

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Galmont Hotel and virtually on zoom platform on Monday 10 th of October, 2022 at 3.00 pm.	
Presiding	Cllr. C. Higgins, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present	Councillors: I. Byrne; A. Cheevers; J. Connolly; M.J. Crowe; M. Cubbard; O. Hanley; E. Hoare; N. Larkin; N. McNelis; N. Murphy & M. O'Connor
Present (virtually)	Councillors: F. Fahy; D. Lyons; D. McDonnell & T. O'Flaherty
Apologies	Councillors: C. Connolly & P. Keane
Present	Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance Mr. D. Mahon, Senior Executive Officer Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. E. Finan, A/ Administrative Officer Ms. S. King, Assistant Staff Officer
Present (virtually)	Ms. R. McNally, Director of Services Ms. S. Loughnane, Senior Transport Project Manager Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner Mr. G. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner Ms. H. Martyn, Administrative Officer Ms. T. Donohue, Senior Staff Officer Ms. M. Harrington, Executive Planner Ms. K. Moloney, Executive Planner Mr. P. Foley, Administrative Officer Ms. S. Burke, Executive Technician Ms. C. McDonagh, Assistant Staff Officer Mr. E. Purcell, Clerical Officer Ms. M. Walsh, Clerical 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.

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed
Clodagh Higgins
 Mayor

Mayor C. Higgins welcomed all to the meeting and offered her condolences on behalf of Galway City Council to the loved ones of those who died in Creeslough, Co. Donegal. She acknowledged the work of the emergency services. Mayor C. Higgins proposed a minute of silence, followed by a 5-minute adjournment as a demonstration of sympathy. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

The meeting recommended at 15.10p.m. Mayor C. Higgins proposed a break at 5p.m. This was seconded by Cllr. M. O'Connor and agreed.

Mayor C. Higgins proposed a finish time of 6.30p.m. for the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. E. Hoare and agreed.

Cllr. N. Murphy proposed a motion under Standing Order No. 34 for the Purpose of Dealing with Urgent Business.

Councillors discussed the matter in detail and the Chief Executive responded to queries and clarifications raised.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty requested a Roll Call Vote. This was supported by Cllr. N. Murphy and Cllr. M. O'Connor.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. Murphy	Seconded By: Cllr. M. O'Connor
Motion in line with Standing Order No. 34: Motion for Purpose of Dealing with Urgent Business	
To develop and adopt section 5.1.1 of the 2013 Galway adopted anti-racism strategy protocols to agree an anti-racism protocol with all elected representatives and work with all elected representative to develop an anti-racist protocol charter for the conduct of business in Galway City Council in conjunction with the Galway City Partnership and groups representing minorities including the Galway Traveller Movement, and to have the protocol in place within twelve months.	
In Favour: Cllrs. I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, O. Hanley, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, N. Murphy, M. O'Connor & T. O'Flaherty	
In Favour: 16 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 16	
The motion was carried.	

Cllr. O' Hanley proposed that agenda be considered as laid out with the exception that item 4(g) Report on Speed Limit Bye-Laws Review be considered after item 4(a) Park and Ride Strategy. This was seconded by Mayor. C. Higgins and agreed.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 12th September, 2022



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

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis

1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 12th September, 2022

The minutes were agreed and adopted

Under matters arising the following was raised:

Cllr. M. Cubbard referred to the double yellow line marking in the Claddagh and requested engagement with residents before the end of the week. Cllr. D. McDonnell advised that he will forward a copy of letter received from the residents regarding same.

Mr. Patrick Green, Director of Services responded to queries and clarifications and advised that he will engage with the residents again.

Cllr. J Connolly queried why names are not listed under Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator advised that they will be included in the minutes.

1(b) Special Meetings of Galway City Council to consider the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029

Mayor C. Higgins invited matters of accuracy and matters arising for each of the individual meetings regarding the City Development Plan held on 4th July, 6th July, 8th July, 13th July, 15th July, 18th July, 20th July, 21st July and 22^d July.

Cllr. D. McDonnell raised a matter at the meeting held on 4th July, 2022 regarding a property at St. Mary's Rockbarton. After a debate on same, it was agreed to come back to the submission at a later date so as to allow the Executive to consider a response to same.

The Chief Executive stated that he advised that this request was not in accordance with statutory requirements.

Cllr. McDonnell raised the matter again at the meeting held on Thursday 21st July, 2022 requesting that the property at St. Mary's, Rockbarton, Salthill be removed from the Record of Protected Structures to facilitate upgrade works. He wished for it to be noted on page 10 of the draft minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st July that he was advised that what he was proposing was illegal.

Following a discussion on the matter, the Meetings Administrator advised that it would be noted in the minutes that Cllr. McDonnell was advised at the meeting that what he was proposing would be illegal at that point.

Cllr. D. McDonnell referred to page 14 of the draft minutes of meeting held on Friday 22nd July, 2022 relating to a Motion he had submitted regarding land use zoning objectives GLWC-C2-161 Alber Developments. It was noted that the Planning Department had advised that a restriction on the number of units as proposed would not be appropriate as the plan dealt with policy relating to the overall land use zoning and limiting the scale of development would be a consideration of the development management process including the potential assessment of An Bord Pleanála.

Cllr. D. McDonnell advised that he withdrew the motion he submitted to propose for a specific objective that the 2 sites have no more than 340 houses which would be in keeping with the character of the area due to comments by Cllr. M.J. Crowe who proposed to limit or restrict the number of housing units by accepting the Chief Executive's Response and Recommendation.

The Meetings Administrator advised that this will be noted in the minutes.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis Seconded By: Cllr. O. Hanley

1(b) Special Meetings of Galway City Council to consider the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029 held on Monday, 4th July 2022.

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and adopted.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. Larkin Seconded By: Cllr. M. O'Connor

1(b) Special Meetings of Galway City Council to consider the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029 held on Wednesday, 6th July 2022.

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and adopted.

Proposed By: Cllr. E. Hoare Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell

1(b) Special Meetings of Galway City Council to consider the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029 held on Friday, 8th July 2022.

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and adopted.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons Seconded By: Cllr. N. Larkin

1(b) Special Meetings of Galway City Council to consider the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029 held on Wednesday, 13th July 2022

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and adopted.

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

1(b) Special Meetings of Galway City Council to consider the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029 held on Friday, 15th July 2022.

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and adopted.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell Seconded By: Cllr. M. Cubbard

1(b) Special Meetings of Galway City Council to consider the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029 held on Monday, 18th July 2022

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and adopted.

Proposed By: Cllr. M. O'Connor Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell

1(b) Special Meetings of Galway City Council to consider the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029 held on Wednesday, 20th July 2022.

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and adopted.

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

1(b) Special Meetings of Galway City Council to consider the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029 held on Thursday, 21st July 2022.

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and adopted with the amended wording as requested by Cllr. D. McDonnell.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. Larkin Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell

1(b) Special Meetings of Galway City Council to consider the Draft Development Plan 2023-2029 held on Friday, 22nd July 2022.

This was agreed and adopted with the amended wording as requested by Cllr. D. McDonnell.

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

2(a) Raising of a Loan under the Capital Assistance Scheme for acquisition of properties by Approved housing Bodies

Councillors discussed same and Mr. D. Mahon, Senior Executive Officer responded to queries raised. He advised that the properties in question are being purchased for Approved Housing Bodies.

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

2(a) Raising of a Loan in the amount of €1,985,186 under the Capital Assistance Scheme for acquisition of six properties by Approved housing Bodies - per Report circulated 5th October, 2022.

1. St Martins, Ballybrit

4-bed unit to be acquired by COPE Galway for Homeless Prevention

2. 146 Rosan Glas

4-bed unit to be acquired by COPE Galway for Homeless Prevention

3. 48 Clybaun Heights

4-bed unit to be acquired by Newgrove Housing Association for People with Disabilities

4. 169 Manor Court

1-bed unit to be acquired by Galway Simon Community in partnership with TUSLA to prevent youth homelessness

5. 6 Aran Court

1-bed unit to be acquired by Galway Simon Community for Housing First

6. 39A An Crumpaun

1-bed unit to be acquired by Galway Simon Community for Housing First

This was agreed and approved by the council

2(b) Annual Accounts of Galway Harbour Company - Representatives from Galway Harbour Company - documents circulated 14th September, 2022

The Council heard a presentation from Mr. Conor O'Dowd, CEO and Maurice O'Gorman, Chairperson of the Galway Harbour Company regarding governance; 2021 financial performance (audited); results to date in 2022 (unaudited); outlook; renewable energy and other matters including the appointment of Directors by open competition.

