

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara

Municipal District of Conamara

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara
held on Friday 9th May 2025 at 10.00am in the Galway Council Chamber.**

I LATHAIR:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. T. Welby

BAILL: Comh T. Ó Curraoin, Comh Mac An Iomaire, Cllr. S.
Walsh, Cllr. N. Thomas, Cllr Martin
Cllr Lee, Cllr E Mannion, Cllr G. King.

OIFIGH: U Finn Director of Services, T Prendergast S.E, N
O'Conaola E.E, T.J Redmond S.E, I Martyn A.O.
Meetings, S. Casey A.S.O,

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 11th April 2025.

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. King and **Seconded** by Cllr Lee the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 11th April 2025 were agreed.

2. Matters Arising.

No matters arising.

3. Update on Piers and Harbours programme of Works.

Mr. Prendergast gave a presentation to the members regarding the work and maintenance carried out on Piers and Harbours and the future plans for maintenance, repair and progression. Mr. Prendergast advised that Galway

County Council had eighty seven Piers taken in charge although there was no formal process yet for the taking in charge of Piers. These piers consisted of piers of various sizes and contrasting usage and noted that the maintenance budget of Piers and Harbours had increased this year to €584,000.

Mr. Prendergast advised that minor structural improvement works would be carried out on Piers and he detailed the safety works completed and the works in progress. He stated that algae on slipways was a major safety concern, and the the council is managing and maintaining slipways in about thirty different locations.

He highlighted that a survey was completed in 2023 by Mr. Bradshaw to identify the Piers to be prioritised for works and funding and works on Inis Oirr Pier would be commencing shortly. He added that the pontoons in Kilronan were remarkably successful and that this maybe be looked at more closely and perhaps developed further depending on each individual case.

Mr. Prendergast gave a detailed description of Inis Oirr Pier. The area has a population of 343 and has one of the most congested piers at peak season. Massive waves can come right over the pier wall, engulfing the pier and this is an enormous safety concern. This is a major project and will cost approx. thirty million in costs. This is pending ministerial approval to go to contract. The procurement process has been completed and a preferred tenderer identified. The construction of this work is estimated to take approximately two years expected in quarter three of 2027.

Significant challenges associated with the contract were identified, such as traffic management, weather conditions and the attempt to minimize disruption to commercial activities. The benefits psncipally involves providing the area with an increased berthage for boats and protection against dangerously overlapping waves on the pier.

It was confirmed that a consultant has been appointed to undertake out a Strategic Assessment and Preliminary Business Case for Marine Improvement Options on the island. The work has commenced and significant stakeholder engagement has been carried out. The overall purpose of the commission is to propose a recommended solution. This will then form the basis of a future funding application to bring that option through the statutory approvals mechanisms.

Matters Arising and Responses:

Cllr. King thanked both Mr. Prendergast and Mr. Bradshaw for all their work on Harbours and Piers. He was grateful for the survey on Piers as this was of mammoth importance to his locality. Harbours and Piers are the roadways to our

fishing communities and vastly important for the tourism industry also. He agreed with Mr. Prendergast that the slipway project was immensely essential with regards to safety for all. Cllr. King enquired if there was a survey completed regarding tourism anchorage and if there is a maintenance list.

Comh Mac An Iomaire also thanked Mr. Prendergast and Mr. Bradshaw and included that he felt that a harbour master was essential in Inis Oirr due to the high volume of vessel traffic. He also enquired regarding the plans for Ros a mhill where there was huge investment.

Cllr. Mannion thanked Mr. Prendergast for the informative slide show and questioned regarding power points on the Piers including the Piers not Taken in Charge by the Council.

Comh Ó Curraoin queried the commencement date for the work on Inis Oirr Pier and if it would affect trade.

Cllr. Lee thanked the Council staff for their work. He expressed his concern that a number of Piers in the Leitirméallan and Carraroe areas had access issues as the roads are not Taken in Charge by the Council.

Cllr. Welby thanked Mr. Prendergast for his presentation and work. He mentioned that Claddaghduff Pier is very dangerous and the road to the Pier is not Taken in Charge.

Cllr. Mannion thanked the roads team for the great work being done. She enquired about lights and power points on fishing piers.

Cllr King enquired regarding the budget for the mooring buoys maintenance?

Mr. Prendergast replied to Cllr King that the budget for the mooring buoys was €20,000 this year and that there is a programme in place for maintenance and checks on these.

In response to the questions regarding the Harbour Master, Mr. Prendergast informed members that until a permanent Harbour Master is sanctioned by the Department, he had requested that two Community Wardens visit the Islands for inspection. He anticipated that a permanent Harbour Master would be sanctioned and employed in the not too distant future.

He confirmed to the Members that Ros a mhill Pier is owned and operated by the DAFM. It is not a Galway County Council asset, queries in relation to the current status of the harbour development project there should be addressed to the department.

With regard to power points at piers, it was confirmed that there are pay as you go units in operation in a number of locations. This will be expanded to five locations in 2025 and that will serve as a pilot scheme to inform potential further locations. It will be a question of prioritising particular locations depending on relevant criteria such as numbers of pier users and feasibility of connection to the electricity network.

Concerning the questions on roads and piers taken in charge by the council he communicated that these would be assessed and dealt with on an individual basis. Ongoing public access and use and ensuring safety of operation are key factors that are considered.

Mr. Prendergast stated that it was the intention to keep Inis Oirr pier open during the proposed works and it was up to the contractor to arrange their works so the pier could remain accessible.

He indicated any works needed on any of the various different piers were to be on their merits and there was potential to take roads in charge in some cases where they provide pier access dependant on satisfying relevant criteria. He addressed Cllr Welby's question about Turbot Island that it was indeed on the register of piers. Improvement works would be considered and value for money considerations would be investigated

4. Municipal District of Conamara Director's Business:

Mr. Finn informed members that he had nothing to add to this item for today.

5. Municipal District of Conamara Cathoirleach's Business:

Cllr.Tom Welby concluded he had nothing to add to this item.

6. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

Cllr Mannion offered congratulations to Pope Leo XIV.

Cllr King wished the ladies best wishes with Comortas Peile na Gaeltachta.

6. A.O.B.

Cllr. Mannion questioned the lack of signs and notices on the N59 as there was notification given that there would be delays on the Clifden Road due to works.

Cllr. King queried if the summer ready programme was up and running yet?

Matter Arising & Responses:

Mr. Finn responded that in the event of any events held on public roads, the council was to be notified, and a road closure license sought. The summer ready report he said, had been drafted up by the Tourism Officer and would be the subject of discussion at the June Plenary Meeting.

Cllr Welby **Proposed** that the members should meet for the next Conamara MD meeting on **Friday 20th June at 11.30 a.m. in the Council Chamber** and this was **Seconded** by Cllr Mannion.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Welby concluded the meeting.

Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Signed: 

Date : 20/6/2025