

<b>Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Galmont Hotel and virtually on zoom platform on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2022 at 3.00 pm.</b>	
<b>Presiding</b>	Cllr. C. Higgins, Mayor of the City of Galway
<b>Present</b>	Councillors A. Cheevers; J. Connolly; M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, O. Hanley, E. Hoare, P. Keane & N. McNelis
<b>Present (virtually)</b>	Councillors: I. Byrne, F. Fahy, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. Murphy, M. O'Connor & T. O'Flaherty
<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr. C. Connolly
<b>Present</b>	Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services Ms. R. McNally, Director of Services Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Mr. C. O'Riordan, Senior Executive Engineer Mr. M. Lally, A/ Senior Executive Engineer Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. S. King, Assistant Staff Officer Ms. A. Ní Chúláin, Clerical Officer
<b>Present (virtually)</b>	Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance/Director of Services Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services Ms. L. Hynes, Management Accountant Ms. H. Martyn, Administrative Officer Ms. A. Finn, Administrative Officer Mr. P. Foley, Administrative Officer Ms. E. Finan, A/Administrative Officer Mr. M. McDonagh, Senior Staff Officer Ms. T. Donohue, Senior Staff Officer Ms. E. Fanning, Senior Engineer Mr. G. McMahon, Arts Officer Mr. R. Lehmann, Tourism Officer Mr. C. Kelly, Administrative Officer Ms. C. McDonagh, 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.

Mayor C. Higgins welcomed all to the meeting and offered her congratulations to the Galway Minors and the Intermediate Camogie team on their recent achievements and to wish the Galway Senior football team the best of luck in the upcoming All

Ireland Football Final. Councillors expressed their wish to erect big screens in the city potentially in Eyre Square and Salthill Park to air the upcoming GAA All Ireland football final with dedicated fan zones laid out.

Cllr. T. O’Flaherty requested that a letter be sent on behalf of the Council to John Joe Newell, member of Galway City Council outdoor staff to thank him for his contribution to the city and wish him all the best in his retirement. This was seconded by Mayor C. Higgins and agreed.

Mayor C. Higgins suggested that the meeting conclude at 6pm. This was proposed by Cllr. N. McNelis and seconded by Cllr. E. Hoare and was agreed.

## **1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Mayor C. Higgins invited matters of accuracy and matters arising. Under matters arising the following was raised:

- Under the Annual Report queries were raised regarding the Road works programme and road resurfacing in the Claddagh area and the provision of double yellow lines;

Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services responded to same.

Proposed By: **Cllr. D. Lyons**                      Seconded By: **Cllr. N. McNelis**

**1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2022**

**The minutes were agreed and adopted.**

### **1(b) Annual Meeting of Galway City Council held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2022**

Mayor C. Higgins invited matters of accuracy and matters arising. Under matters arising the following was raised:

Mayor C. Higgins requested to include the presence of Minister H. Naughton and former Senator L. Higgins at the Annual Meeting, along with others that were acknowledged.

Proposed By: **Cllr. E. Hoare**                      Seconded By: **Cllr. D. Lyons**

**1(b) Annual Meeting of Galway City Council held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2022**

**The minutes were agreed and adopted.**

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

### **2(a) Draft Annual Financial Statement 2021 (subject to Audit)**

Councillors raised queries regarding the draft Annual Financial Statement 2021. Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services and the Chief Executive responded to queries raised.

The Chief Executive advised that the Local Government Auditor has commenced work on the Audit which is expected to come before the Council and the Audit Committee in October.

#### **(i) Approval of Annual Financial Statements (Unaudited) for year ended 31st December 2021**

Proposed By: **Cllr. D. Lyons**

Seconded By: **Cllr. D. McDonnell**

**(i) Approval of Annual Financial Statements (Unaudited) for year ended 31st December 2021**

**This was agreed and approved.**

#### **(ii) Approval of Transfers To/From Reserves as detailed in Note 14 of the Accounts**

Proposed By: **Cllr. D. Lyons**

Seconded By: **Cllr. D. McDonnell**

**(ii) Approval of Transfers To/From Reserves as detailed in Note 14 of the Accounts**

**This was agreed and approved.**

#### **(iii) Approval of Over/Under Expenditure by Division as detailed in Note 16 of the Accounts**

Proposed By: **Cllr. D. McDonnell**

Seconded By: **Cllr. D. Lyons**

**(iii) Approval of Over/Under Expenditure by Division as detailed in Note 16 of the Accounts**

**This was agreed and approved.**

### **2(b) Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) Issues Paper**

Mayor C. Higgins referred Councillors to the LECP Issues Paper and invited Councillors to contribute.

Councillors discussed the LECP Issues Paper and Directors of Services, Mr. B. Barrett & Mr. P. Greene responded to queries.

