

**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council  
held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016,  
at 2.00 p.m., in City Hall, College Road, Galway.**

<b><u>Presiding:</u></b>	<b>Cllr. N. Larkin, Mayor of the City of Galway</b>
<b><u>Present:</u></b>	<b>Councillors: B. Cameron, C. Ó Conchúir, P. Conneely, C. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, O. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, M. Farrell, P. Flannery, P. Keane, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis and T. O'Flaherty.</b>
<b><u>In Attendance:</u></b>	<b>Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive</b> <b>Mr. J. O'Neill, Director of Services</b> <b>Mr. T. Connell, Director of Services</b> <b>Ms. E. McCormack, Head of Finance / Director of Services</b> <b>Ms. E. Ruane, A/Director of Services</b> <b>Mr. D. Mahon, Meetings Administrator</b> <b>Mr. J. Tansey, Senior Engineer</b> <b>Mr. G. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer</b> <b>Ms. L. Mitchell, Senior Executive Officer</b> <b>Ms. S. Carroll, A/ Administrative Officer</b> <b>Ms. O. Lawless, Clerical Officer.</b>
<b><u>Apologies/Absent:</u></b>	<b>Councillors: J. Walsh and A. Marley.</b>

Mayor Larkin welcomed Councillors to the July Ordinary Meeting and stated his intention to clear all items on the Agenda for today's meeting.

## **1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

### **(a) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

<b>Proposed:</b>	<b>Cllr. D. Lyons</b>	<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Cllr. B. Cameron</b>
<b>Matters Arising:</b>	<b>A synopsis of matters arising is outlined below:</b>		
<b>Cllr. B. Cameron</b>	<b>Referred to Motions submitted at the May meeting but not considered and requested their consideration at the July Meeting. This was agreed. Requested consideration of a civic reception for Connacht Rugby.</b>		
<b>Cllr. T. O' Flaherty</b>	<b>Queried status of moratorium on staff recruitment.</b>		
<b>Cllr. P. Conneely</b>	<b>Referred to social media post and requested an update.</b>		
<b>Cllr. P. Flannery</b>	<b>Sought update on meetings with Irish Water Safety.</b>		
<b>Cllr. D. Lyons</b>	<b>Sought an update on local consultation with residents on proposed Ballymoneen Road housing development.</b>		

Cllr. M. Farrell	Sought an update on meeting with Credit Unions in relation to support for funding social housing developments.
Cllr. N. McNelis	Sought an update on Irish Water Safety (IWS) audit.
Cllr. C. Connolly	Referred to reference in the minutes to seeking legal advice and noted that she had sought legal advice from the Department and not Galway City Council before the meeting.
Cllr. M. Cubbard	Sought clarifications on installation of CCTV and funding availability and timescale for installation at various locations.

Replies to queries and requests for clarifications and updates were provided by Mr. J. O'Neill Director of Services, Ms. E. Ruane, A/ Director of Services and Mr. T. Connell Director of Services.

**It was proposed by Cllr. B. Cameron and seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty to accord a civic reception to Connacht Rugby to acknowledge their achievement in winning the 2016 Pro 12 Final.**

**In Favour: 11      Against: 0      Abstain: 0      Present: 11**

**The Motion was carried.**

#### **(b) Minutes of Special Meeting of Galway City Council – Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

<b>Proposed:</b>	Cllr. D. Lyons	<b>Seconded:</b>	Cllr. B. Cameron
<b>Matters Arising:</b>	A synopsis of matters arising is outlined below:		
Cllr. M. Cubbard	Referred to minutes where the Mayor requested a member of the public to vacate the Chamber for comments issued and stated that he had been referred to as 'useless and an embarrassment' by the member of the public during and after the Meeting and wished it recorded that he was not satisfied with the comments issued.		
Cllr. O. Crowe	Referred to ECOC bid and grass cutting issues in the city and stated his dissatisfaction with the delay in cutting grass at city roundabouts and estates.		
Cllr. T. O'Flaherty	Referred to her Motion adopted at the June Ordinary Meeting calling for roundabouts to be cut.		
Cllr. P. Conneely	Referred to comments recorded and attributed to Cllr. C. Connolly and requested she withdraw the remark 'misogynistic' directed towards a number of members at the Meeting. Requested that the member of the public who uttered comments towards Cllr. Cubbard not be allowed enter the Chamber in future.		
Cllr. D. Lyons	Referred to grass cutting in the city and sought an update. Referred to issues at Kingston Road that require attention and had been raised a number of years previously.		
Cllr. P. Flannery	Referred to comments also uttered to him after the meeting by a member of the public referring to him as a 'disgrace'. Referred to grass cutting and issue		

with roundabouts in the city and the urgency of same. Referred to removal of mural at Claddagh Jewellers on Shop St.

Cllr. M. Farrell	Referred to concerns in relation to grass cutting at roundabouts that have become dangerous in certain locations.
Cllr. T. O'Flaherty	Referred to Motion 13/16 in relation to grass cutting and stated her dissatisfaction that the issue had remained unresolved. Referred to previous discussions with the Galway Clinic to maintain the roundabout adjacent to the Clinic. Noted recent cuts at certain
Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir	Referred to Kingston Road and issues relating to elimination of Japanese Knotweed in the city.
Cllr. M. Cubbard	Referred to staffing arrangements in the Parks Department and sought clarification on staff resources.
Cllr. B. Cameron	Referred to links being made to operational issues, ie grass cutting and the Capital of Culture bid and urged Councillors not to associate negative comment with the bid.
Cllr. MJ Crowe	Referred to grass cutting issues and resources required compared to a comparative lack of resources for the Capital of Culture bid.

Replies on the issues raised and clarifications sought were provided by Mr. T. Connell Director of Services who advised Councillors that the grass cutting situation was currently not up to standard and outlined measures underway to address the situation including allocation of additional staff resources and agreement to contract out grass cutting at roundabouts in consultation with Union representatives. Mr. Connell assured Councillors that matters were being treated with urgency and priority and referred to a planned efficiency review of operations to be undertaken to feed into the budget 2017 process. It was noted that capital investment in fleet and plant was required. Mr. Connell referred Councillors to onerous health and safety requirements that must be adhered to and gave commitments to address the issues raised where possible.

**(c) Minutes of Annual Meeting of Galway City Council - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 9<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Proposed:** Cllr. T. O'Flaherty                      **Seconded:** Cllr. D. Lyons

**(d) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**Proposed:** Cllr. D. Lyons                      **Seconded:** Cllr. M. Farrell

**Matters Arising:** A synopsis of matters arising is outlined below:

Cllr. N. McNelis	Referred to Galway City Innovation District (GCID) presentation and requested another opportunity to consider the issues raised. Requested regular updates on progress in implementation of the Heritage Plan.
Cllr. P. Conneely	Referred to Motion adopted to install a plaque for Walter Macken and noted that his interpretation of 'subject to funding' referred to all actions in the Arts Plan, not specifically the Walter Macken plaque. Requested further

information on status of the tourist office and replies from Failte Ireland on queries issued including lease and planning permission issues.

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|---------------------|---|
| Cllr. O. Crowe      | Requested an update on provision of cemetery facilities, Browne Doorway and replica statue of P. O'Connaire and planned installation in Eyre Square. Proposed that a civic reception for Connacht Rugby would also include an acknowledgement for Mr. N. Carolan and his achievements with the Ireland U20 team at the recent Rugby World Cup. This was seconded by Cllr. P. Flannery.                |
| Cllr. T. O'Flaherty | Complimented work undertaken in grass cutting in certain estates in the city and queried health and safety requirements in the city over other cities. Requested an update on proposed installation of CCTV systems, consultation process and timelines.  |
| Cllr. D. Lyons      | Requested that where representations are made by Councillors to approved housing bodies that copies of all correspondences would be made available. Referred to tourist office and legal advice sought and received.  |
| Cllr. P. Flannery   | Referred to recent public meeting attended by approved housing bodies and assurances received that correspondence would issue in due course and noted that it had not. Noted that health and safety should not be used as an excuse of inaction in cutting grass at roundabouts. Requested that full version of legal advice sought by Council on issues should be made available to elected members. |
| Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir | Referred to requirement to address Japanese Knotweed issues in the city and requested update on tourist office in the city and premises in Salthill.  |
| Cllr. C. Connolly   | Requested an update on Motion referring to release of Mr. Ibrahim Halawa.   |
| Cllr. M. Cubbard    | Requested an update on proposed installation of CCTV at certain locations and queried the delay in installation of same.  |
| Cllr. MJ Crowe      | Raised issues for clarification in relation to Failte Ireland proposals for tourist office in the city.   |
| Cllr. D. McDonnell  | Referred to grass cutting requirements at roundabouts at Galway Clinic and Renmore and queried why issues had arisen this year.   |

