

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 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, Mr. D. Troy Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. B. McDonagh Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn Executive Engineer, Mr. P. Batty Executive Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Ms. K. Coyne Meeting Administrator

Prior to the meeting a Deputation was received from the Connacht Fleadh Ceoil Committee with regard the hosting of the 2025 Connacht Fleadh Ceoil Committee in Ballinasloe.

**BALLINASLOE FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME – UPDATE**

**MDB25007**

On the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Parsons, it was agreed to commence the Meeting with No. 2 on the Agenda.

Mr. McDonagh provided an update to the members on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme. The members thanked Mr. McDonagh for the update and for his work involved with ensuring that the members are kept informed of all stages on the project. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. McDonagh advised that €1.5m had been spent to date on the Project. In response to Cllrs. Harney and Parsons, Mr. McDonagh advised that all environmental reports are completed prior to beginning the Planning Process. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. McDonagh confirmed that the consultants were working with local landowners to obtain local knowledge with regard flooding issues in the locality. Mr. Troy advised that the Derrymullen Flood Relief Scheme had been carried out in 2011 which had helped alleviate flooding issues and that an aquadam had been purchased as an emergency measure in the town. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Troy confirmed that the readings taken for flood levels on the Suck had not been impacted by the ESB cut offs following the Storm and advised of the alert system processes involved when water levels rise. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. McDonagh advised that no interim flood alleviation projects could be carried out as it would impact on the overall project. The members expressed concern with the delays involved with the overall project.

Following discussion and on the proposal of Cllr. Geraghty and seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly and agreed by all the following resolution was passed: *"I propose that a letter should be written to Minister Kevin (Boxer) Moran that the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme should be expedited at this present time as the process is extremely slow. This is a matter of urgency. We are very little further on than where we were a number of years ago. Action is required now, not just promises and delayed action. The Minister should call in the OPW for a progress report and demand immediate action"*. It was agreed that a copy of this letter would also issue to Oireachtas members in Roscommon/Galway.

Following discussion and on the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney and seconded by Cllr. Parsons and agreed by all the following resolution was passed: *"I will propose that we invite the OPW (The Office of Public Works) to attend our MD meeting to answer questions on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme"*.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025 AND MATTERS ARISING**  
MDB25008

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney and seconded by Cllr. Geraghty.

**Matters arising from the Minutes.**

Cllr. Parsons stressed the urgent need for progress on a new slipway, highlighting that the nearest emergency slipway facility is in Shannonbridge. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Troy advised that he had written to the registered landowner in question about the slipway on his property and access to same, and had received a favourable response back with regard being able to use this private slipway for emergency access (MDB25001).

With regard public lighting in Ballinasloe, Cllr. Parsons welcomed the provision of lights in Hopsons Lane and advised that the lights were out in Jubilee Street and along the Marina / Dunlo Hill since Storm Éowyn (MDB25001).

In response to Cllrs. Parsons and Keaveney regarding low costs safety scheme applications at Creggs Road, Ballygar and Castletown Cross, Kilkerrin, Mr. Troy advised that 20 low-cost safety scheme applications had been submitted for approval to the Department, but no confirmation of approved schemes had been received from the Department to date (MDB25002).

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly with regard the bad state of footpaths in Church Hill and Duggan Avenue and where future funding could be found to repair same, Mr. Troy agreed that the funding provided was inadequate, but he advised that a review of all footpaths in the MD would be carried out and he welcomed the input of the members

when carrying out the review. Mr. Troy advised that once this review was complete, decisions could then be taken on the footpaths to be prioritized. However, Mr. Troy advised that footpath repair works are carried out each year and funded by discretionary maintenance and Notice of Motions monies provided by the members (MDB25002).

Cllr. Parsons welcomed the facility for members to obtain salt bins via their Notice of Motions monies and advised that she would be organizing same with the Area Engineer (MDB25006).

#### **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS**

MDB25009

Ms. Carroll thanked all the staff and members of Galway County Council for their work throughout Storm Eowyn. Ms. Carroll thanked the outdoor staff who were on the frontline of the response in very difficult conditions, the engineering and administrative staff, the Elected Members for their help, the Community Response Team, and all the members of the community for helping with clearing roads and helping people in their community through the loss of electricity in the county. Ms. Carroll also thanked all the other agencies involved including the ESB, Irish Water, Emergency Services and so many others. Ms. Carroll outlined the workings of the Community Response Team, and the work carried out to ensure hubs were set up throughout the County. Ms. Carroll advised that to date all hubs had closed bar one and that a review was underway to build on the lessons learnt from the team and to ensure that the forum was in place to ensure a state of readiness going forward if needed again.

