

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council
held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and virtually via Zoom
on Monday 13th November 2023 at 3.00p.m.**

Presiding	Cllr. D. Lyons, Deputy Chair (3.00pm – 3.30pm) Cllr. E. Hoare, Mayor of the City of Galway (3.30pm to 6.30pm)
Present (Elected Members)	Councillors: A. Cheevers, A. Curran, J. Connolly, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, C. Higgins, P. Keane, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O’Flaherty
Present (virtually)	Councillors: M.J. Crowe, N. Murphy, N. Larkin, M. O’Connor
Present (Executive)	Ms. P. Philbin, Chief Executive - Interim Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Ms. H. Kilroy, Director of Services & Head of Finance Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services Mr. Ú. Finn, A/Director of Services Ms. E. Fanning, A/Director of Services Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner Ms. Fiona Holland, Senior Engineer Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. A. Kenny, Administrative Officer Mr. C. O’Riordan, A/Senior Engineer Ms. Aoife, Ni Chulain, A/Assistant Staff Officer
Online (Executive)	Ms. M. Fallon Ward, Administrative Officer Mr. M. Cormican, Senior Executive Engineer
Apologies	Councillors: C. Connolly, I. Byrne

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 intent to conduct the business of the meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection.

Cllr. D. Lyons, Deputy Chair, welcomed all to the meeting. He expressed his sympathy to Cllr. T. O’Flaherty on the sad passing of her brother Joe, to Joe Considine & family on the sad passing of his brother Michael and to the Curley family on the sad passing Robert Curley. Cllr. D. Lyons proposed a 5-minute silence as a mark of respect. This was Seconded by Cllr. M. Cubbard and agreed.

The Chair referred members to agenda item 1 and invited comments.

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed

Mayor of Galway

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 9th October 2023

Proposed By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty Seconded By: Cllr. C. Higgins
1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 9 th October 2023
The minutes were agreed and adopted.

The Chair invited matters of accuracy and matters arising.

Matters of Accuracy:

Page 11 – Amend paragraph 8 “Mr. P. Greene informed members that he met with residents” to “Met with members”.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. T. O' Flaherty referred to page 11, point 9, in relation to a request for an update on the toilets & shelter in Ballyloughane and to her recent motion submitted in relation to this matter (NOM 38/2023) and asked if her motion could be taken.

Cllr. N. McNelis referred to bed tax letter issued to the CCMA and asked for an update on this. He also queried if the Council have received the rates limitation order.

Cllr. Lyons asked if any notes were taken of the meeting with the OPR and the executive and are they available.

Cllr. M. Cubbard referred to serious anti-social behaviour issues in Galway City and the circulation of same on social media and proposed that the executive write to the Chief Superintendent to request a meeting with the Elected Members to discuss this issue.

The Chair invited a response from the executive on the above.

In response to the Rates Limitation Order, Ms. H. Kilroy informed members that she hopes to receive same within the next few days.

In response to the Bed Tax letter to the CCMA, Ms. P. Philbin informed members that she is due to meet with the CCMA this week and will follow up on this matter.

In response to the OPR/Executive meeting, Mr. U. Finn informed members that it was an informal meeting and there are no notes or minutes available.

Further clarifications were raised:

- Who attended the OPR/Executive meeting and what was the subject of the meeting.



In relation to anti-social behaviour issues in Galway City, Cllr. Cubbard proposed that the Chief Executive contact the Gardai/Chief Superintendent to meet with Elected Members to discuss these issues. This was seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed.

The Chair invited a response from the executive on the above.

In response to the OPR/Executive meeting, Mr. U. Finn informed members that he had previously spoken to Cllr. D. McDonnell in relation to this issue and thought that they had clarity on this matter and added that he will write to Mr. Niall Cussens, OPR, to get clarity on this issue.

In relation to the issue of anti-social behaviour in the City and the request to meet with the Chief Superintendent, Cllr. D. Lyons referred to the upcoming JPC Public Meeting which is taking place on Monday 27th November 2023. He stated that questions on this issue can be raised at this meeting and asked if all members could attend same.

The Chair referred members to agenda item 2(a).

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

(a) Annual Accounts of Galway Harbour Company - Representatives from Galway Harbour Company

The Council heard a presentation from Mr. Conor O'Dowd, CEO and Mr. Maurice O'Gorman, Chairperson of the Galway Harbour Company regarding governance; 2022 financial performance (audited); results to date in 2023 (unaudited); outlook; and other matters.