Comprehensive replies were provided to queries raised and requests for clarification by Mr. J. O'Neill, Mr. T. Connell and Ms. E. Ruane Directors of Services and Mr. G. McMahon A/ SEO. Mr. O'Neill referred to the importance of complying with health and safety regulations and the impact this can have on managing operations. Ms. Ruane referred to further correspondence and planned meeting with Failte Ireland and advised that a report would be issued to Councillors to provide updates on issues raised at the meeting. Mr. McMahon outlined proposals and timelines for return of replica statue of Pádraic Ó Conaire to Eyre Square. Mr. Connell gave further replies and clarifications on grass cutting issues raised and assured Councillors that the issues raised are being

dealt with as a matter of urgency. In a discussion on legal advices received, Cllr. P. Flannery questioned the accuracy of replies received from Mr. T. Connell and accused Mr. Connell of telling lies on the matter. Cllr. Flannery then withdrew the comment and stated that untruths were being told.

## **2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE**

### **(a) Nomination for Appointment to Galway City Council Audit Committee**

Ms. E. McCormack Head of Finance advised Councillors that there is currently a vacancy on the Audit Committee, following the resignation of Ms. M. Dooley on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Ms. McCormack noted that regulations provide that nominations for appointment to the Audit Committee shall be made by the Corporate Policy Group following consultation with the Chief Executive and that the nominee shall be approved by the entire Council. Ms. McCormack referred to the CPG Report under Item 3 (a) and advised that the CPG had endorsed the nomination Ms. H. Kiely to sit on the committee and outlined her experience and suitability for the role.

**Ms. H. Kiely was proposed for appointment to the Audit Committee for the remaining term of the current Council by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell in line with the recommendation of the Corporate Policy Group.**

**In favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 12**

**The motion was agreed.**

### **(b) Capital Assistance Scheme – Raising of a loan under Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 for the acquisition of housing units at: - 12 Cluain Na Mara, Ballybrit, Galway**

### **(c) Capital Assistance Scheme – Raising of a loan under Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 for the acquisition of housing unit at: 4 The Stables, College Road, Galway**

It was agreed that Item 2 (a) and (b) would be taken together.

**The raising of a loan under S. 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 for the acquisition of housing units at 12 Cluain Na Mara, Ballybrit, Galway and 4 The Stables, College Road Galway was proposed by Cllr. D. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr. M. Cubbard.**

**In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11**

**The raising of a loan was agreed.**

### **3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

#### **(a) Corporate Policy Group 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2016**

The Corporate Policy Group Meeting Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> July was noted. Cllr. C. Connolly queried the closing date for applications under the Marketing Fund and this was clarified.

### **4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS**

#### **(a) Draft Galway City Street Performers Code of Conduct**

Cllr. N. McNelis requested that this Item be deferred until the next Meeting and outlined a number of reasons for same. Cllr. McNelis requested that an urgent meeting be arranged between the Council and An Garda Síochána to examine ways to enforce the provisions of the Noise Nuisance Act. Cllr. T. O'Flaherty acknowledged the comments from Cllr. McNelis but stressed that the matter had been on the agenda for some time and needed to be addressed. She agreed with the proposal to defer. Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir noted the work undertaken by the Environment SPC and noted that Dublin City Council were currently undertaking a review of its Bye-laws and this would feed into Council consideration of issues agreed in the code of conduct. Mr. T. Connell Director of Services provided clarification on a number of issues raised during the discussion.

**On the proposal of Cllr. N. McNelis and seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty it was agreed that 'An urgent meeting is organised with the Garda Superintendent re taking on the enforcement of the noise nuisance act in the city centre'**

**In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 12**

**The motion was agreed.**

The proposal of Cllr. N. McNelis and seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty to defer consideration of the Item 4(a) was unanimously agreed by the 12 Councillors present.

#### **(b) Traveller Accommodation Plan**

Mr. T. Connell Director of Services referred Councillors to the Report issued in February 2016 and subsequent update issued in April 2016 and outlined in detail the content of the Report and the proposals contained within. Mr. Connell referred to the comprehensive assessment undertaken of Council owned lands, the requirements agreed as part of the Traveller Accommodation Programme, the needs assessment and specific accommodation requirements to be met by the proposals in the Report, outlined the next steps in terms of development of specific designs, local consultation and planning process and securing necessary funding to deliver on developments approved.

