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

**Held on Thursday 10th April 2017 at 4:00pm in City Hall, College Road, Galway.**

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**Presiding: Cllr. Pearse Flannery, Deputy Mayor of the City of Galway**

**Present: Councillors: C. Ó Conchúir, P. Conneely, C. Connolly, O. Crowe, M.J. Crowe M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, P. Keane, M. Lohan, D. Lyons, J. Walsh, D. McDonnell T. O'Flaherty, M. Farrell, 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, Meetings Administrator**

**Mr. P. Foley, A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services**

**Mr. J. Tansey Senior Engineer**

**Mr. U. Finn Senior Engineer**

**Ms. Susan Loughnane Executive Engineer**

**Mr. M. McElligott Senior Executive Engineer**

**Mr. S. Walsh Senior Executive, Park Superintendent**

**Apologies: Cllr. N. Larkin, Mayor of the City of Galway**

The Deputy Mayor welcomed all to the Meeting. He proposed that Members deal with Item 4 (i) – **The South Park & Kingston Master Plans** as the next item on the agenda once the item on Parkmore / Transportation was concluded from the previous meeting. Members agreed unanimously to this and to take a 15 minute break at 5.30pm.

Further responses and clarifications on improvements on access to Parkmore were provided by Eoin Greene from Aecom Consultants.

1. The CE outlined that temporary works carried out on the Parkmore Junction had reduced significant evening waiting times from 1 to 2 hours to 10 minutes on average but this had led to knock on problems on the Monivea Road in the morning a.m. peak. The current national bus strike had also added to problems. While there was a Galway Transport Strategy in place it will not immediately sort out all the traffic problems in Galway City. Mr McGrath stated that there is limited road space in the city and that the outer city ring road is the ultimate solution.

**Business Prescribed By Statute**

Item 2 (c) Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 in respect of the proposed disposal of land in the ownership of Galway City Council adjacent to 302 Corrib Park, Newcastle, Galway.

The CE advised that there was a motion adopted by Cllrs in November 2016 that no more disposals of Council land would take place until a policy was devised by SPC and adopted by Members.

Cllr. O. Crowe asked if an exception could be made on Health grounds. Cllr. D. Mc Donnell stated that the SPC had failed to come up with a policy on two occasions and called for Cllr. Cameron’s motion to be withdrawn in the interest of serious illness. Cllr. C. Connolly informed the meeting that Cllr. Cameron’s motion cannot be withdrawn as this may have legal implications.

The CE stated that he wished to help this individual but was caught with the terms of Cllr Cameron’s motion. He informed the Council that he would use his discretionary powers in relation to granting an 11 month licence, which would allow the project to proceed in the interim. The issue will be back on the Council’s agenda when a policy in relation to section 183 notices, has been agreed by the Council to the 11 months, given the special medical need.

**Consideration of Reports of Officials**

**Item 4(i) Draft Master Plans for South Park & Kingston**

A presentation on the draft master plans for South Park & Kingston was given by Mr Keith Mitchell Consultant with Cunnane, Stratton & Reynolds and Mr Stephen Walsh Senior Executive, Parks Superintendent, Galway City Council.

Director of Service, Mr. T. Connell outlined the planning & budgetary process for the plans and the next steps.

Councillors welcomed the plans as a good news story but highlighted concerns of local residents and those living close to the parks. There is also some concerns over lights and whether they would be a hindrance or deterrent to anti-social behaviour. Other Cllrs had concerns over traffic management and parking particularly around Kingston Park which has narrow and secluded entrances to some of the surrounding estates. There were also some queries raised in relation to the layout of the propsed rugby pitch.

Detailed responses and clarifications were provided by S. Walsh & K. Mitchell. Mr Walsh informed members that the presentation is only a preliminary outline and the next stage is to go to a consultation process with the design still only a work in progress. He also highlighted that he is aware of the concerns of local residents and he will be following up progress with residents associations.

At 7.00 pm an extension of time was proposed by Cllr. D. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr. N. McNeilis to complete this Item. This was agreed by all present.

