

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 8th JANUARY 2025 @ 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. M. Connolly

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. D. Connolly, D. Geraghty, A. Harney, P. Keaveney, E. Parsons

Oifigigh:

Ms. J. Carroll Director of Service, Ms. R. Lowe Senior Engineer, Mr. T. Prendergast Senior Engineer, Mr. D. Troy Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn Executive Engineer, Mr. P. Batty Executive Engineer, Mr. E. Monaghan Technician Grade 1, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Ms. M. McGann Meeting Administrator

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2024 AND MATTERS ARISING

MDB25001

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 11th December were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Harney and seconded by Cllr. Keaveney.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

In response to Cllr. Harney regarding public lighting issues at Dunlo Hill and the bridge, Mr. Troy stated that there was no further update from Electric Skyline. He advised that that he would follow up with them and revert to the members with update. Cllr. D. Connolly asked that a focus be kept on public lighting projects that are completed but have not been commissioned by the ESB so that they would be fast tracked. (MDB24065)

In response to Cllrs. Harney and Parsons with regard the provision of an emergency slipway in Ballinasloe, Mr. Troy advised that he would contact the landowner to discuss options. In response to Cllrs. Harney and Parsons, Ms. Carroll advised that a decision had been taken to decouple the outdoor swimming project from the emergency slipway project to avoid complications. Ms. Carroll confirmed that Mr. Troy would prepare documents and take responsibility for procuring consultants to carry out a Swimming Area Feasibility Study on the River Suck in Ballinasloe. Ms. Carroll confirmed that the monies allocated for this project were ringfenced and if needed an extension of time to complete same would be facilitated.

Cllr. Geraghty asked that a focus be kept on the December Resolution with regard provision of funding for landowners for removal of dangerous trees at the side of the public roads, most especially trees impacted by ash die back. (MDB24071)

THREE YEAR ROADS PROGRAMME INCLUDING 2025 ANNUAL ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAMME

MDB25001

Ms. Lowe and Mr. Troy presented the Three-Year Roads Programme including Annual Road Resurfacing Programme 2025.

Mr. Troy advised that the Three-Year Roads Programme had been developed based on information taken from the Pavement Management System, representations from the local members, input from the area engineers, general services supervisors and their teams, and from members of the public. Mr. Troy thanked the members and all the staff involved with the preparation of the programme.

Ms. Lowe advised the members that the Municipal District Schedule of Works 2025 to include the Roads Programme 2025 would be brought before the members in February 2025 for their approval. However, in advance of this and based on 2024 grant amounts, Ms. Lowe advised that she was seeking the members agreement that each Municipal District could proceed with getting documents ready for tender for road reconstruction and surface dressing projects for 2025 at baseline funding levels and issuing same as soon as possible. Ms. Lowe advised that this could give us better value for money and the opportunity to commence projects earlier in the year. The members confirmed that they were all in agreement with this proposal and commended Ms. Lowe for her work involved with this new initiative. Agreement in principle to the Three-Year Roads Programme was given following a proposal from Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Harney and agreed by all.

In response to queries from the Members, Ms. Lowe advised that penalties were in place for delays with contracts but that these penalties were to be balanced with value for money issues, workloads of contractors, weather issues, and ensuring good working relationships with contractors.

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly and Keaveney regarding improving tertiary roads, Ms. Lowe advised that she acknowledged the concerns of all members with regard the state of these underfunded roads and would relay the members concerns back to the Director of Services when working on the Roads Programme 2025.