Proposed By: **Cllr. D. Lyons**

Seconded By: **Cllr. I. Byrne**

**2(b) Local Economic and Community Plan Issues Paper**

**This was noted by Council.**

**2(c) To consider the raising of a loan in connection with the provision of office accommodation**

Directors of Services, Ms. R. McNally, Mr. P. Greene and Ms. H. Kilroy gave a detailed presentation to Council.

Councillors discussed and raised queries in relation to the proposed raising of a loan in connection with the provision of office accommodation.

Mr. P. Greene, Ms. H. Kilroy, Ms. R. McNally and the Chief Executive responded to queries and clarifications raised.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty requested a roll call vote which was supported by Cllrs. O. Hanley & J. Connolly.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote:

Proposed By: **Cllr. M. J. Crowe**

Seconded By: **Cllr. E. Hoare**

**2(c) To approve the raising of a loan of €45.5m from the Housing Finance Agency in connection with the provision of office accommodation – Presentation circulated 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2022**

**In Favour:** Cllrs: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, P. Keane, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, N. Murphy, M. O'Connor & T. O'Flaherty

**Against:** Cllr. O. Hanley

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

The motion was carried and the raising of a loan of €45.5m was approved.

**3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**3(a) Report of Corporate Policy Group held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Councillors considered the Marketing Fund 2022-2023 Recommendation

Proposed By: **Cllr. M. Cubbard**

Seconded By: **Cllr. D. McDonnell**

**3(a) Marketing Fund Recommendation – per Report circulated on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2022.**

**The Marketing Fund Recommendation was agreed and approved by Council.**

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

##### **4(a) Proposed Galway City Council Cycling Enhancement Projects – Verbal Update on the Doughiska Road South and Ballyloughane Road Cycling Enhancement Projects**

It was proposed that the above item be deferred until such time that the six area Elected Representatives and the various stakeholders have a meeting with the Executive as agreed at the June Ordinary City Council meeting.

This was proposed by Cllr. T. O’Flaherty and supported by Cllrs. A. Cheevers, D. McDonnell, M.J. Crowe, N. Larkin and O. Hanley. This was agreed.

##### **4(b) Update on Staff Recruitment**

Not considered.

##### **4(c) Social Inclusion Grants 2022**

Proposed By: <b>Cllr. O. Hanley</b>	Seconded By: <b>Cllr. N. McNelis</b>
<b>4(c) Social Inclusion Grants 2022 – per Report circulated on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b>	
<b>This was noted by the Council.</b>	

##### **4(d) Approval of funding under Local Government Festivals Grant Scheme 2022**

Proposed By: <b>Cllr. O. Hanley</b>	Seconded By: <b>Cllr. N. McNelis</b>
<b>(d) Approval of funding under Local Government Festivals Grant Scheme 2022</b>	
<b>This was noted by Council.</b>	

##### **4(e) Quarterly Reports – April to June, 2022**

- i. Economic, Community & Cultural Development**
- ii. Environment & Climate Change**
- iii. Housing**
- iv. Recreation & Amenity**
- v. Transport & Infrastructure**

Not considered.

##### **4(f) Chief Executive’s Report** **(i) June 2022** **(ii) July 2022**

Not considered.

#### **4(g) Galway's Designation as European Capital of Culture 2020**

Not considered.

### **Supplementary Agenda**

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

##### **4(a) Amenity Grants Scheme 2022**

<b>Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis</b>	<b>Seconded By: Cllr. N. Larkin</b>
<b>4(a) Amenity Grants Scheme 2022 – as per Report circulated on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b>	
<b>This was agreed and approved.</b>	

Mayor. C. Higgins referred all Councillors to a motion submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis as set out below:

Proposed by: Cllr. N. McNelis      Seconded by: Cllr. M. Cubbard

“That this council calls on Government to recognise the community and voluntary sector in Galway (including Community Employment schemes, Rural Social Schemes, TUS and Galway Employability) and all across the county are at the heart of every community, supporting all local groups from GAA, charity groups, tidy towns, meals on wheels, men’s sheds and social groups. Recognise that this work has been carried out for 14 years without an increase in pay and with the rising costs of living with inflation, this has left them on unsustainable wages, leaving them almost worse off than the people they support.

This Council supports their calls on Government to review their schemes and to ensure their value is recognised and properly remunerated. This council supports their claim for better recognition and pay for their critical role within our community.”

The Motion was agreed and approved by Council.

#### **5. NOTICES OF MOTION – Not considered**

<b>NOM 8/2022</b>
<b>Submitted by Cllr. A. Cheevers on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b>
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 is 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 9/2022****Submitted by Cllr. E. Hoare on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

That Galway City Council reviews the policy currently in place for the provision of public street lighting. At present, street lighting is not erected on roads where no footpaths are developed.

A lot of local roads in Galway are without footpaths. The added burden of no public lighting makes these roads even more dangerous for all road users.

