

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE ON WEDNESDAY, 11th MARCH 2026 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. P. Keaveney

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. D. Connolly, D. Geraghty, A. Harney, E. Parsons

Oifigigh:

Mr. D. Mitchell Director of Service, Mr. C. Harley Senior Engineer, Mr. P. Batty Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. L. Raftery Just Transitions Fund Activator, Mr. P. McLynn, Executive Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Ms. S. Horan Meetings Administrator.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2026

MDB26017

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 11th February 2026 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Harney and seconded by Cllr. Geraghty.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

MDB26018

A warm welcome was given by all attendees to Conrad Harley, Senior Engineer, on his first attendance at the Municipal meeting.

A discussion was had on the winter services plan and bringing this to Mr Harley attention in his new role as Senior Engineer within the Roads and Transportation department. Cllrs Geraghty, Keaveney and Harney asked that additional funding be requested for the repair of public roads after the bad winter. The members stated that the issue of potholes was a serious concern. Cllr. Geraghty queried as to whether the quality of product being used to repair potholes had declined over the year as repairs did not appear to last. Mr. Harley stated that the quality of products has not declined but the level of traffic on roads has increased, which is having an impact. Mr. Harley stated that the level of potholes had reached a peak, and things would improve as works would be undertaken in various locations in the Municipal District. Mr. Harley stated that keeping the water off the road was crucial and that the opening of water tables is ongoing by outdoor teams.

Mr. Mitchell stated that a steering meeting for the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme would be held on the 24th of March and that Mr. McDonagh would make a presentation to the members after this with an update.

Mr. Mitchell advised that a review was currently underway of the Galway to Athlone Cycleway as requested by Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Mr. Mitchell advised that an assessment of emerging routes is ongoing and that the project may be done on a phased basis. Cllr. Harney welcomed the news that individual routes may progress.

Cllr. Parsons requested an update on the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Team. Mr. Mitchell advised that the team was being led by Ms. Siobhan Cleary in the Community and Enterprise Section and that she would be available to meet with the members to discuss projects.

Cllr. Parsons expressed disappointment with the presentation given by the ESB Team to the Plenary Meeting as the team in question did not have jurisdiction over the Ballinasloe MD Area. Mr. Mitchell advised that following discussions with the ESB about this issue, a request had been made to invite the Ballinasloe Region Area Manager to an upcoming Ballinasloe MD Meeting.

Mr. Mitchell provided details to the Members on upcoming funding streams provided by the Community and Enterprise Section.

Cllrs. D. Connolly, Harney and Parsons asked for an update on the review of the Ballinasloe Town Development Plan and when it would take place. Cllrs. D. Connolly, Harney and Parsons asked for an update on the proposed Ballinasloe Inner Relief Road.

Cllr. Parsons requested an update on the proposed Project Management Office. Mr. Mitchell advised that recruitment for same was still ongoing.

Ms. Raftery presented the **East Galway Tourism Development – Just Transition Fund (JFT) Progress and Work Programme 2026**. The members thanked Ms. Raftery for her presentation. The following issues were raised by the members:

- The members welcomed the increased tourism activity in East Galway and the €1.2 million funding for the 6 projects in the Ballinasloe Municipal District.
- Cllr. Harney requested that a lifeguard be provided at the Shannon Riverbank location during summer months to ensure water safety measures are in place. Historically this was provided, and that the reintroduction of these services is crucial.
- Cllr. Harney praised the Intercounty Tourism Networking Event which had taken place and asked for an update on the upcoming event. Ms. Raftery stated that the event had been a great success and advised that the next event would be held in Longford.

- Cllr. Harney queried the timelines and structures of the proposed East Galway Tourism Website and requested that it was not a standalone website and would it be part of the overall Galway Tourism website.
- Cllr Parsons welcomed the initiative to include “Golfing in Galway” as part of East Galway Tourism as there were so many golf courses in East Galway.
- Cllr. Parsons asked that Aughrim Interpretative Centre be assessed to remain open longer than existing 3 months. Cllr. D. Connolly stated that an upgrade to Aughrim Village was needed.
- Cllr. Parsons asked for an update on the Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP). Ms. Raftery advised that a consultant would be in place shortly and there would be 3 meetings held in Ballinasloe, Mountbellew and Athenry at which point the members could participate in the process.
- Cllr. Geraghty asked that contact be made with small pubs in the towns and villages in East Galway to encourage them to develop their premises and lands to encourage more camping areas in their local towns.
- Cllrs. Geraghty and Keaveney asked that focus be kept on promoting and developing the Suck Valley Way in conjunction with Roscommon County Council. Ms. Raftery advised that this project being assessed.
- Cllr. Geraghty asked that local historic bridges be restored and that they had a tourist destination value.
- Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed the funding to develop Burkes Castle.

