

**Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council  
held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and virtually via Zoom  
on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 3.00p.m.**

<b>Presiding</b>	Cllr. E. Hoare, Mayor of the City of Galway
<b>Present (Elected Members)</b>	Councillors: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, C. Higgins, P. Keane, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis
<b>Present (virtually)</b>	Councillors: C. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, A. Curran, F. Fahy, N. Larkin, M. O'Connor, T. O'Flaherty
<b>Apologies</b>	Councillors: N. Murphy
<b>Present (Executive)</b>	Ms. P. Philbin, Chief Executive – Interim Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services Mr. U. Finn, A/Director of Services Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner Ms. F. Holland, Senior Engineer Mr. M. Cormican, Senior Engineer Mr. C. O'Riordan, Senior Engineer Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. A. Kenny, 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 intent to conduct the business of the meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection.

Mayor E. Hoare welcomed all to the meeting and proposed a minute's silence for the sad passing of Margaret Long (née Casserly), mother-in-law of staff member Tommy Healy and Cllr. Declan McDonnell. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed. Cllr. T. O'Flaherty proposed to include Mary McPhilbin, RIP, mother of Patrick McPhilbin. This was seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell and agreed.

Mayor E. Hoare proposed that the meeting finish at 6.00pm with a 15-minute break at 4.45pm. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

## 1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023
- (b) Adjourned Meeting of Galway City Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023

Mayor E. Hoare referred members to agenda item 1(a) & 1(b) which would be considered together following contribution from Cllr. D. Lyons.

*Minutes, Confirmed & Signed*  
*Adie The*  
*Mayor of Galway*

<b>Proposed By:</b> Cllr. D. Lyons	<b>Seconded By:</b> Cllr. D. McDonnell
1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	
1(b) Adjourned Meeting of Galway City Council held on 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2023	
<b>The minutes of the November meeting were agreed and adopted.</b>	

Mayor E. Hoare invited matters arising or matters of accuracy. There were no matters of accuracy. The matters arising were as follows:

- When will response issue for NOM 35/2023 (Re St. James GAA Grounds).
- Did letter issue to the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) and was it acknowledged.
- Did the Executive meet with the OPR last week and can members have details of this meeting.
- NOM 42/2023 requested that a steering group be set up for the use of the Airport Site, has this been actioned.
- Have the Executive approached Central Government in relation to interim measures to tackle flooding in the city.
- How are Galway City Council's interests protected in relation to the Galway Airport site at Carnmore and what income will the City Council receive from proposed concerts.
- Has an impact assessment been progressed on the impact of the proposed concerts on the Galway Arts Festival and other festivals.

The Executive responded to matters arising.

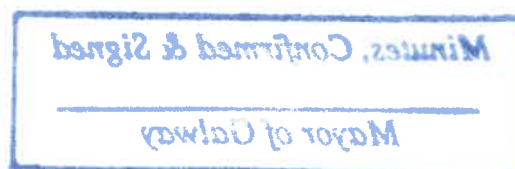
In relation to the airport site at Carnmore, Ms. P. Philbin informed members that negotiations are currently ongoing with the promoters and that she will look to review the Heads of Agreements to see if it can be strengthened. Mayor Hoare asked if the agreement can be brought before the Elected Members for discussion when reviewed.

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. C. Higgins.

<b>Proposed By:</b> Cllr. F. Fahy	<b>Seconded By:</b> Cllr. C. Higgins
That the airport site future plans be placed on the agenda for the January 2024 ordinary meeting.	
<b>Motion Withdrawn.</b>	

Cllr. J. Connolly Proposed an amendment to Cllr. F. Fahy's motion and suggested that Members wait until the Master Plan is initiated. This was Seconded by Cllr. P. Keane and agreed.

Cllr. F. Fahy withdrew the motion based on the above proposal.



### **1(c) Annual Budget Meeting of Galway City Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Mayor E. Hoare referred members to agenda item 1(c) and invited matters of accuracy and matters arising. None were raised.

<b>Proposed By:</b> Cllr. D. Lyons	<b>Seconded By:</b> Cllr. N. McNelis
1(c) Annual Budget Meeting of Galway City Council held on 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	
<b>The minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting were agreed and adopted.</b>	

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed that the January meeting, scheduled to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024, be deferred until the 15<sup>th</sup> January to take account of the Christmas break and staff on leave. This was seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed by all that the January meeting would not be deferred. Cllr. D. McDonnell withdrew his proposal.

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

### **2(a) Three Year Capital Programme 2024 - 2026**

Mayor E. Hoare referred members to agenda item 2(a) and invited comments.

A discussion followed. A number of queries & clarifications were raised by Members and responded to by the Executive.

