

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council
held in the Connacht and virtually via Zoom
on Monday 9th of October 2023 at 3.00p.m.**

Presiding	Cllr. E. Hoare, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present (Elected Members)	Councillors: A. Cheevers, A. Curran, P. Keane, D. Lyons, N. McNelis & T. O'Flaherty
Present (virtually)	Councillors: C. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, C. Higgins, D. McDonnell, N. Murphy & 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. U. Finn, A/Director of Services Ms. E. Fanning, A/Director of Services Mr. P. Foley, Meetings Administrator Ms. A. Kenny, Administrative Officer Mr. C. O'Riordan, A/Senior Engineer Mr. M. Cormican, Senior Executive Engineer Ms. S. King, A/Staff Officer
Apologies	Councillors: I. Byrne, J. Connolly & N. Larkin


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

Mr. P. Foley, 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. He expressed his sympathy to Cllr. J. Connolly on the sad passing of his father and to Cllr. F. Fahy on the sad passing of his brother and proposed a 5-minute silence as a mark of respect. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

The Chair referred to two urgent motions submitted and proposed that they be dealt with after item 1. He also proposed that the meeting finish at 6.30pm, with a 15-minute break at 5pm. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES



1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 11th September 2023:

Proposed By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 11 th September 2023
The minutes were agreed and adopted.

The Chair invited matters of accuracy and matters arising. There were no matters of accuracy.

Matters arising:

Cllr. T. O' Flaherty referred to page 4 and the Renmore playground and asked that the following wording be added "will be getting the report in early Jan as confirmed by the Director of Services".

Cllr. D. Lyons referred to the end of Page 3 whereby he requested any minutes of meetings between Galway City Council Officials and the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) to be circulated. He asked the executive to confirm whether any meeting took place.

Cllr. N. Murphy asked for a timeline on the Sea Road Crescent junction.

Cllr. F. Fahy referred to the recent public order incidents and expressed his disappointment that the Chief Superintendent did not meet with the Elected Members and queried whether the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) and the Department of Social Protection can be involved.

Cllr. C. Connolly referred to Page 4 and asked for a written update on the master plans and requested a more in depth report for Kingston and South Park masterplan.

Mr. U. Finn responded that there was an online meeting with OPR and Officials but no minutes available as it was not a formal meeting. He added that the submission returned is what the discussion was and nothing different. In relation to Sea Road / Crescent, he doesn't have update yet but will bring to full council when available.

Mr. P. Greene referred to the Masterplan framework that was issued in July and stated that this is the framework we are currently working to. He added that the first part is now complete and that we are now preparing to issue the first tender for the Kingston project, design phase.

Cllr. D. McDonnell referred to the meeting with the OPR and informed members that he was personally informed by Mr. Niall Cussen, Chief Executive and Planning Regulator at the OPR that there was an in-person meeting with the OPR and Council officials.

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed the following:



Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell		Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons	
That the Executive of Galway City Council write to Mr. Niall Cussen's, Chief Executive & Planning Regulator at the Office of the Planning Regulator to clarify if an in person meeting took place.			
In Favour: 14	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Present: 14
This motion was carried.			

Ms. P. Philbin referred to the meeting with the Chief Superintendent and informed members that a meeting did take place with the Chair of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) and the Mayor and that the Chief Superintendent made himself available to meet with Councillors individually. She informed members that a further update would be given at the next JPC meeting.

Cllr. P. Keane asked if the Chief Superintendent wrote to the City Council to confirm that he would not meet with Councillors collectively and asked for confirmation of this.

Cllr. C. Connolly referred to the issue of minutes between the OPR and Officials and Proposed that in future, all meetings should be documented. There was no Secunder for this proposal and therefore deemed not valid.

The Chair referred members to an urgent motion submitted by Cllr. D. McDonnell and invited comments.

Urgent NOM 35/2023
Submitted by Cllr. D. McDonnell on the 5th October 2023
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.
Motion to be placed on Agenda for next meeting

Mr. P. Greene informed members that colleagues in the Recreation & Amenity Department met with members of St. James' GAA club on 30th August and he hopes to be in a position to commence design on the project by the end of Q1 of 2024. He added that additional funding will be needed and that this will have to be sourced from our own capital resources. He added that leases are done on a case by case basis.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed that the executive look to see if there is a legal binding contract that the ownership of land will remain in the ownership of Galway City

Council when a lease is in place. This was Seconded by Mayor E. Hoare and agreed.

Cllr. A. Cheevers asked if the Director of Service can issue a report to all Councillors on Sports Capital funding allocated around the city.

Cllr. D. McDonnell agreed to leave the motion on the table and requested that it be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

The Chair referred members to a second urgent motion submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons and invited comments.