A comprehensive debate on the Report followed with contributions received from Councillors: McDonnell, Lyons, Flannery, O'Flaherty, Farrell, Cubbard, McNelis, M.J. Crowe, Ó Conchúir, Connolly, Cameron, Larkin and Conneely. The debate included comment, queries and requests for clarification on a number of issues including location of existing traveller specific accommodation across the city, the suitability of halting site accommodation, fire safety audits on existing halting site facilities and issues arising from same, the suitability of certain sites outlined in the Report for the type of accommodation proposed, the requirement for a balance of accommodation across each of the City Wards, a preference for a mix of social and group housing schemes to provide

accommodation, the requirement to consult with local residents associations and groups formed who have expressed concern in relation to certain aspects of the proposal, whether funding had been secured to deliver on the proposals outlined, the costs of acquiring lands in Ballybane, requirement of solutions to be acceptable to local communities and the members of the travelling community.

Councillors also queried the Report of the meetings with Area Councillors in March and a number noted that they had received no notification of the meeting or were unable to attend. There was condemnation of the ongoing movement of caravans from location to location in the city in recent months and queries on the legal process in place to deal with such illegal encampments. There was general consensus that the halting site concept is no longer an appropriate form of accommodation and other options should be considered. Mr. Connell pointed out that the members had made provision for same in the Traveller Accommodation Programme and the proposals in front of the Councillors were bringing implementation to the Programme agreed. Site costs and suitability of the site in Ballymoneen Road was also noted and queried. Councillors queried the CENA project and their role in delivering on the proposals for halting site accommodation. Councillors acknowledged the work of the Housing Department in dealing with recent issues in Doughiska and noted the importance of compliance with the legal provisions available to deal with such matters.

There was acknowledgement and acceptance that the Council has legal obligations under national and European legislation to meet the accommodation needs of the travelling community but Councillors queried the particular provisions and accommodation solutions outlined in the Report and stated a number of concerns including lack of local consultation and issues of site suitability.

Mayor N. Larkin noted that the Council are obliged to consider the accommodation requirements for members of the travelling community and assured Councillors that a way forward could be found through engagement and consultation with the local community.

Mr. Connell, Director of Service, provided replies on queries raised and stressed that the Report provides an implementation route for the Traveller Accommodation Programme agreed with by the members. It was also stressed that the location requirements of the applicants must be considered and it was not simply a matter of designating sites evenly across the 3 City Wards. Mr. Connell stated that the Report is an initial plan for Councillor's consideration and detailed documents will come before the members in due course for further consideration.

It was also stated that detailed consultation would take place locally in areas considered for traveller specific accommodation and there was no issue in meeting local residents and residents associations as part of the process. Mr. Connell noted that a number of existing halting site facilities are overcrowded and solutions are now required to address this. In response to queries, Mr. Connell advised that detailed fire safety audits of existing facilities were completed and were issued to the Department for publication.

Mr. Connell clarified the Council's land acquisition policy and requirements or otherwise to bring proposals for the acquisition of lands before the Councillors. Mr. Connell also outlined the existing provisions to deal with tenancy sustainment and anti-social behaviour issues pertaining to all local authority tenants. Mr. Connell advised Councillors that the Department was notified of the proposals contained in the Report and that further detailed documentation would be required in advance of securing funding for delivery of the units, including Part 8 approval of the members.

The following Motion was proposed by Cllr. MJ Crowe and seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell *'I wish to propose that the Director of Services bring forward a report to this Council outlining the full*

*particulars and costs of the lands in Ballybane. And furthermore that the Director also seek approval of this Council before proceeding with the outright purchase of these lands’.*

Following consideration and clarification on the subject of the Motion it was withdrawn by Cllr. MJ Crowe without further consideration by the members. Cllr. MJ Crowe outlined the reasons for withdrawing the Motion. A Motion then proposed by Cllr. D. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr. B. Cameron was considered.

**Motion proposed by Cllr. D. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr. B. Cameron:**

**‘That the Housing Department release and publish the fire safety audits relating to halting site accommodation in Galway City’**

**In Favour: 16 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 16**

**The motion was agreed.**

At the conclusion of the debate, Mr. Connell advised Councillors that he intended to move forward with the detail outlined in the Report including detailed design, planning application and local consultation with relevant stakeholders including LTACC, traveller representative groups, local residents and the Department. Mr. Connell also agreed to provide the further information and clarification sought at the Meeting including size in acres of lands outlined in the Report as requested by a number of Councillors during the debate.

