


**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council
held in the Ardilaun Hotel and virtually on zoom platform
on Monday 6th March 2023 at 3.00 pm.**

Presiding	M. Cubbard, Deputy Mayor of the City of Galway
Present	Councillors: A. Cheevers; A. Curran; J. Connolly; F. Fahy; E. Hoare; P. Keane; D. Lyons; D. McDonnell; N. Murphy & T. O'Flaherty
Present (virtually)	Councillors: I. Byrne; C. Connolly; N. Larkin; N. McNelis & M. O'Connor
Apologies	Councillors: M.J. Crowe & C. Higgins
Present	Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services Ms. R. McNally, Director of Services Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services Ms. H. Kilroy, A/Director of Services/Head of Finance Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. F. Holland, Senior Engineer Mr. J. Callan, Senior Executive Engineer Ms. S. King, Assistant Staff Officer
	Mr. J. Nolan, Barry Transportation Mr. D. Grealley, AECOM Ms. N. Rogers, AECOM
Present (virtually)	Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive Ms. S. Loughnane, Senior Transport Project Manager Mr. D. Mahon, Senior Executive Officer Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer Mr. J. Houlihan, Senior Executive Engineer Mr. G. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer Ms. H. Martyn, A/Senior Executive Officer Mr. M. Lally, Senior Transport Project Manager Ms. L. Hynes, Financial Management Accountant 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

Deputy Mayor, M. Cubbard welcomed all to the meeting & proposed that the agenda be taken as set out and that the meeting conclude at 18:30 with a break at 17:00, this was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed by Council.

Deputy Mayor M. Cubbard wished to acknowledge the contribution of Ms. R. McNally, Director of Services to Galway City Council as this is her last Council meeting before her retirement.

Councillors individually and collectively wished Ms. R. McNally all the best in her retirement and thanked her for her service and support over the years. The Chief Executive thanked her for her dedication and public service over her 40-year career and wished her well in her retirement.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 13th February 2023

Deputy Mayor M. Cubbard, invited matters of accuracy and matters arising.

Under matters of accuracy Cllr. C. Connolly advised that she did not recall seconding the noting of agenda item 2(c) Annual Service Delivery Plan. Cllr. E. Hoare noted that the year on the Annual Service Delivery Plan should read 2023 in the table. It was confirmed that Cllr. F. Fahy seconded the noting of same.

Under matters arising Cllr. N. Murphy requested a response to Q10/2022 on the agenda.

Cllr. M. Cubbard requested a response to Q8/2022 on the agenda.

It was noted that under Standing Orders Notice of Motions should be responded to within one month.

The Chief Executive gave a commitment that the cycling enhancement project at Ballyloughane will come before full Council for consideration.

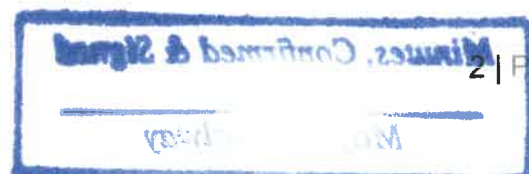
Cllr. T. O'Flaherty proposed that item 4(c) Proposed Galway City Council Cycling Enhancement Project at Ballyloughane Road be deferred for consideration to the next Council meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed by Council.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy

1(a) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 13th February 2023

The minutes were agreed and adopted.



Cllr. C. Connolly proposed a Motion and requested for a Roll Call Vote. This was supported by Cllrs. F. Fahy and Cllr. D. Lyons and Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator proceeded to take a Roll Call Vote as follows:

Proposed By: **Cllr. C. Connolly**

Seconded By: **Cllr. F. Fahy**

That Galway City Council write to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform expressing our concern that a developer can submit a Tender to Local authorities despite previous history of not delivering and completing on previous Tenders and that restrictions on such Developers would be looked at.

In Favour: Cllrs. I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, C. Connolly, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, E. Hoare, P. Keane, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, N. Murphy & T. O'Flaherty

In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 13

This was approved by Council.