Urgent NOM 36/2023

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 9th October 2023

We request that an urgent meeting would be convened by Ms Patricia Philbin, Interim Chief Executive, Mr. Patrick Greene, Director of Services with Officers of the Ros Ard Residents Association and West Area Councillors in the next two weeks to discuss outstanding issues relating to the Taking-in-Charge of the Ros Ard Estate.

Motion supported by:

Mayor Eddie Hoare, Cllrs. Clodagh Higgins, Frank Fahy, Niall McNelis, Niall Murphy, Martina O'Connor, Mike Cubbard, Terry O'Flaherty, Declan Mc Donnell.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed an amendment to his motion as follows:

"Remove Interim CE and add, Director of Services, Senior Engineer, Roads and Senior Engineer, Parks and Recreation".

Amended Urgent NOM 36/2023

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 9th October 2023

We request that an urgent meeting would be convened, Mr. Patrick Greene, Director of Services and with Senior Engineers in Roads and Parks and Recreation with Officers of the Ros Ard Residents Association and West Area Councillors in the next two weeks to discuss outstanding issues relating to the Taking-in-Charge of the Ros Ard Estate.

Motion supported by:

Mayor Eddie Hoare, Cllrs. Clodagh Higgins, Frank Fahy, Niall McNelis, Niall Murphy, Martina O'Connor, Mike Cubbard, Terry O'Flaherty, Declan Mc Donnell.

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

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

2(a) Consideration of rate of Local Property Tax under Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended)

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

Ms. H. Kilroy presented on this item and recommended that members increase the LPT for 2024. A discussion followed.

Ms. P. Philbin referred to the categorisation of Galway City and that the issue of City status has been raised on a number of occasions and added that the executive will continue to advocate on this matter.

Mayor E. Hoare proposed to reject the recommendation of the executive and asked members not to increase the rate of LPT. This was Seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis.

Cllr. N. Murphy stated that property tax is a way of keeping down property prices and proposed an amendment to Mayor E. Hoare's proposal that members accept the recommendation of the executive. This was Seconded by Cllr. M. O' Connor.

Mayor E. Hoare called for a Roll Call Vote on the proposed amendment. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and supported by Cllr. C. Connolly.

The meetings administrator proceeded to a Roll Call Vote.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. Murphy	Seconded By: Cllr. M. O'Connor		
Proposed an amendment to accept the recommendation of the executive to increase the rate of LPT for Galway City Council.			
In Favour: Cllrs. N. Murphy, Cllr. M. O'Connor			
Against: Cllrs. A. Cheevers, C. Connolly, M. Cubbard, A. Curran, F. Fahy, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, P. Keane, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty			
In Favour: 2	Against: 12	Abstain: 0	Present: 14
This motion was defeated.			

The meetings administrator proceeded to a Roll Call Vote for the substantive motion.

Proposed By: Mayor E. Hoare	Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis		
Proposal to reject the recommendation of the executive to increase the current rate of LPT for Galway City.			
In Favour: Cllrs. A. Cheevers, C. Connolly, M. Cubbard, A. Curran, F. Fahy, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, P. Keane, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty			
Abstain: Cllrs. N. Murphy, M. O'Connor			
In Favour: 12	Against: 0	Abstain: 2	Present: 14
This motion was carried.			

2(b) Request to Council for Approval of Overdraft Facility for 2024

The Chair referred members to agenda item 2(b) and invited comments.

Cllr. D. Lyons suggested an amendment to the wording as follows "at the end of 2023 for 2024". This amendment was acknowledged and agreed by Ms. H. Kilroy.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons Seconded By: Cllr. Mayor E. Hoare
Request to Council for Approval of Overdraft Facility at the end of 2023 for 2024.
This was agreed by Council

2(c) To fix a date for the Annual Budget Meeting

The Chair referred members to agenda item 2(c) and invited comments.

Ms. H. Kilroy presented on this item and informed members that the 27th November 2023 was proposed and agreed at the last CPG meeting.

Ms. H. Kilroy informed members that they have up to 8th December 2023 for the budget meeting and have 14 days after this date to adopt or reject the draft budget. She added that Councillors must have the draft budget 7 clear days in advance of the meeting.

Cllr. C. Connolly Proposed the 4th of December 2023 for the Budget Meeting. This was Seconded by Cllr. P. Keane and agreed.

Proposed By: Cllr. C. Connolly Seconded By: Cllr. P. Keane
The proposed date of 4 th December 2023 for the budget meeting.
This was agreed by Council

2(d) Proposed Amendments to Scheme of Letting Priorities / Allocations Scheme 2017 (as amended 2018)

The Chair referred members to agenda item 2(d) and invited comments.

Ms. E. Fanning presented on this item. She informed members that the two amendments were made to the scheme on the advice of our legal agents.

