

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH DECEMBER 2021 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. D. Connolly

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

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

Oifigigh: Mr. L. Hanrahan Director of Services, Mr. D. Mitchell Senior Engineer, Mr. F. Fahey, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, Assistant Engineer; Mr. Brendan McDonagh, Executive Engineer, Mr. Niall Morrissey, Executive Engineer; Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Mr. E. Moloney Meetings Administrator.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGETARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2021 MDB21116

The Minutes of the Budgetary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 were proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Geraghty and agreed subject to the following amendments put forward by Cllr. Dr. Parsons which were agreed:

The following words be inserted after the word headroom in the second paragraph in the second sentence on page 2:

“for a discretionary spend locally targeted to issues of heightened need”

The following words be inserted after the word discontinued in the second paragraph in the third sentence on page 2:

“as it was putting unacceptable additional pressures on GCC's meagre and overstretched resources to no meaningful purpose”

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2021 MDB21117

The Minutes of the Budgetary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Keaveney and seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed subject to the following amendments put forward by Cllr. Dr. Parsons which were agreed:

That the following sentence be inserted after the third sentence in the third paragraph on page two:

"Cllr Parsons referenced a meeting with Minister O'Donovan and OPW Senior staff she requested through the Climate Action SPC in March where concerns re legacy waste Poolboy Landfill , contaminated grounds, rewetting of Kellysgrove Blackwater Bogs Group and Suck Drainage Scheme were raised regarding flood risk and relief scheme.

Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB21118

Liam Hanrahan, Mr. Mitchell, the Cathaoirleach and all the Councillors thanked the outdoor crews and the technical staff for their work throughout Storm Barra. Mr. Mitchell advised that there was a lot of co-ordination with emergency services prior to the storm to prepare for all scenarios. Mr. Mitchell along with all the members paid tribute to the general public who went out with machines and moved trees and cleared roads. Mr. Mitchell advised that the public should be very aware of dangers involved with the moving of trees on public roads and the need to be aware of ESB lines. Cllr. Geraghty stressed the need for a discussion on Council Policy about trees on the side of public roads and their dangers. All the members praised the use of the MapAlerter service throughout Storm Barra which kept the members and the public informed of incidents.

Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Part 8 for the Dunlo Hill Regeneration Project will come before the members in Quarter 1, 2022 and that this regeneration project would be one of the biggest undertaken by Galway County Council. Cllr. D. Connolly advised that the Leader of Sinn Fein, Mary Lou McDonald had been to visit the site and was very impressed with the plans. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Hanrahan advised that an Environmental Survey had shown up no evidence of the presence of bats to date, however if there are bats found to be in situ then a Bat Survey would have to be carried out and he did not envisage that this .

Mr. Hanrahan provided an update on the Athlone to Galway Greenway including the spur which would link with Ballinasloe. Mr. Hanrahan advised that this link could ultimately connect with the Ballyforan Greenway Loop which is being funded under the Just Transition Fund. All the members, while delighted with the fact that it was linking with Ballinasloe expressed disappointment that there was not a direct link through Ballinasloe and that North Galway was not included in the Greenway and asked that the focus now be put on developing loops that will connect Ballinasloe to North Galway. Cllr. M. Connolly asked that lessons be learnt from the previous interactions with landowners when securing agreements. Cllr. Parsons expressed concern that the Code of Conduct on how to deal with

landowners had not been developed and looked forward to the setting up a Greenway and Active Travel Team open up more trails.

In response to Cllr Broderick, Mr. Fahey advised that he had not received notification about OPW Schemes progressing at Lissard and Kilconnell. All the members expressed concern with not being informed on a timely manner on such projects and that Oireachtas and Seanad Members were issuing this information prior to the Local Authority and Councillors being made aware of the decision. Following discussion on the proposal of Cllr. Broderick seconded by Cllr. Dr. Parsons the following resolution was agreed:

“That Minister Patrick O’Donovan’s office confirm the allocation of funding from his Department for the following projects:

- a. Lissard, Kilconnell
- b. Aughrim

Which were announced by his Seanad colleague locally and in future where such announcements are being made to afford the relevant local area office the courtesy of making them aware.”

