**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council**

**Held on Monday 6th March 2017 at 2p.m. in City Hall, College Road, Galway.**



**Presiding: Cllr. Noel Larkin, Mayor of the City of Galway**

**Present: Councillors: C. Ó Conchúir, P. Conneely, C. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, O. Crowe, F. Fahy, P. Flannery, P. Keane, M. Lohan, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, T. O'Flaherty, J. Walsh, B. Cameron and N. McNelis.**

**In Attendance: Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive**

**Mr. T. Connell, Director of Services**

**Ms. E. McCormack, Head of Finance/Director of Services**

**Ms. P. Philbin, A/Director of Services**

**Mr. G. Mc Mahon, A/Director of Services**

**Mr. P. Foley, Meetings Administrator**

**Mr. J. Tansey, Senior Engineer**

**Mr. L. Blake, Senior Executive Planner**

**Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner**

**Mr. J. Harrold, Arts Officer**

**Ms. J. Georges, Clerical Officer**

**Apologies: Cllr. M. Farrell**



It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Conneely and seconded by Cllr. B. Cameron that the Meeting would finish at 6pm.

It was also agreed to take Cllr. C. Connolly's NOM 5/17.

**"That Galway City Council request the Government to progress the Coroner's Bill as a matter of urgency that the Coroner's Bill will provide for an automatic inquest into every maternal death in this state**"

Proposed: Cllr. C. Connolly Seconded: Cllr. B. Cameron

In Favour: 13 Against: 1 Abstain: 3 Present: 17

It was agreed to take Item 4 (a) first on the Agenda followed by Item 2 (d).

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

(a) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 9th January 2017 - Deferred.

(b) Minutes of Special Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 23rd January 2017 - Deferred.

(c) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 13th February 2017 - Deferred.

(d) Minutes of Special Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 20th February 2017 - Deferred.

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

**(a) (i) Consideration of Audit Committee Annual Report for 2016**

**(ii) Review of Audit Committee Charter**

**(iii) Adoption of Audit Committee Work Programme for 2017 –** Deferred

**(b) Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2017** – Deferred

**(c) Section 85 Agreement with Galway County Council in relation to the Galway City Ring Road Project**

It was proposed by Cllr. D. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr D. Lyons **“that Galway City Council would approve a Section 85 Agreement with Galway County Council in relation to Galway City Ring Road project.”** The vote went as follows:

Proposed: Cllr. D. McDonnell Seconded: Cllr. D. Lyons

In Favour: 16 Against: 1 Abstain: 0 Present: 17

**(d) Outdoor Event Licence Application – St. Patrick’s Day Parade 2017**

Mr. G. Mc Mahon informed the meeting that no submissions were received from the public,

that he had consulted with the relevant departments in the Council, and he recommended that

the outdoor event licence be granted for St. Patrick’s Day.

There was some discussion by Councillors around the lack of Colour and cleanliness of Eyre Square, the cost of the parade and position of the viewing stand. Mr. Mc Mahon advised that the parade was a celebration of colour, cost €40,000 and the position of the viewing stand would be changed this year.

Cllr. N. McNeliis proposed the following which was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons.

**“that an event outdoor event licence be granted for St Patrick’s Day 2017”.**

The vote went as follows:

Proposed: Cllr. N. McNeilis Seconded: Cllr. D. Lyons

In Favour: 17 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 17

**3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**(a) Report from Procedures Committee on the Draft Standing Orders Review -** Deferred

**(b) Report from Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 10th February, 2017** – Deferred

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed an extension of time to deal with the Marketing Fund and Arts Grants. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed by all.

**(c) Report from Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 6th March, 2017.**

Mr G. McMahon outlined the process followed for submissions to Marketing Fund. The 2017 fund has a budget of €206,000 and there were 12 organisations recommended from the Corporate Policy Group for funding in 2017. The CE Mr. B. McGrath advised that under the adopted guidelines at least half the fund should be reserved as a sinking fund.

