

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 12th SEPTEMBER, 2018 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. D. Burke

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

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

Oifigigh: Mr. A. Farrell, A/Director of Service, Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Mr. F. McEvoy, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. G. Healy, A/Administrative Officer, Mr. M. Clifford, Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

Mrs. Bridgie Smyth, Curnamuckla, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Mrs. Olive Griffin, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Mr. Gerry Carrick, 10 Sarsfield Drive, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Mr. Francis Walshe, Liscappul, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Mrs. Peggy Finn, 11 Kilgarve Court, Creagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Mr. Seamus Lyons, Creggane, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Bishop John Kirby, Diocesan House, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11th JULY, 2018

MDB18036

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday, 11th July, 2018 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty.

Matters arising from the Minutes

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB18031 Page 2 in relation to the proposed Poolboy Waste Transfer Station Mr. Farrell advised that the Environment Department had clarified that as the High Court review has not yet been completed, the Council would therefore have to await the outcome. Mr. Farrell also stated that the Environment Department in the Council have examined the regulations and there is no provision for a Local Authority to request that works are not to be carried out on a permitted site while there is a High Court appeal pending. Mr. Farrell stated that it is open to the members to contact the Environment Department for a further update at any time and that if they wished they could ask them to attend a meeting with the MD members.

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference to MDB18031 Page 1, Mr. Mitchell advised that the Speed Limit Review Statutory Process was ongoing and that the Report on the Draft Road Traffic Special Speed Limits County Galway Bye-Laws 2018 would be brought before the members at the October 2018 Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

With reference to MDB18031 Page 2, Cllrs Broderick, Donohue and Burke expressed disappointment that the Minister of State for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief had not yet visited the Municipal District of Ballinasloe and those households who have been refused funding for Minor Works Schemes.

In response to Cllr. T. Broderick and with reference to MDB18035 Page 3, Mr. Mitchell stated that it was intended that the Accommodation Works for the Nutfield Cross Project would be completed by the end of 2018.

With reference to MDB18034 Page 3, Cllr. Donohue welcomed the provision of funding by Waterways Ireland for the restoration of the Meelick Weir Walkway and the attendance of Dawn Livingstone, Waterways Ireland at the October, 2018 Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe. Following discussion on the proposal of Cllr. D. Burke, seconded by Cllr. Broderick, the following resolution was agreed: "I propose that an invitation be extended to elected members of the Loughrea Municipal District to attend the October Meeting of this Ballinasloe Municipal District for an update from Waterways Ireland in relation to the Pier at Meelick and future plans in relation to its integration into the Hidden Heartlands Initiative".

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB18037

Ms. Healy presented an update on the Ballinasloe Horse Fair & Festival. Ms. Healy advised that the Fair has become one of the most visited tourist attractions in Ireland, attracting up to 80,000 visitors over the week of the events and that it is one of the most important social and economic events in Ballinasloe. Ms. Healy advised the members in relation to the work of: the Ballinasloe Fair & Festival Committee and the Co-Ordinating Committee and also in relation to the specific role which Galway County Council undertakes. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Ms. Healy advised that the full schedule of events is available on the Fair & Festival Website. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Farrell advised that Galway County Council follow the expert advice of IPB Insurance with regard to insurance requirements for the Fair. Mr. Farrell advised that Galway County Council have general public liability insurance for the Fairgreen Area and that it is the responsibility of the Fair & Festival Committee to provide insurance for the Lunging Area and that this was based on the advice received and confirmed to the Fair & Festival Committee. Cllrs. Broderick, M. Connolly and Finnerty expressed concern at the high costs of insurance premiums for the Fair & Festival Committee and the impact this could have on future Fairs. Cllr. D. Connolly asked that consideration be given to the provision of financial assistance towards the Fair & Festival Committee when the Annual Budget of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe is being prepared.

Mr. Clifford, Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented a detailed update on the Wildland Fire Incidents which occurred in June/July, 2018. Mr. Clifford stated that in total Galway Fire Service responded to 378 calls, of which 275 were wildland related between the dates of 23rd June and the 19th July, 2018. Mr. Clifford advised that 21 of the callouts were based in the Ballinasloe area, 19 of the callouts were based in the Portumna area with 11 of the callouts located in the Crit Island/Caltralea Area.

Mr. Clifford explained the impact which the weather conditions had in accelerating the fires and provided drone footage showing the extent of the fires. Mr. Clifford outlined in detail: the work involved by Galway Fire Service in addressing the Wildland Fire Incidents; the impact which the Wildland Fire Incidents had on Galway Fire Services staffing resources; the costs incurred which he stated had not yet been fully finalized (in the region of 15% of the Fire Services overall budget) and the resulting extensive damage to the environment and landscape. Mr. Clifford advised that should similar events become the norm, consideration would need to be given to the provision of additional training, equipment and specialized vehicles for Galway Fire Service.

All the members thanked Mr. Clifford for his very comprehensive presentation and paid tribute to the Galway Fire Services for their dedication and commitment and all of their work in particular during this dry period. All of the members also paid tribute to local communities for their work and co-operation with the Fire Services.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB18038

No business arising.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB18039

Cllr. D. Connolly said that he welcomed Grant allocations for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe area provided under the Community Enhancement Programme 2018 as approved by the LCDC. Mr. Farrell advised that the LCDC had been requested that a moratorium was placed on announcing the grants until all grants nationally were ready to be announced.

Cllr. D. Connolly asked that the issue of additional funding being provided for the Aughrim Interpretive Centre be discussed when preparing the Annual Budget of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe with a view to ensuring that it is adequately resourced throughout the year. Mr. Farrell indicated that it was likely that this is something that would have to be considered in terms of the development of the overall budget for the Council.

Discussion took place in relation to concerns regarding anti-social behavior and in response to Cllrs. Broderick, D. Connolly and M. Connolly, Mr. Farrell clarified that there were shared responsibilities in relation to dealing with anti-social behavior and that this involved An Garda Siochana, the Council, communities and a number of other stakeholders. He said that the Tenancy and Estate Management Unit of the Housing Department had a role to play in relation to anti-social behavior on local authority estates and that they deal with

same under the Council's Policies and Procedures. Mr. Farrell stated that illegal activity matters and criminal activity are matters which must be referred to An Garda Siochana. Mr. Farrell also stated that the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) provides a forum where Galway County Council, Local Authority Members, An Garda Siochana, Community Members and Oireachtas members can consult, discuss and make recommendations on issues relating to policing and crime including anti-social behavior activities.

Following a discussion on the proposed Athenry to Claremorris Greenway, Cllr. Burke stated that this matter was an item on the Agenda for the next Plenary Council Meeting and it was agreed that the most appropriate forum for the discussion of this matter was at the Plenary Meeting of the 24th September, 2018.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the October Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday, 10th October, 2018 @ 2.p.m.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed



(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

10/10/18

(Date