

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 16th May, 2018 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. A. Donohue

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

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

Oifigigh: Mr. A. Farrell, A/Director of Service, Mr. J. Cullen, Director of Service, Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Mr. A. Headd, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. F. McEvoy, Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, Assistant Engineer, Ms. J. Fuller, Ecologist, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

Ms. Tess Geraghty, Cleaghmore, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Mr. David Colohan, Persse Park, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Mr. Michael Dooley, Curraneena, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, co. Galway

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11th APRIL, 2018

MDB18019

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday, 11th April, 2018 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Burke, seconded by Cllr. Broderick.

Matters arising from the Minutes

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB18015 Page 1, Mr. Mitchell advised that the cutting of grass in the Local Authority Housing Estates in Ballinasloe was the responsibility of the Housing Section. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. McEvoy advised that the Housing Section have been responsible for the maintenance of Local Authority Housing Estates since the abolition of the Ballinasloe Town Council. Mr. Headd advised that the budget allocation provided for Estate Management included grass cutting, litter collections and general maintenance in the Estates.

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference to MDB18015 Page 2, Mr. Mitchell advised that funding for the bridge improvement works in question had been provided under drainage grants.

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference to MDB18015 Page 2, Mr. Farrell advised that he would ask the Environment Unit to revert to the members with an update on the daily litter watch at the East Galway Landfill.

In response to Cllr. Finnerty and with reference to MDB18015 Page 2, Mr. Mitchell advised that the Contract for the Town Enhancement Scheme would be signed in the coming weeks.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB18018 Page 3, Mr. Farrell advised that as per previous minutes, he would be available to attend a meeting with the members if requested, in which they could discuss making a submission as part of Minister Denis Naughtons' project on the future of St. Brigid's Hospital.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB18015 Page 2, Mr. Farrell advised that he would ask the Environment Unit to provide an update on the Pollboy Waste Transfer Station.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB18018 Page 3, Mr. Mitchell advised that Galway County Council had not been notified of any additional supplementary budget for Road Improvement/Restoration.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly and with reference to MDB18018 Page 3, Mr. Farrell advised that he was not aware that a response had been received from the Minister of Agriculture regarding the April Resolution regarding the Meal Voucher Scheme for farmers affected by the Fodder Crisis.

SPEED LIMIT REVIEW – NATIONAL ROADS

MDB18020

Ms. Ni Chionna made a presentation to the Councillors on the Speed Limit Review for County Galway. Ms. Ni Chionna advised of the Statutory Process and the timelines involved with the Speed Limit Review. Ms. Ni Chionna advised that the Draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County Galway Byelaws 2018 had been forwarded to an Garda Siochana for their consideration on the 11th May, 2018. Ms. Ni Chionna advised that a response was due from An Garda Siochana by the 12th June 2018 after which an advert would be placed advising that the draft Byelaws would be available for inspection. Ms. Ni Chionna advised that submissions would then be accepted, examined and any changes to the draft Byelaws would again need to revert to An Garda Siochana. Ms. Ni Chionna advised that it was expected that the Draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County Galway Byelaws 2018 would be brought to the Municipal District of Ballinasloe September Meeting for discussion prior to being brought before the Plenary Council Meeting for approval. In response to concerns expressed by Cllrs. Broderick and M. Connolly regarding the proposed reduction from 100 km /hr to 80 km p/hr on the N63, Ms. Ni Chionna advised that the reductions are at locations where the road is deemed not safe for a 100 km /hr speed limit due to the bendiness of the road and other issues of safety concern. In response to Cllrs Broderick and M. Connolly, Ms. Ni Chionna advised that she would bring concerns regarding reduced speed limits on the N63 back to the TII. In response to Cllrs. Broderick and M. Connolly,

Mr. Mitchell advised that the upgrading of the N63 would involve road re-alignment projects and that he would discuss proposed projects with the Road Design Office and revert back to the Councillors with proposed projects on the N63. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that the Byelaws would have to be approved by the members of Galway County Council. In response to Cllr. Finnerty, Ms. Ni Chionna advised that adverts would be placed in the National and Local Press and that it would also be advertised via Social Media.

