

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Galway City Council**  
**Held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 2:00pm 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><u>Councillors:</u> C. Ó Conchúir, P. Conneely, C. Connolly, O. Crowe, M.J. Crowe<br/>P. Flannery, F. Fahy, P. Keane, M. Lohan, D. Lyons, J. Walsh, D. McDonnell<br/>T. O'Flaherty, M. Farrell, B. Cameron and N. McNelis.</b>   |
| <b><u>In Attendance:</u></b> | <b>Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive<br/>Mr. T. Connell, Director of Services<br/>Ms. E. McCormack, Head of Finance/Director of Services<br/>Ms. P. Philbin, A/Director of Services<br/>Mr. G. Mc Mahon, A/Senior Executive Officer<br/>Mr. P. Foley, Meetings Administrator<br/>Mr. J. Tansey, Senior Engineer<br/>Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer<br/>Ms. Susan Loughnane, Executive Engineer<br/>Ms. Nepta Moggan, Finance Accountant<br/>Ms. Joanne Georges, Clerical Officer<br/>Mr. Dermot Mahon, Senior Executive Officer</b> |
| <b><u>Apologies:</u></b>     | <b>Cllr. M. Cubbard</b>   |

The Mayor welcomed all to the Meeting. Cllr. B. Cameron proposed "that Members are given 3 minutes each on the accuracy and matters arising out of the 9 sets of Minutes from 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017 to 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017." This was seconded by Cllr. P. Conneely and the vote went as follows:

In Favour: 10      Against: 3      Abstain: 3      Present: 16

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

**(a) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Proposed:** Cllr. D. Mc Donnell    **Seconded:** Cllr. F. Fahy

**(b) Minutes of Special Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017**

**Proposed:** Cllr. D. Mc Donnell    **Seconded:** Cllr. F. Fahy

**(c) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

**Proposed:** Cllr. F. Fahy                      **Seconded:**      Cllr. D. Mc Donnell

**(d) Minutes of Special Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

**Proposed:** Cllr. J. Walsh                      **Seconded:**      Cllr. F. Fahy

**(e) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 06<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Proposed:** Cllr. B. Cameron                      **Seconded:**      Cllr. P. Flannery

**(f) Minutes of Special Meeting of Galway City Council held on Wednesday 05<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Proposed:** Cllr. M. Lohan                      **Seconded:**      Cllr. D. Mc Donnell

**(g) Minutes of Special Meeting of Galway City Council held on Thursday 06<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Proposed:** Cllr. D. Mc Donnell                      **Seconded:**      Cllr. M. Lohan

**(h) Minutes of Special Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Proposed:** Cllr. M. Farrell                      **Seconded:**      Cllr. B. Cameron

**(i) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Proposed:** Cllr. B. Cameron                      **Seconded:**      Cllr. D. Mc Donnell

The nine sets of Minutes were proposed and adopted with the following items raised under matters of accuracy and matters arising.

**Matters of Accuracy:**

Cllr. D. Lyons referred to the Civic Reception which was agreed for Gavin Hennigan and had not been recorded in the 10<sup>th</sup> April Meeting Minutes. NOM 17/16 & 18/16 were also approved at the Council Meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 and should have been removed from the next Agenda. There was also a typing error on the Minutes dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 which should read "to remove €5000 from Galway Port and give €5000 to Macnas."

Cllr. T O'Flaherty wished to have it noted that in the Minutes dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017, it was Cllr. P. Flannery that proposed the motion "That Galway City Council immediately request that the Manager of the Leisureland facility provide free access to St. Joseph's Special School for one hour per week, excluding June, July and August and facilitate the educational needs of those with disabilities for 2017" and not her.

Cllr B. Cameron wished to have the Minutes corrected on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 to state residents of "Canal Road" and not residents of " Sea Road."

**Matters Arising:**

The following issues were raised by Members under Matters Arising:

Downgrading of Galway Port, Meet West, ECOC funding from Galway County Council, Tourist Office at Fairgreen, Astro turf at Cappagh Park, EIS on Sailin Foreshore, proposals for Playground budget, Christmas Market, Re-instatement of Coroner's Bill, Opening of Ballinfoile Community Centre, Sports Capital Grants, City Canals, Westside & Bowling Green CCTV, New Cemetery site, Homelessness, 69 New Houses at Knocknacarra, Grass Cutting, Housing Voids, Housing Forum, Greenleaf Co-ordinator, Hydro-Electric Report, residents of Parkmore & surrounding areas, roll out of Sunday Parking and Boundary Review.

