

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ONLINE (VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS) ON WEDNESDAY, 14th APRIL 2021 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. P. 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, Ms. R. Lowe Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. B. McDonagh Executive Engineer, Mr. E. Lydon Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, Assistant Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Mr. E. Moloney Meetings Administrator.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3rd MARCH 2021 **MDB21067**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Geraghty and seconded by Cllr. Broderick.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr. M. Connolly thanked all his fellow Councillors and Officials for their words of sympathy following the passing of his nephew MacDara Connolly.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB20062 Page 3, Mr. Mulryan advised that he had been in contact with Corporate Services and had been advised that Dunlo Recreation Park would remain closed due to Level 5 restrictions.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB20062 Page 3, Ms. Lowe advised that the acquisition of the houses on Dunlo Hill was at an advanced stage and was subject to a binding contract.

With reference to MDB20058 Page 2, Cllr. Broderick welcomed the increase of funding to €200,000 for the Ballinasloe Street Enhancement Scheme. Cllrs. Geraghty and Keaveney welcomed the additional funding but expressed disappointment that they were not advised about this increase in funding as agreed. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan

advised that the Regeneration Team Architect as part of his remit under this scheme will be meeting with businesses in Ballinasloe to discuss ideas with regards shop fronts façade and paint colours.

With reference to MDB20062 Page 4, Cllr. Broderick welcomed the clarification from Director of Service Jim Cullen on the maintenance cost per/km for Greenways and requested that monies are set aside on an annual basis to cover this maintenance cost.

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference MDB20066 Page 5 regarding the March Resolutions about deficits in infrastructure in villages, Mr. Hanrahan advised that this will be addressed by the Planning Department via their preparation of the 2022 – 2028 County Development Plan and they will revert back with a presentation on this issue after workshops had been completed. Following discussion and on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Keaveney the following resolution was agreed : “That a letter be sent to Irish Water and The Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage to put a system of funding in place to allow for the installation of Integrated Constructed Wetlands in the town and Villages in County Galway.” Cllr. Broderick stated that at present Irish Water was severely lacking funding and wished to have note that he was not supporting the resolution.

In response to Cllr. Parsons and with reference to MDB20062 Page 3, Mr. Hanrahan advised that monies received via litter fines goes to central funding.

In response to Cllr. Parsons and with reference to MDB20062 Page 3, Mr. Hanrahan advised that a limited National Spring Clean was in operation under Level 5 restrictions and referred the members to Mark Molloy in the Environment Section for further information.

In response to Cllr. Parsons and with reference to MDB20066 Page 5, Mr. Mulryan advised that there was no specific funding available to upgrade the public lighting at Hopsons Lane and Woodslip Lane in Ballinasloe Town. Mr. Mulryan advised that this work may form part of the proposed new Ballinasloe Bus Stop Project subject funds being left over in the project to undertake same. In response to Cllr. Geraghty regarding complaints of location of current temporary bus stop location, Mr. Mulryan advised that the proposed new Ballinasloe Bus Stop Project would be substantially complete by end of year.

In response to Cllr. Parsons and with reference to MDB20066 Page 5, Mr. Mulryan advised that the upgrade of the public toilets in Ballinasloe will need to be costed, funded and progressed as part of the budget process as no funds were available currently to undertake an upgrade.

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference to MDB20066 Page 5, Mr. Hanrahan advised that he had not received an update on the planning enforcement officer position.

Mr. Hanrahan presented the Draft Report prepared in relation to the performance of functions by the Municipal District of Ballinasloe during 2020. On the proposal of Cllr. Broderick, which was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, it was agreed that that the information as contained in the Draft Report in relation to the performance of functions by the Municipal District of Ballinasloe during 2020 be included in the Annual Report 2020, in accordance with the Local Government Reform Act 2014 – Schedule 14A-Part 1 (14) and Section 221 Local Government Act 2001.

TO CONSIDER THE REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2021 (AS AMENDED), PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT CARROWMORE WEST, CLONTUSKERT, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY CONSISTING OF THE DEMOLITION OF AN EXISTING DWELLING AND CONSTRUCTION OF A 2 BEDROOM DWELLING, TOGETHER WITH PROPRIETARY EFFLUENT TREATMENT PLANT, PERCOLATION AREA AND ANCILLARY SITE WORKS

MDB21069

Rachel Lowe gave a brief presentation on the proposal and explained the funding scheme under which the proposal was funded and undertook to follow up to members with further details of other refurbishment proposals. Mr. Hanrahan advised that this proposal is part of 6 similar rural developments that are bringing back into the housing stock old derelict properties. All the Members welcomed this project and similar proposed properties. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Ms. Lowe advised that some properties were not eligible for development as they were based on National Roads and such properties would be sold.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly. Seconded by Cllr. Broderick the proposal as presented was agreed.

APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT NOMINEE TO THE BALLINASLOE OCTOBER FAIR CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

MDB21070

It was proposed by Cllr. Broderick and seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly that Cllr. Parsons be appointed as a member.

As there was no further proposal in respect of this vacancy, the Cathaoirleach declared Cllr. Parsons appointed to the Ballinasloe October Fair Co-Ordinating Committee.

APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT NOMINEE TO THE JOINT DIRECTOR TO BOARD OF BALLINASLOE AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (BACD) COMPANY LTD

MDB21071

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Geraghty that Cllr. M. Connolly be appointed as a member.