TAXI RANK BALLINASLOE

MDB18021

Cllr. Finnerty asked that the issue of the provision of a Taxi Rank in Ballinasloe be considered by the Roads Department. Cllr. Finnerty advised that there is a 15 minute Parking Bay opposite Allied Irish Bank which is currently being used for parking by local Hackney drivers. In response to Cllr. Finnerty, Mr. McEvoy advised that a hackney needs to be phoned by the public and the taxi can be hailed on the street. Cllrs D. Connolly advised that the hackneys provide a good service in the town and in the hinterland. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Cllr. Finnerty advised that there were currently no Taxis in Ballinasloe. In response to Cllr. Finnerty, Mr. McEvoy advised that the Ballinasloe Traffic Management Plan would need to be amended to provide for a Taxi Rank. In response to Cllr. Finnerty, Mr. McEvoy advised that the provision of a Taxi Rank did not form part of the Town Enhancement Plan. After discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Donohue, it was agreed to defer the discussion further until after the Town Enhancement Plan was completed.

A PRESENTATION REGARDING GCC MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES

MDB18022

Ms. Fuller made a presentation to the Strategy for Reporting, Mapping and Management of Invasive Species on Public Roads for County Galway. She advised that there are 4 main invasive species which affect County Galway: – Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, Giant Rhubarb and Himalayan Balsam. In addition to these Ms. Fuller stated that there are other invasive species which include Himalayan Knotweed and Rhododendron. Ms. Fuller advised that any reports of possible invasive species on Council property including public roads are reported to the Roads and Transportation Department. She advised that a Community Warden investigates the sighting of invasive species, confirms same and advisory signage is put in place by Council staff. Ms. Fuller advised that there is limited funding in place for the treatment of invasive species in Galway County Council. Ms. Fuller advised that the treatment to eradicate the Japanese Knotweed is by injection into the stem or by spraying with herbicide. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Ms. Fuller advised that the treatment takes place in Autumn. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Ms. Fuller advised that certain invasive species were poisonous to animals, however she advised that while poisonous, Ragwort is a native plant. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Ms. Fuller advised that there was no national strategy or national funding in place for the Management of Invasive Species and that each Local Authority was acting on their own behalf. Ms. Ni Chionna advised that there was a small budget available in Galway County Council to deal with this issue. Mr. Mitchell advised that the TII have a Control Programme in place for the

targeting of Invasive Species on the National Road Network. Mr. Mitchell advised that Galway County Council were looking to collate information and create awareness with their own staff and the public. Mr. Mitchell advised that Galway County Council has carried out eradication projects in Connemara. In response to Cllr. Donohue, Ms. Fuller advised that each plant is controlled differently. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Ms. Fuller advised that the new dedicated phone number to deal with this issue is 091-509309.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MD818023

Mr. Farrell advised that expressions of interest were now being sought for projects to be considered to be put forward for funding for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018. Mr. Farrell advised that the closing date for receipt of the expression of interest forms is 24th May, 2018 at 4 p.m. In response to Cllr. Finnerty with regard to assisting the Beechlawn Residents Association following on from their Deputation Meeting, Mr. Farrell advised that they should contact Mr. Kieran Coyne, Community Enterprise and Economic Development Unit, Galway County Council.

Mr. Farrell advised the Members that his Economic, Rural & Community Development Unit were working to see the enterprise space above the library to be brought in to use. He advised that the application made last year under the Enterprise Ireland REDF Scheme had been unsuccessful and that the Council were now pursuing alternative routes to see the space brought into productive use to bring jobs to Ballinasloe. Mr. Farrell advised that the Council were working in close partnership with BACD and that a working relationship would be formalised in the near future. He said that the space was a fantastic asset and that the Council wanted to ensure it was used to maximise returns.

On the proposal of Cllr. Finnerty which was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, it was agreed that the following information would be included in the Annual Report 2017, in accordance with the Local Government Reform Act 2014 – Schedule 14A-Part 1, Section 221 in relation to the performance of functions by the members of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

“ The members of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe met monthly with the exception of August in 2017. The Annual General Meeting was held on the 14th June, 2017 where Cllr. Aidan Donohue, was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Michael Connolly was elected Leas Cathaoirleach for 2017/2018.