Ms. Carroll advised that an Anti-Social Behaviour Taskforce was being put in place to deal with serious anti-social behaviour in Ballinasloe and would involve interaction with An Garda Síochána, Housing Department officials, members of residents' associations in the town and members of the Ballinasloe Municipal District. Following discussion on the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney and seconded by Cllr. Geraghty the following resolution was agreed *"I will propose that Ballinasloe Town-based Councillors should sit on the Taskforce"*. Ms. Carroll advised that this Taskforce would focus on co-ordination of all agencies, work to enhance public confidence in the town, be able to issue legal warnings and would engage with the local community. Cllrs. Parsons and D. Connolly expressed concern about how the previous Taskforce had failed to make any difference and hoped that this new Taskforce would affect change in the town. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Ms. Carroll advised of the timelines in setting up of the Local Community Safety Partnership and that the appointment of the Chairperson was with the Minister of Justice awaiting approval. Ms. Carroll advised that a representative from the Housing Department would attend at the March Meeting of the Municipal District and this forum would allow the members get further information with regard to allocations, anti-social behaviour, emergency CCTV, estate management amongst other housing issues. The members all welcomed the provision of emergency CCTV at St. Grellans Terrace following an incident and asked that this facility be provided at other locations.

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

**MD825010**

Cllr. M. Connolly thanked all the staff from Galway County Council, ESB, Emergency Services, Irish Water, Eircom, local communities and all the volunteers who came out to assist with the fallout from Storm Eowyn. The members asked that the following issues be addressed; planting trees near ESB transformers and lines to involve discussions with Coillte to keep corridors free on each side of lines; backup generators being in place and wired appropriately for public water treatment and waste water treatment plans; backup generators being in place for private group water schemes; local vulnerable persons who rely on electricity to be identified and for a plan to be put in place for them; ensure that emergency hubs are in place; efforts to be made to improve communications from Irish Water and Eircom. Ms. Carroll advised that the Chief Executive is a member of the National Emergency Co-Ordination Group, and she would relay these issues back to him for bringing to the next meeting.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly with regard current capacity of the Ballinasloe Regional Water Supply and Ballinasloe Wastewater Facility, Mr. Troy advised that he would seek further information on this issue and revert with a response.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

**MD825011**

***Votes of Sympathy***

The Waldron Family on the passing of Tony Waldron, Ballintubber, Roscommon  
The Coleman Family on the passing of Michael Coleman, Crumlin, Ballyglunin  
The Raftery Family on the passing of Peter Raftery, Kilcornan, Kilcolgan  
The Mitchell Family on the passing of Fonsie Mitchell, Lowville, Ahascragh  
The Lucas Family on the passing of Tom Lucas, Kilgarve Park, Ballinasloe  
The Larkin Family on the passing of Gabriel Larkin, Ruane, Eyrecourt

***Votes of Congratulations***

Congratulations to Aoibheann Reilly, Beibhinn Parsons, and Maebh Deely on being named on Ireland Women's squad in preparation for the upcoming Guinness Women's Six Nations Championship.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**MD825012**

Cllr. D. Connolly asked that a mid-term review take place of the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan to assess what targets had been met in the town and discuss same.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty with regard illegal dumping in Glinsk, Williamstown and Dunmore, Mr. Troy advised that he would request the Environment Section and community warden to investigate the issue.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty with regard community wardens being verbally abused and having to deal with intimidation while carrying out their traffic duties, Mr. Troy advised

that this was a serious issue and advised that such behaviour was being seen in our Motor Tax Office as well. Mr. Troy advised that he would discuss the issue again with our Health and Safety personnel.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty with regard bus shelters, Mr. Troy advised that bus shelters were being provided in Labane, Craughwell, Mountbellew, Moylough, and Ballymoe and this work had commenced. Mr. Troy advised that bus shelters would be provided in Glenamaddy, Ahascragh and Portiuncula under the next phase.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty with regard persons accessing the motor way via the wrong direction, Mr. Troy advised that he had reviewed the access and advised that all standardized signage was in place. On the proposal of Cllr. Geraghty seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly the following resolution was agreed *"I propose that the NTA (National Transport Authority) should address the serious issue for people going down the wrong way on the M6 motorway from Athlone to Galway and why aren't barriers erected to stop this from happening. A meeting with the NTA should be facilitated to the Ballinasloe M.D. Councillors to discuss issues"*.

With regard new speed limits, Cllr. Harney asked that the 80km/h speed signs which were taken down should be retained and used when the speed limits change on the National Secondary Roads. Cllrs. Geraghty and Keaveney stated that several of the roads which had been reduced to the 60km/h were of a high standard and were well capable of taking traffic at 80km/h. Mr. Troy advised of the criteria involved with the reduction which only allowed for 2 local roads to retain their 80km/h speed limit. Cllr. D. Connolly asked that special speed limits be introduced at Killure School and on the Harris Road to Deerpark. Mr. Troy advised that a County wide review was due to take place of special speed limits, and these locations could be addressed via that review.

Cllr. Harney asked that the issue of the lights on the bridge be addressed and stated that the bridge appeared to be in a poor state of repair and asked if funding could be sought to clean up and repair the bridge.

It was agreed that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District would take place on 12<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm.

#### CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Signed:

Michael Connolly

Dated:

12/3/2025