

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 13th JULY, 2016 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. D. Burke

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. M. Connolly, A. Donohue, D. Connolly, M. Finnerty.

Oifigh: Ms. Catherine McConnell, A/Director of Services, Mr. J. Leahy, A/Senior Engineer, Mr. A. Headd, A/ Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Frank McEvoy, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. D. Croghan, Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator, .

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF (A) THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE, 2016 AND (B) THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH JUNE, 2016

MDB16039

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on the 8th June, 2016 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Donohue.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on the 8th June, 2016 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Donohue, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the June , 2016 Minutes of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe Minute No. – MDB16037 – Any Other Business – Page 4 – Planning Application for an Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) at Poolboy Landfill and stated that he was strongly of the view and thinks that it would be a positive development if people from the area were made aware of the details of this Planning Application.

In response to Cllr. Burke and with reference to MDB16032 – Page 2, Mr. Headd stated that the Roads and Transportation Department were currently working on applications for further Minor Works Schemes for submission to the OPW. He stated that a large number of schemes had been identified at this stage.

In response to Cllr. Donohue and with reference to MDB16038 – Page 4 – Mr. Headd stated that the Roads and Transportation Department are currently looking at his request that

Galway County Council transfer or sell back land in Poolboy, Ballinasloe to its original owners and he stated that he hoped to have a response for Cllr. Donohue soon.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Ms. Gardiner advised that no response had been received from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government or the EPA with regard to the request from the members of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe on the 21st April, 2016 that legislation be put in place to allow County and City Councils operate a competitive tendering system for Domestic Waste Collection.

Approval of information to be included in the Annual Report 2015 in relation to the performance of functions by the Municipal District of Ballinasloe members in accordance with the Local Government Reform Act 2014 - Schedule 14A – Part 1, Section 221.

MDB16040

On the proposal of Cllr. Finnerty which was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, it was agreed that the following information would be included in the Annual Report 2015, in accordance with the Local Government Reform Act 2014 – Schedule 14A-Part 1, Section 221 in relation to the performance of functions by the members of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

“The members of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe met monthly with the exception of August in 2015. The Annual General Meeting was held on 10th June, 2015 where Cllr. Michael Finnerty was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Donal Burke was elected Leas Cathaoirleach for 2015/2016.

At their meeting on 18th February, 2015 the members approved the Municipal District Schedule of Works 2015 and the 3 Year Multi Annual Roads Programme for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

The members previewed the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015-2021 at their meeting on 8th April, 2015. The members discussed submissions received on the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015–2021 at their meeting of 15th July, 2015 and submissions received on the proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015-2021 at their meeting on 14th October, 2015.

The members received an update from Ms. Catherina Blewitt, West Regional Business Relationship Manager, IDA at their meeting on 10th June, 2015.

On the 9th November, 2015 at the Draft Budgetary Plan 2016 Meeting, the members approved the draft General Municipal Allocation of €4,737,186 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

The Municipal District of Ballinasloe declared roads at two locations to be public roads and they approved the abandonment of one public road in 2015 in accordance with the Roads Act 1993. They also considered proposals in regard to speed limit bye-laws for housing estates in 2015.

The members received Deputations in 2015 from:

- a) The IFA with regard to National Cycle Route – Dublin to Galway
- b) Derrymullen Flood Study Group with regard to flooding issues in the Ballinasloe area
- c) Representatives from the Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd. with regard to digging up of Ballinasloe Town streets and its possible disruption on local businesses and
- d) Representatives from Clontuskert Heritage Committee with regard to the conversion of the Old School into a Community Centre at Clontuskert.

The members agreed to accept an invitation for the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe and an official to attend the 56th Fete des Vins d'Anjor by Stella DUPONT, Conseiller Général de Maine et Loire, Maire de CHALONNES SUR LOIRE on the 23rd and 24th May, 2015. The Cathaoirleach and Mr. Alan Farrell, Senior Executive Officer attended."

