

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council
held in the Galmont Hotel and virtually
on zoom platform on Monday 11th of September 2023 at 3.00p.m.**

Presiding	Cllr. E. Hoare, Mayor of the City of Galway (Chair)
Present (Elected Members)	Councillors: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M. Cubbard, A. Curran, F. Fahy, C. Higgins, P. Keane, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, N. McNelis, N. Murphy & T. O'Flaherty
Present (virtually)	Councillors: C. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, D. McDonnell & 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 Ms. E. Fanning, A/Director of Services Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner Mr. G. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer Mr. C. O'Riordan, A/Senior Engineer Ms. A. Kenny, Administrative Officer Mr. M. Lally, Senior Transport Project Manager Mr. M. Cormican, Senior Executive Engineer Mr. S. Tobin, Atkins Consultants Ms. C. Butler, Clifton Scannell Emerson Associates (CSEA) Consultants
Present (Virtually)	Ms. F. Holland, SE, Ms. S. Connolly, SE, Mr. D. Mahon, SEO, Ms. H. Martyn, A/SEO

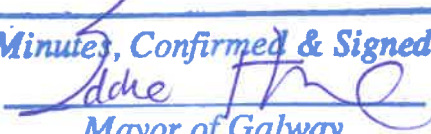
Note: The Minutes of the Meeting and Agenda Items are recorded in the order of their consideration.

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, Chair, welcomed all to the meeting.

Mayor E. Hoare proposed to suspend Standing Orders to discuss serious issues that happened in Galway City over the weekend. This was Seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed by Council.

Mayor E. Hoare referred to the violence that occurred over the weekend in Galway City and informed members that he has been in contact with the Chief Superintendent and that the Special Public Order Unit is on standby. He added that a meeting will be

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed

Mayor of Galway

held with the Chief Superintendent to discuss this matter and look for answers in relation to a response by Government. He further added that Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee, has been briefed on the situation.

Councillors contributed individually and collectively on behalf of their political party on the situation over the weekend and the unacceptable behaviour of a minority of individuals. The Mayor thanked the members and added that it was clear Elected Members are united in their views.

The following two motions were proposed. Ms. A. Rohan proceeded to record a vote as follows:

Proposed By: Cllr. C. Higgins

Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare

I propose that this Council condemns outright all acts of violence and anti-social behaviour on the streets of Galway City and calls on the Garda Commissioner to increase Garda resources in Galway City.

That he should immediately explore the redeployment of Gardai from the North Western Regional Control based in Murrough, and other ancillary office related roles.

In Favour: 17

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Present: 17

This Motion is carried.

Cllr. F. Fahy proposed a special meeting of Galway City Council be convened at the earliest possible opportunity and that the Chief Superintendent of Galway Gardai be invited to said meeting to inform the Elected Members of his proposals to deal with the recent anti-social behaviour in the City. This was seconded by Cllr. C. Higgins.

Cllr. C. Connolly put forward an amendment to the above motion and requested to add the wording "Public Order Issues". There was no seconder to this amendment.

Cllr. M. Cubbard recommended that the meeting be held within the next 10 days be added to wording of the motion. This was agreed by the Proposer, Cllr. F. Fahy.

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed to suspend the Standing Orders and not wait 10 days for a meeting and to have it as soon as possible. This was agreed by the proposer Cllr. F. Fahy.

Cllr. M.J. Crowe referred to the Motion submitted to the meeting requesting a Special Meeting of Galway City Council. 'Pursuant to the provisions of Section 140 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended, Fianna Fáil Galway City Councillors Independent Councillors Declan Mc Donnell, Cllr Noel Larkin call on the Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Eddie Hoare to convene a Special Meeting of Galway City Council to discuss the increasing prevalence of Anti-Social Behaviour in our City Centre. Fianna Fáil calls on Cllr. Hoare to invite Garda Chief Superintendent Gerry Roche to address this meeting in the context of Garda Resources, Rostering of Gardaí and specific Target Objectives to ensure that such Anti-Social Behaviour does not become the norm in Galway City



Centre and it's environs. This was seconded by Cllr. A. Cheevers and supported by Cllrs. I. Byrne, J. Connolly and P. Keane.

A. Rohan proceeded to record a vote on the motion before Council as follows:

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	Seconded By: Cllr. C. Higgins		
That a Special meeting of Galway City Council be convened at the earliest possible opportunity within the next ten days and that the Chief Superintendent of Galway Gardai be invited to said meeting to inform the Elected Members of his proposals to deal with the recent anti-social behaviour in the City.			
In Favour: 17	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Present: 17
This Motion is carried.			

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons to restore Standing Orders of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed.

Cllr D. Lyons suggested a meeting end time of 7.30pm to deal with a number of items on the agenda. Mayor Hoare suggested that the finish time be reviewed in advance of 6.30pm. This was proposed by Cllr. T. O Flaherty and seconded by Cllr. N. Murphy and agreed.

Item 1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 10th July 2023:

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis
1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 10 th July, 2023	
The minutes were agreed and adopted.	

Mayor E. Hoare invited matters of accuracy. There were no matters of accuracy.

Mayor E. Hoare invited matters arising.

Cllr. D. McDonnell requested an update on the judicial review planning matter regarding unzoned lands in the city.

Cllr. M. Cubbard requested an update on a water fountain for South Park and asked if the Masterplan updates are progressing according to plan.

Cllr. D. Lyons requested minutes of any meeting between the Office of the Planning Regulator and Galway City Council and that they be circulated to members. He also thanked the executive for the clean-up of the graffiti on the former tourist office in Salthill.

Cllr. N. McNelis requested an update on the removal of cages near the Salmon Weir Bridge.

Cllr. T O’Flaherty requested an update on the masterplan framework for Renmore Playground and will be getting the report in early January as confirmed by the Director of Services.

Cllr. C. Connolly requested a written update on the Masterplans.

Ms. P. Philbin informed members that the Judicial Review is due before the Courts in October and that the outcome will determine the status of unzoned lands. She added that as far as she is aware, there are no minutes available for any meeting with the OPR but will double check this with the planning staff and revert to Cllr. D. McDonnell on this matter.

Mr. P. Greene responded that the location has been agreed for the South Park water station and that he expects this to happen over the next couple of weeks. He added that the Masterplan report issued a few weeks ago and gives dates of sequencing with a framework now in place, which is currently on target.

Item 2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

2 (a) Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended - Ballybane Road & Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme.

Mr. M. Lally and Mr. S. Tobin from Atkins proceeded to give a detailed presentation to members on the above.

A discussion followed and a number of queries were raised by members and responded to by M. Lally, S. Tobin and U. Finn.

Cllr. F. Fahy asked if Councillors can amend these proposals if desired. He proposed going forward that Galway City Council erect clear notices and signs locally in a visible place as part of public consultation directing public to the City Council website. This was Seconded by Cllr. Higgins.

It was advised that signage is erected as prescribed by legislation.

Ms. A. Rohan proceeded to record a vote as follows:

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy	Seconded By: Cllr. M. O’ Connor		
2 (a) To approve the Ballybane Road & Castlepark Road Cycle Network Scheme under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended – per Report circulated on 22/08/2023.			
In Favour: 16	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Present: 16
The Part 8 is adopted and agreed.			

Cllr. D. McDonnell rejoined the meeting and advised that he had technical issues.

There was a 15-minute break at 16:48 and meeting resumed at 17:05.

2 (b) Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended – The Crescent / Sea Road Junction Upgrade - attached

Mr. M. Cormican and Ms. Caroline Butler of CSEA gave a detailed presentation to members.

A discussion followed and a number of queries were raised by members and responded to by M. Cormican, C. Butler and U. Finn.

Concerns were raised in relation to a plaque erected for Fr. M. Griffin located at Montpelier Terrace. Mr. M. Cormican assured members that the plaque would not be affected in any way.

Mayor E. Hoare proposed that the meeting finish time be extended to 7.30pm. This was Seconded by Cllr. C. Higgins and agreed. He further proposed that agenda items 7, 9 & 10 be considered before continuing with item 2(b).

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Proposed By: Cllr. E. Hoare

Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons

- a) Correspondence from Clare County Council dated 11th July 2023
- b) Correspondence from Minister O'Brien's office dated 11th July 2023 – in reply to motion passed by Galway City Council on 24th April 2023 “that GCC calls on the government to call a referendum to enshrine the right to housing in the Irish Constitution”.
- c) Correspondence from Inland Fisheries Ireland dated 18th August 2023 – in reply to motion passed by Galway City Council on 10th July 2023 (Ref. 24/2023) regarding the removal of cages at the Salmon Weir Bridge.
- d) Correspondence from Waterford City & County Council, dated 27th July 2023, regarding passing of motion at July meeting.

It was agreed by Council to note correspondence.

9. CONFERENCES

Proposed By: Cllr. E. Hoare

Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Approved Training

	Training Title & Provider	Date & Location
1	AILG Autumn Training Seminar	13 th & 14 th September 2023 Venue: Sligo Park Hotel

Approved training were noted and approved.

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

Proposed By: Cllr. E. Hoare

Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Votes of Sympathy

- Mayor Hoare expressed sympathies to Cllr. Imelda Byrne on the sad passing of her brother Micheál (Mike) Byrne, RIP
- Mayor Hoare expressed sympathies to Cllr. Donal Lyons on the sad passing of his brother Sean Lyons, RIP

Vote of Congratulations

- Siobhán McCrohan for winning Gold at the World Rowing Championships in Belgrade in the Lightweight Women's Single Sculls final. Siobhan is a member of the Tribesmen Rowing Club in Woodquay, Galway.