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

2(a) Filling of a Casual Vacancy on Galway City Council under S.19(3)(a) Local Government Act, 2001

Ms. A. Rohan gave details on the status of filling a casual vacancy caused by the resignation of former Cllr. Owen Hanley and the nomination of Mr. Alan Curran by the Social Democrats Party. She advised that in line with Standing Orders the consequential filling of vacancies on Committees and approved bodies shall be automatic upon confirmation of the co-option to fill the Casual Vacancy. She outlined the relevant vacancies.

Proposed By: **Cllr. N. Murphy**

Seconded By: **Cllr. N. McNelis**

2(a) Filling of a Casual Vacancy on Galway City Council under S.19(3)(a) Local Government Act, 2001 – Nomination of Mr. Alan Curran, Social Democrats

Consequential filling of vacancies on Committees and approved bodies:

- **Climate Action, Environment, Recreation & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee**
- **Planning Strategic Policy Committee**
- **Local Community Development Committee**
- **Galway City Joint Policing Committee**
- **Galway Salthill Fáilte Ltd (Leisureland)**
- **Ballinfoile Community Centre**
- **Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**
- **Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees**
- **Procedures Committee**
- **Galway East Local Area Committee**

This was noted and agreed by Council.

Councillors individually and collectively wished Cllr. A. Curran well in being co-opted as a Galway City Councillor to the East Ward and he took his place at the Council table. Cllr. A. Curran thanked everyone for their support and advised that he looked forward to the time ahead.

The Chief Executive welcomed Cllr. A. Curran to the Council and wished him well and advised that the Executive will support him in his new role.

2(b) Galway City Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2022

Councillors raised queries including measurement of the impact of investment, representation of the third level educational sector; the anti-racism strategy and the advertisement of Community funding listings.

Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services responded to Councillors' queries.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare

2(b) To note the Galway City Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2022.

The Annual Report was noted by Council.

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

None.

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

4(a) Report on consultation on Dublin Road Busconnects project.

Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer; Ms. Susan Loughnane, Senior Transport Project Manager and Mr. John Nolan, Barry Transportation gave a presentation on the project.

Councillors discussed same and raised a number of queries on the project including expediting the timeline for delivery; consultation with individual estates, local businesses and stakeholders; feasibility for a Park and Ride along the route; how much recreation and amenity land will be lost and a request for more than one bus stop at the Atlantic Technological University.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons to take a break at 16.50, this was seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and the meeting resumed at 17:10.

Mr. U. Finn, Ms. S. Loughnane and B. McGrath responded to queries and clarifications raised.

Ms. S. Loughnane advised that further meetings can be facilitated with stakeholders to address any queries or issues.

4(b) Options report on reinstatement of former Clifden Railway Bridge with a Pedestrian /Cycle Bridge

Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer introduced the project and Mr. David Greally and Ms. Niamh Rogers, AECOM gave a presentation to Council outlining the objectives and delivery of the project.

Councillors raised queries including consultation with the Rowing Club; internal departments and residents.

Cllr. E. Hoare proposed that the Council proceed with the next step of the project. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons.

Mr. U. Finn, Ms. N. Roger, AECOM & Mr. D. Greally responded to Councillors queries.

4(c) Proposed Galway City Council Cycling Enhancement Project at Ballyloughane Road – Deferred to next meeting – Not considered

4(d) Report on proposed new cemetery at Dublin Road – Not considered

4(e) Chief Executive's Report – Not considered

- a. February 2023
- b. March 2023

4(f) Northern & Western Regional Assembly - Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy Two-Year Monitoring Report 2020-2022

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

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

4(f) Northern & Western Regional Assembly - Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy Two-Year Monitoring Report 2020-2022

This was noted by Council.

4(g) Draft Galway City Council Protocol on Civic Commemorations - Not Considered

4(h) Crown Square Update - Not Considered

4(i) EPA Focus On Local Authority Environmental Enforcement - Performance Report 2021 - Not Considered

4(j) National Oversight and Audit commission (NOAC) Galway City Council Scrutiny Report - 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 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.

NOM 01/2023**Submitted by Cllr. E. Hoare on the 10th January 2023**

That Galway City Council review and urgently address the flooding issues that continue to persist at the playing pitches in South Park. This is a serious health and safety issue and is impacting on the uses of the playing pitches during periods of heavy rainfall.

NOM 02/2023**Submitted by Cllr. E. Hoare on the 10th January 2023**

That Galway City Council commit to constructing a pedestrian crossing at Dangan and another at Bushypark along the N59. This is a very dangerous location and pedestrian crossings would make it safer for all road users.

NOM 03/2023**Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly on the 11th January 2023**

Galway City Council calls on the NTA to ensure that bus shelters installed in Galway include end panels at both ends of the shelter to provide maximum protection from the elements.

NOM 04/2023**Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly on the 11th January 2023**

Galway City Council requests the NTA to attend a meeting of Galway City Council to discuss the provision of bus licences within Galway City prior to conducting the review of the Galway Transportation Strategy.

NOM 05/2023**Submitted by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty on the 2nd February 2023**

'In relation to the Chapter 3 - Transport and Road Safety, GTS Walking and Cycling Appendix F – I wish to delete Item Ballyloughane Road, Renmore Avenue from the Annual Service Plan 2023, until such time as a final decision is made on the proper infrastructure suitable for Renmore.'

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.

Q1/2023

Submitted by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty on the 7th February 2023

What is the reason for the delay in constructing the changing shelter proposed for Ballyloughane Beach?

A sum of €40,000 was included for this project in the 2021 Galway City Council budget, but while other projects agreed at the same time have gone ahead, there is not even a reference made to the Ballyloughane changing facility and the long overdue new toilets in the Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2023.

Q2/2023

Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly on the 20th February 2023

"What was the total expenditure incurred by the parks and environment sections respectively in the provision of overtime services in 2022?"

Deputy Mayor proposed that Correspondence be deferred for consideration until the next meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed. In particular a lett

Cllr. C. Connolly advised that she wished the Council to consider the request from the Western Inter-County Railway Committee regarding the nomination of up to four Councillors to this committee.

7. CORRESPONDENCE - Deferred

- (a) Correspondence received 24th January 2023 regarding Resolution passed at Tipperary County Council Ordinary Meeting.
- (b) Correspondence received 31st of January 2023 from Corrib Beo Partnership regarding Symposium re Waterways and Recreation on the Corrib
- (c) Correspondence received 31st of January 2023 from Minister O'Brien regarding URDF
- (d) Correspondence from Western Inter-County Railway Committee received 28th June 2022
- (e) Correspondence received 15th February 2023 regarding Resolution passed at Wicklow County Council Ordinary Meeting.
- (f) Correspondence received 21st February 2023 regarding National Women's Council.

- (g) Correspondence received 22nd February 2023 regarding Resolution passed at Sligo County Council Ordinary Meeting.
- (h) Correspondence received 22nd February 2023 regarding Four Resolutions passed at Sligo County Council Ordinary Meeting.
- (i) Correspondence received 23rd February 2023 regarding Resolution passed at Kerry County Council Ordinary Meeting.
- (j) Correspondence received 27th February 2023 regarding Resolution passed at Cavan County Council Ordinary Meeting.

8. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION

None

9. CONFERENCES

Approved Training

- 1) **Title:** Celtic Conferences
Dates: 21st – 23rd April (**NEW DATES**)
Venue: O' Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations were proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed by Council.

- Marie Howe, RIP
- Bridget (Bennie) Quinn, RIP
- Carmel McMorrow, RIP
- John Bracken, RIP
- Rita Foley, RIP

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

None.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Not considered

Mayor C. Higgins referred to a Motion submitted under Standing Order no. 34 for the purposes of dealing with urgent business.

"In light of the recommendation contained in the March Chief Executive's Report that Galway City Council conduct a debate on the location of the existing boundaries between Galway City and County Councils, We propose that the item be placed on the Agenda of the April meeting of Galway City Council."

This was seconded by Cllr. I. Byrne and agreed by Council.

The Meeting concluded at 18:29.