Detailed responses and clarifications on matters arising were issued by Mr. B. McGrath Chief Executive, Mr. T. Connell Director of Service and Mr. U. Finn Senior Engineer, M. P. Philbin A/Director of Services and Mr. G. McMahon A/Director of Services.

Mr Connell confirmed that the 3 Sports Capital Projects will be completed in 2017. He also informed that the Parks Department were monitoring complaints in relation to grass cutting and most of the feedback re quality of cutting was positive but he acknowledged there were some issues in estates. The Sailin foreshore license issue was with the Department, the EIS had been completed 6 months ago and no further documentation required from Galway City Council. Mr Connell also confirmed that there is upgrading of equipment taking place in existing City playgrounds.

Mr Finn confirmed it was the intention of the Council to replace trees at Seamus Quirke Road and this would commence during the next appropriate planting season. In relation to Parkmore, Mr Finn informed that the final design proposals are nearing completion and he had met with the NTA re medium term proposals. He also met with one of the landowners and hoped to meet the remaining two landowners shortly in relation to proposed works. Mr Finn also stated that the Council is continuously working to try and improve delays at Parkmore and that the sequencing of lights had not changed. An update on Galway City Transport Plan had been provided to SPC Meeting with the main focus on providing better quality bus corridors/routes. There was also a design change in the Outer Ring Road, for health & safety reasons the proposed tunnel has been shortened from 800 to 300 metres. Members were advised that they could meet with the design team at any stage either individually or collectively.

In relation to Sunday Parking Mr Finn informed Members that signs had been changed and machines had been configured to allow implementation of Sunday Parking. City Council is going to tender for upgrade of the machines and e-parking was on the work plan.

The CE Mr. B. McGrath informed the meeting that the Council had contacted the department re downgrading of Galway Port but he had received no correspondence in reply to date. He confirmed that there will be a report to come before Members on shared services once Galway County Council had provided outstanding data to the City Council for examination. Mr McGrath also outlined that the Tourist Office at Fairgreen is currently for sale on the open market and that he had been informed by Failte Ireland that they are actively seeking a city centre premises for a tourist office. Advice sought by the Council stated that Failte Ireland could sell the property at Fairgreen without the consent of Members but consent maybe required if there was a change of use from a Tourist



Office. It was also stated in the advice that consent could not be unreasonably withheld by the Council.

Mr McGrath also highlighted that he had met with the Expert Boundary review group on 9 occasions. He also agreed to provide Marketing Fund applications to all Members and noted that the Christmas Market was an item on the agenda.

Mr G. McMahon informed the meeting that a public meeting was held last week in relation to the future operation & management of the Ballinfoile Community Centre. He confirmed that an Agreement will be signed this week between SCCUL and Galway City Council but it would take a number of months before recruitment and refurbishment of the centre will take place.

Ms P. Philbin outlined that City Council had received approval for 14 out of 69 proposed houses at Knocknacarra. A further 55 were at stage 1 funding with the Department. It was also confirmed that the Housing Department had a budget of €174, 000 to deal with Voids. Ms Philbin also outlined the current Homeless situation in Galway City, the number of rough sleepers and how the Council is working with Emergency providers to increase bed spaces. In relation to CCTV at locations on the East & West of the City, Ms Philbin outlined how onerous a task it was to consult with the various stakeholders, that there was strict data protection conditions and there was a question mark over ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the CCTV's once installed.

Mr McGrath also clarified that a number of fires had taken place in the old Corrib Great Southern hotel, it was now a very unsightly and a potentially dangerous building and it was appropriate now to consider under derelict site legislation. He also confirmed that a replacement for the Greenleaf co-ordinator would be provided as soon as possible.

## **2. Business Prescribed By Statute**

- (a) (i) Consideration of Audit Committee Annual Report 2016
- (ii) Review of Audit Committee Charter
- (iii) Adoption of Audit Committee Work Programme for 2017

Ms. E. McCormack Head of Finance referred Members to the reports and documents issued and advised that under Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 Article 15(2) Members should give consideration to the Annual Report of Audit Committee for 2016; Article 8(2) - The Audit Committee Charter should be reviewed annually by both the Audit Committee and the Local Authority and Article 9 - The Audit Committee shall prepare an annual work programme that shall be adopted with/without amendments by the Local Authority.

|  |                     |                  |                     |
|--|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Consideration of Audit Committee Annual Report for 2016</b> |                     |                  |                     |
| <b>Proposed:</b>   | Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir | <b>Seconded:</b> | Cllr. D. Lyons      |
| <b>Proposal Agreed</b>   |                     |                  |                     |
| <b>Review of Audit Committee Charter</b>                       |                     |                  |                     |
| <b>Proposed:</b>   | Cllr. D. Lyons      | <b>Seconded:</b> | Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir |
| <b>Proposal Agreed</b>   |                     |                  |                     |

**Adoption of Audit Committee Work Programme for 2017****Proposed:** Cllr. D. Mc Donnell**Seconded:** Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir**Proposal Agreed****(b) Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2017**

Cllr. N. Mc Neilis proposed that the Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2017 be noted and agreed. This was seconded by Cllr. P. Flannery.

**(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 Chief Executive B. McGrath advised that he would be providing a temporary solution to deal with the matter.

**(d) Annual Financial Statement 2016**

Ms. E. McCormack Head of Finance referred to the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement 2016 circulated to members and outlined the content therein. Ms. McCormack noted that the preparation of the Annual Financial Statement complies with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2001 and the Accounting Code of Practice for Local Authorities. She thanked the team in the finance department and particularly those working in the debt management unit who had a difficult job to do. Ms. McCormack provided an overview of the AFS.

The Mayor and Councillors thanked Ms. McCormack for the report and requested clarification on a number of issues. Questions and requests for clarification were received from Cllrs. N. Mc Neilis, P. Conneely, F. Fahy, D. Lyons, C. Connolly, J. C. Ó Conchúir, T. O'Flaherty and included; housing rent collection rates, Leisureland ringfenced funding, outstanding loans, coastal protection reserve, 3 Castles & Browne doorway, public lighting programme, surplus on revenue account, homeless services, funding for pedestrian programme.

**Approval of the Annual Financial Statements (unaudited) for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2016****Proposed :** Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir**Seconded:** Cllr. D. Lyons**In Favour: 17    Abstain: 0    Against: 0    Present: 17****The AFS 2016 was approved.****Approve the Transfers To/From Reserves as detailed in Note 14 of the accounts & schedule circulated****Proposed :** Cllr. D Lyons**Seconded:** Cllr. N. McNeilis**In Favour: 17    Abstain: 0    Against: 0    Present: 17****Transfers from Reserves were approved.**

**Approve the over / under expenditure by Division as detailed in Note 16 of the accounts**

**Proposed :** Cllr. D. McDonnell

**Seconded:** Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir

**In Favour: 17    Abstain: 0    Against: 0    Present: 17**  
**Over / Under Expenditure was approved.**

**(e) Draft Annual Report 2016**

Cllr. B. Cameron proposed that the Draft Annual Report 2016 be noted and agreed. This was seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell and agreed by all.

**(f) To Fix a date for the Annual General Meeting**

The Mayor Cllr. N. Larkin proposed the following motion

**“That the June Ordinary Meeting be moved from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> June and the AGM held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 6pm”**

The vote went as follows:

**In Favour: 11    Against: 2    Abstain: 4    Present: 17**

The motion was agreed.

Cllr. F. Fahy proposed **“that a Special Meeting dealing with Standing Orders be held at 9am on the 29<sup>th</sup> May,”** this was seconded by Cllr. P. Conneely.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons **“that the Special Meeting be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July instead of the 29<sup>th</sup> May.”** This was seconded by Cllr. O. Crowe. The vote went as follows:

**In Favour: 14    Against: 3    Abstain: 0    Present: 17**

The amended motion by Cllr. Lyons which became the substantive motion was then voted on and the vote went as follows.

**In Favour: 14    Against: 3    Abstain: 0    Present: 17**

The motion was agreed.

## **5. Notice of Motions**

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

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed the following motion under Section 22 Urgent Business, which was seconded by Cllr. N. McNeilis.

**"Galway City Council to immediately implement arrangements to secure the site located on the link road between Western Distributor/Rahoon Road and adjacent to Milar's Lane pitches in order to prohibit further illegal incursions thus reducing possible future court costs."**

The CE informed Members that the proposed motion had only come before him now and he was not in a position to advise at the meeting.

A vote was taken and the motion was agreed by all members.

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

**"That Galway City Council endorse the mission statement of Conemara Greenway Alliance:- We are campaigning for the completion of the Conemara Greenway from Galway City to Clifden, in time for the European Capital of Culture 2020. We believe the Greenway will rejuvenate local communities, create sustainable jobs and contribute to the health and wellbeing of the people of Galway and Conemara. We also urge Galway County Council to advance and complete the galway City to Moycullen section of the Greenway through monies already allocated"**

The vote went as follows:

|            |    |          |   |          |   |          |    |
|------------|----|----------|---|----------|---|----------|----|
| In Favour: | 15 | Against: | 2 | Abstain: | 0 | Present: | 17 |
|------------|----|----------|---|----------|---|----------|----|

The motion was agreed.

Cllr. C. Connolly proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell.

**"That Galway City Council calls on the Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald to reintroduce the Coroner's Bill that was withdrawn on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017"**

The vote went as follows:

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

The motion was agreed.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. P. Keane

**"That Galway City Council request the relevant Government Dept to immediately review the application for a Foreshore License for Silverstrand Coastal Protection and to grant same as a matter of urgency due to the on-going erosion taking place at Silverstrand"**

The vote went as follows:

|            |    |          |   |          |   |          |    |
|------------|----|----------|---|----------|---|----------|----|
| In Favour: | 16 | Against: | 1 | Abstain: | 1 | Present: | 17 |
|------------|----|----------|---|----------|---|----------|----|



The motion was agreed.

Cllr. P. Keane proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. P. Conneely

**“That Galway City Council withholds it’s consent to the assignment of a Tourist Office lease on Forster Street, pending a full report on the issue being brought before this Council”**

The vote went as follows:

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

The motion was agreed.

Cllr. M. Farrell proposed the following motion under Section 22 Urgent Business, which was seconded by Cllr. B. Cameron.

**“In light that this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the occupation of the West Bank and that there are more than 1500 Palestinian prisoners currently engaged in Hunger Strike, Galway City Council stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine and fly the Palestinian flag on Galway City Council for the remainder of the month of May”**

The vote went as follows:

|            |    |          |   |          |   |          |    |
|------------|----|----------|---|----------|---|----------|----|
| In Favour: | 11 | Against: | 2 | Abstain: | 4 | Present: | 17 |
|------------|----|----------|---|----------|---|----------|----|

The motion was agreed.

Cllr. N. McNeilis proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr. M. Lohan

**“To receive a presentation from SIPTU prior to the Meeting dated 19<sup>th</sup> June”**

The vote went as follows:

|            |   |          |    |          |   |          |    |
|------------|---|----------|----|----------|---|----------|----|
| In Favour: | 5 | Against: | 10 | Abstain: | 1 | Present: | 16 |
|------------|---|----------|----|----------|---|----------|----|

The motion was defeated.

### **Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations were proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons

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

Mrs. Margaret Lawless (R.I.P.)

Congratulations were extended to Niamh Ellwood, crowned 2017 Galway Rose.

### **Conferences**



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

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

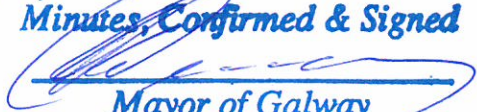
It was agreed by all Members that a presentation by the Consultants on the Kirwan Roundabout would be taken as the first Item at the Meeting to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

### **Any Other Business**

None.

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The meeting concluded at 6.10pm.

*Minutes, Confirmed & Signed*  
  
*Mayor of Galway*

*Minutes of Council Meeting*  
*19th June 2017*

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed  
Mayor of Galway

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed  
Mayor of Galway