Votes of Sympathy were noted and approved.

Mayor E. Hoare invited contributions from members in relation to agenda item 2(b).

Cllr. F. Fahy proposed the following motion:

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy

Seconded By: Cllr. C. Higgins

That in future Part 8 Planning Applications, public notices be erected in the vicinity of the proposed Part 8 to notify members of the public of the consultation process.

This motion was withdrawn by Cllr. F. Fahy

A query was raised in relation to putting up site notices and if they can be made clearer.

Mr. U. Finn advised that signage is erected as prescribed by legislation. In this case, three notices were erected on site and were visible to the public. He also informed members that we are constrained by the size, format and content of site notices and bound by the Planning Acts and any deviation from this could result in a Judicial Review. Mr. Finn reiterated that an extension of time cannot be provided, and the deadline is Wednesday 13th September. Elected Members need to either pass, vary or reject the proposal. He added that this scheme is part of the City Access Network and that eight supplementary schemes were presented previously to members. He further added that Public Consultation is important and very much included in the report and that all submissions are considered.

Following the discussion, Cllr. F. Fahy agreed to withdraw his motion.

Cllr. C. Connolly proposed the following motion and requested a Roll Call Vote. This was supported by Cllr. N. McNelis and Cllr. A. Curran.

Ms. A. Rohan proceeded to record a Roll Call Vote as follows:

Proposed By: Cllr. C. Connolly

Seconded By: Cllr. M. O'Connor

Proposed to approve The Crescent / Sea Road Junction Upgrade scheme under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended - per Report circulated on 22/08/2023, with a variation to retain disabled parking.

In Favour: Cllrs. C. Connolly, J. Connolly, A. Curran, N. Murphy, M. O'Connor

Against: Cllrs. A. Cheevers, M.J. Crowe, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, P. Keane, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty.

In Favour: 5 Against: 9 Abstain: 0 Present: 14
This motion was defeated.

Cllr. P. Keane proposed the following motion and requested a Roll Call Vote. This was supported by Cllr. A. Curran and Cllr. C. Higgins.

Ms. A. Rohan proceeded to record a Roll Call Vote as follows:

Proposed By: Cllr. P. Keane

Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons

I am proposing the following amendment to the Part VIII Planning Application for The Crescent / Sea Road, Lwr Salthill: -

That the Part VIII would proceed as advertised save for the following amendments: -

1. In the best interests of Residents and Businesses situate on the Crescent / Fr Griffin Avenue, that all Car-Parking Spaces currently provided at these locations be retained.
2. Retain the Vehicle Slip-Lane from the Crescent onto Lwr Salthill Road.

In Favour: Cllrs. A. Cheevers, M.J. Crowe, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, P. Keane, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty.

Against: Cllrs. C. Connolly, J. Connolly, A. Curran, N. Murphy, M. O'Connor

In Favour: 9 Against: 5 Abstain: 0 Present: 14
This motion was carried.

The following motion was submitted by Cllr. N. Larkin but was subsequently withdrawn.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. Larkin

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.

Cllr. Larkin advised that he had discussed the matter with the Executive and withdrew the Motion.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons that Items 2(c) and 2(d) be left on the agenda and deferred to the next meeting. This was Seconded by Mayor E. Hoare and agreed.

Cllr. N. McNelis referred to an emergency motion he submitted:

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis

Seconded By: Cllr. M. Cubbard

Galway City Council stands in solidarity with FORSA members in Galway City and County and other local authorities across the state as they commence industrial action to address issues around job evaluation and pay.

- Supports their call for a formal job evaluation process to ensure workers jobs are properly graded and enumerated.
- Calls on Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien, the LGMA and the executive of Galway City Council to return to negotiations with FORSA and to agree a mechanism for progressing the job evaluation process.

Cllr. N. McNelis requested that the Motion remain on the agenda.

It was agreed that this motion be considered at the next Council meeting.

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

(c) Proposed Amendments to Scheme of Letting Priorities / Allocations Scheme 2017 (as amended 2018) – **Not Considered**

(d) Galway City Council Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements – **Not Considered**

(e) To fix a date for the Annual Budget Meeting - **Not Considered**

5. NOTICES OF MOTION – Not Considered

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 8/2022

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

Response issued 18/05/2023. 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 23/2023

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell

Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare

That Galway City Council call a special meeting of Galway City Council to deal with the "No zoned lands" in the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 and the meeting to take place in September/October.

NOM 22/2023

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell

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.

6. QUESTIONS – Not Considered

Q4/2023

Submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on the 10th of 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.

8. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION

None

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

None

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

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The meeting concluded at 19.32.