

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 14th MAY 2025 @ 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. M. Connolly

I LATHAIR FREISIN: Cllrs. D. Connolly, D. Geraghty, A. Harney, E. Parsons

AS LÁTHAIR: Cllr. P. Keaveney

Baill Oifigigh: Mr. K. Coyne A/Director of Services, Mr. D. Troy Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn Executive Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Ms. M. McGann Meetings Administrator.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th APRIL 2025 AND MATTERS ARISING

MDB25028

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 9th April 2025 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Geraghty and seconded by Cllr. Parsons.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Cllr. Geraghty welcomed the discussion that had taken place at the Plenary Meeting regarding the introduction of one-hour free parking and its support by the members at the meeting. He asked that all the members support the introduction when the proposal is brought before the Roads & Transportation SPC for discussion (MDB25021).

Cllr. Harney requested an update on illegal dumping at bottle banks and clothes banks in the Municipal District. Cllr. Harney welcomed the introduction of the new sensors at some locations to advise persons not to leave rubbish behind but requested an update on the schedules in place with regard the emptying of all bottle and clothes banks. Cllr. M. Connolly agreed and requested additional monitoring by Community Wardens at these sites especially at bank holiday weekends. Cllr. M. Connolly advised that many of these locations were being maintained by local community volunteers and that they are becoming a blight in towns and villages. Cllr. Parsons agreed and suggested that either additional banks, or additional collection services, be provided, with the preferable option being to trial additional collections. Mr. Coyne stated that he had discussed these issues with the Senior Warden and would further discuss with management in the Environment Section and provide an update to the members. Mr. Coyne stated that the increased proliferation of dumping was a concern and that the Environment Department were utilizing all available powers, in addition to proactive approaches through anti-litter campaigns and awards aimed at schools (MDB25022).

In response to Cllr. Harney, Mr. Coyne advised that the issue of locating CCTV hardware was being discussed at management level in Galway County Council (MDB25021).

Cllr. Harney asked for an update on capacity issues with Ballinasloe Water and Wastewater plants. Mr. Troy advised that he had been advised by Uisce Éireann that the Members should make direct contact with them to access this information. Cllr. D. Connolly stated that wastewater capacity issues had huge significance for development of our county town and key developments, and Elected Members needed this information (MDB25021).

In response to Cllr. Harney regarding Creagh Junction, Mr. Troy advised that the Department of Transport were still considering the project (MDB25021).

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly with regard Castletown Cross, Mr. Troy advised that design of measures to implement at this junction had commenced under the Low-Cost Safety Scheme (MDB25022).

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly regarding safety concerns at Ballaghlea National School, Mr. Troy advised that he had visited the site and identified the issues with regard signage, and was arranging repairs. Mr. Troy advised that a speed survey would be taken at this location and the results would issue to Garda Síochána for action. Mr. Troy advised that the school are working with An Taisce to prepare the Safe Routes to School report and once this is prepared it would form part of a submission by Galway Council Council to the NTA to identify solutions. Mr. Troy advised that the proposal of an underpass would be challenging and involve huge expenditures (MDB25022).

In response to Cllr. Parsons with regard the Tenant in Situ Scheme, Mr. Coyne advised that Ms. O'Donnell, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Department would provide an update to the members on the scheme. Cllr. Geraghty expressed concern at the delays involved and the impact it was having on tenants. Cllr. M. Connolly stated that the money provided to Galway County Council was inadequate and asked that the members lobby their colleagues in Dail Éireann. Cllr. D. Connolly expressed concern that national government were not providing sufficient funding leading to reductions in maintenance and services in the housing department. Cllr. Harney advised that he would be raising the issues concerned with his Dail Colleagues and Cllr. Geraghty asked that all the members work as a collective on the issue in lobbying their colleagues in Dail Éireann (MDB25021).

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly, M. Connolly and Parsons, Mr. Coyne advised that he would revert with updates from the Planning Department with regard timelines for mid-term reviews of the Ballinasloe Town Plan and the Galway County Development Plan. Cllr. Geraghty asked that consideration be given to the members being provided with independent planning advisors when preparing plans going forward. Cllr. Harney stated this review would give all new members a chance to have an input into the plan.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Coyne advised that there had been proposed changes to the legislation governing the setting up of Local Community Safety Partnership and the legislation was due to be enacted in June, with Guidelines to follow, after which

establishment of the local partnerships could progress, and align to the establishment of the Ballinasloe Taskforce. Cllrs. Geraghty and Parsons stated that the dissolution of the JPC's prior to the setting up of the new Committee was badly planned. Cllr. M. Connolly stated that he had concerns about the shortcomings of the JPC at the time and hoped that the new Committee would be more successful. Mr. Coyne stated that the delays in issuing regulations and guidelines was not ideal, but the new Committee will have a much wider remit compared to the JPC's which had very limited powers. (MDB25021).

In response to Cllrs. Parsons, Mr. Coyne advised that the various issues at St. Brigid's Complex including dereliction, the proposed new ambulance base, and the provision of a domestic violence refuge would be brought as an issue before the Management Team for discussion. In response to Cllr. Harney, Mr. Coyne advised that the issue of the derelict Health Centre in Ballygar could also be discussed at this meeting when they are putting together items for discussion with the HSE. Cllr. Harney asked that a contact person be identified in the HSE so a direct line of communication would be in place between Galway County Council and the HSE going forward. Cllr. Parsons requested information on the OPW register of sites relative to St. Brigid's Hospital (MDB25027).

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB25029

Mr. Coyne provided an update to the members on current grant schemes available via Galway County Council. Cllr. D. Connolly thanked the Council for their help with the preparation for the upcoming Connacht Fleadh which will be held in Ballinasloe. Cllr. Geraghty wished all small groups and communities well in completing funding applications and stated that it was very important to support and enhance communities.

Mr. Coyne advised the members of the upcoming Cathaoirleach's Awards and wished all the nominees the best. Cllr. Parsons wished Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds Committee the best of luck and commended their good work in the community.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MD825030

Cllr. M. Connolly advised the members that the next meeting of the Municipal District would be the Annual Meeting and would take place on Wednesday, 11th June.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

MDB25031

Votes of Sympathy

Michael Owens & Family on the passing of Mary Owens, Castlegar, Mountbellew
The Flatley Family on the passing of Garda Kevin Flatley, Balbriggan, Dublin
The Coffey Family on the passing of Mary Coffey, St. Josephs Place, Ballinasloe
The Noone Family on the passing of Brendan Noone, Fohenagh, Ahascragh
The McGrath Family on the passing of Kay McGrath, The Pines, Ballinasloe
The Tierney Family on the passing of Gerry Tierney, St. Brendan's, Ballygar
The Garvey Family on the passing of Martin Garvey, Glenamaddy

Vote of Congratulations

Congratulation to the Galway Footballers on winning the Connacht Senior Football Championship

Congratulations to the Galway u16's Team on winning the All-Ireland U16A Camogie Championship

Congratulations to the Galway Ladies Football Team on reaching the Connacht LGFA Senior Football Finals

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MOB25032

In response to issues raised by Cllr. M. Connolly with regard street trading in Mountbellew outside of the regular Fair Day, Mr. Troy advised that he had requested a report on same from the Community Wardens and would revert with a response. Cllr. M. Connolly stated that the increase in trading outside of licensed days was impacting rate paying businesses.

Cllrs. Parsons and Geraghty welcomed the ongoing works at Creggs Junction and Mr. Troy advised that the works would be completed in a few weeks.

In response to Cllr. Parsons with regard the timelines for the feasibility study for water-based facilities in Ballinasloe, Mr. Troy advised that the tenders for appointing Consultants were currently being assessed and that it was expected that a consultant would be appointed by the end of May. Mr. Troy advised that the study will take approximately six months to complete and the issue of identifying a site for an independent slipway could form part of the study. In response to Cllr. Harney with regard land acquisition, Mr. Troy advised that the need for any additional lands for a linear park and water-based activities will form part of the study.

In response to Cllr. Parsons with regard the proposed new Greenway between Athlone and Galway and specifically the Ballinasloe spur, Mr. Coyne advised that he would request an update from the Project Team be provided to the members via a presentation at an upcoming MD Meeting.

In response to issues raised by Cllrs. D. Connolly, Parsons and Harney regarding the condition of public toilet facilities in Ballinasloe Town, Mr. Troy advised that every funding opportunity was being availed of to carry out improvements to public toilets.

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly and Parsons regarding the re-instatement of ramps in St. Grellan's Estate, Mr. Troy advised that the bolt-in ramps were in storage and can be reinstalled. Cllr. M. Connolly stated that illegal parking issues at St. Grellan's were causing a traffic hazard and had been brought to the attention of the Community Warden. Mr. Troy advised that additional road markings would be considered at this location.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Troy advised that another speed audit at the Ballinasloe GAA Pitch would be carried out.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly regarding the commencement of the Roads Programme, Mr. Troy advised that it was expected that contracts would be signed in the coming week and works could then commence.

Cllr. Geraghty welcomed the provision of the new bus stop in Ballymoe but expressed concern with traffic being backed up on the entrance to Ballymoe when the bus was picking up passengers. Mr. Troy advised he was aware of the issue and that temporary signage was currently in place and a review would take place to identify if permanent signage was required.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty with regard disability access in Graveyards and the purchase of additional lands for extending graveyards, Mr. Coyne advised that specific concerns and issues could be brought to the attention of Mr. Mike Melody, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment Department.

Cllr. Parsons advised that the Go Purple Day event which had been scheduled for the 16th May had been deferred. Cllr. Parsons advised that she would revert with the new date when available.

In response to Cllr. Harney with regard reviewing the speed limit on the Killure to Ahascragh road, Mr. Troy advised that he had not been advised of a timeline for the next phase of speed limit reviews. Cllr. Harney expressed concern that the speed limits at this location was pushing people to take the regional road from Ahascragh which is a much worse road. Cllr. M. Connolly advised that there were certain areas on the Killure to Ahascragh road which were in a bad state and were suffering from subsidence.

In response to Cllr. Harney with regard safety hazard at the exit to Moher roundabout, Mr. Troy advised that safety works had been carried out at this location including the provision of lining and cats' eyes and the road was re-aligned as much as possible within its existing width, and no further works were possible without land acquisition.

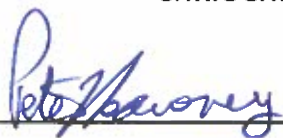
In response to Cllr. Harney with regard delays in inspections for septic tank grant aid, Mr. Coyne advised that the scheme of grants was tied to certain areas where there was a higher environmental risk. Mr. Coyne advised that he would request an update from the Environment Section on the scheme and would provide same to the members.

Mr. Coyne advised that works had been carried out at the Gallery Space in the Ballinasloe Library and it was now open to the public.

It was agreed that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District would take place on 11th June following the Annual Meeting.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Signed: _____



Dated: _____