Ms. Raftery advised that she was available to discuss any proposed projects and welcomed all input from the members.

UPDATE ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

MD826019

Mr. Batty provided an update to the members on Municipal District Activities. The members thanked Mr. Batty for his update.

- The members welcomed the funding provided for Creagh Junction. Mr. Batty advised that the funding of €60k was a positive sign as this will fund the design of the proposed project. Cllr. Harney asked that the pedestrian crossing be assessed for safety at the junction.
- The members expressed disappointment that Cappataggle Cross did not get funding under a Low-Cost Safety Scheme. Mr. Batty advised the members of approximate costings to progress the project and all the members agreed to support with Notice of Motion Fundings. Mr. Mitchell advised that a deputation from the village requested to attend at the next Ballinasloe Municipal District meeting to discuss their concerns and that was agreed by all the members. Mr. Batty advised that he would obtain costs with regard progressing the project and

would refer issues with regard public lighting to relevant Department for a recommendation.

- Cllr. Geraghty expressed concern at the current increase in fuel and how it would impact the 2026 Roadworks Programme. Mr. Harley stated that it was a concern and suggested the issue be re-visited at the next MD Meeting when more information would be available.
- Cllr. D. Connolly expressed concern at the long delay in progressing the Ballinasloe Bus Shelter at the Marina. Cllr. Harney asked how much money had been spent on the Active Travel Scheme to date. Mr. Harley advised that the Bus Shelter now forms part of the Ballinasloe Active Travel Scheme and that this project is funded by the National Transport Authority. He advised that Active Travel projects go through specific phases and advised that any deviation away from the process will have an impact on funding. Mr. Harley advised that he would provide an update to the members on the project and timelines.
- Cllr. D. Geraghty requested that bus shelters be provided in each village in the MD.
- Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed the work carried out at Kilgarve Gardens.
- Cllr. Parsons welcomed the work carried out under the Community Recognition Fund at Hymany Park and Leisure Centre Playgrounds.
- Cllr. D. Connolly requested an update on maintenance and removal of trees in private lands. Mr. Batty advised of the responsibilities of landowners with regard trees in their lands. Mr. Batty advised that issues can be investigated via an inspection from Community Wardens followed by notices issued under roads legislation. Mr. Mitchell asked that the members inform the Area Engineer of specific locations, and they can be investigated. Cllr. Parsons asked if the issue of height of trees on private lands was the responsibility of Galway County Council. Mr. Mitchell advised that it was not covered under Council legislation.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MD826020

None arising

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MD826021

None arising

VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

MDB26022

Votes of Sympathy

The Whyte Family on the passing of Thomas Whyte, An Tuirne, Moylough
The Rabbitt Family on the passing of Thomas Rabbitt, Clonberne
The Naughton Family on the passing of Joe Naughton, Mountbellew
The Cunningham Family on the passing of Kathleen Cunningham, Newbridge
The Finnegan Family on the passing of John Finnegan, Clonberine
The Burke Family on the passing of Thomas Burke, Ballygar
The Rothwell Family on the passing of Bernadette Rothwell, Dunlo Hill, Ballinasloe
The Heavey Family, Moylough on the passing of Kevin O'Brien
The Lenihan Family on the passing of Theresa Lenihan, Slehane, Cappataggle, Ballinasloe
The Laheen Family on the passing of Breda Laheen, Banogues, Castleblakeney, Ballinasloe

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB26023

Cllr. Geraghty asked for an update on staffing in the Ballinasloe Municipal District. Mr. Harley advised that he would revert with an update.

Cllrs. Parsons, D. Connolly and Harney expressed concern with the upsurge in dumping, especially in Poolboy bog and Kellysgrove bog area. The members asked if an update on same could be provided by the Environment Section. Cllr. Harney asked if a list of registered waste disposal companies could be published by Galway County Council for use by the public to ensure they are hiring a legitimate person with appropriate licenses. Cllr. Harney asked that an update also be provided for the use of CCTV in an environmental capacity.

Cllrs. Parsons and D. Connolly praised the work and enterprise of the Galway Wool Co-Op.

Cllr. Parsons advised that the Portiuncula Maternity Alliance were entering the Ballinasloe St. Patrick's Day Parade and invited the members and the public to participate with them.

It was agreed that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District would take place on 8th April at 2pm.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Cathaoirleach:



Date:

18/4/2026