

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara **Municipal District of Conamara**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held at the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Galway on the 12th of June 2019 @ 2.00 p.m

ILATHAIR:

Baill:

Cllr. T. Ó'Curraoin Cathaoirleach, N. Thomas, S. Walsh, G. King, T. Welby, E. Mannion, D. Ó' Cualáin, A. McKinstry, P. Mac An Iomaire.

Oifigigh:

G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance.
J. Cullen, Director of Service
D. Mitchell, S.E Infrastructure-Operations
P. Breathnach S.E.E Infrastructure-Operations
T. J Redmond, Area Engineer, N. Conamara
N. O'Conaola Area Engineer, S. Conamara
C. Wynne, E.E Infrastructure-Operations
S. Groarke, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies:

Comh. T. O'Curraoin conducted the meeting following his election as Cathaoirleach and introduced the officials to the new Councillors.

1. Minutes of the MD of Conamara Meeting held on the 16-4-2019 CMD 19024

The adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16-4-2019 was proposed by Cllr.S. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. N. Thomas.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes CMD 19025

Cllr. S. Walsh requested an update in regard to the blocking of access to the road and carpark at Furnish Pier and the dumping of rubble. He advised that it was an oversight of the Council not to have taken this in charge as it were in public use for a long time. D. Mitchell advised that the Land Registry Folio indicates that it is registered in the name of a

private owner and the situation may have arisen as a result of a local issue concerning families. He stated that the matter has been referred to the Law Agent for legal advice in regard to the public rights of way.

3. Declaration of Road as a Public Road- Section 11 Roads Act 1993 CMD 19026

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Walsh, seconded by Comh. T. O'Curraoin the road at An Caorán Beag was declared to be a Public Road.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Walsh, seconded by Comh. T. O'Curraoin the road at Na Foraí Maola was declared to be a Public Road.

On the proposal of Cllr. N. Thomas, seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh the road at Cnoc ar Easair was declared to be a Public Road.

4. Hedge & Verge Trimming CMD 19027

Cllr. N. Thomas enquired if the Hedge & Verge Trimming Program could be rolled out earlier this year when vegetation is protruding at its widest point as it dies back later in the year. D. Mitchell explained that a number of factors determine the schedule which include the prohibition dates 1 March-31 August set by the Section 40 of the Wildlife Acts 1976-2018, the dispensation provided in regard to Health & Safety legislation e.g sightline hazards at junctions, the availability of funding including NOM and the availability of Council staff and contractors to undertake the work. He advised that landowners are legally responsible for overhanging branches constituting a traffic hazard which emanate from trees grown inside the boundary of their property- the Council can enter the property to trim them and recover the cost if the owners fail to adhere to the written notices issued. Cllr. S. Walsh referred to the problem of trees growing out through walls at Oranswell & Corcullen. The meeting was advised that overhanging branches is a problem as well as grass and bushes growing up through side roads and footpaths. D. Mitchell explained that lack of resources is a problem and if community groups are willing to undertake this work they should contact contact T.J Redmond and Naoise O'Conaola. He advised that the position regarding the approval of community groups to do this work had not changed- they are required to complete the Declaration Form (this work is classified as non-construction) and provide a copy of their insurance and details of safety measures.

5 Update on the Conamara Greenway CMD 19028

K. Wynne advised that in regard to the Clifden-Oughterard route work has commenced on the construction of an additional 3km section commencing at the Cloonbeg Bridge. The Council received planning permission in 2013 for the Clifden-Oughterard route from Bord Pleanála and a valuer has been appointed to engage with the landowners in regard to negotiating compensation and this work is ongoing. In regard to the Galway-Oughterard section the Council have engaged RPS Consultants in regard to the preparation of the EIS and a GAP analysis for the assessment of environmental and other planning issues- an agronomist has also been appointed who is liaising with the landowners in order to assess the impact the proposed Greenway will have on them. This is in accordance with the New

Strategy outlined for the development of Greenways by the Department of Transport in 2018. He explained that the Department has also set up a steering group to devise a Code of Practice for the development of Greenways including the issue of land acquisition. He anticipated that the Council will submit an application to Bord Pleanála for the Galway-Oughterard section by the end of the year. The Councillors expressed their hope that more progress can be achieved during this new 5- year term as the Greenway is not only vital for tourism but local people want it for their own communities.