Councillors raised a number of queries which were responded to.

Cllr. J. Connolly proposed that the consortium give a presentation on the GH2 Hydrogen Pump Project to the members. This was Seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed.

Mr. O' Dowd agreed to bring the proposal back to the consortium for their consideration.

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

The Chair referred members to item 2(b).

2(b) Raising of a Loan in relation to the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme

Ms. E. Fanning, A/Director of Services presented on this item.

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

2(b) Raising of a Loan in relation to the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme

In Favour: 14 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 14
The motion is carried.

Following a break of 15 minutes, the Chair proposed to suspend standing orders to take NOM 38/2023 as requested by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and to take an update from the Executive on Storm Debi. This was Seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed.

The Chair referred members to NOM 38/2023 submitted by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and invited comments.

NOM 38/2023

Submitted by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty on the 6th November 2023

I call on the City Council to install the much needed Changing Shelter for Ballyloughane with immediate effect. The funding of €40,000 for the shelter was included in the 2021 City Council budget and so far in has not been installed despite the fact that there's no shelter in Ballyloughane.

In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13
The motion is carried.

The Chair invited members of the Executive to give an update on Storm Debi.

Ms. P. Philbin, Ms. F. Holland and Mr. M. Cormican gave a detailed update on the aftermath of the storm which included images of flooding and damage caused throughout Galway City.

Ms. F. Holland informed Members that the Local Coordination Committee will be meeting again later this evening for further updates.

The Chair thanked the Executive for the update. He also complimented and thanked the Coordination team, and all involved for their work during the storm.

The Chair invited comments.

The following comments/queries were raised:

- How were rough sleepers dealt with during the Storm, was accommodation provided?
- Number of businesses/homes damaged.
- Was there any damage done in Mutton Island.
- Have Galway City Council a data base of all residents/Companies so that car owners can be contacted to move cars in areas prone to flooding.
- Why did people not get more advance notice nationally of the Storm.
- Can Black Rock Tower be fixed as soon as possible or else erect substantial blocks on it to stop it being used until repairs are carried out.
- Flooding on Bóthar Na dTreabh – why did this happen?

- Can members get a timeline of when flood defences will be built on Spanish Arch, Salt hill and other areas prone to flooding in the City.
- How do residents/businesses affected by Storm damage and flooding apply for funding.
- Ash die-back - Can a plan be put in place to remove these trees.
- Need to work with Uisce Eireann and put together a proper gully maintenance plan.
- Update on flood defence and drawing down the funding.
- Some houses in the Claddagh area received money from the LIS funding to erect flood defences and these properties did not flood this time. Can the Council look at this for other areas.
- Can we apply for funding for damaged playgrounds.
- Have we access to a volunteer base we can utilise in events like this to alleviate pressure on City Council staff.

Ms. F. Holland, Mr. M. Cormican and Ms. E. Fanning replied to the above queries.

Ms. P. Philbin informed members that applications for funding have been circulated to members.

In relation to the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAMs), Mr. U. Finn informed members that a follow up presentation can be arranged.

Mr. B. Barrett added that the Draft Climate Action Plan will be going out to Public Consultation shortly and this will include mitigation against climate change.

The Chair proposed to deal with agenda items 7, 9 & 10 and invited comments.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy
(a) Correspondence from the Minister for Finance, Michael McGrath acknowledging Accommodation Tax letter, received on 05/10/2023.	
(b) Correspondence from Clare County Council regarding resolution passed at their October meeting (Traffic calming measures in future housing developments and planning process) received on 12/10/2023.	
(c) Correspondence from Chief Superintendent Roche, Galway Division, in relation to NOM 31/23, received on 10/10/23.	
(d) Acknowledgement from Housing Minister - reminder email to request meeting to discuss issues impacting Housing Delivery in Galway City, received on 31/10/2023.	
It was agreed by Council to note correspondence.	