Speed Limits in Housing Estates

MDB16041

Mr. Headd referred to Circular RW 12/2015 (30 km/h speed limits in housing estates) as issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and he advised that in accordance with this Circular funding had been provided to Galway County Council for the continuation of the signage costs associated with the programme for the implementation on a phased basis of 30 km/h speed limits in suitable housing estates in the charge of Galway County Council in 2016. Mr. Headd stated that it was now intended, subject to the members approval, to introduce 30 km/h speed limits in the following housing estates in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe:

No.	Town/Village	Housing Estate Name
1	Ballygar	Sycamore Cove
2	Ballygar	Plunkett Park
3	Mountbellew	Grattan Park
4	Ballinasloe	Kilgarve Gardens
5	Ballinasloe	Kilgarve Park/Court
6	Ballinasloe	Rahbane
7	Ballinasloe	Woodlands
8	Ballinasloe	Hawthorn Crescent
9	Ballinasloe	Portnick Drive
10	Ballinasloe	The Pines
11	Ballinasloe	Cois na hAbhainn
12	Ballinasloe	Willow Park
13	Ballinasloe	Ashfield
14	Ballinasloe	Doire Beg
15	Ballinasloe	Hillcreest

Cllr. M. Connolly asked if a 30 km/h speed limit could be implemented at the "The Meadows" Estate, Mountbellew and Cllr. D. Connolly asked if consideration could be given to the introduction of a 30 km/h speed limit at "Meadowbrook" Estate, Ballinasloe. In response, Mr. Leahy stated that subject to funding being available, it was intended to introduce the 30 km/h speed limit in all of Galway County Council's Housing Estates. Mr. Leahy stated that subject to funding being available, he would consider Cllr. M Connolly's and Cllr. D. Connolly's additional requests and revert to them in this regard. On the

proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly which was seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly it was agreed to introduce the 30 km/h speed limits in the 15 Estates as set out by Mr. Headd.

Update in relation to Kilconnell Water Supply

MDB16042

Mr. Croghan, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services Department advised that on the 13th November, 2015 a Boil Water Notice was issued in relation Kilconnell and Ballyboggan G.W.S. and that on 9th December, 2015 the E.P.A. issued a direction directing I.W. to undertake an Action Plan to improve the supply and ensure that consumers had an adequately disinfected water at all times. I.W. , Mr. Croghan stated responded that they would: a) Seal and cap the borehole in accordance with Advice Note 14 - Borehole Construction and Well Head Protection, 2013; b) Carry out other works - Plastic Boode inserted into the existing 8 inch and retain a Hydro Geologist; c) Undertake the provision of Pressure Filters and reduce the abstraction rate; d) Require a Hydrologist to review the zone of contribution; e) Issue reminder letters to all farmers regarding the requirement to i) protect the source and ii) regarding safe use of pesticides; f) Commission a number of improvement works including the replacement of the UV system with one capable of operating below a UVT of 70% and f) review the control philosophy of the site including alarms and shut down points.

Mr. Croghan advised that on the 20th January, 2016 quotes were sought and that on 15th February, 2016 I.W. wrote to the Cappatagle G.W.S. seeking a supply and terms. Mr. Croghan stated that on 29th March, 2016 a camera survey was carried out on both Bore Holes which found the requirement for air scouring and cleaning out with Glycolic Acid. On the 1st April, 2016 Mr. Croghan stated that work started to bring the Creamery Bore Hole into service so as to allow an alternative supply for when work would start on the Kilconnell W.T.P. Borehole. Mr. Croghan stated that the creamery borehole was found to be up to standard construction requiring just a clean out and a new pump as well as some alterations to the control panel at the main WTP. On the 19th April, 2016 Mr. Croghan stated that a Hydrogeologist outlined a Programme to prove the Creamery borehole and that on the 27th April, 2016 the Creamery borehole was brought into service. Between 29th June-1 July 2016 Mr. Croghan stated that the Kilconnell borehole was scoured, a further camera inspection was undertaken and a geotextile sock was installed. On the 13th July, 2016 Mr. Croghan stated that I.W. updated the Councillors with regard to Kilconnell. He stated that I.W. confirmed that the works involving the cleaning, sealing, capping of boreholes and optimisation of pumping rates to minimise turbidity commenced on the site on the 29th June, 2016 and that a delay was encountered with the contractor commencing on the ground due to procurement issues. Mr. Croghan advised that works entailed the following: 1. Removal of the pump; 2. Completion of a repeated camera survey to examine the borehole; 3. Air scouring and cleaning of the borehole; 4. Additional camera survey and installation of the well screen. Mr. Croghan stated that a 3 day running to waste of this borehole was due to commence later on the week of the 11th July, 2016 together with a sampling programme and that the optimisation of the pumping rates and verification of data collation was due to commence the week after. Mr. Croghan stated that the turbidity levels would be monitored through the on-line SCADA over the months of July and August, 2016 and that a decision on the effectiveness of the works would be taken at that stage. In parallel with this, Mr. Croghan advised that the process of preparing