**NOM 10/2022****Submitted by Cllr. E. Hoare on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

That Galway City Council will consider waiving the renewal fee for residential parking permits in the City Centre for 2022 in light of reduced parking availability following the reintroduction of Outdoor Living for 2022. Central Government has waived the fee for outdoor street furniture licences in 2022 for commercial premises that qualify.

**NOM 18/2021** submitted under SO 34 at Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021**Notice given by:** Cllr. A. Cheevers **Seconded by:** Cllr. N. McNelis**Date Received:** 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (Amended wording 30<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Request to leave on the Agenda.

**The Motion was deferred at a Special meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and a report is to be brought to Council on the matter.**

**NOM 11/2022****Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

I request Galway City Council to enter immediate discussions with relevant land owners on the Upper Ballymoneen Road so as to acquire sufficient lands by negotiation or by Compulsory Purchase Order so that a bus turning bay can be installed which will permit a bus service operation on the Upper Ballymoneen Road serving the following estates; Slí Burca, Leitir Burca, Leas na Mara, Drisín, Maoilín, Slí Gheal, Fana Buí, Radharc na Farrage, Magh Burca, Ard Cre and a number of other estates now in construction and further developments due to take place on Ballymoneen Road in the future.

**NOM 12/2022****Submitted by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty on the 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2022****Seconded by: Cllr. D. McDonnell on 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Cllr. T. O’Flaherty requested that this motion remain on the agenda at the June Ordinary meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June.**

**NOM 13/2022**

**Submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on the 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.operationencompass.org)

**NOM 14/2022**

**Submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy on the 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**6. QUESTIONS – Not considered**

**Q7/2022**

**Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

According to the annual report, a total of 100 litter fines were issued in 2021 that generated a total income of €9,280, can we get a breakdown of the locations where the offence occurred? Can we also ascertain how many attempts the council have made to prosecute for the offence of illegal dumping in 2019, 2020 and 2021?

**Q8/2022**

**Submitted by Cllr. M. Cubbard on the 19<sup>th</sup> 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

**Q9/2022**



**Submitted by Cllr. O. Hanley on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

To ask the Council, in reference to the Garraí Beag Social Housing Project in Ballybane and the notice of termination that was served on Glenman Corporation on Tuesday, 21 June 2022, how far delayed is the project currently, what was the reasoning for enacting clause 12 of the building contract, have any legal processes been initiated by either party, and when can Councillors and the public expect a full explanation from the Council on this decision? Regarding completion of the 58 social houses can the Council seek a new contractor to complete the works, will this increase the cost to finish the project given the change in the markets since the original contract, and when could the Council begin to tender for same to ensure urgent delivery of the project?

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

**It was proposed by Cllr. E. Hoare to note correspondence. This was seconded by Cllr. J. Connolly and agreed by Council.**

- (a) Correspondence received 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 regarding Resolution agreed by Clare County Council
- (b) Correspondence received 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 from Peter Burke T. D. regarding Resolution passed by Galway City Council
- (c) Correspondence received 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022 regarding Two Resolutions agreed by Sligo County Council
- (d) Correspondence received 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 regarding Two Resolutions agreed by Cork City Council
- (e) Correspondence received 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 regarding Resolutions agreed by Kerry County Council
- (f) Correspondence from Western Inter-County Railway Committee received 28<sup>th</sup> June
- (g) Correspondence received 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 regarding Resolutions agreed by Limerick City and County Council
- (h) Correspondence received 5<sup>st</sup> July 2022 regarding Resolutions agreed by Limerick City and County Council

## 8. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION

<b>Project: Wolfe Tone Pedestrian Bridge II</b>	<b>Stage: Part 8 Planning Application</b>
18/08/2022:	Draft planning/CE report to be completed by 18/08/2022 and presented to councillors
28/09/2022:	last date decision by councillors required
29/09/2022	CE Report finalised and returned to CE

**Councillors Information was proposed by Cllr. E. Hoare and seconded by Cllr. J. Connolly and agreed by Council.**

## **9. CONFERENCES**

### **Approved Training**

1) **Title:** ALLG Autumn Training Conference 2022

**Dates:** 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September

**Venue:** Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim Co. Meath

**Conferences/Approved Training was proposed by Cllr. E. Hoare and seconded by Cllr. J. Connolly and agreed by full Council.**

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

Mrs Helen Moran and family, Lough Inch, Barna, Galway on the passing of her husband Michael (Mick) Moran, RIP.

Mrs Breda Casey and family, The Green, College Road, Galway on the passing of her husband Eddie Casey, RIP.

Moloney family, Seacrest, Shangort Road, Galway on the passing of their mother Mrs Teresa Moloney, RIP.

**Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations were proposed by Cllr D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. T. O’Flaherty and agreed by Council.**

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

None

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

The meeting concluded at 6pm