

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council
held in the Ardilaun Hotel and virtually on zoom platform
on Monday 9th of January 2023 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, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis & N. Murphy
Present (virtually)	Councillors: C. Connolly, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, N. Larkin, M. O'Connor & T. O'Flaherty
Apologies	Cllr. P. Keane
Present	Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services Ms. R. McNally, Director of Services Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance/Director of Services Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer Mr. F. McEvoy, Senior Executive Engineer Ms. F. Holland, Senior Engineer Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. T. Hughes Lannon, Administrative Officer Ms. S. King, Assistant Staff Officer Ms. A. Ní Chúláin, Clerical Officer
Present (virtually)	Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive Mr. D. Mahon, Senior Executive Officer Mr. M. Buckley, Senior Executive Officer Ms. L. Mitchell, Senior Executive Officer Mr. G. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer Ms. H. Martyn, A/Senior Executive Officer Ms. L. Hynes, Management Accountant Ms. M. Harrington, Executive Planner Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner Mr. R. Lehmann, Tourism Officer Ms. C. Morgan, Administrative Officer Mr. P. Foley, Administrative 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.

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed

Mayor of Galway

Ms. A. Rohan outlined requirements regarding the Reporting of Political Donations by Elected Members and advised the annual deadline for the reporting of political donations received in the previous year by Elected Members is 31st January, 2023. She confirmed that the reporting requirements due for 2023 are unchanged from those that applied in 2022. These requirements were initially set out in Circular letter F.10/13 of 16 October 2013.

Ms. A. Rohan advised Councillors that the Corporate Services staff were available to schedule a meeting individually with them to ensure that requirements regarding the Local Representative Allowance are met. She advised that a member who claimed an amount under the LRA for 2022 must submit all relevant documentation for 2022 not later than 31 January 2023. She added that Members' expenditure under the LRA may be subject to audit by the Local Government Auditor as part of the annual audit process.

Mayor C. Higgins welcomed all to the meeting. A minutes silence was proposed by Mayor C. Higgins and seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons in memory of our colleague Mr. Johnny Cummins, RIP, who worked as a Community Warden in Galway City Council. Mayor C. Higgins expressed her sympathies to his family.

As a mark of respect, this was followed by a minute's silence.

Mayor C. Higgins indicated that item 4(a) would be discussed after items 1(a), (b) and (c) as agreed at the December Ordinary Meeting.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1(a) Special Meeting of Galway City Council regarding the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 held on 21st November, 2022

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

- Cllr. C. Connolly raised a query regarding voting in the City Development Plan Meetings and sought copies of queries from the Office of the Planning Regulator.

Ms. A. Rohan and the Chief Executive responded to queries.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell

1(a) Special Meeting of Galway City Council regarding the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 held on 21st November, 2022

The minutes were agreed and adopted.



1(b) Special Meeting of Galway City Council regarding the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 held on 24th November, 2022

Cllr. D. McDonnell referred to a Motion that he had submitted in writing regarding lands at Rosshill that he subsequently withdrew and that it be noted in the minutes, and queried the attendance of Cllr. P. Keane at this meeting. Ms. A. Rohan advised that the Motion referred to can be referenced in the minutes and noted that it was not considered. She also confirmed that the attendance details will be updated.

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

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

1(b) Special Meeting of Galway City Council regarding the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 held on 24th November, 2022

The minutes were agreed and adopted.

1(c) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 12th December, 2022

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

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

1(c) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 12th December, 2022

The minutes were agreed and adopted.

- Cllr. D. Lyons and Cllr. C. Connolly sought an update on vacant houses in Munster Avenue;
- Cllr. T. O'Flaherty sought an update on a Motion she submitted regarding Active Travel in Ballyloughane:

Motion 34 – Cllr. T. O'Flaherty

I'm proposing that the GTS Appendix F regarding Ballyloughane Road/Renmore Avenue on Page 8 of the Galway City Council Transport & Infrastructure Quarterly report be removed and placed on the agenda as a single item as was the case heretofore

Mr. B. Barrett, Mr. P. Greene and Ms. S. Connolly respond to queries.

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

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

Councillors discussed the agenda item and raised a number of queries.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Connolly to suspend Standing Orders to allow a speaking time of five minutes for each Councillor on the matter. This was seconded by Mayor C. Higgins and agreed.