the planning application for the W.T.P. upgrades would continue. I.W. Mr. Croghan advised was providing regular updates to the E.P.A. and the H.S.E.

All of the members thanked Mr. Croghan for his comprehensive update. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Croghan stated that I.W. were unable to give any indication at this stage when the boil water notice for the Kilconnell scheme would be lifted. Mr. Croghan stated that a big test for the well would be following a heavy rainfall and should it pass this test he stated that it was likely at that stage that consideration would be given by I.W. to lift the boil water notice. Cllr. D. Connolly stated that it was unacceptable as people in this area were trying to run family homes and businesses. Cllr. D. Connolly stated that overall the issue was being fudged by I.W. Cllr. D. Connolly stated that I.W. had spent in the region of €700,000 in an advertising campaign on RTE yet he stated that they could not ensure that the citizens of the state have good quality water. Cllr. D. Connolly stated that the people of Kilconnell deserved a proper drinking water supply and that it was the responsibility of I.W. to deliver this and that in 3 to 4 months time another update should be provided to the members in relation to Kilconnell W.S.

In response to Cllr. Donohue with regard to pollution, Mr. Croghan stated that the main problem is that the turbidity is higher than normal. Mr. Croghan stated that during heavy rainfalls UV comes down which he stated could be due to a build up of biofilm. Cllr. Donohue stated that in his opinion I.W. needs to explore the best solution long term for this ongoing matter.

Cllr. M. Connolly referred to the investment in Group Water Schemes over the past number of years and he stated that Group Water Supply Schemes are now in a better condition than Public Water Supply Schemes. Cllr. M. Connolly stated that I. W. continues to drag its heels and have failed to provide the investment which is required. With reference to the Creamery, Cllr. M. Connolly stated that this is a major industry in this region and that an alternative water supply was necessary should something go wrong. Cllr. M. Connolly stated that he has no faith in I.W.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB16043

Ms. McConnell, A/Director of Services referred to the resolution passed at the Municipal District of Ballinasloe Monthly meeting in June, 2016 that "Ballinasloe Municipal District receive a report on staffing levels for our District Area. Report to include staff losses over the last 18 months and anticipated losses over the next year and the Council's plans for staffing levels across the services delivered by Council in Ballinasloe Municipal District and Civic Offices at our next crinniú." Ms. McConnell stated that this request was being looked at and that she would give the members an update at the September, 2016 Municipal District of Ballinasloe Monthly Meeting.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the reduction in numbers of outdoor staff in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe due to ongoing retirements and he stated that the staffing level needs to be maintained. Cllr. D. Connolly stated that replacement staff should be permanent full time staff and not temporary/part time staff for summer months. Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the Gateway Scheme employees based in Ballinasloe and stated that

they had to be sent home because there was no Supervisor to oversee their work. Cllr. D. Connolly stated that this matter needed to be resolved speedily.

Mr. Leahy advised that the Roads & Transportation Department and the Human Resources Department had met with SIPTU the previous week and that the Council's plan was that the current outdoor staffing levels would be maintained in a permanent capacity. Mr. Leahy stated that the Roads and Transportation Department were currently in the process of developing a Plan which he stated he expected would be complete and in place for Autumn 2016. Mr. Leahy advised that it was not intended that the outdoor staffing levels would go back to the large number of outdoor workers which were employed pre the economic downturn, but he stated that it was the Council's intention to fill on a permanent basis any outdoor staff vacancies which would arise forthwith. Mr. Leahy stated that the Council was in the process of filling on a permanent basis General Services Supervisor vacancies which currently exist and he advised that it was the Council's intention to maintain outdoor staffing levels in a permanent capacity in the region 25/26 per Municipal District going forward.