This led to discussion among Councillors about the use of the Marketing Fund. Cllr D. Mc Donnell suggested that the guidelines would be set aside this year and revisited in 2018. Cllrs. O. Crowe, P. Flannery, M. Crowe & P. Keane stated that their understanding of the fund was that it was set up to attract big events, festivals & increased bed nights in the City. Cllr. P. Conneely felt the Marketing fund had lost it’s direction. Cllr C. Connolly thought the reserve fund was extremely important with Cllrs M. Lohan & C O’Conchuir welcoming the fund and calling for some of it to be kept as a sinking fund.

Mr. McMahon outlined the other groups who had applied and were not successful for the fund in 2017. The CE also highlighted other projects coming down the tracks would also be seeking funding.

Cllr D. McDonnell proposed the following motion and this was seconded by Cllr. N McNeilis.

**“to vary the guidelines as per the report**”

The vote went as follows:

Proposed: Cllr. D. McDonnell Seconded: Cllr. N. McNeilis

In Favour: 16 Against: 1 Abstain: 0 Present: 17

Cllr. B Cameron proposed the following motion

**“ To remove €10,000 from Galway Port and give €5,000 to Connacht Rugby & €5,000 to Macnas”**

The vote went as follows:

Proposed: Cllr. B. Cameron Seconded: Cllr. M.J Crowe

In Favour: 7 Against: 9 Abstain: 1 Present: 17

Cllr. D. Mc Donnell proposed an amendment to the motion proposed by Cllr. Cameron and this was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons

**“ to remove €5,000 from Galway Port and give €5,000 to €5,000 to Macnas”**

The vote went as follows:

Proposed: Cllr. D. McDonnell Seconded: Cllr. D. Lyons

In Favour: 15 Against: 1 Abstain: 0 Present: 16

**4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS**

**(a) To consider a mid-term review on Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 pursuant to the Traveller Accommodation Act**

Ms. P. Philbin outlined the legal advice received from the Law Agent. This led to much discussion among Councillors on the advice received and on Galway City Councils’s obligations to provide Traveller Specific Accommodation. Councillors voiced their concerns over Halting Sites and questioned their suitability as living accommodation for Travellers. Other Councillors expressed the view that Travellers should be integrated into mainstream social housing.

CE Mr. B. McGrath referred to TAP and highlighted the Council’s statutory obligations to implement same. He advised that if the programmed was challenged that GCC may be liable for extensive costs. Mr McGrath stated that his role is only to advise on this matter and his advice to Members is not to adopt Cllr. Keane’s motion. He also informed Councillors that no new delivery had been achieved since 1996 and this was no longer acceptable. If required to use emergency powers he would not be found wanting.

This led to further discussion by Councillors on possible consequences for Members if they passed Cllr Keane’s motion. He referred to new models of Traveller Accommodation that were working with the support of CENA & other agencies. A visit will be arranged to see these new models in operation if Councillors were interested.

Cllr C. Connolly proposed the following motion.

**“that GCC seek approval for the use of Galway Airport for the residents of Carrowbrowne Cul Tra Halting Site as a temporary solution to overcrowding at the site”**

As the motion proposed by Cllr. C. Connolly was not seconded, Cllr Connolly’s proposal was withdrawn.

Cllr D. Lyons proposed the following motion and this was seconded by Cllr. D McDonnell.

**“That the Mid Term Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme be deferred and left on the agenda”.**

The vote went as follows:

Proposed: Cllr. D. Lyons Seconded: Cllr. D. McDonnell

In Favour: 17 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 17

(**b) National Planning Framework**

Ms Helen Coleman circulated a draft working document along with notes from the Council’s Workshop on National Planning held on the 27th February 2017. Ms Coleman outlined the main issues that the NPF should address in the Galway City context. She also highlighted the importance of the City as a key driver of regional development and the key elements that support the designation of Galway as a Tier Two City including various plans & strategies, collaboration of the local stakeholders, ability to attract employment, access & infrastructure. Ms Coleman outlined the key investment requirements and strategic projects needed to support Galway as a Tier Two City.

This led to some discussion among Councillors who stated that a shortage of Housing is a big issue in attracting industry, as is the need for an outer city ring road. Cllrs. O. Crowe and B. Cameron stated that Galway Port should not be downgraded. Cllr. P. Conneely wished to have it noted that he did attend the workshop as he was not named on the list of attendee’s circulated to the members.