6. Caladh Mór Harbour Inis Meáin & Inis Oirr Pier

CMD 19029

K. Wynne advised that a Feasibility Study was submitted to the Department in 2009 in regard to Phase 3 of the development of Caladh Mór Harbour on Inish Meáin. This addresses the option of deepening the harbor and extending the breakwater as maritime vessels including cargo ships and the ferry have difficulty with access. He stated that he had a meeting with the Department of the Marine on this matter and that he also went to the National Maritime College at Ringaskiddy, Cork who have been engaged to do an assessment of this harbor. In regard to Inis Oirr Pier he advised of the safety issue concerning the overtopping of waves and the problem with congestion which requires an extension to same. The Council has submitted a report to the Department on this including an estimate of the cost of the required works.

7. Knock Inverin Burial Ground.

CMD 19030

Comh. D. Ó’Cualáin advised that an extension is urgently required for Knock Inverin Burial Ground. An update was provided by e-mail from Padraic Carroll AO in the Environment Section which stated the Following”.

“The Environment Section have looked at a number of potential sites for an extension to Knock Burial Ground. All have proved unsuitable for different reasons. We will continue to seek a suitable site. As members are aware the provision of new or extended burial grounds is posing a serious problem for the Council. This arises from the high cost of land or where owners are not willing to sell at affordable prices. The Council is not in a position to pay building site prices for burial grounds. If communities wish to continue the tradition of having a burial ground almost in every parish or to maintain the existing number of burial grounds, they will have to assist the Council in the procurement of land, either free of charge or at agricultural land prices.”

A discussion then took place concerning the difficulty in acquiring suitable land for Burial Grounds, the cost factor, the provision of regional and private burial grounds in the future, the price of plots, soil depths/conditions/need for backfill and the urgent need to provide extensions for other areas in Conamara such as Lettermullen. The members agreed to seek a meeting with Padraic Carroll AO concerning this.

8. Update on the R-336

CMD 19031

J. Cullen referred to the presentation he made at the February meeting concerning the planning process undertaken for the R-336 including the route selection, the impediments to progressing the Brown Route through the planning process and the requirement to remove the route corridor reservations. The process to remove these was outlined by M.

Timmins at the April meeting. He confirmed that the Planning Department was formally notified to remove the route corridor reservations and this has been done.

11. AOB

CMD 19032

Cllr. N. Thomas advised that the development of the Primary Health Centre in Moycullen has left space for the provision of a bus stop/bus shelter. D. Mitchell explained that the Council has raised this matter with the NTA and is awaiting a response from them- there is also need for one to exit the village. He requested an update on the completion of the walkway at Spiddal- in response P. Breathnach advised that the Council has received legal opinion that it can work outside the boundaries of the landowner's property. Cllr. Thomas then described the lack of response and disregard for Councillors' queries/concerns shown by Irish Water. He outlined 2 cases -one concerning the unexplained death of fish in a fish pond and the other where Irish Water failed to turn water back on in Moycullen - they were slow to undertake tests and did not follow up and respond to his phone calls. He stated that the Council provided a much better service in the past and queried what was its role now. D. Mitchell explained that the responsibility lies with Irish Water and the role of the Council is in accordance with the Service Agreement. Cllr. G. King advised of the need for a bus shelter at Rosmuc and referred to the number of road accidents on the N59 between Clifden and Leenane due to tourists driving on the wrong side of the road. D. Mitchell explained that funding for bus stops/shelters has to be provided by the NTA and advised that the Council will look at providing more signage for the N59. Cllr. T. Welby enquired about works at St. Paul's School Oughterard to which T. J Redmond advised that the Council has a design for it. Comh. T. O'Curraoin enquired if NOM can be spent on bus shelters and D. Mitchell explained that the NTA provide funding for this and NOM is intended for road issues. Cllr. E. Mannion advised of the celebrations in Clifden this weekend to mark the 100th anniversary of the Alcock & Brown flight.

12. Date & Venue for Next Meeting

MD 19033

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10-9-2019 at 2.00 p.m at the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Galway.

CROCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN