

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD AT BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICE, COUNCIL CHAMBER, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY, 18th FEBRUARY, at 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. M. Connolly

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. T. Broderick, D. Burke, D. Connolly, A. Donohue, M. Finnerty.

Oifigigh: Ms. C. McConnell A/Director of Service, Mr. L. Gavin, Mr. J. Cullen & Mr. P. Gavigan, Director of Service, Mr. E. Molloy, Senior Engineer, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator, Mr. A. Headd, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. Carroll, Administrative Officer, Mr. P. McLynn Graduate Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14th JANUARY, 2015

MDB14050

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on the 14th January, 2015 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Burke.

Matters arising from the Minutes

In response to Cllr. D. Burke and with reference to Minute No. MDB14045 Page 1 regarding staffing and level of services in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe, Mr. Gavin advised that there would be no change from 2014 to 2015 in either the general operative staff numbers or the level of services being provided in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe. Mr. Gavin advised that a recruitment process is currently underway for temporary general operative grades and that it is intended that temporary General Operative panels will be put in place for each of the Municipal Districts. Mr. Gavin also advised that temporary general operatives will be recruited on a needs basis.

In response to Cllr. Finnerty and with reference to Minute No. MDB14048 Page 3, Ms. Gardiner advised that no response had been received from the letter which had issued to the IDA on the

15th January, 2015 from the Municipal District of Ballinasloe inviting the I.D.A. to a future meeting to outline what development and investment plans they have for Ballinasloe with a view to bringing employment to Ballinasloe.

In response to Cllr. Finnerty and with reference to Minute No. MDB14049 Page 3, Ms Gardiner advised that no response had been received to the letter which had issued to Minister Simon Harris, T.D. on the 15th January, 2015 from the Municipal District of Ballinasloe requesting a Deputation with the Minister in order to outline flood relief works required for Ballinasloe.

With reference to MDB14049 Page 3 regarding the petrol interceptor on the N63 at Newbridge, Cllr. Broderick thanked the engineering staff for dealing so speedily with this issue.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF WORKS

MDB14051

Letter dated 12th February, 2015 from the Chief Executive together with Municipal District Schedule of Works 2015 was already circulated to each Member.

Ms. McConnell presented the Draft Schedule of Works 2015 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe (broken down into the Service Areas of Environment; Housing and Recreation and Amenity). Queries were addressed and additional clarifications were provided on a number of issues which arose in the subsequent consideration of same by the Members. Mr. Cullen advised that the Draft Municipal District Schedule of Works 2015 as presented did not include the budget for the Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences as he stated the expenditure on same was solely payroll costs. Mr. Cullen also stated that there would be no change to the level of services in this area for 2015. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Cullen advised that the €14,000 figure provided for Burial Ground Maintenance did not include funding for Creagh Cemetery which he stated for 2015 was €32,000. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Carroll advised that the figure of €12,000 for “Litter Control” did not include funding towards Street Cleaning/Bins.

Members sought clarification in relation to the allocation for parks and open spaces in Ballinasloe and whether the amount allocated was consistent with previous years before the Town Council was dissolved. In response, Mr. Gavican clarified that the figure presented in the Schedule of Works 2015 was incorrect and advised that the allocation for Parks and Open Spaces was to be revised, and that the overall budget was framed on the basis that the level of services for Parks and Open Spaces would be at the same level as 2014. With regard to grass cutting in Housing Estates, Mr. Gavican advised that the frequency may be reduced somewhat as this is not a service that is provided in other municipal districts.

Mr. Gavican advised that the figure of €251,772.00 as presented for “House Maintenance” for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe was apportioned across the Municipal Districts throughout the County on the basis of the number of units in each Municipal District. Mr. Gavican stated that this figure did not include for large scale refurbishments which he advised was being

provided for by Department Funding. Mr. Gavican stated that the Council is continuously looking at how they can do things more efficiently with a view to ensuring value for money.

Following discussion, the Municipal District Schedule of Works 2015 for Municipal District of Ballinasloe for the Service Areas of Environment; Housing and Recreation and Amenity as revised was approved on the proposal of Cllr. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Burke.