Two proposals were put before members with the first from Cllrs B. Cameron & seconded by Cllr N. McNelis

**“that shipping tonnage through Galway Port be increased”.**  A second proposal from Cllr P. Flannery and seconded by Cllr O. Crowe proposed **“that Galway Port is not downgraded”**

It was agreed that both proposals be merged and the vote went as follows:.

In Favour 17 Absent 1.

**(c) Chief Executive’s Report for February 2017 -** Deferred

**(d) Chief Executive’s Report for March 2017 -** Deferred

**(e) To receive a report on Notice of Motion NOM 01/17** - Deferred

**(f) Repair and Leasing Scheme / Buy and Renew Initiative -** Deferred

**(g) Road Traffic Special Speed Limits Galway City Bye-law No. 1 – 2017 (Housing Estates Slow Zones) (to consider putting draft out to public consultation**) - Deferred

**(h) Arts Grants - presentation of recommendations for funding**

The Arts Officer Mr. J. Harrold circulated documentation in relation to the various organisations who were recommended by the independent assessment committee to be awarded Arts Grants in 2017. Mr Harrold outlined the process followed to assess each application by an external committee.

Cllr. P. Conneely proposed the following motion and this was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons

**“ To accept the recommendations for Arts Grants from the independent assessment committee ”**

The vote went as follows:

In Favour 14 Absent 4.

The motion was agreed.

**5. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

The following Notices of Motion were considered at the Meeting.

Notice of Motion under Standing Order 22:

Proposed by: Cllr. B. Cameron

Seconded by: Cllrs, N. McNelis, M. Cubbard, D. Lyons, M. Farrell, C. Ó Conchúir, P. Flannery, T. O’Flaherty, P. Connelly, D. McDonnell, F. Fahy, N. Larkin and Cllr. J. Walsh.

**“Given the re-introduction of the Capital Sports Programme by central Government we call on the executive to engage with a GAA club from each Ward of the city to formalise an application to provide a hurling wall in each Ward of the city”**

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

It was agreed following discussion that applications would be restricted to lands owned by the City Council only.

Notice of Motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded by: Cllr T. O’Flaherty

**“I propose a filter lane could be included in Option 3B leading from Headford Road (outbound) to Coolagh Road”**

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

Notice of Motion:

Proposed by: Cllr. B. Cameron (in the absence of Cllr. M. Lohan who initially submitted the Motion)

Seconded by: Cllr M. Farrell

**“In light of the P.Q of December 6th 2016 and Minister Eoghan Murphy stating that social clauses are permissible in local authority contracts of procurement, this council will now examine progressing the policy”**

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

**6. QUESTIONS**

**Q11/16 Notice given by: Cllr. M. Farrell**

**Date Received: 23rd November, 2016**

I wish to request information, in tabular form, of the costs incurred by Galway City Council over the past 10 years (2005-2015) through the recovery and disposal of illegally dumped waste material in Galway City and the total amount/weight of waste recovered in this manner each year for 2005-2015

Reply issued.

**Q12/16 Notice given by: Cllr. N. McNelis**

**Date Received: 5th December, 2016**

Can an update be given on Galway Airport future plans. What are the costs to date for security of site. What income rents generated to date since ownership by City and County councils. Has there been any maintenance of runway in this time that would keep the standard of strip available for possible future landings of private aircraft, separate to flying school.

Reply issued.

**7. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION**

Noted. Cllr. D. Lyons noted correspondence received in relation to Notice of Motion passed at the December Meeting and Mr. D. Mahon advised that the Motion was referred to two Departments for reply.

**8. CONFERENCES**

Attendance at conferences was proposed by Cllr. P. Conneely, seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed by all present.

**9. VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

**10. OTHER BUSINESS SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING**

None.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr D. Lyons proposed the following which was seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy.

**“A letter be sent to Mick McHugh acknowledging the work he has carried out for the Irish in Seattle and to wish him well in his retirement”**

The proposal was agreed by all present

The Meeting ended at 20:30 pm