

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON 22nd JUNE, 2022 at 2.30 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Parsons

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. P. Keaveney, M. Connolly, D. Geraghty, D. Connolly, T. Broderick

Oifigigh: Mr. L. Hanrahan Director of Services; Mr. R. Lowe, Senior Engineer; Mr. F. Fahey, Senior Executive Engineer; Mr. P. McLynn, Assistant Engineer; Mr. N. Raftery, Technician Grade 1; Mr. B. McDonagh, D. O’Loughlin, Executive Engineer, Mr. E. Moloney Meetings Administrator.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD 25TH May 2022 MD822036

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 25th May 2022 were proposed by Cllr. Keaveney and seconded by Cllr. Geraghty and agreed subject to the following correction being noted :

On page 8 of the minutes and the second last sentence of the first paragraph it states that “...a map was not submitted as part of this submission...” . Cllr. Broderick stated that a map did accompany the submission and on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Geraghty this correction was noted and agreed.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr. D. Connolly raised the matter of staffing levels and stated that it was critical to maintain staffing levels and requested a report on staffing for the next meeting. Mr. Hanrahan agreed to the preparation of a report.

Cllr. Geraghty queried the age and condition of the Council’s fleet as it was old and needed updating. Mr. Hanrahan confirmed the matter was discussed recently at an Executive Team meeting and that procurement of some items had started.

Cllr. Broderick asked for an update in the appointment of the technician for which the members had set aside funds in 2021. Mr. Fahey confirmed he would be starting on 11th July.

BALLINASLOE FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME – BRIEFING UPDATE

MD822037

Mr. Brendan McDonagh provided an update of the current progress on the scheme. He referred to the circulated briefing note and updated the members on recent activities and reports that had been completed. He further updated them on the next steps and the likely timeframes for each stage.

Cllr. Geraghty commented that the end date was still a long way off and that the project is taking far too long. Cllr. Keaveney stated the it appeared that reports were more important that protecting people.

Mr. McDonagh acknowledged the project is moving slowly and while Covid did not help he felt that time frame set aside for the planning stage was probably too ambitious given the complexity of the many reports that had to be prepared.

Cllr. D. Connolly hoped that local knowledge was taken on board by the Consultants and asked when the project would go to tender. Mr. McDonagh confirmed that tendering was at stage 3 but that stage 1 had to be completed first.

Cllr. M Connolly stated he was part of the delegation in 2015 that met the Minister to have a scheme approved and he was very disappointed that it was taking so long given the total local support and absence of objections to the scheme.

Cllr. Parsons stated that minor works needed to be looked at again given the timescales before any major work would start. She also confirmed that it was vital that the flood relief scheme have ongoing engagement with the other projects e.g. the greenway.

Mr. McDonagh confirmed engagement was ongoing.

CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – EXTENSION TO CREAGH CEMETERY – PLANNING REFERENCE LA01/22

MD822038

On the proposal of Cllr. D Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Parsons it was agreed that approval be given to this project.

Cllr D. Connolly welcomed the extension and said burial grounds always needed to be planned well ahead as they fill up fast. He then read from a letter he had received from the family of the late Helen Caulfield who wished to express their heartfelt thanks to Paul Leonard and his team for the assistance they had provided the family during their recent bereavement.

BALLINASLOE FAIR 2022 – UPDATE

MD822039

Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that the Council were currently seeking the appointment of a Project Manager but no candidate has come forward currently. He confirmed the Heritage Office had a programme planned and that the Orb from 2020 was being sourced to light up the fair. He confirmed he would be meeting with the local committee in the next month.

Cllr. Broderick brought attention to the new Pilot Grant Scheme to boost the Night-Time Economy launched by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and felt it could assist with mid-week activities during the fair.

Cllr. D. Connolly felt that activities need to accelerate from now on and queried whether an agricultural show could be held at the same time. Mr. Hanrahan stated that attempts to engage with the Ballinasloe Show were unsuccessful to date.

DIRECTORS BUSINESS

MDB 22040

Mr. Hanrahan gave brief updates on the various housing schemes underway in Ballinasloe town and in Ahascragh, Ballymoe and Ballygar. He informed the members of a new scheme which allows the development of residential units in former commercial premises and that the Council was engaging with Approved Housing Bodies in relation to same.

Ms. Lowe confirmed the tender documents for the bus stops was almost complete and the roads programme was progressing and LIS schemes to start shortly. Interviews for G.O. closed last week also.

Cllr. D Connolly referred to development at St. Joseph’s and asked that improvements might be carried out on access to the area at the same time as the housing development.

Cllr. Broderick stated that a clear policy on which Council department is responsible for illegal parking on Council property need to be developed as there is frequently uncertainty whether it is housing or roads and clarity was necessary.

The chair asked that when the bus stops were being built that the lighting of the access links back into the town be addressed and mentioned Hobsons Lane and Woodslip Lane.

CATHAOIRLEACHS BUSINESS

MDB 22041

The Chair proposed the following motion :

That Galway County Council submit an application for funding under the 2022 Town and Villages Renewal Scheme to carry out a feasibility study for the provision of an accessible swimming and water recreational area to advance the policy objective contained in the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

MDB 22042

Votes of Sympathy:

Kathleen Dolan & Family, Cloonkeen, Williamstown, Co. Galway on the death of her borther Michael Griffin, Glenamaddy.

The Keane family, Lissacarra, Kilkerrin, Balliansloe, Co. Galway on the death of Michael Keane.

Declan Mannion & Family, Lisheen, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway on the death of Denis Mannion.

The Griffin Family, Knockanara, Williamstown, Co. Galway on the death of Johnny Griffin.

The Ward Family, Cloonee, Ballymoe, Co. Galway on the death of Jimmy Ward.

The Finnegan Family, Lisheen, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway on the death of Ann Finnegan.

The Caulfield Family, Harbour Road, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway on the death of Helen Caulfield.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB 22043

Cllr. Geraghty queried the matter of the trimming of road verges at junctions and said some junctions are very dangerous at present. He said he was prepared to offer N.O.M. funds to assist in this.

Ms. Lowe confirmed that trimming was to start in the next week.

Cllr. D Connolly asked if a litter blackspot in the town could be targeted for enforcement action and also informed the meeting that the Aughrim Interpretive Centre was re-opened.

The Chair asked that the replacement of Seamus McGoldrick be advanced as quickly as possible.

Cllr. M Connolly referred back to the LAP and in particular to GLW-C22-10 on page 10 of the minutes. He informed the meeting that as a result of the decision taken he was now aware of a significant development that could not now proceed. He asked was there a method of addressing this.

Cllr. Geraghty supported Cllr. M. Connolly and said he would not have supported the original motion if he had fully understood the implications of same.

Mr. Hanrahan stated that a material contravention of the plan may be necessary, but this was a very specific process and certain criteria need to be met. He felt the plan zonings as it stood gave ample option for development and it should be given a chance to bed in before any alterations of contraventions are progressed.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed



(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

20-7-2022

(Date)