

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017 AT 2.00 p.m.

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. D. Burke

### **I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

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

**Oifigigh:** Ms. C. McConnell, A/Director of Service, Mr. M. Timmins, A/Director of Service, Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Ms. M. Ní Chionna, Senior Engineer, Ms. N. Heffernan, Administrative Officer, Mr. A. Headd, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. F. McEvoy, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, A/Assistant Engineer, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer

### **RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY**

FMDM Sisters, Franciscan Convent, Garbally Drive, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway  
Mrs. Mary and Mr. Michael Sammon, 33 St. Josephs Place, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.  
Mr. Martin Naughton, Garbally, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.  
Mr. Patrick and Mrs. Helen McNamara, Derrymullen, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.  
Mr. Martin Ward, 82 Hymany Park, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2017**

MDB17005

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Donohue.

### **Matters arising from the Minutes**

In response to Cllr. Donohue and with reference to MDB17001 Page 2, Ms. Gardiner advised that no response had been received to date from the HSE with regard to the current status of the old St. Brigid's Hospital in Ballinasloe Town. Cllr. Donohue expressed his disappointment that no response had been received. Ms. Gardiner agreed to send a reminder to the HSE regarding same.

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference to MDB17004 Page 4, Mr. Timmins advised that the disposal of lands was a Reserved Function of Galway County Council. Mr. Timmins advised that the situation with regard to the lands adjacent to the motorway was complex in that while Galway County Council owned the lands, TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) had a veto over the disposal of the land as they had paid for the purchase of the land and he explained that the monies in question go back to TII when the land is sold. Mr. Timmins advised that Auctioneers had been procured via tender to sell the lands in question and that Galway County Council had to ensure correct procedure was followed at all times with regard to the disposal of the lands. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Timmins advised that Galway County Council were not obliged by legislation to offer the lands back to the original landowners. In response to Cllr. Donohue, Mr. Timmins stated that the bulk of the lands are valuable parcels of land and that it is not open to the Council to offer a parcel of land to only one landowner as the Council is obliged to follow the procurement process. Cllr. Broderick stated that numerous pieces of such land have no access rights.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty and with reference to MDB17001 Page 2, the following resolution was agreed "I propose that we get a written report on the number of Municipal District (Beal Atha na Slua) staff that have left the service in the last 18 months and what replacements have been employed from the issue of report".

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB17001 Page 1, Ms. McConnell advised that the management of the Dunlo Recreational Track was the responsibility of the Corporate Services Department of Galway County Council. Mr. Headd advised that the Municipal District of Ballinasloe is involved in the maintenance and repair of the facility.

In response to Cllrs. Finnerty and M. Connolly and with reference to MDB17004 Page 3, Ms. McConnell advised that the Part 8 application in respect of Garbally Drive, Ballinasloe must be dealt with at the next Plenary Council Meeting and that it cannot be deferred any further.

With reference to the January Resolution of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe on the matter of obtaining a costing to take in charge Glebe Road at Aughrim with a view to having Notice of Motion monies allocated towards same, Mr. McEvoy provided the following response: "The cost estimate for bringing the above road up to public road standard is €30,000. The length of road in question is approximately 150m with varying width and ending at the entrance gate to the Church & Graveyard. Area = 1100 m<sup>2</sup> approx. This estimate does not include for the provision of footpaths or additional public lighting".

**TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS (SMDW) 2017  
(TO INCLUDE ROADS PROGRAMME AND ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING, RECREATION AND  
AMENITY SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE)**

MDB17006

Mr. Mitchell presented the Draft Roads Programme 2017. Mr. McEvoy and Mr. McLynn presented the Proposed Restoration Improvement Programme 2017, the Proposed Tertiary Roads Programme 2017 and the Proposed Surface Restoration Programme 2017 for both the Ballinasloe North and Ballinasloe South Engineering Areas.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that the €25,000 reduction in the Budget for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe had been reflected in the Local Roads Maintenance Budget of €317,255 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

All of the members complemented the staff of the Roads & Transportation Department for all of their work in the preparation of the Draft Road Works Programme.

Cllr. M. Connolly and Cllr. Donohue welcomed the funding for the Tertiary Roads Programme 2017. In response to Cllr. Finnerty regarding lighting at exits 14 and 15 on the Motorway Network, Mr. Timmins advised that this matter should be raised with Transport Infrastructure Ireland who he stated are directly responsible for same via their lighting policy on motorways.

