


Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Ardilaun Hotel and virtually on zoom platform on Monday 12th December 2022 at 3.00 p.m.	
Presiding	Cllr. C. Higgins, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present	Councillors: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, O. Hanley, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, N. McNelis, N. Murphy, M. O'Connor & T. O'Flaherty
Present Virtually	Councillors: P. Keane, N. Larkin and D. McDonnell
Apologies	Councillors: C. Connolly, M. Cubbard & F. Fahy
Present	Ms. P. Philbin, Deputy Chief Executive Ms. R. McNally, Director of Services Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance/ A/Director of Services Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Service Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer Mr. F. McEvoy, Senior Executive Engineer Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. S. King, Assistant Staff Officer Ms. M. Walsh, Clerical Officer
Present Virtually	Mr. D. Mahon, Senior Executive Officer Mr. G. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer Ms. H. Martyn, A/Senior Executive Officer Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer Mr. J. Craughwell, Sports Partnership Co-Ordinator Ms. E. Fanning, Senior Engineer Mr. M. Kenny, Administrative Officer Ms. R. Lehmann, Tourism Officer Ms. L. Mitchell, Senior Executive Officer Ms. L. Hynes, Financial Management Accountant Ms. A. Ní Dhochartaigh, Staff Officer Ms. G. Reilly, A/Assistant Staff Officer

Note: The Minutes of the Meeting and Agenda Items are recorded in the order of their consideration.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator commenced the meeting with a statement of intention to conduct the business of the Meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection. She advised that no audio or video recording is permitted at the meeting.

Mayor C. Higgins welcomed all to the meeting and stated that under Sanding Order number 19 she would like to propose that the Council meet in-committee for part of the meeting to discuss a matter relating to agenda item 3(a) Procedures Committee meeting held on Friday 2nd December, 2022. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed by Council.

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed

Clodagh Higgins
Mayor of Galway

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator requested that members of the media online and in person please leave the meeting while the Council meet in-committee.

Following the meeting in-committee, members of the media were invited to re-join the meeting.

Mayor C. Higgins advised the meeting that it was unanimously agreed at a recent Procedures Meeting to recommend to full Council to hold a Civic Reception for Damian Browne, former professional rugby player and extreme adventurer from Galway on Monday 23rd January, 2023. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and full Council unanimously voted in favour of same. Mayor C. Higgins said that the Civic Reception will celebrate his achievements including recently rowing the Atlantic Ocean single-handedly from New York to Galway city.

Mayor C. Higgins acknowledged the new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the River Corrib that was installed earlier in the morning of Monday 12th December congratulating the team involved in the project. Mayor C. Higgins suggested that it would be a fitting tribute to name the new Bridge after Alice Perry who was a Galway native and was one of the first females in Europe to graduate with a degree in Engineering in 1906.

Cllr. N. McNelis queried when agenda item 4(f) Draft Galway City Council Protocol on Civic Commemorations will be considered by Council. He requested that agenda item 4(c) Sports Club Grants for 2022 be considered at the meeting.

Mayor C. Higgins advised that the agenda is to be taken as laid out but that item 4(c) will be considered at the meeting.

Cllr. A. Cheevers requested that item 4(a) Galway's Designation as European Capital of Culture 2020 be deferred to the January Ordinary meeting as the Chief Executive is on leave and that it be considered as first item on the agenda, as was previously agreed.

Cllr. D. Lyons queried the finish time of the meeting, Mayor C. Higgins proposed a finish time of 6:30pm with a break to be held at 4:45pm for 15 minutes. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed by Council.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1(a) Special Meeting of Galway City Council held on 14th October 2022.

Mayor C. Higgins invited matters of accuracy and matters arising.
None were raised by Councillors.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis

1(a) Special Meeting of Galway City Council held on 14th October 2022

The minutes were agreed and adopted.

1(b) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 7th November, 2022

Mayor C. Higgins invited matters of accuracy and matters arising.
None were raised by Councillors.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell

1(b) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 7th November, 2022

The minutes were agreed and adopted.

1(c) Annual Budget Meeting of Galway City Council held on 14th November, 2022

Mayor C. Higgins invited matters of accuracy and matters arising.

Cllr. O. Hanley raised a query on planning condition no. 3 attached to the Crowne Square site and if a change of use is required for office accommodation.

Ms. P. Philbin, Deputy Chief Executive advised that legal due diligence is ongoing and the Council are satisfied with same.

Cllr. O. Hanley requested that documentation including compliance with planning condition no. 3 be provided to Councillors.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. N. Murphy

1(c) Annual Budget Meeting of Galway City Council held on 14th November, 2022

The minutes were agreed and adopted.