Mayor C. Higgins proposed that the meeting conclude at 6.30pm. This was seconded by Cllr. E. Hoare and agreed. It was later agreed that the meeting proceed until item 2(a) was dealt with.

A break was taken at 4.19pm. The meeting resumed at 4.41pm.

Mr. B. McGrath responds to all queries and clarifications in detail.

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

2(a) Speed Limits Review - Report issued 7th December, 2022

Councillors discussed the agenda item and some queries were raised.

Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer responded to queries and clarifications.

It was proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy that the draft bye-laws proceed to public consultation. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons.

Cllr. C. Connolly proposed an amendment 'That we adopt the Bye-laws without any of the proposed increases in the Speed Limits and that we adopt a 30km zone outside all schools'. This was seconded by Cllr. M. O'Connor. The motion was deemed out of order.

Cllr. D. Lyons then proposed that Galway City Council immediately undertake a full review of the Speed Limit Bye Laws in 2023. It was advised that this Motion was taken at the November Ordinary Meeting of the Council and was carried. This motion therefore was not considered.

Cllr. C. Connolly submitted the following Motion and proposed that a Roll Call Vote be taken. This was supported by Cllr. M. J. Crowe and Cllr. M. Cubbard. Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote as follows:

Proposed By: Cllr. C. Connolly	Seconded By: Cllr. M.J. Crowe
I would like to propose that all City Schools be included in the proposed Byelaws in the 30km zone.	
In Favour: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, C. Connolly, J. Connolly, M. J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, N. McNelis, N. Murphy, & M. O'Connor	
Against: F. Fahy, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell & T. O'Flaherty	
In Favour: 9 Against: 7 Abstain: 0 Present: 16	
This was approved by Council.	

Mr. U Finn clarified that we will examine this Motion and can report back on accordingly.

Cllr. F. Fahy put forward the initial Motion he had submitted with an amendment to same. A Roll Call Vote was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons. This was supported by Cllr. D.

McDonnell & Cllr. M.J. Crowe. Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote as follows:

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
To proceed with the Speed Limits Review as presented by the Executive with an amendment that the Coast Road be removed from the 2nd Schedule of the draft Bye-Laws.	
In Favour: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, C. Connolly, J. Connolly, M. J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, 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 and approved unanimously by Council.	

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3(a) Note of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Friday 16th December 2022 - Not Considered.

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

4(b) Crown Square Update - Not Considered.

Chief Executive's Report: - Not Considered.

- i. December 2022 - issued
- ii. January 2023 - to follow

(c) Quarterly Reports - October to December, 2022 - Not Considered.

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

(d) Update on Staff Recruitment – updated Report to issue – Not Considered.

(e) EPA Focus On Local Authority Environmental Enforcement - Performance Report 2021 – issued 7th December, 2022

(f) Data Protection - verbal update – Not Considered.

(g) National Oversight and Audit commission (NOAC) Galway City Council Scrutiny Report – copy attached for noting – Not Considered.

(h) Northern & Western Regional Assembly - Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy Two-Year Monitoring Report 2020-2022 - copy attached for noting – 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 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.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence were proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. N. Murphy and agreed by Council.

- (a) Correspondence received 12th December, 2022 regarding Resolution passed at Limerick City & County Council Ordinary Meeting.
- (b) Correspondence received 13th December, 2022 regarding a motion passed at the Northern & Western Regional Assembly Meeting.
- (c) Correspondence received 13th December, 2022 regarding a motion passed at the Killarney Municipal District Meeting.

- (d) Correspondence received 15th December, 2022 from Minister Heather Humhreys T.D.
- (e) Correspondence received 22nd December, 2022 from Monaghan County Council.
- (f) GRETB's Strategy Statement 2022-2026 received 3rd January 2023
- (g) Correspondence received 4th January, 2022 from Meath County Council

8. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION

None

9. CONFERENCES

None

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

Patsy Nolan, Ballyloughane. RIP

Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations were proposed by Cllr. N. McNelis and seconded by Cllr. N. Murphy. This was agreed by Council.

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

None

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

The meeting concluded at 7.07pm