Mr. Molloy, Mr. Headd and Mr. McLynn presented the Draft Municipal District Schedule of Works 2015 (Draft Roads Programme 2015) for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

Concerns were raised by the members in relation to the abolition of the Block Grant and Mr. Gavin confirmed that that the block grant which equated to €161,000 in 2014 for Ballinasloe Town Council was now abolished. Mr. Gavin advised that this reduction in funding would not impact on the level of staffing in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe. He also advised that the overall net reduction from 2014 to 2015 in the “Town and Village Maintenance” Budget was approximately €7,000.

Mr. Molloy advised that the terms and conditions of the Community Involvement Scheme 2015 has changed in that landowners can now dedicate land in lieu of funding as an option for communities to fund their portion of the works.

Mr. Molloy advised that the 1st Phase of the works at Ballyforan Bridge was now complete and he advised that he would come back to the members with a timeframe for completion of the 2nd phase. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly with regard to funding for new public lighting, Mr. Molloy advised that no funding was available for provision of new public lighting and the monies allocated in the Draft Road Works Programme were specifically for maintenance of public lighting. In response to Cllrs. M. Connolly and Donohue, Mr. Molloy advised that the members could allocate their Notice of Motion monies towards provision of Public Lighting on infill urban areas in certain circumstances.

The Roads Programme 2015 was approved on the proposal of Cllr. Donohue, seconded by Cllr. Burke.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR’S BUSINESS

MDB14052

Ms. McConnell advised that the closing date for acceptance of applications under the Community Support Schemes 2015 was the 26th February, 2015 and referred to the public information meetings which were being held countywide. Ms. McConnell explained that the funding under the Scheme is available to support community and voluntary groups wishing to undertake economic, heritage or amenity type community initiatives in their areas. Ms. McConnell stated that there are limited resources available under these schemes in 2015 and that the majority of financial awards will be of a small scale. Ms. McConnell advised that applications under the Scheme had been invited under 3 themes: 1) Support for Community Managed Enterprise Facilities or Services (up to max 50% funding rate); 2) Community Services

to assist people gain employment (up to max 75% funding rate) and 3) Support of Community Events that generate Economic Development/Activity. (up to max 50% Funding rate).

Ms. McConnell advised that work is due to commence on the preparation of the Draft Area Plan for Ballinasloe and that the Draft Plan for Ballinasloe when completed will be presented to the members of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

Mr. Headd advised that the CFRAM Public Consultation Day was being held on the 26th February, 2015.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB14053

No business arising.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB14054

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Gavin advised that there is no funding available for the provision of footpaths in Newbridge as the area in question is on private property.

In response to Cllr. Burke, McConnell advised that the site behind the Kingfisher Club along with other possible locations are currently being assessed with regard to their suitability as a site for the Ballinasloe Tennis Club.

In response to Cllr. Burke, Mr. Headd advised that he would assess the flooding issue at Laurencetown.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Headd advised that he would carry out a flooding assessment at Patch, Moyloughmore.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Headd advised that he would prepare a submission to the OPW with regard to the issue of flooding at Curragh.

In response to Cllr. Donohue, Mr. Headd advised that a meeting with the local Garda Siochana has been organised in relation to Nutfield Cross and following same it is proposed to make a submission for funding of works under the Low Cost Accident Scheme.

In response to Cllr. Burke, Mr. Headd advised that he would carry out an assessment at the crossroads at Clonfert.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly with regard to draft procedures being drawn up for Voluntary Groups who carry out works on public roads, Mr. Molloy advised that the new Guidelines were now finalised and available to Community Groups.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Ms. McConnell advised that the Roads & Transportation SPC when formed will consider the broad cross county issue of Pay Parking.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Headd advised that it is intended to meet with Roscommon County Council in order to discuss the possibility of making a submission to the OPW for funding necessary maintenance works at Deerpark River. Mr. Headd stated that he would update the Councillors on same at the next meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

Mr. Headd also stated that Galway County Council and Roscommon County Council have agreed to meet on a monthly basis following the dissolution of the River Suck Drainage Committee.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN