

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AT 2.30 p.m.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. P. Keaveney

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Cllrs. D. Connolly, M. Connolly, D. Geraghty, A. Harney, E. Parsons

**Oifigigh:** Ms. A. Dolan, A/Director of Services, Mr. D. Troy Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, Executive Engineer, Ms. L. Treacy, Community Sports Development Officer, Mr. A. McBride, Sports Co-Ordinator, Ms. M. McGann, Meetings Administrator, Ms. M. Dolan, Assistant Staff Officer

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025** **MD825036**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Parsons and seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly.

**Matters arising from the Minutes.**

Cllr. D. Connolly sought an update in relation to the Roads Programme and whether the potential for cost savings envisaged had been achieved. Mr. Troy confirmed that the surface dressing programme had commenced, and he was waiting for the contract for road strengthening works to commence. He confirmed that the lower prices achieved in these initial contracts has enabled a third contract and tenders are due back shortly for these works.

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 damaged signage and was arranging repairs. Mr. Troy advised that a further speed survey would be taken at this location and the results would issue to An 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 prepared it would form part of a submission by Galway County Council to the NTA to identify solutions. Mr. Troy advised that the proposal of an underpass would be challenging and involve huge expenditures. Cllr. Keaveney suggested that a meeting be organised with the members and officials of Ballinasloe Municipal District and the Department of Education with a view to progressing this issue. Cllr.

Geraghty enquired whether the option of a crossing, similar to a level crossing for a train, could be considered as a suitable solution.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly and Cllr. Keaveney regarding safety solutions for Castletown Cross, Mr. Troy advised that design of measures to implement at this junction had commenced under the Low-Cost Safety Scheme and referenced the funding allocated would be sufficient only for anti-skid surface and signage. In relation to the concerns raised by the Members, he agreed to look into other options such as staggering the junction, subject to land availability.

In response to safety concerns highlighted by Cllr. Keaveney at McGann's Cross, Clonberne, Mr. Troy said he had inspected same and is currently liaising with An Garda Síochána.

Cllr. M. Connolly raised concerns regarding street trading in Mountbellew outside of authorised times and requested a copy of the most recent Byelaws. In response, Mr. Troy advised that the Community Wardens were following up on this through an inspection and he would revert with a response. Cllr. Geraghty asked if it is possible to check if these additional street traders are revenue compliant as part of this process.

In response to a query from Cllr. D. Connolly and Cllr. Parsons regarding reinstatement of the ramps in St. Grellan's estate, Mr. Troy confirmed he will arrange to have the ramps reinstated.

Cllr. Parsons and Cllr. Harney welcomed the €125,000 funding from the Community Recognition Fund for the renovation of the public toilets at St. Michael's Square, and the €100,000 funding for the purchase of a building at Brackernagh for a new Family and Community Resource Centre.

In response to Cllr. Parsons request for a timeline for the installation of CCTV at bring banks and Dunlo running track, Ms. A. Dolan, advised that an exact timeline for same cannot be given but the members will be kept updated in relation to same as progress is made on the development of a Code of Practice through the Oversight Committee.

In response to queries from Cllr. Parsons and Cllr. Harney regarding Creagh junction and the reinstatement of the pedestrian lights at St. Bridget's, Mr. Troy advised that discussions are ongoing with the Department of Transport regarding Creagh junction and consideration will be given to the pedestrian lights following the departmental decision regarding the junction.

In response to Cllr. Parsons regarding the feasibility study for Swim/Water Recreation Park at the river and surroundings areas in Ballinasloe, Mr. Troy advised that the tender competition is finalized, and the Council is in the process of awarding a contract and it is hoped that consultants will be place in late June, with a 6-month timeline for completion.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty regarding the regarding the establishment of the Local Community Safety Partnership, Ms. A. Dolan confirmed that the final guidelines are due to issue in June. Following this, the local partnership will be established which will also align

to the establishment of the Ballinasloe Taskforce. Cllr. Geraghty expressed his concerns about the lack of community policing in small towns.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Cllr. Keaveney, and Cllr. Harney regarding the need for cutting back hedges at road junctions, Mr. Troy stated that while funding is an issue in relation to this, work is being done to identify and prioritise junctions, with a view to getting hedgecutters out to those areas as soon as possible. Cllr. Geraghty welcomed this and stated that funding needs to be put in place for this going forward from a safety point of view. Cllr. M. Connolly suggested that it might be worth exploring the possibility of realigning dangerous junctions by engaging with landowners, similar to works carried out previously at Horseleap Cross. Cllr. Keaveney referenced the great work done at the Ballygar junction in Creggs and acknowledged the cooperation of Elected Members and the landowner in this instance.