Mayor Larkin called for a 15 minute break and the Meeting reconvened at 5.45 pm

#### **(c) Chief Executive’s Report for July 2016**

Queries on issues outlined in the July Chief Executive’s Report were received from Cllr. Lyons in relation to Blackrock coastal walkway, Cllr. O. Crowe in relation to temporary library closures, Cllr C. Ó Conchúir in relation to Gaeltacht Service towns and installation of copies of the Proclamation in city owned premises, Cllr. M. Farrell in relation to the report of the Language Commissioner, Eamon Ceannt week, Bi-lingual city status and Circle of Life visit to Belfast, Cllr. T. O’Flaherty in relation to ECOC 2020 and Cllr. C. Connolly in relation to the recent housing conference, coastal walkway and commercial rates collection levels in the city.

Chief Executive Mr. McGrath provided detailed replies on the issues raised and referred to further reports to issue on a number of matters raised. Mayor Larkin provided an overview of the recent visit to the Circle of Life Garden in Belfast. Mr. G. McMahon A/SEO provided replies on the Proclamation query.

#### **(d) Chief Executive’s Report for June 2016**

June Chief Executive Report was noted.

#### **(e) Draft Parks and Beaches Bye Laws**

Mr. T. Connell Director of Services referred Councillors to the Report issued and the draft Parks and Beaches Bye Laws. Mr. Connell noted that the draft had been considered by the SPC who had agreed to issue to draft for public consultation in advance of consideration by Council for adoption later in the year. Mr. Connell referred to the requirement for the Bye Laws and outlined the



significant areas and issues covered in the draft document and the rationale for same. The requirement for enforcement was noted and discussed.

Comment, queries and clarifications were received and sought from Cllrs. T. O'Flaherty, N. McNelis, B. Cameron, D. Lyons, C. Connolly, M. Cubbard, MJ Crowe, C. Ó Conchúir, F. Fahy, O. Crowe, P. Conneely and P. Flannery on a range of issues including reference to horses on beaches, enforcement measures and controls, smoking in playgrounds, skateboard parks, requirement to notify the public of the existence of the bye laws once adopted, fines linked with tree climbing, rights of way at Lough Rusheen and the control of dogs on beaches.

Mr. Connell issued replies to the comments and queries and noted that issues raised would be taken on board. Mr. Connell outlined the consultation process and next steps in the process and noted the requirement for public participation in the process from this point forward.

**On the proposal of Cllr. B. Cameron and seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons it was agreed to issue the Draft Parks and Beaches Bye Laws for public consultation.**

<b>In Favour:</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Present:</b>	<b>13</b>
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#### **(f) Community Centres**

Ms. E. Ruane A/Director of Services provided an update on progress in relation to the management options for the Knocknacarra and Ballinfoile Community Centres and noted the meetings ongoing in both areas with representative groups. The proposed management arrangements were outlined and Ms. Ruane reported positive progress in each area. Ms Ruane stated that while agreement in principle was reached in each area final business plans and a legal framework were yet to be agreed.

Councillors raised a number of queries and requests for clarifications. Contributions were received from Cllrs. Lyons who referred to divisions in the Knocknacarra area that would require support, Cllr. MJ Crowe who raised concerns on the capacity of local groups to manage the centres and sought an update on Renmore Community centre works, Cllr. N. McNelis sought an update on the legal advice issued in relation to the Co-op and the timescale for the transfer of management of centres, Cllr. M. Cubbard sought information on proposed pedestrian crossing at Ballinfoile and welcomed the involvement of groups in the running of the Ballinfoile Centre, Cllr. F. Fahy compliment the work of Mr. L. Hanrahan on the bringing the various local groups together and requested an update on the funding requirements for each centre, Cllr. C. Connolly sought information on pedestrian crossing proposals, Cllr. P. Flannery stated the requirement for all groups to be accommodated in Knocknacarra and Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir sought information on the number of groups who made up the Co-op in Knocknacarra.

Detailed replies were provided by Ms. Ruane who also noted that an advisory oversight group would be established to oversee management of the facilities. The financial subsidy for each Centre was also clarified. Mr. T. Connell advised Councillors that works on the roof at Renmore are due to commence in August.

**(g) Quarterly Reports for Quarter Ending June, 2016**

- (i) Environment**
- (ii) Recreation & Amenity**
- (iii) Housing**
- (iv) Transportation**
- (v) Community, Culture & Economic Development**

Quarterly Reports were noted.