9. CONFERENCES

Approved Training

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy
	Training title and Provider	Date and Location
1.	AILG – Training Programme Module 5 “Elected Member Personal Security – Positive Home, Workplace and Mobile Security Practices”	Thursday 19 th October 2023 Eastern & Midlands/Northern & Western Region Kilmore Hotel, Cavan
2.	AILG Training Webinar 8 – "Local Authority Climate Action Plans" -	Friday 20 th October 2023 Webinar
3.	LAMA Autumn Seminar on Climate Action, Sustainable Business and Balanced Regional Development	Wednesday 25 th & Thursday 26 th October 2023 Ard Rí House Hotel, Tuam, Co. Galway
4.	AILG Training Webinar 9 - "Councillor Personal Security - Threat Recognition & Observation Skills	Friday 27 th October 2023 Webinar
5.	AILG Elected Member Training Programme Module 6 - Road Safety: New Speed Limit Policy and Safeguarding Road Users	Saturday 18 th November 2023 (9.30am – 1.00pm) The Clayton Hotel, Ballybrit, Co. Galway
Approved training was noted and agreed by Council		

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Kathleen Ivers on the sad passing of her sister Joan Forrest, RIP • The Griffin Family on the sad passing of their father Denis (Dan) Griffin, RIP • Mr. Joe Considine and family on the sad passing of his brother Michael Considine, RIP • The Murray Family on the sad passing of their mother, Carmel Murray (née O'Neill), RIP • Carmel & Tom Horgan and family on the sad passing of Carmel's mother, Carmel Murray (née O'Neill) RIP • Elizabeth (Liz), Aileen, Sean and Mark Henderson, on the sad passing of Liz's husband William (Billy) Henderson RIP • Mr. Billy Hogan and family, on the sad passing of his wife Jane Hogan (née Kenny) RIP • Cllr. T. O'Flaherty on the sad passing of her brother, Joe O'Flaherty, RIP. • The Curley family on the sad passing of our friend and colleague, Robert Curley, RIP. 	
Votes of Sympathy were noted and agreed by Council.	

The Chair proposed to extend the meeting to 6.55pm to deal with agenda item 4(b) – Chief Executive's Report. This was Seconded by Cllr. T' O'Flaherty but was not agreed by all.

The Chair then proposed that this meeting be adjourned to Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 2:00pm. This was Seconded by Cllr. M.J. Crowe and agreed.

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS – Not Considered

- (a) Chief Executive's Report - November 2023 (attached)
- (b) Section 4 – Update on Cross Street rejuvenation under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund scheme (report to follow)

5. NOTICES OF MOTION – Not Considered

NOM 8/2022

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

Response issued 18/05/2023

Response issued 06/10/2023 - Request to leave on the agenda.

I am calling on Galway County 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 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 17/2022

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

Response issued 05th April 2023 Resubmitted 10th April 2023 (Not included in Special meeting on 22/05/23 as Cllr. Lyons had three motions on this agenda).

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 18/2023

Submitted by Cllr. A. Curran on the 23rd June 2023

That the council will create a warm weather response contingency plan for the city to be actioned during forecasted spells of warm and dry weather. This contingency plan will consider amongst others the council's approach to water safety, transportation, refuse and waste, public spaces, sanitation facilities and recreational areas.

NOM 19/2023

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 22nd June 2023

In view of the recent petition by the Mincloon Residents seeking a footpath in their area from the junction of the Clybaun Road to the junction of Bóthar Stiofáin, I request Galway City Council to forward this request to the National Transport

Authority and pursue it as a pilot Active Travel Project, which could be replicated in other parts of the city which is similar to the Ragoon Road, lacking the necessary infrastructure like footpaths and public lighting.

NOM 22/2023

Submitted by Cllr. D. McDonnell on 7th July 2023

Call on Galway City Council to re-examine the junction at Roscam and consider removing a number of bollards in order to facilitate motorists trying to get out of the estate to get to work and to school.

NOM 26/2023

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 26th July 2023

I request Galway City Council, Roads Department/Active Travel Department to prepare the necessary drawings and seek funding from the National Transport Authority for the provision of a lighted pedestrian (zebra) crossing south of the roundabout on the Cappagh Road. The provision of a lighted zebra crossing at this location would make it safer for users of the Cappagh Park facilities to cross this busy road.

NOM 27/2023

Submitted by Cllr. A. Cheevers on the 8th August 2023

I am Calling on Galway City Council to support the retention of VAT at 9% for the food related businesses and we are calling on the Minister for Finance to extend the 9% vat rate to the end of 2024.

NOM 29/2023

Submitted by Cllr. N. Larkin on the 11th Sept 2023

The people of Roscam really need us as elected representatives to properly represent their needs. Considering the unsustainable return junction at Roscam between South Doughiska Road and the Road up to housing estates - Ros Caoin, Renaissance, Boireann Beag , I am calling on this Council to support the democratic campaign fought by residents in 2019 and commitments from Galway City Council to formalise two vehicular lanes to alleviate traffic congestion and after such Galway City Council liaises with stakeholders to create a safe cycle network for exiting the estates.

NOM 30/2023

Submitted by Cllr. C. Higgins on the 11th Sept 2023 Seconded by: Cllr. D. Lyons

That this Council commits to placing double yellow lines outside the front driveways (only) of properties on Threadneedle Road on the grounds of safe access and egress as per resident's requests.

NOM 35/2023

Submitted by Cllr. D. McDonnell on the 5th October 2023

Motion raised at October Council meeting – Request for motion to be placed on Agenda for November meeting.

I call on Galway City Council to proceed with the issuing of tender documents immediately for works to be carried out at St. James's GAA grounds, Mervue, which consists of an all-weather surface pitch and associated fencing. I would also request that Galway City Council re-examine all leases for clubs to ensure that the clubs with local authority grounds can, in the future, apply directly for funding from the Government under the Sports Capital Programme.

NOM 37/2023

Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly on the 2nd November 2023

That the planning notices provided to elected members would include all applications made for licences to Galway City Council under section 254 of Planning and Development Act, 2000.

QUESTIONS – Not Considered

6.

Q4/2023

Submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on the 10th April 2023

Can Galway City Council urgently look at the design of Upr and Lwr Clybaun Road and Upr and Lwr Ballymoneen roads as pedestrian crossings at this roundabout are not safe and the speed coming off these is very high. Elected members of the West Ward met with Garda Superintendent last week and also raised this but there needs to be a design change to make these areas safe.

Q7/2023

Submitted by Cllr. A. Curran on the 31st August 2023

What are the constraints and barriers (financial, legal, resource based or otherwise) that is stopping the installation of red light cameras at busy traffic junctions in the city, which record and fine motorists who break red lights.

Q8/2023

Submitted by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty on the 6th November 2023

Please outline a time frame for completion of the Renmore Neighbourhood Project Framework Scheme, which will provide junior and senior playgrounds, if there are no objections; to include target dates for each of the following stages:
Stage I: Feasibility and Concept Design
Stage II: Preliminary Design for Planning Consent and Development for Initial Pre-Tender Cost estimate
Stage III: Tender Action, Evaluation and Award
Stage IV: Construction
Stage V: Handover

11. OTHER BUSINESS SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING – Not Considered

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Not Considered

The meeting concluded at 6.30pm

**Draft Minutes of the Adjourned Meeting of Galway City Council
held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and virtually via Zoom
on Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 2.00p.m.**

Presiding	Cllr. E. Hoare, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present (Elected Members)	Councillors: A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, C. Higgins, P. Keane, T. O'Flaherty
Present (virtually)	Councillors: A. Curran, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. Murphy, N. McNelis, M. O'Connor
Present (Executive)	Ms. P. Philbin, Chief Executive - Interim Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services Mr. U. Finn, A/Director of Services Ms. E. Fanning, A/Director of Services Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner Ms. Fiona Holland, Senior Engineer Mr. Gary McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. A. Kenny, Administrative Officer Ms. Aoife, Ni Chulain, A/Assistant Staff Officer
Online (Executive)	Mr. J. Houlihan, Senior Executive Engineer Mr. J. Callan, Senior Executive Engineer
Apologies	Councillors: I. Byrne, C. Connolly Mr. P. Greene, Ms. H. Kilroy, Ms. S. Connolly

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator commenced the meeting with a statement of intent to conduct the business of the meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection.

The Chair proposed a minute's silence for Ms. Margaret Long (nee Casserly) RIP, mother-in-law of Cllr. D. McDonnell and staff member Mr. Tommy Healy. This was Seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and agreed.

The Chair Proposed that the meeting conclude at 4.00pm, with a break for 15 minutes at 3.00pm subject to review in advance of 4.00pm. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty referred to a question reference 8/2023 she submitted on 6th November 2023 regarding the Renmore Neighbourhood Project Framework Scheme and requested a response from the executive for the next meeting.