Mr. Headd in response to Cllr. D. Connolly clarified that the Gateway Scheme is funded by the Department of Social Protection and that the Department of Social Protection have advised the Council that they are not in a position to provide funding for a Gateway Supervisor in Ballinasloe. Mr. Headd stated that Galway County Council cannot allow Gateway Scheme workers to be on site unsupervised.

Cllr. Donohue suggested that the Council consider working jointly with SOLAS with regard to the provision of Community Employment Schemes where works such as the enhancement of towns/villages could be undertaken. Ms. McConnell advised that Galway County Council currently have in the region of 80-90 Community Employment Scheme workers employed throughout the County of Galway and she explained that they are engaged in town and village enhancement type work.

Ms. McConnell referred to Galway's Bid for the European Capital of Culture 2020. Ms. McConnell stated the judges's decision would be announced on Friday 15th July, 2016 and that the Team had very high hopes of being successful in their bid. Cllr. M. Connolly commended the Team for the huge effort and work they had undertaken in making the bid and stated that in the event that they won that this would mean a lot both for the City and County of Galway.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB16044

Cllr. Burke referred to a leaked report which he stated he understood was recommending the closure of the Accident and Emergency Department in Portiuncla Hospital. Following discussion on the proposal of Cllr. Burke which was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, the following resolution was agreed: "I propose that this Municipal District Council write to Minister of Health, Simon Harris and seek an assurance from him that no downgrading or closure of the Emergency Department at Portiuncla Hospital will take place".

Cllr. M. Connolly stated that any suggestion to downgrade or close the A & E Department in Portiuncla would be a disaster. Cllr. D. Connolly stated that a Special Meeting needed to be called where all those with responsibility for this needed to be held to account. Cllr. D. Connolly stated that the staffing levels in the hospital needed to be addressed and that the hospital needed to be improved. Cllr. Finnerty stated that he wanted to reassure all of the members that there was no danger to the Accident and Emergency Department in Portiuncla Hospital.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MD816045

Cllr. Finnerty referred to the Ballinasloe October Fair 2016 which he stated was approaching and he stated that the issue of sulky racing needed to be addressed. Cllr. Finnerty suggested that the Ballinasloe October Fair Committee should meet sooner than later and that this issue should be addressed at their meeting.

Following discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly which was seconded by Cllr. Burke the following resolution was agreed: "I propose that the 1916 Proclamation be placed on the wall above the Cathaoirleach's seat".

Cllr. Donohue referred to the major announcement of 100 jobs at Creagh Medical, Ballinasloe plus a €7m investment both which he stated were very welcome. Cllr. Donohue also referred to the announcement of an investment of €9.5m for Ballinasloe Town for 2 x Research and Development Projects. Cllr. Donohue stated that in advance of Ballinasloe being chosen for these investments that a lot of Counties had been looked at. Following a discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. Donohue which was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, the following resolution was agreed: "I propose that the Ballinasloe Municipal District seek a representative from I.D.A. Ireland to attend a future meeting in 2016 to outline their plans for further employment progress in Ballinasloe".

Cllr. D. Connolly asked if Galway County Council would consider replacing CCTV at a troubled spot in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe. Cllr. D. Connolly stated that the cost involved would only be a fraction of the spend if disruption were to happen in the area. Cllr. M. Connolly stated that he raised this matter previously at the Joint Policing Committee Meeting and advised that it would be necessary to write to the Joint Policing Committee and request their approval for a small amount of funding in support of this measure.

Cllr. D. Connolly asked if double yellow lines could be provided outside the Railway Hotel, Ballinasloe and he asked when the next Speed Limit Review was due to be undertaken. Cllr. D. Connolly stated that minor adjustments needed to be made at Moher and Aughrim. In response, Mr. Leahy stated that the National Speed Limit review was ongoing and that Galway County was part of this. Mr. Leahy stated that it was hoped that this process would be completed in 2017. Mr. Leahy asked that members forward their proposals for same to the Roads & Transportation Department for further consideration.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU

Submitted, Approved and Signed

David Burke

(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

14/9/2016

(Date)