As there was no further proposal in respect of this vacancy, the Cathaoirleach declared Cllr. M. Connolly appointed to the Joint Director to Board of Ballinasloe Area Community Development (BACD) Company Ltd.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB21072

Mr. McDonagh presented an update on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme. The members thanked Mr. McDonagh for his presentation. Cllrs. M. Connolly, D. Connolly and Parsons expressed disappointment with the Programme Slippage. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. McDonagh advised that the Constraints Survey carried out by the OPW was completed. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. McDonagh advised that Special Protection Areas (SPA's) and Bogs, including Kellysgrove Bog, were included within the Ballinasloe Flood Relief area. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. McDonagh advised that the ecology studies include the Suck Callows area. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. McDonagh stated that legacy waste issues and re-wetting of bogs would form part of their scoping brief. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan advised that the revised Clonfert Minor Works Scheme had been re submitted to the OPW and a decision was awaited on same. In response to Cllrs D. Connolly and Parsons, Mr. Mulryan advised that an ecologist had been engaged to assess the Canal in the town and that maintenance on same would commence later in the year. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. McDonagh advised that the Station Road area was included within the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme and that whether this aspect of the Scheme could be fast tracked would have to be assessed as this could cause flood risks downstream.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB21073

No business arising

VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATION

MDB21074

Votes of Sympathy

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

The Bannerton Family, Ahascragh, Co. Galway on the death of Carmel Bannerton.

The Casey Family, Perssepark, Aghrim, Co. Galway on the death of Noel Casey.

Tom and Nancy Cregg, Knocknagreena, Ballinalsoe on the death of their son of Eamonn

Votes of Congratulations

Ms. Beibhinn Parsons

Ms. Heather Payne

Ms. Emma Donohue

Ms. Rachel Blackmore.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB21075

Following discussion in relation to the €1m Allocation to Galway County Council for use in 2021 on the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Geraghty Keaveney the following resolution was agreed: "I wish to propose that €60,000.00 be allocated from the €180,000.00 allocation received for the strengthening & support of the Ballinasloe MD & the funds be used to facilitate the employment of an additional technical staff member within the Municipal District to ensure it has the necessary technical staffing levels to deliver its Annual Works Programme to include recently approved circa €1.7m funding from the NTA under the Active Travel Scheme 2021".

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that he will discuss with HR the progressing of this employment.

On the proposed by Cllr. Broderick seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly the following resolution was agreed: "That the balance of €120,000 of the Ballinasloe MD Fund be divided equally among the members of the MD for projects they wish to nominate". Mr. Hanrahan asked that the members provide information to either himself, Enda Mulryan or Enda Moloney with proposals for spending their allocation at which stage Mr. Hanrahan will produce a master list of projects for presentation at the May 2021 Ballinasloe Municipal District Meeting.

Following discussion on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Broderick, the following resolution was agreed: "That a meeting with the Ballinasloe Fair and Festival Co-ordinating Committee be convened as a matter of urgency".

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that a meeting to discuss anti-social behavior was to be held with An Garda Síochána and housing personnel shortly. Mr. Hanrahan asked that the members send him a list of areas of concern prior to the meeting.

Cllr. D. Connolly asked that a Tourism emphasis be placed on Aughrim and asked that Village Maintenance regarding emptying of refuse bins be monitored.

Cllr. Geraghty raised the matter of the current Covid pandemic and the level of harm that is being caused in all communities with many facing financial ruin, cancer treatment being deferred, high rates of suicide etc. He felt that mixed messaging from government is confusing and that a clear path to exit the current crisis need to be set out.

On the proposal of Cllr. Parsons seconded by Cllr. Broderick the following resolution was agreed: "I propose that the Tourism Officer for Galway County Council and Regeneration Team make a presentation to Ballinasloe Municipal Members with a specific focus on works to develop, enhance and stimulate tourism growth in order to produce economic benefits in Ballinasloe Town and the East Galway/ Ballinasloe Municipal Area within a timeframe which takes cognisance of deadlines and before the next Municipal District Meeting".

On the proposal of Cllr. Parsons seconded by Cllr. Broderick the following resolution was agreed: "I propose that Director of Services Alan Farrell meet with Ballinasloe Municipal Council to outline details of the various Outdoor Spaces/ business funding schemes, including deadlines and application processes to allow for the successful opening of Ballinasloe for business, outdoor dining, drinking, retail, hospitality and outdoor entertainment as soon as restrictions ease to allow same with no lag time. This timeline should factor in that society will likely open up more in May /June.

On the proposal of Cllr. Parsons seconded by Cllr. Broderick the following resolution was agreed: "I propose that Director of Services Liam Hanrahan develop a strategic plan encompassing short term and immediate measures with regards to sanitary and public needs – i.e. portaloos, bins, benches, COVID signage, outdoor power points".

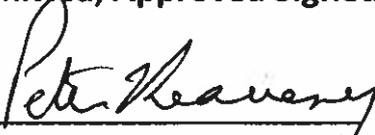
On the proposal of Cllr. Parsons seconded by Cllr. Broderick the following resolution was agreed: "I propose that all members of the Ballinasloe Municipal Council are notified of the outcome by the Environment section of GCC as soon as a decision has been made on the Waste Transfer Permit Application for Ballinasloe formally in the first instance after applicant is informed in line with statutory obligations".

Cllr. Keaveney and all the members paid tribute to Mr. Mulryan for his exceptional work as Acting Senior Executive Engineer for the Ballinasloe MD and wished him well in his new position with Roscommon County Council.

It was agreed that the next Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on **Wednesday, 12th May 2020 at 2 p.m.**

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved Signed,


(Cathaoirleach to Sign Here)

12/5/2021

(Date)