At their meeting on 15th February, 2017 the members approved the Municipal District Schedule of Works 2017 (to include Roads Programme and Environment, Housing, Recreation and Amenity Schedule of repairs and maintenance) for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

In accordance with the Roads Act, 1993 the Municipal District of Ballinasloe declared three roads to be public roads and approved the extinguishment of a Public Right of Way on two public roads in 2017.

During 2017 the members received: a presentation on the delivery of Fire Services in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe by Mr. Michael Raftery, Chief Fire Officer; an update in relation to the East Galway Landfill from Mr. Jim Cullen, DOS and Mr. Mike Melody, Senior Executive Engineer; a Presentation from Ms. Catherine Seale, Community Water Officer on the Local Authority Waters and Communities office; a Presentation and update from Ms. Breda Fox, Head of Enterprise; a Presentation from Ms. Máire Ni Chionna, Senior Engineer in relation to the Review of Speed Limits – National Roads; a Presentation by Ms. Elaine O’Riordan, Galway County Biodiversity Project Manager, NUI Galway on behalf of the Galway County Council invasive Species Working Group; a Presentation from Mr. Michael Owens, Acting Director of Services in relation to Part 8 Proposal for Creggaun, Ballinasloe and a Presentation from Mr. Alan Farrell, Senior Executive Officer, Community, Enterprise & Economic Development Department on the Community Facilities Scheme – Allocations.

The members received Deputations in 2017 from: a) Creagh Community Development Council in relation to the unacceptable condition of some footpaths, the provision of a carpark in St. Brigid’s ground opposite Creagh Cemetery entrance, the daily dangers experienced by motorists at Creagh junction, the provision of Polling Booths at Creagh National School and dangerous speeding on the Creagh Road and b) Representatives of Ballinasloe Town in relation to issues of concern in relation to illegal dumping in Ballinasloe Town.

On the 25th October, 2017 at the Draft Budgetary Plan 2018 Meeting, the members rejected the draft General Municipal Allocation of €4,784,922 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

The members agreed to accept an invitation for the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe and an official to attend the 58th Fete des uVins d’Anjor by Stella DUPONT, Conseiller Général de Maine et Loire, Maire de CHALONNES SUR LOIRE on the 21st and 22nd May, 2017. The Cathaoirleach attended”

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH’S BUSINESS

MDB18024

Cllr. Donohue asked that the use of the Public Library in Ballinasloe be promoted as it was such a good facility. He acknowledged the work outlined by the Director and asked that the Community Enterprise and Economic Development Unit of Galway County Council would liaise with stakeholders in promoting the use of the Office Space in the Library for small businesses.

Cllr. Donohue and all the members paid tribute to Mr. Headd and wished him well in his new position in Clare County Council. Mr. Cullen on behalf of Mr. Kevin Kelly, himself and all the staff of Galway County Council also paid tribute to Mr. Headd and thanked him for his service to Galway County Council over the years. Mr. Farrell said that Mr Headd was an exemplary public servant and that he had made a significant contribution to the Council and Ballinasloe during his service. He wished him well and said that Clare County Council were very lucky to be getting such a professional and capable engineer.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB18025

Following discussion on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty, the following resolution was agreed : "As Moylough Garda Station is for sale at present, this Municipal District proposes that we write to the OPW and Superintendent Tom Curley asking for clarification on the future of Moylough Garda Station".

Cllrs. D. Connolly and Donohue acknowledged the Report into Portiuncula Maternity Hospital and asked that focus be kept on ensuring sufficient resources are made available to Portiuncula Hospital to safeguard patient safety.

Following discussion on the proposal of Cllr. Burke, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, the following resolution was agreed : "I propose that the Ballinasloe Municipal District write to the Minister for Flood Relief to express our dissatisfaction with the criteria for determining funding under the Flood Relief Scheme and the Minor Works Scheme. By insisting that those who live in depopulated areas who defended their home and prevented them from flooding are not entitled to funding under the Relief Scheme, the Department is effectively penalizing those families whose houses would otherwise have been flooded. There is a basic unfairness in the criteria of the Flood Relief Scheme and I would ask that the criteria for entitlement to redress under the Flood Relief Scheme be revised to accommodate those whose houses would have flooded had the householder or the Council not taken defensive measures".

Following discussion, it was agreed that the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday, 13th June @ 2.p.m.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed



(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

13/6/18

(Date)