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

(a) Chief Executive's Report - November 2023.

The Chair referred members to agenda item 4(a), Chief's Executive Report – November 2023 and invited comments.

Item 4(a) - Chief Executive's Report - November 2023

Report noted by Council.

A discussion followed and a number of queries/clarifications were raised including:

- Concerns regarding the Galway Airport Site at Carnmore and its proposed use.
- Clarifications in relation to Social Housing allocations and targets for Galway City.
- Clarification in relation to Planning Applications and number of refusals.
- Multimodal Transport - update requested.
- Crown Square Project - update requested.
- Multimodal Transport Corridor Project – 2 roads currently excluded: Clybaun Road and Ragoon Road. Can this project be expanded to include these roads.
- Flooding and drainage on Lough Atalia Road, Sandy Road and Tuam Road
- Net Zero City Pilot - update requested.
- Park n Ride at Corrib Village - update requested.
- Galway Christmas Markets - railings at the (Supermac side), unsightly – can this be looked at and covered if possible. Can rubbish bins in front of the Crib be relocated.
- Can Elected Members be notified in advance when trees are being removed.

The Chair invited a response from the Executive.

Ms. F. Holland responded to queries raised in relation to Multimodal Transport, Park in Ride, Corrib Village and flooding issues. Mr. J. Houlihan, Senior Executive Engineer gave members an update on the masterplans.

Ms. P. Philbin, Ms. E. Fanning & Mr. G. McMahon responded to queries regarding the Galway Airport Site, Carnmore and proposed concerts, Ms. Fanning agreed to investigate the possibility of carrying out an impact assessment on any potential effects on the Galway Arts Festival.

Ms. E. Fanning responded to queries in relation to Housing allocations.

Mr. J. Callan agreed to notify Elected Members in advance if removing trees.

Mr. U. Finn responded to queries regarding Planning Applications and refusals, Active Travel and Social Housing targets. He agreed to come back to members with the actual number of units involved in applications withdrawn and refused.

Mr. B. Barrett responded to queries regarding the Crown Square Project and the Net Zero City Pilot Project.

In relation to the Christmas Markets railing, Mr. G. MacMahon agreed to examine this.

In relation to the inclusion of Clybaun Road and Ragoon Road, Ms. P. Philbin advised that Ms. F. Holland can issue a written response to this.

Cllr. T. O' Flaherty referred to the playgrounds in Renmore and proposed that the Renmore project be put forward as a standalone project. This was seconded by Cllr Fahy.

Cllr. M.J. Crowe suggested that this motion be left on the table for members to discuss and identify alternative ways to progress it. This was agreed.

The Chair referred members to Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M.J. Crowe and invited comments. Ms. A. Rohan proceeded to take a vote on this motion.

NOM 41/2023 submitted on 21st November 2024			
Submitted by Cllr. M. J. Crowe		Seconded by: Cllr. P. Keane	
That Galway City Council, as 50% owner of the Airport Site, limit the proposed concerts to a maximum of six for 2024 with a full review of this event to be an agenda item in the Autumn of 2024.			
In Favour: 10	Against: 3	Abstain: 0	Present: 13
The motion is carried.			

The Chair referred members to Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Cheevers and invited comments. Ms. A. Rohan proceeded to take a vote on this motion.

NOM 42/2023 submitted on 21st November 2024			
Submitted by Cllr. A. Cheevers		Seconded by: Cllr. P. Keane	
I call on the Executive of Galway City Council in conjunction with the Executive in our sister Authority at Galway County Council to immediately set up a Steering Group for the purpose of on-going management of the Galway Airport Site pending receipt of the draft Masterplan for the property, the Steering Group to consist of equal representation from both Authorities with Councillor Representation on the Group.			
In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Present: 13
The motion is carried.			

The Chair referred members to Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly and invited comments. Ms. A. Rohan proceeded to take a vote on this motion.

NOM 43/2023 submitted on 21st November 2024			
Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly		Seconded by: Cllr. D. Lyons	
Given their current use in facilitating existing public transport services, I propose that both Upper Clybaun Rd. and Ragoon Rd. would be included in the Multi-Modal Corridor – Constraints and Feasibility Study.			
In Favour: 13	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Present: 13
The motion is carried.			

The meeting concluded at 16.13.

