

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara **Municipal District of Conamara**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held at the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Galway on 17th September 2015 @ 2.00 p.m

ILATHAIR:

Baill:

Cllrs. E. Mannion Cathaoirleach ,S. Walsh, T. Welby, S. Ó Tuairisg, N. Thomas, S. Ó Cualáin, T Ó Cuarraoin, T. Healy, N. Byrne.

Oifigigh:

G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance,
L. Gavin, Director of Services,
J. Leahy, Senior Engineer, Roads.
C. Wynne, S.E.E Roads
P.Breathnach S.E.E Conamara
K. Finn, Area Engineer S. Conamara
T. J Redmond Area Engineer N. Conamara
S. Groarke, Meeting Administrator.

Cllr. E. Mannion, Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Municipal Council welcomed John Leahy S.E to the meeting and complimented the outdoor staff and engineers for their response to the situation caused by the recent heavy rain in Conamara.

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14-7-2015

CMD 15031

The adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14-7-2015 was proposed by Cllr. N. Byrne and seconded by Comh. S. O'Tuairisg.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Comh. S. O'Tuairisg referred to the report on coastal protection and storm damage repairs presented by E. Molloy at the previous meeting and enquired in regard to the proposed survey of the coast at Leenane and at Kilmurvey Pier where the road is cracked on one side. C. Wynne advised that he would examine this. Comh. O'Tuairisg requested an update on the transport of petrol to Inishmore and advised that local people were prepared to collect the jerry cans from the boat when it docks as leaving the petrol on the pier was too risky and

not in compliance with the Department of Marine regulations. J. Leahy advised that for the present the customers who purchased the petrol will have to make arrangements to collect the jerry cans directly from the boat as they cannot be left on the pier. K. Finn referred to the fact that the cargo operator was bound by safety regulations in regard to the transport of the petrol from the Galway docks to Kilronan. He stated that a risk assessment will have to be undertaken to find the proper solution as allowing persons to carry the jerry cans off the boat was a potential hazard-he referred to the fact that gas bottles were transported through the harbour in a safe manner. Comh. O’Cualain advised that the gas bottles were transported through the cargo pier and not the passenger pier and there are hazard signs displayed. Cllr. T. Welby agreed that the petrol is been transported in an unregulated way and that there is a requirement for a safe procedure to be implemented as soon as possible. Comh. O’Curraoin advised that common sense will have to prevail and a safe solution should be implemented without delay. Cllr. N. Thomas requested an update on the proposed barriers for the playground at Moycullen . K. Finn advised that quotations were sought for these barriers and he anticipated that they will be installed in the near future. Comh. O’Tuairisg requested an update on the public lights for Spiddal and was advised by K. Finn that it was the local committee and not the Council who made the application to the E.S.B and he understood that there was an issue concerning the request for payment by the E.S.B Comh. O’Cualain advised that he provided NOM money for the lights at Spiddal and L. Gavin responded by stating that he would discuss this matter with him separately. Comh. O’Cualáin requested an update on the storm damage at Caladh Golam and was advised by C. Wynne that the matter was being examined and will go to contact in the future. Cllr. T. Healy referred to claims in the Connacht Tribune that the proposed works on the N59 Maam Cross to Oughterard were been held up due to disagreements concerning the N.P.W.S and the NRA. L. Gavin advised that the claims were not correct as the Council was working with the relevant specialists and the N.P.W.S in order to secure agreement on the method statements. Cllr. Healy enquired if member states had any leeway as regards the requirements of EU Directives to which L.Gavin advised that they were binding once they were transposed into Irish Law. Cllr. E. Mannion expressed her appreciation for the works undertaken by the Council at Turbot. Comh. O’ Tuairisg referred to the bridge at Cill Chiaráin and was advised to consult with the Area Engineer in regard to this. L. Gavin requested the Councillors not to place minor matters on the agenda as these can be dealt with by reference to the Area Engineer.

Declaration of Road to be a Public Road-Section 11 Roads Act 1993

CMD 15032

On the proposal of Comh. O’Tuairisg , seconded by Comh. O’Cualáin the road commencing at the junction with local road L52055 Teach Mór, Indreabhán in the townland of an Lochan Beag and extending east for 136.5 metres was declared to be a public road.

Rates Remission-Business Community Moycullen

CMD 15033

Cllr. Thomas referred to the detrimental effect that the roadworks were having on the business community at Moycullen and requested a rates remission as some of them were forced to lay off staff. G. Mullarkey advised that these roadworks improvements were of significant benefit to the local community and there was no option under legislation to allow for a rates remission in regard to this- current remissions applied to vacant property. He referred to the fact that roadworks were being undertaken throughout the country and no

rates remissions were ever granted. Cllr. Mannion referred to the fact that various towns throughout the county such as Tuam, Barna, Loughrea & Clifden get their turn as regards roadworks and have to endure the inconvenience for a certain period of time-the community reaps the benefit when they are completed.

Dooneen Pier-Letterfrack

CMD 15034

Comh. S. O'Tuairisg raised the issue concerning the need for steps at the head of the pier and was advised by C. Wynne that he has undertaken a survey in regard to this.

R-374 slippery surface at Thir an Fhia Church

CMD 15035

L. Gavin advised that this matter has been dealt with.

Review of Beach Bye-Laws

CMD 15036

It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

N59 at Letterfrack & Traffic Calming Measures

CMD 15037

L. Gavin advised that these works are been undertaken and the Council is currently in contact with the NRA concerning the pedestrian crossing.

NOM-Cllr T. Welby –Loading Bays Oughterard Traffic Mgmt Plan

CMD 15038

L. Gavin advised that he will examine this proposal and revert back to Cllr. Welby.

Wormwheel Bridge-Seanaféistin

CMD 15039

J. Leahy advised that a contractor has been appointed and will commence work next week. The works will take up to 3 months to complete and a temporary bridge has been installed.

Road to Ce Pointe Pier-Carraroe

CMD 15040

Comh. O'Cualáin stated that the pier was damaged during the storm and the road needs to be tarred. K. Finn advised that this is a very narrow road and the contractor has to complete the works within the confines of the acquired land available.

Signage-Rosmuc & Cleggan

CMD 15041

Comh. O'Cualáin referred to the lack of signage for Rosmuc which is vital as the Pearse Center is under construction. Cllr. Healy advised of the need to provide signs for Cleggan as well as Inishboffin at Clifden and Cllr. Mannion stated that signage for Dog's Bay and Gurteen was required. Comh. O'Cualáin advised that there was no signs for Recess along the Wild Atlantic Way. L. Gavin advised that the purpose of the Wild Atlantic Way is related to the discovery of points and these are signposted. He advised that the Council will contact the NRA concerning the signage required for the N59.

Traffic Lights-N59 Roadworks at Moycullen

CMD 15042

Cllr. Byrne requested the Council to raise this matter with Wills Brothers Contractors again in order to synchronise the traffic lights at peak times to allow motorists travelling from Moycullen to Galway better access especially during the morning peak flow- she stated that it took her 30 minutes to get through Moycullen that morning. Cllr. Welby stated that it took him 26 minutes. L. Gavin stated that the Council had consulted Wills Brothers concerning the sequencing of the traffic lights during peak traffic flow. He stated that the Council will review the matter and raise it with them again. He advised that the roadworks are currently moving away from the village which should help and that Wills Brothers indicated that they are scheduled for completion on the first week of December. Cllr. Walsh advised that the utilization of the workmen with the Stop/Go signs does help the situation- Cllr. Thomas stated that they should be deployed at the Texaco service station in order to prevent the buildup of large traffic volumes. Cllr. Byrne requested that Council staff assigned to the Area Office be available to monitor the situation.

Municipal District Director's Business

CMD 15043

L. Gavin advised that the Department has provided funding for the erection of signs regarding restricted speed limits in housing estates and this will be included as an item on the next agenda. Cllr. Healy enquired about the placement of rubber strips in housing estates to control the speed of traffic but was advised by L. Gavin that the funding refers to signage.

Cathaoirleacht's Business

CMD 15044

Cllr. E. Mannion welcomed the fact that a special meeting had been requested by the Cathaoirleach Peter Roche to discuss the proposed changes to the air service to the Aran Islands which is provided by Aer Arann and the usage of Carnmore airport. Cllr. Healy requested an update on the N59 between Maam-Oughterard. L. Gavin advised that this consists of 2 sections. The first refers to Oughterard to Leim Bridge which the Council have planning permission to proceed to construction. He explained that the Council had to prepare method statements for the site investigation works- which have to be agreed with National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Environment section. The second section is Leim Bridge –Maam and this phase cannot commence until the first one is completed. He also confirmed that the Maam Cross-Clifden section is with Bord Planeala and the oral hearing is scheduled for the 10-11-2015. He also confirmed that the land acquisition for the Maam-Oughterard phase will continue. Cllr. S. Walsh referred to the proposed works for the Clooniffe Road and whether the Council could undertake emergency works on the section between the Home Farm Road- Doctor Winters. L. Gavin advised that the maintenance schedule will incorporate this. Councillors Mannion & Welby referred to the problem associated with caravan/motor home owners avoiding designated caravan parks to park and using car parks instead. They requested the Council to organize the placement of signs in the car parks in regard to this.

AOB

CMD 15045

Cllr. Healy advised that he received a complaint from the owner of a commercial truck concerning the encroachment of trees on the N59 between Glengowla-Moyard which have caused damage to his vehicle. L. Gavin requested him to contact the area office about this and

stated that the Council will contact the NRA concerning this matter -as the trees should be cut back. Cllr. Walsh referred to the walls constructed by the Council along the N59 in the past and the detrimental effect caused to them by the growth of sallows. L. Gavin advised that the Council will examine this matter. Cllr. Byrne enquired about the proposed footbridge for Oughterard and whether it was at the design stage. P. Breathnach advised that it was currently at the survey stage and the Council has engaged the services of an ecologist. Comh. O'Tuairisg enquired about the low cost accident scheme for An Tulach , the proposed works at Lettergesh and the need for the Council to examine the streams/gullies along the R-336 especially between Spiddal-Camus as they are causing flooding. He stated that he gave a list to the Area Engineer. He also enquired about the Council's emergency number. K. Finn advised that the Council has undertaken a scope of the works for An Tulach and will endeavour to complete it by the end of the year. C. Wynne advised that the Council was still at negotiation for the required land acquisition for Lettergesh and may have to extend the line. In regard to the streams/gullies along the R-336 between Spiddal-Camus P. Breathnach advised that the Council was still compiling a list of the storm damage and welcomed the input from the Councillors. In regard to the emergency number for the Council L. Gavin advised that a person requiring assistance should ring 999 or 112 and CAMP WEST will re-route the call to the appropriate Council number- he stated that there is a General Services Supervisor on call each weekend. Comh. O'Cualáin complained that buses were been parked in a dangerous way near continuous white lines between bad bends on the R-336. He also enquired about the commencement of hedge cutting along the R-336. J. Leahy advised that the Council was unable to undertake substantial hedge cutting as the budget was small. K. Finn advised that it was intended to engage a hedge cutting contractor soon but the Council has to operate within the budget. Comh. O'Tuairisg enquired if the Council could utilize community groups to undertake hedge cutting and was advised by K. Finn concerning the constraints imposed by health & safety and insurance issues. Cllr. Welby advised of the official opening of the Corrib Dale Grounds the following Saturday. Cllr. Mannion advised that the Clifden Arts Festival was scheduled to commence that evening and there is a program of events for 10 days. Comh. O'Tuairisg advised of the Sean O'Riordán seminar. Comh. O'Cualain advised that Rosmuc National School received an award under the Junior Entrepreneur Program and he requested the Municipal District to receive a presentation from the pupils at the next meeting.

CROCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN