congratulated the Council on their proactive work on this issue.

Mr. Hanrahan advised that a meeting had taken place with the Ballinasloe Fair and Festival Committee and he advised that the Fair will be going ahead in 2022. Mr. Hanrahan advised

that the Fair would involve collaborations with the Creative Ireland Programme and with the Heritage Office of Galway County Council.

Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Galway County Council Tourism Strategy consultation process would be starting shortly. Mr. Hanrahan advised that workshops would be organized for the members and would be held online.

Mr. Hanrahan invited the members to the “sod turning” of the new social housing development at Bridge Court Ahascragh.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Hanrahan advised that he would be meeting with representatives from the HSE in March to discuss vacant properties and that he would provide an update to the members after these discussions.

In response to Cllrs. Broderick, Geraghty and Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the issue of purchasing Garbally House had been brought before the CPG and a report from a Historic Building Consultant had reported back that it would cost in the region of €4 million euro to restore the house. This did not take into consideration who would operate and maintain the property. Cllr. Broderick asked that all options with regard Garbally House be pursued via the CPG.

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

MDB22014

Cllr. D. Connolly expressed his sympathy on the death of Mr. Billy Kinsella, Wexford County Council who died in the line of duty after being hit by a falling tree during Storm Eunice and this put into focus the dangerous work carried out by outdoor staff during severe weather conditions.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the re - purchase of ex Galway County Council houses which had previously been bought out by tenants via tenant purchase scheme was against national policy.

Cllr. D Connolly expressed concern with the delay in progressing the Ballinasloe Flood Scheme and asked that a focus be kept on same. Cllr. M. Connolly asked for an update on monies paid to consultants for the project to date. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Fahey advised that pumps to the value of €100,000 were to be purchased by the Ballinasloe Municipal District.

#### **VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

MDB22015

The Naughton Family, Ballinlass, Mountbellew on the death of Emma Naughton  
The Heavey Family, Moyveela, Oranmore on the death of Emma Naughton  
The Maloney Family, Cross, Menlough on the death of Nancy Maloney  
The Kelly Family, Ardross, Kilconnell on the death of John Joe Kelly  
The Larkin Family, Kilnahown, Aughrim on the death of Patrick Larkin

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**MDB22016**

In response to Cllr. Keaveney with regard road safety concerns at Ballaghlea National School, Mr. Pender advised that he would request a Road Safety Inspection be carried out at the site by Transport Infrastructure Ireland and he would revert back to the members on this issue.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Mitchell advised that because of the complexities involved with each Taking in Charge Project that Mr. Broderick provide him with more specific information and he would investigate the issue further. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Mitchell confirmed that a new bonding structure had been put in place by Galway County Council and that very good work was being carried out by the Taking In Charge Section.

Cllrs. Geraghty asked that additional hedgecutting be carried out.

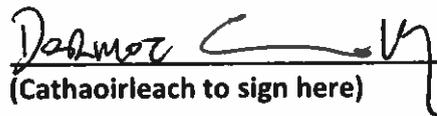
Cllr. Keaveney asked that Galway County Council liaise with Eir to request that they provide a better service to the public and to the Council itself particularly after storm events.

Cllr. Parsons welcomed the work carried out on the Beechlawn Footpaths.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 at 2 p.m.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

**Submitted, Approved and Signed**

  
(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

13/4/2022  
(Date)