**(h) Galway European Green Leaf Capital 2017**

Dr. S. Carroll A/O delivered a presentation on the Galway European Green Leaf Capital 2017 recently awarded to Galway City. Ms. Carroll provided an introduction and overview of the Green Leaf concept and its specific objectives, the Green Capital award and the sustainable development objectives of the Green Leaf Award. It was noted that there were 10 cities seeking the designation in 2017 and Galway City was in the final short-listing of 3 and emerged with the final designation at a ceremony in Slovenia on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June. The 6 themes of the designation / award were outlined including; waste management, climate change and energy performance, bio-diversity and land use, water and waste water management, quality of air and acoustic environment. Ms. Carroll then outlined the measures undertaken under each theme.

The issues impacting on quality of life in the city were outlined and Ms. Carroll stated that the initiative was a collaborate whole of city effort and thanked all those who contributed to the attainment of the Award and designation for 2017. The designation was based on commitment, enthusiasm, capacity to delivery and depth of European links established. A programme of events for 2017 would now be prepared and Ms. Carroll outlined the detail of some of the events planned including membership of the Green Leaf Network.

Contributions, comments and queries were received from a number of Councillors who complimented Ms. Carroll on the Award and noted the significant achievement of the designation for the city. Contributions were received from Cllr. N. McNelis, O. Crowe, M. Farrell, C. Ó Conchúir, D. Lyons, T. O'Flaherty, M. Cubbard and C. Connolly. Mayor N. Larkin also spoke about the presentation ceremony and stated that it was of enormous pride to accept the award and represent the city in Slovenia. Mayor Larkin thanked and acknowledged the contributions from all the staff and external stakeholders into the successful designation and acknowledged the professional presentation of the day of the Award ceremony. Replies to comments and queries were provided by Ms. Carroll and the Chief Executive who provided further information on the designation, the requirement to develop further links with Europe, outlined the significance of the award for the city, referred to the branding narrative for the city under development and thanked all those who made a contribution to the designation.

**(i) Solas / Arthouse Cinema**

Mr. McGrath, Chief Executive, provided a detailed overview of the current status of the project and of the ongoing negotiations with all relevant stakeholders. Mr. McGrath advised the Councillors that as outlined in previous reports, when completed, the *Galway Picture Palace* project will comprise a three screen cinema, situated in the heart of Galway City. The cinema will form part of a cultural cluster in this area of the City, including the City Museum, Druid Theatre, An Taibhdhearc, and a number of other developments that are currently being planned. Work commenced on site in July,

2009 but ceased in 2011 when the contractor went into liquidation. Following a re-tendering process, work recommenced in March, 2012 with a new contractor and continued until Phase 1 was complete. The project is 80% complete. Phase 2 is largely internal fit-out and final completion.

In August 2015, agreement was reached with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht which would see City Council, on behalf of all the funders, taking on the responsibility of project managing the project to completion. At the Ordinary Meeting of October 2015, Council agreed to allow a further €242,000 funding towards the completion of the project in conjunction with the DAHG's commitment of an additional €735,000. It was also indicated at that time that Element Pictures Ltd., the operators of the Light House Cinema in Smithfield, Dublin, would become, with the DAHG's consent, the operators of the Galway Picture Palace. Element indicated at that time that they would invest €850,000 to complete the fit-out.

Extensive meetings over an extended period took place with all of the key stakeholders including the project promoters Solas Teo and the contractors J.J. Rhatigan & Co. Ltd. The process of re-starting works at the site on Spanish Parade/Lr. Merchants' Road has proved problematic over the intervening months. Mr. McGrath advised that following extensive negotiations involving all the stakeholders including the Department, Bórd Scannán na hÉireann, the Western Development Commission, Element Pictures Ltd., Solas Teo and J.J. Rhatigan agreement has been reached which will see Element Pictures taking on the task to complete the fit-out and commissioning of the Picture Palace with the contractors expected to commence work in July, 2016. The Picture Palace will open to the public in April 2017.

Mr. McGrath advised that this new arrangement will involve the assignment by Solas Teo of its lease on the Picture Palace, its completion and operation, to Element Pictures. The existing lease will be varied to reduce the period of the lease from 99 to 30 years, with provisions to renew, and all such considerations around the operation and programming of the cinema will be captured by covenant to ensure that the city of Galway and the region will have a functioning, successful cultural, specialist art-house cinema at the heart of our cultural offering.

