

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, 9th DECEMBER, at 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Finnerty

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

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

Oifigigh: Ms. C. McConnell A/Director of Services, Mr. A. Headd, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Fran McEvoy, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn A/Graduate Engineer, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF (a) THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON MONDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER, 2015 AND (b) THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN 2016 MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER, 2015

MDB14101

(a) The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on the 9th December, 2015 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Donohue, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly.

Matters arising from the Minutes

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference to MDB14096 Page 1, Ms. McConnell clarified that while the Town Clock at St. Johns Church, Ballinasloe is owned by Galway County Council, it is not located in a building owned by Galway County Council. Ms. McConnell stated that as such the maintenance of the clock is the responsibility of the property owner. Ms. McConnell advised that the estimated costs for repair works to be carried out to the clock are very high and that there are no available resources within the Council to carry out such work.

In response to Cllrs. Broderick and Donohue and with reference to MDB14096 Page 2, Mr. Headd advised that Nutfield Cross was included under the 2016 Low Cost Safety Scheme and is subject to approval through the NRA. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Headd advised that other schemes in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe had also been submitted seeking approval.

With reference to MDB14096 Page 2, Cllr. D. Connolly asked that a reminder be issued by Ms. Gardiner to the Minister for Health, Mr. Leo Varadkar, TD with regard to resolution passed at the October, 2015 Municipal District of Ballinasloe Monthly Meeting regarding the unsatisfactory situation being experienced by Ballinasloe Social Services.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB14099 Pages 1 and 2, Mr. Headd advised that he would provide an update to the members with regard to the Ballinasloe Town Enhancement Project at the next monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

With reference to MDB14097 Page 2, all of the members welcomed the introduction of Free Parking in Ballinasloe Town for the Christmas Period 2015.

With reference to MDB14100 Page 4, Mr. Headd advised that temporary works had been completed at Ballygar Graveyard. Mr. Headd stated that the Council has entered into a contract with regard to the undertaking of the permanent works at this location and that the carrying out of these works would be subject to the weather conditions.

(b) The minutes of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe Draft Budgetary Plan 2016 held on the 9th December, 2015 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Donohue, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly.

Matters arising from the Minutes

In response to queries from Cllrs. Broderick and D. Connolly, Ms. McConnell advised that she would request the Finance Section to make the revised 2016 Budget Figures available to the members of Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

Cllr. Broderick referred to a 6% rate increase for businesses in the Ballinasloe Area and expressed his disappointment with same.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB14102

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to correspondence dated 03/12/2015 which was received from the Creagh Community Development Council. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly which was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly it was agreed that an item in relation "R446 at Creagh" be placed on Agenda for the January 2016 Municipal District of Ballinasloe Monthly Meeting. Mr. Headd advised that the R446 at Creagh has been included in the 2016 Low Cost Safety Scheme for the provision of traffic calming measures which is subject to the approval of the NRA.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MD814103

The Cathaoirleach and all of the members paid tribute to everyone who was involved in the recent flooding crisis as a result of Storm Desmond. Particular mention was given to Galway County Council's outdoor and technical staff; members of the Army and Civil Defence; the Red Cross; local volunteers; business people and contractors.

In response to Cllrs. Donohue and M. Connolly, Mr. Headd advised that consideration is given to local knowledge when reports are being prepared as part of the CFRAM Process and when Minor Works Applications are being made to the OPW.

In response to Cllrs. Burke and D. Connolly, Mr. Headd advised that the Emergency Plan had been activated as part of this process. Mr. Headd advised that adequate sandbags were available and relevant pumps were in place to date.

In response to Cllr. Burke, Mr. Headd advised that in relation to flooding at Kylemore he had met with the OPW regarding same. In this regard, he advised that a Minor Works Application will be examined for that area in conjunction with the OPW.

Cllr. M. Connolly made reference to the areas of Glentan, Ahascragh, Fohenagh, Ballygar and Newbridge which he stated had also been affected by the recent flooding.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Headd advised that the primary focus of the CFRAM process was not to pass on a flooding problem as the focus of the process is to deal with a flooding issue without the knock on of it affecting other properties.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Headd advised of his awareness that the costs incurred with regard to the recent flooding would be sought from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government. Mr. Headd also advised that he was not aware of details in relation to the allocation of the €5million Government Fund.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to both the reduction in the number of front line staff within Galway County Council and the reduction in funding for river maintenance in the County and their direct impacts when dealing with the recent flooding crisis.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Ms. McConnell advised that she would contact Mr. Jim Cullen, Director of Services with regard to the issue of a Boil Water Notice and revert to the Members as soon as possible.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly with regard to housing issues for those persons affected by the recent flooding crisis, Ms. McConnell advised that she would contact Mr. Peter Gavican, Director of Service in this regard.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Broderick the following was agreed “I propose that a report be put in place for the Ballinasloe Municipal District before the end of January 2016 that will identify areas and measures to be addressed to prevent houses, businesses, roads and farmyards from being inundated by flood waters. Local Area Engineers, Galway County Council, Planning, Roads & Environment Staff and Fire Service Personnel to input into this report as well as using local knowledge. This report be forwarded to Minister of State and the Office of Public Works as well as the Department of the Taoiseach in February.”

Cllr. M. Connolly asked that Revenue Collectors adopt a tolerant approach towards rate payers who have been affected by the flooding crisis.

Mr. Headd updated the members in relation to the recent flooding and advised that the public consultation day for the auctioneering stage of the Shannon CFRAM Study to do with Ballinasloe would be held on the 11th January, 2016.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB14104

In response to Cllr. Donohue, Mr. Headd advised that he would arrange for an assessment of the recently erected chevron signage on the R446.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Headd stated that Mr. J. Cullen, Director of Services would in the future provide an update for the members on the Landfill at Kilconnell.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed

Michael Finerty

(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

13/01/2016 (Date)