

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE CONAMARA ELECTORAL AREA MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25th JANUARY 2011 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE.

I Láthair:

Baill Comh Tomás Ó'Curraoin, Cathaoirleach
Comh. Seosamh. Ó'Cuaig
Cllr. Thomas Welby
Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Cllr. Seán Kyne
Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg

Oifigh: Mr. Ger Mullarkey, Head of Finance
Mr. Evan Molloy, Senior Engineer, Conamara.
Mr. Tony Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer, Conamara.
Mr. Damien Mitchell, Executive Engineer, Cheathrú Rua
Mr. T.J. Redmond, Executive Engineer, Clifden
Mr. Seán Groarke, Administrative Officer, Finance.

1. Minutes of Meeting held on the 30th November 2010

On the proposal of Comh S O'Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr S. Kyne-the minutes of the meeting held on the 30-11-2010 were adopted.

Matters arising:

Cllr S O'Cuaig requested updates on the harbour development at Cill Ronain, the proposed road safety works at Recess crossroads and the village renewal scheme. Mr. E Molloy advised that he was currently assessing the submissions received in regard to the harbour development. He expected to have a report available for the Conamara Area meeting within 5 weeks. In regard to Recess crossroads-he advised that the proposed works were delayed due to the severe weather conditions. Mr T J Redmond informed the meeting that he expected the works to commence in March.

In regard to the village renewal scheme-Mr E Molloy stated that he would arrange a meeting with the representatives of the Ballinahown and Carna schemes and that he would re-examine the prices submitted by the Tully scheme. He advised that the Council would provide assistance to get the schemes started subject to available resources and a cost benefit analysis. He advised the meeting that he would arrange contact with the relevant groups.

Comh S O'Tuairisg enquired about the car park at Mamein.

2. Problems with the Water Supply-detection & fixing of leaks

The committee agreed that this matter was discussed at length at the monthly Council meeting held on the 24-1-2011 and that further discussion was not necessary. The Councillors paid tribute to the front line outdoor staff involved in the detection & fixing of leaks during the severe winter weather.

3. Roundstone Water Supply

Cllr E Mannion raised the issue concerning the shut down of the water supply pumps at night particularly in regard to the Roundstone & Errisbeg water schemes.

Mr T Kelly advised that the pumps came into commission at the Roundstone network in November 2010 and were working well. He stated that every water network had problems in December associated with leaks, frozen & burst pipes, taps left running by householders and a major rise in the level of consumption due to the severe weather conditions. He advised that the water consumption level rose to twice the average during this period mainly caused by leakage and taps left running. It was necessary to shut down water supplies such as Carna-Kilkieran at night to conserve stocks as the excessive demand was depleting the supply. He assured the meeting that the Roundstone plant & pumps were working well and the the supply source from the two lakes was adequate to fill the reservoir.

Comh S O'Tuairisg enquired as to whether the Council could take over the water scheme at Inishmaan where there was serious leaks. Mr T Kelly advised that the Council had no water network repair crews on Inishmaan & Inisheer-they were sent from the mainland-and that he would raise the matter concerning the appointment of a caretaker with Liam Gavin. It was noted that the Water Services section had commissioned a report on the proposed takeover of the Inishmaan scheme. Mr E Molloy advised that the Council would examine the feasibility of employing part time staff for emergencies at waterworks.

4. Quality of pot-hole repairs

Cllr S Kyne raised the issue concerning the fact the the road materials used in the repair of pot holes on sections of the N59 such as the golf course road, Loughagannon and the Clydagh bridge had washed away. Mr E Molloy advised that there was a need for a re-assessment in regard to the materials used for pot-hole repairs-in some cases the binder and the size of the chips used were not suitable products in certain weather conditions. He stated that the golf course road was done in accordance with standard practice. He requested a report from F McGillicuddy on the failures. The standard practice of surface dressing in regard to national routes in particular would have to be raised with the NRA. The use of DBM or Clause 942 materials were better options-roads used with these materials had survived well without potholes for a number of years. He stated that DBM was considerably more expensive than surface dressing but that the Clause 942

was a proven material which was now available at reasonable cost. He advised that the golf course road would not be resurfaced until after Easter and that the NRA had requested details of the National roads which had deteriorated badly during the severe weather.

Mr T Kelly advised that there was just 2 crews deployed for pot-hole repairs in the 3 Engineering areas in Conamara and that the fabric of the local roads was very poor-there was an urgent need to increase funding in order to reduce the cycle of repairs from the current 20 years down to at least 10 years.

Comh T O'Curraoin stated that some of the road maintenance problems could be attributed to the construction of new houses adjacent to the roads and the fact that landowners are not draining their lands anymore.

5. Pilot Project-N59 Oughterard to Clifden

Mr E Molloy advised that this pilot project was promoted by the NRA as a low volume National Secondary scheme with a similar design standard to Derrylea. The NRDO office in Roscommon is expected to finalise the design and the CPO later this year-it was anticipated that construction would commence at the end of 2012. He stated that it would be a high quality road which would largely follow the existing line. Funding had been allocated by the NRA for 2011.

6. Arrangement with Comharchumann-roads on Inisheer & Inishmaan

Comh S O'Tuairisg enquired about the arrangements the Council had in regard to the roads on these islands with the Comharchumann and whether the Council would take them in charge Mr D Mitchell confirmed that the Council supplied the Comharchumann on Inisheer with road materials and undertook pot-hole repairs.

There is no Comharchumann on Inishmaan. The Council had no plans to take over the roads on these islands at present.

7. Boithre Aise.

Comh S O'Tuairisg enquired if the Council would consider taking in charge the Boithre Aise which had been grant aided by Roinn na Gaeltachta in the past. The funding had now ceased for these roads which were in good condition. Mr E Molloy advised that the Council would not take them in charge at present-the same applied to roads improved under LIS schemes.

8. Aon Ghnó Eile.

Comh Ó Curraoin enquired as to whether a plaque for the burial ground at Furbo could be funded under the NOM allocation. Mr E Molloy advised the councillor that he would check this . Mr G Mullarkey confirmed that the NOM allocations

were the same as 2010. Cllr Kyne & Cllr Welby enquired about the Le Leitir and the Drimnahon roads-to which Mr T Kelly replied.

Comh S O’Cuaig proposed that a “ Firestation for South Conamara” be placed on the agenda for the next meeting-this was seconded by Cllr T Welby.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday 28th February 2011 at 10.30 am.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú ansin.