Mr. McGrath stated that he was satisfied, as are all the other funders both national and regional, that this is a good news story for the Picture Palace and good for the city of Galway. This new arrangement will have no further financial impact on Galway City Council as it will take place within the existing funding package agreed by the Councillors of €242,000, for which provision has been made in the 2016 Budget. Mr. McGrath conveyed his thanks to the board and staff of Solas Teo who have brought this project from initiation to this point, often with considerable challenges but with enormous determination. He also conveyed his appreciation and confidence in Element Pictures and their capacity to complete and operate the facility as a flagship part of the cultural offer in Galway and the region.

Comments, queries and clarifications on the report by the Chief Executive were received from Councillors: P. Conneely, N. McNelis, B. Cameron, C. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, D. Lyons, T. O'Flaherty, C. Ó Conchúir, O. Crowe, F. Fahy, M. Cubbard and P. Flannery. Chief Executive, Mr. McGrath, provided detailed replies to the queries raised including expenditure to date and site values, management structures and future role of the Solas board in the project, extent of works remaining, items to be finalised, the extent of the financial contribution by City Council and the lease being assigned to Element. A number of Councillors expressed concern in relation to the overall viability of the project and costs incurred to date. A number of Councillors also sated satisfaction with the report and the detail provided by the Chief Executive.

At 7.30 pm an extension of time was proposed by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and seconded by Cllr. O. Crowe to continue with the Meeting until 9.00 pm. This was agreed.

Mr. McGrath further outlined that the financial contribution of €230,000 from the 2016 budget would not be exceeded but that €107,000 of the total figure would be moved from an 'in-kind' to a direct contribution. This was then referred to as the 'revised recommendation'

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir to accept the Chief Executive's revised recommendation.

An Amendment was received from Cllr. MJ Crowe and seconded by Cllr. O. Crowe to reject the Chief Executive's revised recommendation.

**The Amendment proposed by Cllr. MJ Crowe and seconded by Cllr. O. Crowe was considered:**

**In Favour:        2        Against:        12        Abstain:        0        Present:        14**

**The Amendment was defeated.**

**The Motion to accept the revised recommendation proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir was then considered:**

**In Favour:        12        Against:        2        Abstain:        0        Present:        14**

**The Motion was carried.**

## **5.    NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**Motion Submitted at Special Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and deferred**

**Proposed:        Cllr. P. Conneely**

**Seconded:       Cllr. P. Flannery**

"Propose that legal costs in relation to consequential filling of vacancies on committees and other bodies arising from the co-option of a Councillor be paid by Cllr. Colette Connolly".

Not considered.

**Motion Submitted at Special Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and deferred**

**Proposed:        Cllr. P. Flannery**

**Seconded:       Cllr. J. Walsh**

"That this Council calls on Cllr. Colette Connolly to withdraw her remarks and reference that certain members of the Council are misogynous in their approach to appointments on certain committees".

Not considered.

**NOM 03/16    Notice given by:    Cllr. N. McNelis**

**Date Received:** 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**"For the benefit of retailers in the city centre and for shoppers and visitors all pedestrian areas of the city centre are vehicle free from an earlier start of 9.00 am during the months of June, July and August".**

**Not considered.**

<b>NOM 09/16</b>	<b>Notice given by:</b>	<b>Cllr. C. Connolly</b>
	<b>Date Received:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b>
<p><b>“That GCC requests that the Government provide adequate funding to provide special housing units for victims of domestic violence”.</b></p>		

**Not considered.**

<b>NOM 12/16</b>	<b>Notice given by:</b>	<b>Cllr. C. Connolly</b>
	<b>Date Received:</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016.</b>
<p><b>“That Galway City Council Transportation SPC calls on the Government to introduce a free school transport service for all children attending city schools.”</b></p>		

**Not considered.**

<b>NOM 14/16</b>	<b>Notice given by:</b>	<b>Cllr. A. Marley</b>
	<b>Date Received:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> June 2016.</b>
<p><b>"That this Council acknowledge the vital role that Personal Assistance Hours play in the lives of people with disabilities and calls on government to immediately increase the hours available so as to ensure that all in society are able to live independently and be active participants within their families and communities"</b></p>		

**Not considered.**

**Motions Submitted to the Mayor at the Meeting:**

<b>NOM 15/16</b>	<b>Notice given by:</b>	<b>Cllr. P. Connelly</b>
	<b>Seconded by:</b>	<b>Cllrs, D. Lyons, P. Flannery, B. Cameron and N. Larkin.</b>
	<b>Date Received:</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016.</b>

“That Galway City Council resolve, following the decommissioning of the L.E Aishling which was twinned with Galway City, that the Irish Navy be requested that the replacement ship the L.E WB Yeats be twinned with Galway City.”