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

2(a) Section 183 - Proposed disposal of land / premises by way of lease at Carnmore, Co. Galway

Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services gave an update and responded to queries from Councillors

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Vote and advised Councillors that they will be requested to raise their hand if they are In Favour, Against or wished to Abstain from the vote.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis

Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons

2(a) Approval of Section 183 Disposal of land/premises by way of lease for a period of one year to the leasee Galway Flying Club Ltd., at Carnmore, Co. Galway per Report issued 1st December, 2022.

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

This was approved by Council.

2(b) Speed Limits Review

Mayor C. Higgins raised a request on behalf of Cllr. F. Fahy, Chairperson of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee to adjourn the agenda item as he is unable to attend the meeting due to family matters.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meeting Administrator proceeded to take a Vote and requested Councillors to raise their hand if they were In Favour, Against or wished to Abstain from the Vote.

Proposed By: Mayor C. Higgins	Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare
Motion to defer agenda item 2(b) Speed Limits Review until the January Ordinary meeting.	
In Favour: 8 Against: 4 Abstain: 1 Present: 13	
This was agreed and the Motion was carried.	

2(c) Statutory Local Government Audit Report 2021

Ms. H. Kilroy, A/Director of Services and Head of Finance gave a brief overview and update on the Statutory Local Government Audit Report 2021. Ms. Kilroy responded to queries raised and advised that she will arrange to provide the number of rental arrears and further details regarding the Rates Debtors figure.

Proposed By: Cllr. M. O'Connor	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
2(c) Statutory Local Government Audit Report 2021 - Report issued 7th December, 2022.	
In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 12	
The Report was noted by Council.	

2(d) Three Year Capital Programme 2023 – 2025

Councillors discussed the Capital Programme in detail and raised a number of queries which were responded to by Ms. P. Philbin, Deputy Chief Executive, Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services, and Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer. It was agreed to provided details of Capital projects completed in 2022, dates regarding the Kingston tender process, the reason for two vacant houses in Munster Avenue and confirmation if there are any planning compliance issues regarding a Clúid development on the Letteragh Road.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Vote and advised Councillors that they will be requested to raise their hand if they are In Favour, Against or wished to Abstain from the Vote.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare
2(d) Three-Year Capital Programme 2023 - 2025	

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

The Three-Year Capital Programme was unanimously agreed by Council.

2(e) Regional Water Resources Plan – Draft RWRP North West Public Consultation

Mayor C. Higgins proposed that item 2(e) be deferred for consideration at the January Ordinary meeting.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Vote and advised Councillors that they will be requested to raise their hand if they are In Favour, Against or wished to Abstain from the Vote.

Proposed By: Mayor C. Higgins Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis

To defer the discussion of agenda item 2(e) until the January 2023 Ordinary Council meeting.

2(e) Regional Water Resources Plan – Draft RWRP North-West Public Consultation.

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

This was agreed and the Motion was carried.

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3(a) Procedures Committee Meeting held on Friday 2nd December, 2022

Proposed By: Mayor C. Higgins Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Note of the Procedures meeting was noted by Council.

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

4(a) Galway's Designation as European Capital of Culture 2020

Deferred for consideration at the January Ordinary Council meeting.

4(b) Chief Executive's Reports

ii. **December 2022** – It was agreed by Council to defer consideration of the December Report until the January Ordinary Council meeting.

ii. **November 2022**

Councillors raised a number of queries which were responded to by Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services, Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services, Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer, and Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer.

It was agreed by Council that a 20-minute break be taken at 4.45p.m. The meeting resumed at 5:05p.m.

4(c) Sports Club Grants for 2022

Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services referred Councillors to the Report circulated. Councillors discussed the Report and Mr. J. Craughwell, Sports Partnership Co-Ordinator responded to queries.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty

4(c) Sports Club Grants for 2022 – per Report circulated 12th December, 2022.

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

This was noted by Council.

4(d) Draft Report on Proposed Regional Aquatic Centre at Cappagh under the LSSIF

Ms. H. Kilroy, A/Director of Services/Head of Finance gave a verbal update on the project.

Councillors discussed the Report in detail and noted the increase in projected costs since the process commenced in 2019. It was agreed that Ms. Kilroy will revert on monies spent to date.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis

Seconded By: Cllr. A. Cheevers

4(d) To note the Draft Report on Proposed Regional Aquatic Centre at Cappagh under the LSSIF.

Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

This Motion was carried by Council.

Proposed By: Cllr. C. Higgins

Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons

4(d) That the City Council seek clarification if funds relating to the Proposed Regional Aquatic Centre at Cappagh can be reallocated to other projects.

Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

This Motion was carried by Council.

4(e) Modernisation of Electoral System - Electoral Act, 2022

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator/Senior Executive Officer gave a presentation on the Modernisation of Electoral System.

Councillors welcomed the improvements to the integrity of the Register of Electors.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis Seconded By: Cllr. A. Cheevers

To note the Modernisation of Electoral System presentation

Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

The Motion was carried by Council.