Cllr. T. O' Flaherty referred to her motion passed at the November meeting (NOM 38/2023) and referred to the follow text on Page 8 of the document and proposed the following amendment:

<b>Proposed By:</b> Cllr. T. O'Flaherty	<b>Seconded By:</b> Cllr. M.J. Crowe		
<i>Page 8, point 3 - "Ballyloughane – Replacement Toilet Block. Irish Water foul connection to Public Mains design and possible construction start in 2024-2025. Construction of toilets dependant on Irish water connection being completed".</i>			
Amendment: Change the word "Possible" to "Will".			
<b>In Favour: 13</b>	<b>Against: 0</b>	<b>Abstain: 0</b>	<b>Present: 13</b>
<b>The motion is carried.</b>			

Cllr. C. Connolly proposed an amendment to Page 11 of the capital programme and requested that the City Council prioritise the installation of the Westside running track flood lighting in 2024 instead of 2025 and requested that this be amended in the programme. Cllr. C. Connolly called for a Roll Call Vote on this. This was seconded by Cllr. M. O' Connor and supported by Cllr. M. Cubbard.

Ms. A. Rohan proceeded to a Roll Call Vote.

<b>Proposed By:</b> Cllr. C. Connolly	<b>Seconded By:</b> Cllr. M. O' Connor
Amendment to Capital Programme 2024-2026 - Page 11 (Point 4):	
<i>"Proposed installation of lighting at Westside running track to be progressed in 2025"</i>	
<b>Amendment:</b> Change 2025 to 2024.	
<b>In Favour:</b> Cllrs. I. Byrne, C. Connolly, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, A. Curran, F. Fahy, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, M. O'Connor, T. O'Flaherty.	
<b>Against:</b> 0	
<b>In Favour: 14      Against: 0      Abstain: 0      Present: 14</b>	
<b>The motion is carried.</b>	

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to a motion submitted by Cllr. M. Cubbard and invited comments.

<b>Motion submitted on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (NOM 46/2023)</b>	
<b>Proposed By:</b> Cllr. M. Cubbard	<b>Seconded By:</b> Cllr. D. McDonnell
I propose the Climate Action, Environment, Recreation & Amenity SPC carry out a review of the allocated funding for Hurling & Hand Ball Courts with a view to redirecting the €0.4m to another project under the R&A sections remit, subject to department agreement and full council approval.	
It is proposed a report from the SPC come back before the full council by the end of Qtr 1, 2024.	

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed to remove the word "hand" from Cllr. M. Cubbard's motion. Cllr. M. Cubbard agreed to this proposal as it refers to hurling and not hand ball. Following discussion, it was agreed by all that the wording "Hand Ball Courts" would be amended to "Ball Walls".

<b>(Amended Motion) (NOM 46/2023)</b>	
<b>Proposed By:</b> Cllr. M. Cubbard	<b>Seconded By:</b> Cllr. D. McDonnell
I propose the Climate Action, Environment, Recreation & Amenity SPC carry out a review of the allocated funding for Hurling & Ball Walls with a view to redirecting the €0.4m to another project under the R&A sections remit, subject to department agreement and full council approval.	
It is proposed a report from the SPC come back before the full council by the end of Qtr 1, 2024.	

In relation to the above motion (NOM 46/2023), Mr. P. Greene informed Members that it will need to be discussed at SPC and that no decision can be made in relation to redirecting funding until approval from Central Government has been received. He

suggested that this motion be brought to the SPC for discussion. This was agreed by Cllr. M. Cubbard.

Mayor E. Hoare called for a proposer and seconder for agenda item 2(a) to include the above amendments.

<b>Proposed By:</b> Cllr. D. Lyons <b>Seconded By:</b> Mayor E. Hoare
2(a) Three Year Capital Programme 2024 – 2026 (with amendments)
<b>The 3 Year Capital Programme 2024-2026 was agreed and approved with amendments.</b>

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to a motion submitted by Cllr. A. Curran for the purposes of dealing with urgent business and invited comments.

<b>Motion submitted on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (NOM 47/2023)</b>
<b>Proposed By:</b> Cllr. A. Curran <b>Seconded By:</b> Cllr. M. O' Connor
That this council endorse the UN resolution on Gaza calling for "an immediate humanitarian ceasefire" due to the catastrophic and devastating bombardment of the Palestinian people, and that this council supports the Palestinian BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) as a show of solidarity with the Palestinian people.
Amendment to include the following wording: "That this council unreservedly condemns the murderous actions of Hamas on the 7th October" – Cllr. N. McNelis
<b>In Favour: 12              Against: 0              Abstain: 0              Present: 12</b>
<b>The motion is carried.</b>

**2(b) Section 183 – Disposal of Lane/Premises by way of Lease at Carnmore, Co. Galway to Galway Flying Club for 2024 (report issued 01/12/2023)**

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda item 2(b) and invited comments.

Councillors discussed the matter.

<b>Proposed By:</b> Cllr. D. Lyons <b>Seconded By:</b> Cllr. N. McNelis
2(b) Section 183 - Disposal of Lane/Premises by way of Lease at Carnmore, Co. Galway to Galway Flying Club for 2024
<b>In Favour: 12              Against: 0              Abstain: 0              Present: 12</b>
<b>The Section 183 was agreed and approved.</b>

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda items 7, 8, 9 & 10 and invited comments.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

<b>Proposed By:</b> Mayor E. Hoare	<b>Seconded By:</b> Cllr. D. Lyons
<p>(a) Correspondence received from the Chief Superintendent received on 28/11/23 in response to NOM 44/2023 – Request to Chief Superintendent to meet with Elected Members regarding Anti-Social Behaviour.</p> <p>(b) Correspondence received from Clare County Council received on 14/11/23 – resolution passed regarding Primary Medical Certificates for People with Disabilities.</p> <p>(c) Correspondence from Cavan County Council received on 29/11/2023 – resolution passed regarding opposition to proposal to remove Cavan from the Allianz Hurling League in 2025 along with counties Fermanagh, Leitrim, Longford, and Louth.</p>	
<p><b>It was agreed by Council to note correspondence.</b></p>	

## 8. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION

None

## 9. CONFERENCES

### Approved Training

<b>Proposed By:</b> Mayor E. Hoare		<b>Seconded By:</b> Cllr. D. Lyons
	<b>Training title and Provider</b>	<b>Date and Location</b>
1.	Celtic Conferences Ireland – Modular Housing in Ireland	24th, 25th & 26th November 2023 McKevitts Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth ( <b>Retrospective</b> )
2.	Celtic Conferences Ireland – Finance Act 2023	12th, 13th & 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 McKevitts Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth
3.	The Association of Irish Regions' Annual Training Seminar 2024	February 6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Fitzgerald's Woodlands House Hotel & Spa, Co. Limerick V94F1P9
<p><b>Approved training was noted and approved by Council</b></p>		

## 10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

<b>Proposed By:</b> Mayor E. Hoare <b>Seconded By:</b> Cllr. D. Lyons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sincere sympathy to Cllr. Niall Murphy &amp; Family and the O'Connell family on the sad passing of Matthew O'Connell, Knocknacarra, Galway.</li> <li>• Sincere sympathy to Angela and family and the extended Murray family on the passing of Desmond Murray, Mervue.</li> <li>• Sincere sympathy to Emer, sons Owen &amp; Damien and daughter Emma and the extended Kenny family on the passing of Tom Kenny, Kingston / Ballybane.</li> <li>• Sincere sympathy to the Long family on the passing of their mother Margaret Long, Parnell Avenue, Mervue.</li> <li>• Sincere sympathy to the Flaherty family on the passing of Maura.</li> <li>• Sincere sympathy to Pat McPhilbin &amp; family on the passing of his mother Mary McPhilbin.</li> <li>• Sincere sympathy to Mr. Sean Cullen &amp; family on the passing of his mother, Patricia Cullen (nee Moraghan).</li> <li>• Sincere sympathy to Mr. Declan O'Brien and family on the passing of his mother, Christina (Chris) O'Brien (nee Connell).</li> <li>• Sincere sympathy to Ms. Carmel Higgins, on the passing of her sister-in-law Ann Higgins (nee Ahern).</li> </ul>
<b>Votes of Sympathy were noted and agreed by Council.</b>

**2(c) Raising of a loan under the Capital Assistance Scheme for the Acquisition of Properties from Approved Housing Bodies (report attached)**

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda item 2(c), which was taken as read and invited comments.

Cllr. N. McNelis proposed to suspend Standing Orders to consider this item. This was Seconded by Cllr. J. Connolly and agreed. A discussion followed with a number of queries and clarifications raised and responded to by the Executive.

Cllr. N. McNelis requested a Roll Call Vote. This was supported by Cllr. D. Lyons and Mayor E. Hoare.

<b>Proposed By:</b> Cllr. D. Lyons <b>Seconded By:</b> Cllr. N. McNelis
2(c) Raising of a loan under the Capital Assistance Scheme for the Acquisition of Properties from Approved Housing Bodies
<b>In Favour:</b> Cllrs. I. Byrne, C. Connolly, J. Connolly, M. J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, A. Curran, F. Fahy, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, N. McNelis, M. O'Connor.
<b>Against:</b> 0
<b>In Favour: 12      Against: 0      Abstain: 0      Present: 12</b>
<b>The raising of a loan under the CAS for the Acquisition of Properties from AHBs was agreed and approved.</b>

### 3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS – Not Considered

- (a) Note of Corporate Policy Group Budget Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (attached)
- (b) Note of Corporate Policy Group Budget Meeting held on 23<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (attached)

### 4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS – Not Considered

- (a) Chief Executive's Report - December 2023 (report attached)
- (b) Section 4 - Update on Cross Street rejuvenation under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund scheme (report issued 10/11/23)

### 5. NOTICES OF MOTION – Not Considered

**NOM 8/2022****Submitted by Cllr. A. Cheevers on the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 05<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**NOM 38/2023**

**Submitted by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty on the 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 6. QUESTIONS – Not Considered

**Q4/2023**

**Submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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

**Q9/2023**

**Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Can the Council be provided with a list of all the Traffic Signal Controlled Junctions and the Pedestrian Crossing Signal Locations that are connected to the UTC system?"

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

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Not Considered**

Mayor E. Hoare concluded the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy Christmas.

The meeting concluded at 6.20pm.