<b>In Favour:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Present:</b>	<b>12</b>
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**The Motion was agreed.**

**The Motion was agreed.**

**Motion Submitted****Proposed:** Cllr. P. Flannery**Seconded:** Cllr. P. Connelly, D. Lyons, B. Cameron, N. Larkin, M. Cubbard, M. Farrell, C. Ó Conchúir, C. Connolly, MJ Crowe, T. O'Flaherty.

"That the Chief Executive of Galway City Council immediately contact the Minister for Defence and request that he consider donating the decommissioned naval ship LE Aisling to the people of Galway for use as a floating maritime museum or other tourism related initiatives"

**In Favour: 12      Against: 0      Abstain: 0      Present: 12**

**The Motion was agreed.**

**Motion Submitted****Proposed:** Cllr. P. Flannery**Seconded:** Cllr. P. Conneely, D. Lyons, B. Cameron, N. Larkin, O. Crowe, MJ Crowe, M. Cubbard and N. McNelis.

"That Galway City Council publicly invites suitable expressions of interest from the business community and industrial sector or from the private sector into the sponsorship of selected initiatives and projects to be published annually by the Council"

**In Favour: 9      Against: 2      Abstain: 0      Present: 11**

**The Motion was agreed.**

**Motion Submitted****Proposed:** Cllr. P. Conneely**Seconded:** Cllr. D. Lyons

"When the GCC Executive seek legal advice on behalf of the elected members that the legal advice is circulated in its entirety without editing abbreviation or otherwise being interfered with by any third party"

**In Favour: 10      Against: 0      Abstain: 1      Present: 11**

**The Motion was agreed.**

**Motion Submitted****Proposed:** Cllr. P. Flannery**Seconded:** Cllr. D. Lyons, P. Conneely, B. Cameron, N. Larkin, O. Crowe, MJ Crowe, M. Cubbard, M. Farrell, C. Ó Conchúir, C. Connolly

"That we, the elected members of Galway City Council call on Minister Shane Ross to restore Sports Capital Funding with immediate effect"

**In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11**

**The Motion was agreed**

**Motions submitted to the Mayor at the May Ordinary Meeting but not considered.**

**Proposer: Cllr. Cameron**

**Seconder: Cllrs. Cubbard, Conneely, Lyons, Flannery, Larkin, McDonnell, McNelis, Walsh, Fahy**

"We call on Galway City Council to install CCTV at Bowling Green and Westside Sports Complex as referenced in a motion at Galway City Council 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, as an amendment to a motion by Cllr. O'Flaherty"

**In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11**

**The Motion was agreed**

**Proposer: Cllr. Cubbard**

**Seconder: Cllrs. Cameron, O'Flaherty, Lyons, McNelis, McDonnell, Walsh, Fahy, Larkin, Farrell, Marley, O Conchulr, Flannery**

"Galway City Council call on newly appointed Minister for Health, Simon Harris, T.D. to reinstate the recently removed €12 million from the State's Mental Health Budget for 2016 and do so with immediate effect".

**In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11**

**The Motion was agreed**

## **6. QUESTIONS**

Replies issued.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted.

## **8. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION**

## **9. CONFERENCES**

Conferences and Approved Training Events listed were proposed by Cllr. N. McNelis and seconded by Cllr. B. Cameron.

### **Conference/Seminar:**

#### **Parnell Summer School 2016 – August 2016**

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.

Venue: Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow

The following Councillor was approved to attend: Cllr. D. McDonnell

#### **Patrick MacGill Summer School and Arts Week – July 2016**

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>h</sup> July, 2016.

Venue: Glenties Co Donegal

The following Councillors were approved to attend: Cllrs. P. Conneely, B. Cameron, F. Fahy, D. Lyons

#### **Entitlement to Health Services – July 2016**

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.

Venue: Clonakilty, Co. Cork

The following Councillors were approved to attend: Cllrs. F. Fahy, T. O'Flaherty, N. McNelis.

### **Approved Training Events:**

#### **AILG Training Seminar – September 2016**

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

Venue: Galway

The following Councillors were approved to attend: Cllrs. P. Conneely, D. McDonnell, T. O'Flaherty

#### **RIAI 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference Urban Futures Cities and Towns in Transition – September 2016**

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2016.

Venue: Dublin Castle, Dublin

The following Councillors were approved to attend: Cllrs. P. Conneely, D. McDonnell

## **10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING**

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm.