

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council
held in the Galmont Hotel and virtually on zoom platform
on Monday 7th of November 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, E. Hoare, P. Keane, N. McNelis & N. Murphy
Present (virtually)	Councillors: C. Connolly, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, O. Hanley, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, M. O'Connor & T. O'Flaherty.
Present	Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Ms. R. McNally, Director of Services Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance Mr. J. Higgins, Heritage Officer Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer Ms. A.M. Cusack, Executive Architect Mr. S. Walsh, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. S. King, Assistant Staff officer Ms. A. Ní Chúláin, Clerical Officer Ms. M. Walsh, Clerical Officer
Present (virtually)	Mr. B. Barrett, Director of Services Ms. C. Phelan, Senior Planner Mr. F. McEvoy, Senior Executive Engineer Ms. L. Fanning, Senior Engineer Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer Mr. R. Lehmann, Tourism Officer Ms. E. Finan, A/ Administrative 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 proposed a minute's silence as a demonstration of sympathy in memory of Deirdre Darcy Hogan, R.I.P, sister of Cllr. N. Larkin. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

Following this, Cllr. N. Larkin expressed his gratitude for the demonstration of sympathy in memory of his sister.

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed
Clodagh Higgins
Mayor, Galway

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 10th October 2022

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

Cllr. A. Cheevers proposed that agenda item 4(j) Galway's Designation as European Capital of Culture 2020 be placed as first item on the agenda for the December Ordinary Council. The Chief Executive advised that he will not be present at this meeting. The motion was seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and passed by Council.

Cllr. M. Cubbard raised a query on Master Plans, and it was advised that the Budget book circulated to Councillors has updates on several plans.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare

1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 10th October 2022

The minutes were agreed and adopted

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

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

Cllr. D. Lyons raised that a number of Councillors paid tribute to the late John Mulholland individually at the meeting and they should be noted in the minutes for historical purposes. This was seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and agreed.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator advised that the minutes will be expanded to include Councillors' contributions.

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

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

It was agreed that a revised minute issue to Council.

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

2(a) Declaration of Road to be a public road - Radharc na Gréine, Monivea Road

Cllr. M.J. Crowe sought clarification on part of the original site that faces on to the Monivea Road and if it is privately owned.

Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services advised that this land is not in the ownership of the Council.



Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. A. Cheevers

2(a) Declaration of Road to be a public road - Radharc na Gréine, Monivea Road - per Report circulated on 17th October, 2022

This was agreed and approved by Council.

2(b) Request to Council for Overdraft Accommodation 2023

Councillors discussed the request for the overdraft facility.

Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance/ Director of Services responded to queries raised.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meeting Administrator proceed 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: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare

2(b) Request to Council for Overdraft facility of €8 million for the twelve month period from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 - per Report issued on 4th November 2022.

In Favour: 15 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 15

This was agreed and approved by Council.

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Proposed By: Cllr. P. Keane

Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons

3(a) Note from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17th October 2022

This was agreed and noted by Council.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. M. O'Connor

3(b) Note from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 2nd November 2022

This was agreed and noted by Council.

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

4(a) Feasibility study for the public realm at Merlin and Tirellan castles

The Council heard a presentation given by Fergal McNamara, Conservation Architect and lead consultant for the multi-disciplinary team who carried out the repair and consolidation work at the 3 Castles (Menlough / Merlin and Tirellan) The objectives covered in the presentation were as follows: public safety, access, protection of archaeological heritage, protection of natural heritage, conservation of built heritage, site security, public amenity, presentation of cultural heritage and maintenance.

Councillors raised a number of queries which were responded to by Mr. J. Higgins, Heritage Officer, Ms. A. M. Cusack, Executive Architect, and Mr. F. McNamara.

Mayor C. Higgins proposed a 15-minute break to be taken at 4:30 p.m., and that the meeting finish at 6:30p.m. This was seconded by Cllr. A. Cheevers and agreed.

The meeting resumed at 4:45p.m.

4(b) Report on Speed Limit Bye-Laws Review

Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer gave the Council an update on the status of the Speed Limit Bye-Laws Review.

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

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed a full city-wide speed review to take place. This was seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy.

Cllr. O. Hanley proposed an amendment Motion. Cllr. D. Lyons proposed a Roll Call Vote which was supported by Cllr. F. Fahy and Cllr. N. McNelis on the Motions.

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceed to take a Roll Call Vote on same as follows:

Proposed By: Cllr. O. Hanley

Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis

That Galway City Council shall draft Special Speed Limit Byelaws, under the Road Traffic Act 2004, to introduce a 30km/h inner speed limit zone and shall review national roads as per TII recommendations. That these bye-laws will be in-keeping with a cohesive approach to transport management in the city, but that they shall be presented as standalone Byelaws to be voted on by Councillors. Following this a full citywide speed limit review will be undertaken

In Favour: Cllrs: M. Cubbard, O. Hanley, N. McNelis, N. Murphy & M. O'Connor

Against: Cllrs: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, F. Fahy, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, P. Keane, N. Larkin, D. Lyons & T. O'Flaherty

In Favour: 5 Against: 11 Abstain: 0 Present: 16

The motion failed.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed the following Motion which was seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy. A Roll Call Vote was taken on the Motion as follows:

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy

A full city-wide speed review to take place.

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 & T. O'Flaherty

Against: Cllrs. N. Murphy, M. O'Connor

In Favour: 14 Against: 2 Abstain: 0 Present: 16

The Motion was carried.

Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer advised that a full review will be carried out with specific focus on the primary areas where the speed limits are not in accordance with the Guidelines for the setting and management of speed limits in Ireland. He added that the draft Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws will be prepared with 30 km/h speed limit in the core city centre area and for the review of the national and former national roads.

The Chief Executive advised that draft Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws will be prepared and issued to Council for consideration early in the New Year with a workshop to be held for Councillors.

4(c) Valuation Office - National Revaluation Programme

Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance/ Director of Services gave a brief update on the National Revaluation Programme.

Councillors discussed the matter in detail & raised a number of concerns, in particular, the future for the business and hospitality sector. Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance/Director of Services and the Chief Executive responded to queries and clarifications raised.

Mayor C. Higgins proposed a Motion to defer the national rates revaluation programme immediately. A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Proposed By: Cllr. C. Higgins

Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare

That this Council recognises that the timing of the national revaluation programme is not appropriate given the levels of difficulty businesses have and are facing.

The Perma crisis we seem to be engulfed in from climate emergency, Russian aggression, inflation the knock-on effect of the Covid 19 pandemic, Brexit and increases in interest rates have had a negative impact on businesses.

Taking this into consideration, it would be prudent in the current climate that Galway City Council calls on the Government to defer the national rates revaluation process immediately until things improve.

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 & T. O'Flaherty

Against: Cllrs. N. Murphy, M. O'Connor

In Favour: 14 Against: 2 Abstain: 0 Present: 16

The Motion was carried.

4(d) Chief Executive's Report: - Not considered

- (i) October 2022
- (ii) November 2022

4(e) Quarterly Reports - July to September, 2022 - Not considered

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

4(f) Draft Report on Proposed Regional Aquatic Centre at Cappagh under the LSSIF - Not considered

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

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

4(i) Tidy Towns Report 2022 - Not considered

4(j) Galway's Designation as European Capital of Culture 2020 – It was agreed by Council for this agenda item to be placed at the top of the next Ordinary meeting

4(k) Update on Staff Recruitment - 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 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 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 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 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.

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.

Q15/2022

Submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on the 1st November 2022

Could the City Chief Executive please let me know what role Galway City Council has as co-owner of the Airport Site in its future planning of development. Following a vote of support taken by the elected members of both councils for the development of a Film Production facility, why were the economic and culture directors of both City and County not asked to comment the recent planning application. In light of the seven years of development work that has already gone into this project, does this proposed development have the support of Galway City Council Executive.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis

Correspondence were noted by Council.

- a) Correspondence received 10th October 2022 regarding Motion – Justice for Noah Donohue from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council.
- b) Correspondence received 18th October 2022 regarding new funding model for Early Childhood Years from Mr. Michael McGrath T.D.
- c) Correspondence received 24th October 2022 regarding Motion – Turf Cutting Policy from Donegal County Council
- d) Correspondence received 26th October 2022 regarding Resolution from Offaly County Council.

8. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION

None

9. CONFERENCES

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis

Approved Training was approved.

Approved Training

1) Title: AILG Elected Members October 2022 (In-Person) Module 5 Training - "Disability and Inclusion"

Dates: Thursday, 27th Oct 2022, 9:30am – 12:00pm

Venue: The Radisson Hotel, Sligo

2) Title: AILG Elected Members November 2022 (In-Person) Module 6 Training - "Data Protection - What Councillors Need to Know"

Dates: Saturday, 19th Nov 2022, 9:30am – 12:45pm

Venue: The Crown Plaza Hotel, Dundalk

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

None were received.

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

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.