



**BALLINASLOE**

**RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL No. 2**

**ARCHIVES COLLECTION**

**1912 - 1919**

**G00/7**





## INTRODUCTION

This small collection of archives from Ballinasloe No. 2 Rural District Council simply consists of three minutes books, 1912 – 1919, with gaps.

### Rural District Councils

Rural District Councils were set up under the Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898. They assumed responsibility for the road and public works functions of the Grand Juries where the cost had been borne by the district, and the housing and public health functions of the Boards of Guardians. In the early years of County Councils much of the routine business was transacted through these Councils. The Poor Law Guardians were also the Rural District Councillors; the same individuals but working in a separate capacity.

The Councils played an important administrative role in the period pre-dating the formation of an independent Irish state, and when democratic local government was first established and developing in Ireland. The Councils were dissolved in 1925 under the Local Government Act of that year.

Following dissolution the Council's functions were transferred, under the Local Government Act of 1925, to the county councils. County councils were in turn required to discharge their new sanitary duties through boards of health and public assistance.<sup>1</sup> These boards also had responsibility for the supervision of county homes, hospitals and dispensaries, housing, water and sewerage, home assistance and a number of schemes including blind welfare, boarded out children, infectious diseases, tuberculosis and the school medical service.

The Boards of Health and Public Assistance survived until August 1942 when the administration of public assistance and sanitary matters came under the direct control of the County Council acting through the new county managers. Medical Health Officers were appointed and were responsible for the effective administration of the legislation for safeguarding public health.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Environment *Guidelines for Local Authority Archives Services*, Dublin, 1996



## Ballinasloe No. 2 Rural District Council

Two separate Councils administered the Ballinasloe Rural District. The No.1 Council came under the jurisdiction of Galway County Council, and the No.2 Council came under the administration of Roscommon County Council. Council meetings, commonly held in the Board Road of the Union Workhouse, were generally held twice a month and then only if the required quorum of Councillors was in attendance. There were usually 15 members of Council. Lists of elected members are often found in various contemporary directories such as Slaters or Pigots, or indeed may be often in local contemporary newspapers.

This incomplete collection consists of only three minute books recording the proceedings of Council meetings held between 1912 and 1919, with gaps. The minutes illustrate the range of topics of concern and interest to the Council, and record together with general and financial business proceedings, the minutes of the Sanitary Authority, and proceedings conducted under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts. The Council was thus concerned with a variety of issues from contemporary political and social matters, both local and national, to public health and sanitary issues.

Under the provisions of Section 7, Local Government (Ireland) Act 1919 the Rural District of Ballinasloe No. 2 came within the limits of population and rateable value laid down in the section, and as a consequence the Board amalgamated with the adjoining rural district of Athlone No 2.

The collection illustrates various aspects of local administration and democratic government during one of the most significant periods in Irish republican history. It commences with records created when the authority, and county, was under British rule, and ends with records recording the authority's recognition of Dáil Eireann. It should therefore be of interest to administrative, economic, political, social, and local historians. The latter in particular should learn much from the collection about the development of the district's infrastructure – the building and maintenance of the roads and bridges - together with the provision and growth of various public and health related services, such as water and sewerage schemes.



## Disclosure Requirement

As much of the information in this collection clearly identifies families and individuals researchers are requested, in order to prevent possible distress or embarrassment to near descendants, to sign a disclosure form prior to consulting the records verifying a willingness not to cite specific names in research work.

G00/07/7 and /8 were acquired in 2012, when deposited by a relative of the deceased Caretaker of Ballinasloe Courthouse. These volumes were digitised together with G00/07/18 and microfilmed in 2014.

## Acknowledgment

Galway County Libraries and Archives wish to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the grant received from the Heritage Council which contributed towards the cost of microfilming G00/07/18 (1917-1919) for preservation purposes.

**Patria McWalter**  
**Archivist**



## Related Collections

Records held by Galway County Archives:

- ❖ Ballinasloe No. 1 Rural District Council, G00/6
- ❖ Ballinasloe Poor Law Union, G00/5

## Further Reference

- |  |  |
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Celtic Bookshop, (c.1999)



## Map of Ballinasloe area

Taken from Ordnance Survey of Ireland, Discovery Series, c 1999





[Appendix A - Map of Ballinasloe Area](#)

**Map of Ballinasloe area**

Taken from Ordnance Survey of Ireland, 1982, Sheet 15



[Appendix A - Map of Ballinasloe Area](#)

**Map of Ballinasloe area**

Scale 1" = 9 miles

Taken from Map of Ireland, Geographic Ltd., London EC4, c 1965



## Minutes, 1917 – 1919

Volumes of minutes of proceedings of Ballinasloe No.2 Rural District Council meetings. The minutes record attendance at meetings, generally held twice a month, together with the proceedings of Council business conducted under various legalisation, covering general, financial, sanitary (such as management of burial grounds, inspection of cow sheds, and human living conditions, water supply and sewers), and labourers' housing (such as building and maintenance of cottages and rent collection) issues. The minutes record resolutions proposed and resolved or rejected by the Council. They also include details of correspondence received, generally from the Local Government Board and actions required thereafter. The proceedings of the Council acting as the 'Sanitary Authority' relate to health and sanitary conditions, such as the prevention of disease and the care and management of burial grounds, sewerage systems, and water supply. The proceedings under the 'Labourers Acts' relate to the provision and maintenance of labourers' cottages.

Average 650pp

(1-6)

7. 18 May 1912 – 7 February 1914

8. 7 March 1914 - 2 October 1915 Includes:-

- 'Letter from the Local Government Board No. L 8570: 1915 dated the 23rd September, 1915 adverting to previous correspondence, relative to the tenancy of the cottage which Mr M J Naughton holds from the Council under the Labourers Acts, and requesting that they may be informed whether the crop referred to in the Council's Minutes of 14th ultimo has yet been removed from the Plot. The Council beg to state the crop is not matured enough yet to be taken off' (p643).

646pp

(9-17)



18. 14 July 1917 – Includes Index to main resolution topics.  
15 February 1919
- Matters and issues discussed include,
- 'The Clerk submitted the Annual Estimate and Demand on the County Council of Roscommon for the service of the year ending the 31st March, 1919 when after some discussion it was on the Motion of Mr Claffey, seconded by Mr W P Kelly that the estimate be reduced by £7. The Demand was signed by the Chairman, and a copy of same is herewith enclosed for the information of the Local Government Board.' (p179).
  - 'That we, the Members of the Ballinasloe No. 2 Rural District tender our deepest sympathy to Mrs Redmond on the death of her illustrious husband, Mr John E. Redmond who has so unselfishly devoted his great gifts of Statesmanship to his Country for over a quarter of a century....' (p281).