Following a discussion with regard to a possible contribution of €300,000 for road projects in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe emanating from the Kilconnell Landfill Project, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Timmins both advised that they would need time to ascertain the availability of the monies and to assess if there was criteria attached to how the monies could be used. On the proposal of Cllr. Broderick, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly the following proposal was made: "We wish to propose the allocation of €150,000 of €300,000 which will be returned to the Ballinasloe Municipal District on foot of the re-opening of the Greenstar Landfill Facility towards the part rehabilitation of the Fahy Road, Kilconnell". Subsequent to this, on the proposal of Cllr. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Donohue the following amended resolution was passed: "I propose an amendment to the proposal that €300,000 fund available to the roads fund be deferred to the March Meeting at which the Director of Services for Environment will attend".

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Headd advised that the Roads Programme 2017 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe was based on the 3 Years Multi Annual Roads Programme which had been approved by the Councillors in February 2016. He advised that additional projects being added to the 2017 Road Programme would mean the removal of existing projects.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Mitchell advised that the Town & Village Improvements and Maintenance Budget would be split as per 2016.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that €30k was available to provide directional signage to villages.

The Draft Roads Programme 2017 and the Draft Municipal District Schedule of Works 2017 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe were approved on the proposals of Cllr. Donohue, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly.

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

MDB17007

Mr. Headd presented an update on the OPW Non-Coastal Minor Works Schemes and Applications – Feb 2017. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Ms. Ní Chionna advised that projects that haven't met the Cost Benefit Analysis criteria would have to be assessed under the upcoming Individual Property Location Schemes or Relocation Schemes.

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

MDB17008

Following discussion on the issue of flooding at Clonfert, Kylemore/Laurencetown and the possible impact of embankments on Bord Na Mona lands, on the proposal of Cllr. Burke, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly the following resolution was agreed: "I propose that the Municipal District write to Bord na Móna and request a meeting between them and the Municipal District Engineering staff and to confirm if, prior to the construction of peat protection embankments at Clonfert and Kylemore, Bord na Móna conducted an impact study to ensure these embankments would have no negative flooding impact on houses in the vicinity of Kylemore (Laurencetown), Clonfert, Esker and elsewhere along the Suck and Shannon and if planning permission was requested or sought for the same embankments".

Following a discussion with regard to a Creagh Public Meeting which was attended by Councillors, Mr. Headd asked that the full list of issues discussed at the meeting be provided to him so that he could report back on same.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

MDB17009

Cllrs. Finnerty, Donohue and D. Connolly all expressed concern at the rent increases which have been applied to Local Authority tenants in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe following Galway County Council's Rent Review. Cllr. D. Connolly handed in a copy of a signed petition in relation to this matter and asked that it be given to Mr. Michael Owens, Acting Director of Services with responsibility for the Housing Function which Ms. Gardiner agreed to do. Cllr. Broderick expressed his dissatisfaction with the policy of tenancy for life for Local Authority tenants. Cllr. Donohue stated that the Local Authority tenants when advised of the rent increases were told that they could contact the Staff Officer with responsibility for Revenue Collection but on doing so he advised that the Staff Officer with responsibility for Revenue Collection did not know anything about the rent increases which he stated was concerning.

On the proposal of Cllr. Donohue which was seconded by Cllr. Finnerty, the following resolution was agreed: "I propose that the staff and Councillors of the Ballinasloe Municipal Area meet with the Director of Services from the Environment Section of Galway County Council in relation to illegal dumping in the Ballinasloe area at the March Meeting."

On the proposal of Cllr. Donohue, seconded by Cllr. Broderick the following resolution was agreed "I propose that Breda Fox from the L.E.O. Office in Galway County Council address

the next Ballinasloe Municipal Meeting on 8th March, 2017 and furnish us with figures of Businesses and Start Ups they have supported in the Ballinasloe Municipal area in the past 2 years and the figures for the past 2 years county wide”.

**COUNCILLORS NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

MDB17010

**NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR. D. CONNOLLY**

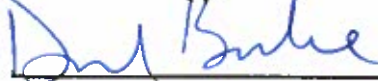
*The following reply was given:-*

“In this instance a Road Safety Audit is not applicable, however an inspection of the location will be considered by the Roads & Transportation Department of Galway County Council in consultation with the T.I.I. Regional Road Safety Engineer”

Following discussion, it was agreed that the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00 p.m. in the Municipal District Offices of Ballinasloe.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved and Signed



(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

8/3/17.

(Date)