Cllr. Harney expressed his concern at the delays in getting CCTV in place and queried whether emergency powers can expedite the process at key locations. He referenced anti-social behaviour at the Dunlo Running Track, stating the installation of CCTV at this site was a priority and asked if there had been engagement with An Garda Síochána regarding the storage of footage. Ms. Dolan replied that in line with GDPR requirements, there will be a central base for storage of footage and the Council are engaging with An Garda Síochána regarding this issue. In the interim, she advised that the possibility of out of hours work for Community Wardens at certain areas is being explored.

In relation to Cllr. Harney regarding flooding at Bring Banks in St. Michael's Square, Ms. Dolan confirmed that she will investigate this matter. Cllr. Harney also requested that measures are put in place to tackle overhanging trees in Council estates and the town centre, ideally through a Maintenance Plan.

In reply to Cllr. Harney regarding the need for static security at St. Bridget's campus, Ms. A. Dolan stated that as the site is not in the Council's ownership, security for same is not in our control. She advised that the Council is engaging with the HSE regarding the Section 8 Derelict Site notice issued regarding the building.

**UPDATE ON BALLINASLOE COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB – LORRAINE TREACY, COORDINATOR**

**MD825037**

A presentation was given by Ms. Lorraine Treacy, Community Sports Development Officer, on the Ballinasloe Community Sports Hub, outlining the funding under Dormant Accounts, and the range of activities funded and collaborations with local groups.

The members thanked Ms. Treacy for her presentation and complimented the great work she has done since joining the Council one year ago. They wished her well in her new position with Westmeath County Council. Mr. A. McBride, Sports Co-Ordinator, concurred with the members and thanked Ms. Treacy for her outstanding work in putting strong foundations in place which would facilitate the sustainability of the Community Sports Hub.

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

**MDB25038**

Ms. A. Dolan confirmed the allocation of €680,000 under Window 3 of the Community Recognition Fund from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, and this was welcomed by the Members.

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

**MDB25039**

Cllr. Parsons referenced the request at a previous meeting to get an update on the Galway to Athlone Cycleway Project and it was agreed that this would be sought for an upcoming meeting.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

**MDB25040**

**Votes of Sympathy**

The Dolan Family, Kilgarve, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

The Mannion Family, Kilkerrin, Co. Galway.

The Owens Family, Headford, Co. Galway.

**Votes of Congratulations**

Ballinasloe District & Heritage Society & Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds for their success at the Cathaoirleach's Awards, and Cllr. Martina Kinnane on the success of the Mayoral Ball.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**MDB25041**

In response to Cllr. Parsons regarding Loughturk junction, Mr. Troy advised that all achievable work is completed. In response to Cllr. Parsons regarding Laurencetown Pass, Mr. Troy advised that the Council have engaged a contractor, and it is hoped that works will commence during school holidays. In response to Cllr. Parsons query regarding noise issues in town late at night, Ms. A. Dolan advised that any complaints regarding noise pollution can be directed to the Environment Department.

Cllr. Geraghty asked that the possibility of putting speed ramps into housing estates in rural towns be considered. Cllr. Geraghty also asked for more funding for playgrounds to be made available.

Cllr. Geraghty raised the issue of the long-term closure of Castlerea Fire Station and referenced the serious fire in Gortaganny, Co. Roscommon in recent weeks which highlighted the need for a Fire Station in this region. Cllr. Geraghty asked the Members to consider issuing a joint letter to the Chief Executives of County Galway and Roscommon requesting that the Fire Station in Castlerea be reopened, or another locality in the area be considered as a base for a Fire Station.

In response to Cllr. Harney's query regarding a temporary bus stop at Dooleys Corner, Mr. Troy advised that this is being dealt with. In relation to the granting of planning permission for 50 new houses near Tesco, Cllr. Harney and Cllr. M. Connolly enquired about pedestrian access to nearby housing estates and asked if there would be engagement with residents in relation to same. Mr. Troy stated the Council will be happy to facilitate as needed.

Cllr. Keaveney raised concerns about approach road signs for Ballymoe and Mr. Troy advised that they are due for installation in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Parsons asked that any remaining directional signs for Kilconnell Landfill be removed, and Mr. Troy confirmed that it was on the schedule of works to be removed.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Signed: Peter Keaveney

Dated: 9/7/2025