Mr. McDonagh then presented an update on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme. The Environmental Constraints Study Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr. McDonagh advised that the draft Hydrology Report and draft Hydraulics Reports are at an advanced stage. Mr. McDonagh advised that the Drainage Survey, Topographic Survey and Specialist Ecological Surveys had been completed. Mr. McDonagh advised that IGSL had been appointed to undertake the Ground Investigations. Mr. McDonagh advised that public consultation on the Emerging Options will take place in January 2022. While this is intended to be an in-person event it may have to be held online depending on Covid.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. McDonagh advised that the project is now 18 months behind schedule. All the members were disappointed with the slippage in the project and stressed the need for it to proceed as quickly as possible.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. McDonagh advised that as the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme is a National CFRAM Project, no minor schemes can proceed in areas covered under this Scheme in advance of the full scheme. Cllr. Parsons asked that Mr. McDonagh would revert to the project steering group on this point in view of the slippage. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. McDonagh advised that he would revert to the members as to whether the Flood Risk Guidelines 2009 had been updated. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. McDonagh advised that the issue of rewetting of boglands adjacent to the River Suck had been forwarded to the Consultants for the main scheme.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. McDonagh advised that the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme does not stretch to the Ballymoe region of the River Suck. Cllr. Keaveney indicated that the issue of River Suck Maintenance was a issue that he would like to see discussed further as it was a serious item that needed more attention.

Cllr. D Connolly suggested that a contingency plan for Station Road might need to be put in place if the main scheme has to be awaited to get measures implemented.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB21119

No business arising

VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

MDB21120

Votes of Sympathy

The Lennon family, Kilgarve Court, Creagh, Ballinasloe on the death of Declan Lennon

The McDonagh family, Lowville, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe on the death of David McDonagh

The Lawless family, Brackloon, Killoran, Ballinasloe on the death of Jack Lawless

The Foyle family, Doire Lochán, Spiddal on the death of Jane Marie Foyle

The Fahy family, Scotland, Glenamaddy on the death of Mary Fahy

The Tarmey Family, Williamstown on the death of Seamus Tarmey

The Quirke Family, Moneen, Glinsk, Co. Galway on the death of Michael Quirke.

The Nevin Family, Shankhill, Kilkerrin, Co. Galway on the death of Jim Nevin.

The Murphy Family, Corrleanaugh, Newbridge, Co. Galway on the death of Mary Murphy.

The Dineen Family, Cloonbard, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon on the death of Breege Dineen.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB21121

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Invite to Chalonnnes-Sur-Loire be forward to Mr. Moloney for forwarding to the Chairman. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that there was no budget allocated for Twinning in 2022.

Cllr. Parsons thanked the Facilities Department for the lighting up of County Hall and the Tuam Clock Tower to highlight the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women's. Cllr. Parsons suggested the Council would invest in proper lighting infrastructure for other such events. Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that it is not a resourcing issue and that if groups approach the Council with suitable filters they will be accommodated where possible.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Mitchell advised that a decision on funding for the Low-Cost Accident Scheme at Williamstown will form part of the Road Works Programme 2022, which will be brought before the members in mid-February 2022.

Cllr. Geraghty paid tribute to the festive Christmas lighting in Ballinasloe and all the villages in the Ballinasloe Municipal District.

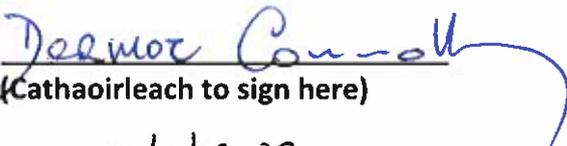
In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Fahey advised that he had received the Screening Report wothon the last day on Glenamaddy Turlough and would revert re same.

Cllr. M. Connolly and all the members thanked all the Officials, Technical, Admin and Outdoor Staff of the Ballinasloe Municipal District for all their help and work throughout 2021 and wished all a happy Christmas.

It was agreed that the next Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on **Wednesday, 12th January, 2022 @ 2 p.m.**

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed


(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

2/2/2022

(Date)