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly and Geraghty, Mr. Troy advised that the outdoor staff are involved directly with all aspects of preparatory work for the roads programme prior to the final overlay work carried out by contractors and that the larger contractors have the appropriate specialist equipment and expertise to carry out these big reconstruction projects. Mr. Troy advised that this work must then be balanced with the day-to-day maintenance work carried out by our outdoor teams. In response to the members, Ms. Lowe advised that the recruitment of an additional ten outdoor staff members had been

approved by Galway County Council which would strengthen our outdoor teams. Cllr. Geraghty asked that the Management Team of Galway County Council would assess the workings of outdoor staff regarding carrying out more projects themselves and the provision of appropriate equipment and machinery to carry out this work.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB25003

Ms. Carroll provided an update to the members on the schemes submitted under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2024/2025.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB25004

Cllr. Connolly expressed concern at the results of a speed survey in Menlough village that showed a non-compliance rate of 76%. Cllr. Connolly asked that traffic control and speed calming measures be fast-tracked at this location. In response to the members, Mr. Troy advised that an official request for enforcement measures in Menlough had been submitted to An Garda Síochána. Mr. Troy advised that applications had been submitted for Low-Cost Safety Measures Funding for the following locations - Sarsfield Road and Deerpark.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

MDB25005

Votes of Sympathy

The Raftery Family on the passing of Fidelma Raftery, Ballymoe Road, Glenamaddy

The Quinn Family on the passing of John Quinn, Islands, Williamstown

The Smyth Family on the passing of Tom Smyth, Roscommon

The Broderick Family on the passing of Mona Broderick, Glentaun, Creagh

The Quigley Family on the passing of Kathleen Quigley, Glentaun, Creagh

The Fleming Family on the passing of Margaret Fleming, Gortaganny, Moylough

The Mitchell family on the passing of Tom Mitchell, Cooloo, Moylough

Votes of Congratulations

Congratulations to Kilkerrin Clonberne Ladies Football Club on winning the All-Ireland Senior Football Final

Congratulations to Sarsfield Ladies Camogie Club on winning the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB25006

In response to the members, Mr. Troy outlined the routes that were salted during the last weather event and confirmed that footpaths are salted by outdoor staff in high footfall areas. Ms. Lowe advised that salt bins could be provided at various locations to aid local communities if the members could provide Notice of Motion funding of €1,150 per salt bin. This would then ensure that the bins were filled with salt during each severe

weather event and would be accessible to all in the community. Ms. Lowe asked that the members discuss appropriate locations for these salt bins with their Area Engineer prior to submission of a Notice of Motion request. In response to queries from the members, Mr. Prendergast advised that Galway County Council had sufficient salt stock at their depot and advised the members of the lengths of road salted, the routes covered, and how often the roads were re-salted within a 24-hour period. Mr. Prendergast advised that the salting of slipways and motorways was the responsibility of the TII. Mr. Prendergast advised that Galway County Council salting team was responsible for national primary, national secondary, regional and local roads.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Ms. Lowe advised that there were no specific grants in place for footpath improvement and that funding for upgrades comes from a mix of Department discretionary funding, Galway County Councils own funding, and from Notice of Motions funding. Mr. Troy advised that he would commence work on a Footpath Plan for the Municipal District and within that, identify a list of footpaths in need of repair and prioritize same. Mr. Troy advised that the Area Engineers were doing repair works on an annual basis but agreed that the change of direction for funding under active travel scheme has had an impact on funding for projects. Mr. Troy confirmed that procurement was underway for footpath improvements in Lawrencetown.

In response to Cllrs. M. Connolly, Geraghty and Keaveney, Mr. Troy advised that there were 70 Local Improvement Schemes to be assessed under a new batch of applications and that there were currently 10 applications to be progressed from the old list. Ms. Lowe advised that applications will not open for Local Improvement Schemes in 2025 due to the number of applications on hand.

In response to Cllr. Connolly, Mr. Prendergast advised that the National Review of Speed Limits was underway, and that Galway County Council were awaiting clarification on scope of review and timelines involved for changes to speed limits in Urban Areas.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Troy advised that procurement for Beechlawn Footpath Project Phase 3 was now completed, and work would commence by end Jan 2024.

Cllr. Parsons thanked the staff of Galway County for their help in organizing the Irish National Cycle Cross Championship to be held in the Fair Green this coming weekend and wished all involved the best of luck with same.

It was agreed that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District would take place on 12th February at 2pm.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Signed:

Michael Connolly

Dated:

12/2/2025