

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD AT BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICE, COUNCIL CHAMBER, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY, 11th MARCH, at 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. M. Connolly

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. T. Broderick, D. Burke, D. Connolly, A. Donohue, M. Finnerty.

Oifigigh: Ms. C. McConnell A/Director of Service, Mr. E. Molloy, Senior Engineer, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18th FEBRUARY, 2015

MDB14055

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on the 18th February, 2015 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Burke.

Matters arising from the Minutes

With reference to Minute No. MDB14051 Page 2, Cllrs. D. Connolly and Burke requested that it be recorded in the Minutes that it was the understanding of the members that a budget figure of €254,000 was committed to for Parks and Open Spaces in the 2015 Municipal District of Ballinasloe Schedule of Works.

In response to Cllr. Burke and with reference to Minute No. MDB14054 Page 4 regarding the crossroads at Clonfert, Mr. Molloy advised that he would revert to Cllr. Burke on this matter following consultation with Mr. Headd.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly and with reference to Minute No. MDB14050 Page 1 regarding the members resolution inviting the I.D.A. to a future meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe in order to outline what development and investment plans they have for Ballinasloe with a view to bringing employment to Ballinasloe, Ms. Gardiner advised that no response had been received from the I.D.A. Cllr. M. Connolly requested that a reminder letter issue to the I.D.A. in this regard. Discussion took place with regard to the economic benefits which would ensure of industry locating to Ballinasloe and in this regard Ms. McConnell advised that the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan was scheduled for discussion at the April

2015 Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe wherein she stated further discussion on this issue could ensue.

With regard to Minute No. MDB14050 Page 2, discussion took place with regard to the Deputation with Minister Simon Harris, T.D. scheduled to take place on Thursday 12th March, 2015 in relation to flood relief works for Ballinasloe. Cllr. M. Connolly advised that the 6 person Deputation due to attend would consist of: Cllrs. Broderick, M. Connolly and Finnerty and 3 members of the Ballinasloe Flood Action Group.

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly, M. Connolly and Donohue and with reference to Minute No. MDB14050 Page 1, Ms McConnell advised that any additional outdoor staff recruited would be recruited only on a needs basis. Mr. Molloy advised that an additional Engineer was being assigned to the Municipal District of Ballinasloe after the Easter period. Mr. Molloy also stated that a separate panel for each of the Municipal Districts for temporary general operatives was being set up.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB14056

Ms. McConnell advised that at the Municipal District of Loughrea February 19th 2015 Meeting the members recommended that the €100,000 allocation for unfinished housing estates be used for public lighting in these estates and she advised that this item is being placed for further discussion on the Agenda of the Plenary Council March 2015 Monthly Meeting. Ms. McConnell asked that careful consideration be given by the members to this item. Following a lengthy discussion and questions from the members in particular with regard to the drawing down of bonds (both cash and insurance) in respect of the completion of unfinished housing estates, Ms. McConnell advised that: there were legal procedures in place for the drawing down of bonds; the Planning Department works with the developers and/or banks/receivers in the first instance in relation to the completion of unfinished housing estates and that where they are not successful, Planning Department is obliged to pursue enforcement procedures available to them in advance of the actual draw down of bonds. Ms. McConnell stated that: there are currently 461 housing estates in Galway County of which 47 have been taken in charge; there are currently 135 applications with the Council for the taking in charge of estates all of which are at various stages in this process; 9 of the taking in charge applications are going before the Plenary Council March Meeting; and the Planning Department are currently in discussions with the relevant banks/receivers with regard to 12 additional Housing Estates with a view to securing their satisfactory completion in a timely way. Ms. McConnell advised that the Planning Department have a good track record with regard to the drawing down of bonds and that bonds to the value of €712,000 have been claimed to date.

On the proposal of Cllr. Broderick which was seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly it was agreed to reject the proposal passed by Loughrea Municipal District members to commit €100k solely for Public Lighting in unfinished housing estates.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB14057

Cllr. M. Connolly expressed concern at the adverse publicity being given to Portiuncula Hospital and expressed his confidence in the hospital. All the members agreed with the sentiments as expressed by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed that additional investment and resources were needed for the hospital.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB14058

In response to Cllr. Burke, Mr. Molloy stated that no further correspondence had been received from Bord Na Mona with regard to the proposed National Cycle Route Dublin - Galway. Cllr. Donohue advised that he had received correspondence from Bord Na Mona in relation to this matter and he relayed the contents of this response to the members.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Molloy advised that Galway County Council would be taking the lead role in Phase 1 of the Ballinasloe Main Drainage Advance Scheme incorporating Watermains Rehabilitation in Ballinasloe which is due to commence shortly and that Phase 2 of the Ballinasloe Main Drainage Advance Scheme & Street Enhancement Works would proceed immediately after Phase 1, the duration of Phase 2 he advised would be in the region of 6 to 9 months. Discussion took place with regard to the likely major disruptions within the Town likely to arise during the 12-18 month project and Mr. Molloy advised that the re-surfacing of the Main Streets would not be completed in advance of Phase 2 of the project being fully completed. Following discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly which was seconded by Cllr. Broderick it was agreed that Mr. Gavin, DOS be requested to identify and have works carried out on the Main Streets and Brackernagh in Ballinasloe as a matter of urgency. Mr. Molloy confirmed that the condition of these streets would be monitored and repaired as required.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly with regard to the dissolution of the River Suck Drainage Committee, Mr. Molloy advised that the Municipal Engineers in both Galway and Roscommon County Councils have met. Mr. Molloy advised that they were currently reviewing the situation with a view to drawing up a list of priorities and works on the main channel and Derrycahill Bridge were included in this review. Mr. Molloy advised that it is envisaged that works carried out would be carried out with hired in machinery.

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