Mr Mitchell informed members that from his experience that turning your back on the Park would lead to ASB and the Kingston Park needed to be lit up at night. Also turning the rugby pitch around will not help sunlight. He outlined that the playground was only at conceptual stage and design will be teased out at a later stage.

Cllr. P. Flannery proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. N. Mc Neilis.

**“That the Draft plan for the Kingston Lands be altered to accommodate the concerns of the Kingston Gardens Residents. Namely:**

**1) Have no access through Kingston Gardens**

**2) Rotate the main pitch 90 degrees if possible and accommodate the concerns of the residents by having two playing cages rotated 90 degrees.”**

The motion was not considered but it was agreed to leave on the agenda for future consideration

Cllr. C. Connolly proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. P. Flannery.

**“Remove all access from Kingston Gardens to Kingston Park in Master Plan”**

The vote went as follows:

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

**Item 4(h) Road Traffic Special Speed Limits Galway City Bye-law No. 1 – 2017 (Housing Estates Slow Zones) (to consider putting draft out to public consultation)**

Proposed by Cllr. N. Mc Nelis and seconded by Cllr. P. Keane.

**Notice of Motions**

The Deputy Mayor proposed that Members take Motions without debate. This was agreed unanimously by all members.

Cllr. M. Lohan proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir.

**“Galway City Council stands in solidarity with Bus Eireann strikers who are fighting to protect our public bus service and good paying jobs in Galway and across Ireland. We oppose the unilateral cuts to the pay and terms and conditions of these workers by a semi state company. We call upon the government to adequately fund our public transportation system ensuring we have a safe reliable and efficient service for all residents and clients.”**

Cllr N. Mc Neilis proposed a similar motion which was seconded by Cllr. B. Cameron. As both motions were almost identical it was agreed to take them together.

The vote went as follows:

In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 4 Present: 17

Cllr. P. Flannery proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. J. Walsh.

**“That Galway City Council introduce a scheme where cars with 3 or more people could use the bus lane on Seamus Quirke Road and other bus lanes between Knocknacarra, Salthill and Parkmore during rush hours (7.30am – 9.30am) and 4.30pm – 7pm on a pilot basis for a period of six months”**

Cllr. B. Cameron proposed an amendment to the motion which was seconded by Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir.

**“That Galway City Council explore the legality of Cllr. Flannery’s motion and report back to Council as soon as possible”**

The vote went as follows:

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

Cllr. C. Connolly proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir.

**“That Galway City Council calls on the Government to introduce a free school transport service for all children attending city schools.**

The vote went as follows:

In Favour: 13 Against: 2 Abstain: 2 Present: 17

Cllr. B. Cameron proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. M. Cubbard

**“That this Council write to Management of Galway University Hospital to ask that efforts are made to ensure free car parking for cancer patients or a designated family member or carer.”**

The vote went as follows:

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

Cllr. M. Cubbard proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis

**“That Galway City Council endorse the roll out of a new security venture across the city, namely “Pub Watch”, which will further enhance safety at night for all patrons in Galway City. Following on from the Purple Flag award, this new venture is a welcome step to support local publicans and the Gardai in pre-empting crime and reducing anti-social behaviour across Galway City”**

The vote went as follows:

In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 1 Present: 13

**Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations were proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. D. Mc Donnell.

Deputy Mayor Flannery then read out the names of those for whom votes of sympathy were proposed:

Mr. Sean Quinn (R.I.P.)

Mr. Stephen McColgan (R.I.P.)

Mr. Paddy Lydon (R.I.P.)

Mr. Martin McGuiness (R.I.P.)

Members of the Irish Coastguard (R.I.P)

Congratulations were extended to Galway Minor Footballers on their League win, & Cllr. D. Lyons on the marriage of his daughter.

**Conferences**

Attendance at Conferences listed were proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed unanimously by all.

**Other Business Set Forth In the Notice Convening the Meeting**

None.

**Any Other Business**

None.

1. The meeting concluded at 8.15pm.