Councillors raised a number of queries which were responded to.

Mayor C. Higgins thanked the representatives and Councillors extended their thanks and congratulations for a successful business year.

It was agreed by Council that a 20 minute break be taken at 4.53pm. The meeting resumed at 5.13pm.

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3(a) Note from Procedure's Committee Meeting held on Thursday 6th October, 2022

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator gave an update from the Procedures meeting.

Proposed By: Cllr. M. O'Connor

Seconded By: Mayor C. Higgins

3(a) Proposal to continue hybrid meetings of Galway City Council (including sub-committee meetings) and for Council meetings to be held in an offsite suitable location like the Galmont Hotel until after the January Council meeting of Galway City Council. That a Procedures Committee Meeting be held to discuss future meeting arrangements before the February City Council Ordinary Meeting.

This was agreed and adopted by Council.

Proposed By: Cllr. M. O'Connor

Seconded By: Mayor C. Higgins

3(b) Proposal for the following dates for Special Council meetings for the City Development Plan.

Monday 21st November – 3pm to 9pm

Thursday 24th November – 10am to 5pm

Monday 28th November – 3pm to 9pm

Thursday 1st December – 10am to 5pm

The dates and times were agreed and approved by Council.

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

4(a) Park and Ride Strategy – Report delivered by the National Transport Authority representatives

The Council welcomed Mr. H. Creegan, Mr. E. Gillard and Ms. E. Conlon, who delivered a presentation on the proposed Park and Ride Strategy which included a summary of why Park & Ride; Vision; Objectives; a Strategy Map was displayed; policy context; national policies and policies specific to the Galway Metropolitan area, study area and background; demand analysis and the developing and implementation of the strategy.

Proposed By: Cllr. J. Connolly

Seconded By: Cllr. C. Higgins

That Athenry be examined as a Park and Ride location.

This was approved by Council.

Councillors expressed their disappointment regarding the presentation given. Comments and queries raised by Councillors were responded to and taken on board by the representatives.

4(b) Chief Executive's Report: October 2022

Not considered

- 4(c) Quarterly Reports - July to September, 2022**
Economic, Community & Cultural Development
Environment & Climate Change
Housing
Recreation & Amenity
Transport & Infrastructure

Not considered

- 4(d) Draft Galway City Council Protocol on Civic Commemorations**
- Not considered

- 4(e) Modernisation of Electoral System - Electoral Act, 2022 - Not considered**

- 4(f) Valuation Office – National Revaluation Programme - Not considered**

- 4(g) Report on Speed Limit Bye-Laws Review – Not considered**

- 4(h) Update on Staff Recruitment - Not considered**

- 4(i) Galway's Designation as European Capital of Culture 2020 - 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 9/2022

Submitted by Cllr. E. Hoare on the 25th 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 25th 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 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 11/2022

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 30th 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 Farraiige, 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 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.

6. QUESTIONS – Not considered

Q7/2022

Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly on the 13th 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 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

Q9/2022

Submitted by Cllr. O. Hanley on the 26th 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?

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.

Q12/2022

Submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on the 4th October 2022

Could you please provide me with how many applications have been received for home improvements and the replacement of windows and doors? How many disability grant applications have been received? How long is it taking to process these applications? What staff are allocated to these works? Can you please outline the process from receiving the application to the issue of approval and timelines for same? What is total number of grants issued in 2020, 2021, and 2022?

Response issued 5th October, 2022.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis

Correspondence were noted by Council.

- (i) Correspondence received 19th September 2022 regarding Resolution agreed by Sligo County Council.
- (ii) Correspondence received 26th September 2022 regarding Resolution agreed by Limerick City and County Council.

8. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION

None

9. CONFERENCES

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis

Approved Training and Training Educational Programme were approved.

Approved Training

1) Title: The LAMA Autumn/Winter Seminar

Dates: 9th & 10th November

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel Coolshannagh, Monaghan H18 Y220

Training Educational Programme

1) Title: Barrister-at-Law Degree Course

Year: 2021 /2022

Venue: King's Inns, Dublin

Participant: Cllr. M.J. Crowe

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations were approved by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis and approved by Council.

None were received.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis

This was approved

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

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Ordinary Council Meeting on Monday 7th November 2022 at 3.00pm
- Budget Meeting on Monday 14th November 2022 at 3pm

The meeting concluded at 18.23p.m.