Cllr. O. Hanley proposed a Motion for consideration by Council.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Vote and advised Councillors that they will be requested to raise their hand if they are In Favour, Against or wished to Abstain from the Vote.

Proposed By: Cllr. O. Hanley Seconded By: Cllr. A. Cheevers

That Galway City Council will write to Minister for Local Government Darragh O'Brien requesting an update on progressing a plebiscite for a Directly Elected Mayor for Galway, as voted unanimously by Galway City Council in October 2020, with the vote to be held in tandem with the 2024 Local Elections.

Favour: 7 Against: 6 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

The Motion was carried by Council.

4(f) Draft Galway City Council Protocol on Civic Commemorations

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator asked Councillors if they would like her to go through the policy. Councillors agreed to defer the agenda item until it is discussed with each of the Local Area Committees.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis Seconded By: Mayor C. Higgins

4(f) Draft Galway City Council Protocol on Civic Commemorations

To defer the consideration of the Draft Galway City Council Protocol on Civic Commemorations until it is considered by each Local Area Committee in 2023.

This was agreed by Council.

4(g) Tidy Towns Report 2022

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons Seconded By: Cllr. A. Cheevers

4(g) Tidy Towns Report 2022

This was noted by Council.

4(h) Update on Staff Recruitment

Ms. R. McNally, Director of Services gave a brief update on staff recruitment.

Proposed By: Mayor C. Higgins Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis

4(h) Updated report on Staff Recruitment to be circulated to Councillors in advance of the January Ordinary meeting.

This was agreed by Council.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed that the meeting time be extended to finish discussion on this item.

Mayor Higgins stated that the time had passed 6:30p.m. and proposed that Councillors should send any queries in writing to the Human Resources Department.

4(i) EPA Focus On Local Authority Environmental Enforcement - Performance Report 2021 – Not Considered.

4(j) Data Protection – Not considered.

5. NOTICES OF MOTION – Not considered.

NOM 8/2022

Submitted by Cllr. A. Cheevers on the 16th May 2022

I am calling on Galway City Council to have full consultation with Galway City Council public representatives in relation to the Master Plan for the Galway Airport Site.

I believe that as it's jointly owned with the county council the city council need to have full consultation in this process and it should not be solely for County Council.

NOM 18/2021 submitted under SO 34 at Council meeting held on 12th April 2021

Notice given by: Cllr. A. Cheevers Seconded by: Cllr. N. McNelis

Date Received: 7th April 2021 (Amended wording 30th May 2022)

That Galway City Council to permanently pedestrianise cross street and that would be from the Dáil Bar to Supermacs and to work with businesses to ensure the safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Reply issued on 16th April 2021. Request to leave on the Agenda. The Motion was deferred at a Special meeting held on 30th May 2022 and a Report is to be brought to Council on the matter.

NOM 12/2022

Submitted by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty on the 7th June, 2022

Seconded by: Cllr. D. McDonnell on 13th June, 2022

We propose that Galway City Council reject the proposals set out in the Ballyloughane Road /Renmore Avenue Active Travel Scheme in its present format; that the Council Executive have further discussions with the two national schools, Gaelscoil Dara and Scoil Chaitríona, together with representatives of local residents, sporting organisations and

other stakeholders to bring forward an Active Travel Scheme which accommodates the needs of and ensures the agreement of all interested parties.

NOM 13/2022

Submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on the 7th June 2022

That Galway City Council will call on the Ministers for Justice; Education; and Children, Disability, Equality & Integration to immediately implement an Operation Encompass-style programme between An Garda Síochána and schools.

Operation Encompass is a police-led, school-based early intervention safeguarding scheme which supports children and young people who experience Domestic Abuse. Operation Encompass was created to ensure that by the start of the next school day, a child's school will be informed that there has been a police-attended incident of domestic abuse at the home of the child. The child is then supported immediately upon arrival at school.

In 2020, Women's Aid (Ireland) reported that there were 30,841 disclosures of abuse including 5,948 were against children. We need to support these children now. www.operationencompass.org

NOM 14/2022

Submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy on the 25th June 2022

That Galway City Council will write to the Advertising Standards Authority for Ireland to complain that the short term letting platform Airbnb is carrying advertisements for properties within the Galway Rent Pressure Zone which are in breach of planning regulations.

NOM 16/2022

Submitted by Terry O'Flaherty on the 1st Sept 2022

We propose that item 4(a) Consideration of reports of Officials for the proposed Galway City Council Active Travel project for the Ballyloughane Road and Renmore Avenue that this item will not be discussed until full consultation has taken place with all of all the stakeholders that will be greatly affected by this scheme if it goes ahead.

Signed, by;

Cllrs. Terry O' Flaherty, Alan Cheevers, Noel Larkin, Michael Crowe, Declan Mc Donnell.

NOM 17/2022

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 10th Oct 2022

I request Galway City Council to progress the installation of a lighted pedestrian crossing on the Barna Road at the laneway that exits from the Rusheen Woods to the Barna Road. This laneway since upgraded is widely used by residents who walk the back Promenade. It is my understanding that the necessary drawings have been completed for some time for a pedestrian crossing at this location.

NOM 18/2022

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 10th Oct 2022

I request Galway City Council to install bicycle lanes on the Western Distributor Road from the Blake roundabout to the Cappagh Road roundabout and from the

Cappagh Road roundabout to the Blake roundabout which would meet with the existing cycle lane on the Western Distributor Road. I believe that the existing roadway is wide enough to accommodate cycle lanes in both directions.

NOM 19/2022

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 7th Nov 2022

I request Galway City Council to immediately begin the process of the Taking-In-Charge of the laneway linking Ballymoneen Road to the Rosard estate which is adjacent to the grounds of St. John the Apostle Church and the Monalee Heights estate.

NOM 20/2022

Submitted by Cllr. A. Cheevers on the 29th Nov 2022

That this council is concerned in relation to the operation of the transport division of the City Council and calls on the CEO to carry out an urgent review of its operations and to report back to the next Council meeting with proposals to improve the delivery of transport projects of all types in the City and to improve consultation with the elected members and public alike.

6. QUESTIONS – Not Considered

Q8/2022

Submitted by Cllr. M. Cubbard on the 19th June 2022

Can the council provide a list of all masterplans/projects that have been approved by council for the Recreation & Amenity department and give the following information on each:

- Adoption Date,
- Estimated budget,
- Funding available as of 19/06/22,
- Timeline for completion

Q10/2022

Submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy on the 14th August 2022

In April 2021 the council executive reported, via an answer to a question from Cllr. Hanley that the council was seeking 15 active travel staff to add to the existing 8. It was also reported that the hiring process can take over a year. We were also informed more recently that some positions may not be filled until specific skill sets are required for the task.

Can the elected member receive an update on this. Specifically can we be informed if staff turnover has impacted these numbers. Of the positions that remain to be filled, how many fall into the category of roles where hiring is still deferred until a specialist skill is required.

Q13/2022

Submitted by Cllr. T. O Flaherty on the 21st October 2022

To ask the City Council executive for a progress update on the long-promised multi-purpose sports area proposed to be developed in a field adjacent to Bóthar Waithman

and Sruthán Mhuirinne in Ballybane; the reason for the long delay in getting work started; and an update on what is the current status of funding for this much needed project.

Q14/2022

Submitted by Cllr. O. Hanley on the 24th October 2022

To ask for an update on the pedestrian rehabilitation works in the city centre including an update on the final design for the finishing look when work is complete, any images for same, and remaining timeline for any remaining work.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. M. O'Connor

Correspondence were noted by Council.

- (a) Correspondence received 9th November 2022 regarding Resolution passed at Wicklow County Council Ordinary Meeting.
- (b) Correspondence received 10th November 2022 from The Office of the Minister for Social Protection.
- (c) Correspondence received 11th November 2022 regarding Resolution passed at Sligo County Council Ordinary Meeting.
- (d) Correspondence received 11th November 2022 regarding Ideas for special and Commemorative Stamps from An Post.
- (e) Correspondence received 11th November 2022 regarding Two Resolutions passed at Monaghan County Council Ordinary Meeting.
- (f) Correspondence received 30th November 2022 regarding Resolution passed at Mayo County Council Ordinary Meeting.

8. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION

None

9. CONFERENCES

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. N. Murphy

Approved Training was approved.

Approved Training

- 1) **Title:** Celtic Conferences – The Finance Act 2022
Dates: 6th, 7th & 8th January 2023
Venue: The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth
- 2) **Title:** Celtic Conferences – Local Authority Procurement Process
Dates: 20th, 21st & 22nd January 2023
Venue: O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork

3) Title: Celtic Conferences – Modular Housing in Ireland

Dates: 3rd, 4th & 5th February 2023

Venue: The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

4) Title: Celtic Conferences – Protecting Your Mental Health as a Public Representative

Dates: 3rd, 4th & 5th March 2023

Venue: O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork

5) Title: AIR 2023 – Regional Seminar and Training Event 2023

Dates: 7th, 8th & 9th February 2023

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

Sympathies were expressed to Uinsinn Finn on the recent passing of his mother Bridie.

Sympathies were expressed to the family of Martin Joe Greaney, former employee within the Recreation & Amenity department.

Sympathies were expressed to the family of Pat McCambridge.

Congratulations to Mr Gerry Daly, a council staff member who recently published his first book of poetry titled "Childhood Memories".

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty

Sympathies & Congratulations were noted by Council.

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

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Meeting concluded at 6:30p.m.