Following a discussion, the Chair proposed that members accept the scheme as amended.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis Seconded By: Cllr. A. Curran
2(d) Proposed Amendments to Scheme of Letting Priorities / Allocations Scheme 2017 (as amended 2018)
The amendments to the scheme were agreed and adopted by Council

2(e) Galway City Council Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements

The Chair referred members to agenda item 2(e) and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons Seconded By: Cllr. M. O'Connor
2(e) Galway City Council Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements
The Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements was agreed and adopted by Council

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3(a) Notes of Procedures Committee Meeting held on Monday 4th September 2023

The Chair referred members to agenda item 3(a) and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis
Notes of Procedures Committee Meeting held on Monday 4th September 2023
Noted and agreed by Council

3(b) Notes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on Thursday 7th September 2023

The Chair referred members to agenda item 3(b) and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Cheevers Seconded By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty
Notes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on Thursday 7th September
Noted and agreed by Council

Cllr. A. Cheevers referred to a previous motion he submitted and to the motion agreed in the CPG notes and proposed that meetings return to City Hall from November 2023. This was Seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and agreed.

Proposed By: Cllr. A. Cheevers **Seconded By:** Cllr. T. O'Flaherty
Council meetings to return to the Council Chamber, City Hall with effect from
November 2023
This was Agreed by Council

3(c) Notes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 4th October 2023

The Chair referred members to agenda item 3(c) and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded By:** Mayor E. Hoare
Notes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 4th October 2023
Noted and agreed by Council

Cllr. C. Connolly queried why the CCMA are not pursuing a bed tax and proposed the following:

Proposed By: Cllr. C. Connolly **Seconded By:** Cllr. D. Lyons
That this Council ask the Interim Chief Executive to request the CCMA to include
Bed Tax as an item on the CCMA's agenda.
This was agreed by Council

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

4(a) EPA Focus on Local Authority Environmental Enforcement - Performance Report 2021 - issued on 07/12/2022

The Chair referred members to agenda item 4(a) and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded By:** Cllr. T. O'Flaherty
EPA Focus On Local Authority Environmental Enforcement - Performance Report 2021
This was agreed by Council

4(b) National Oversight and Audit commission (NOAC) Galway City Council Scrutiny Report for noting

The Chair referred members to agenda item 4(b) and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded By:** Cllr. A. Curran

This was noted and agreed by Council

4(c) Sports Club Grants for 2023 –for noting

The Chair referred members to agenda item 4(c) and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded By:** Cllr. T. O’Flaherty

Sports Club Grants for 2023

This was noted and agreed by Council

Before dealing with agenda items 4 (d) i & ii, the Chair proposed to deal with agenda items 7, 9 & 10, and invited comments.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded By:** Cllr. M. O’Connor

- a) Correspondence from Sligo County Council regarding resolution passed at the September meeting, received on 19/09/2023.
- b) Correspondence from Cork City Council regarding resolution passed at September the meeting, received on 20/09/2023.
- c) Correspondence from Limerick City & County Council regarding resolution passed at the September meeting, received on 28/09/2023.
- d) Correspondence from Limerick City & County Council regarding resolution passed at the September meeting, received on 27/09/2023.
- e) Correspondence from Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council regarding resolution passed at the September meeting, received on 02/10/2023.
- f) Correspondence from The Garda Commissioners Office in relation to NOM Ref. 31/23, passed at the September meeting of Galway City Council, received 28/09/2023.

It was agreed by Council to note correspondence

9. CONFERENCES

Approved Training

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons **Seconded By:** Cllr. M. O’Connor

Training title and Provider	Date and Location
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1.	AILG/OPR: Councillor Training Webinar "Integrating Energy Supply and Planning"	Friday, 22 nd September (Webinar)
2.	AILG TRAINING: "Delivering Speeches in Irish" Two Part Online Course	Friday 29th September (10am - 11.30am) Friday 6th October (10am - 11.30am)

Other Events

- Twinning Events Menlo Park, California.

Approved training and other events were noted and agreed by Council

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. M. O'Connor
Votes of Sympathy:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. F. Fahy on the sad passing of his brother Johnny Fahy, RIP. • Cllr. J. Connolly on the sad passing Father, James (Jimmy) Connolly, RIP. • Mr. Frank Kelly, Dun na Mara, Renmore, former Chairperson of the Galway Association of New York. • Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer on the sad passing of her partner's mother, Rita O'Leary (RIP). • Mr. Seamus Keating, Barna Road, on the death of his brother, Michael Keating RIP. • Ms. Dolores Andrew Gavin & Family, Knocknacarra Park, on the death of Father William (Willie) Andrew, RIP. • Mr. Ray O'Connor, Clybaun Heights, on the death of his brother Donal O'Connor, RIP • Mr. Frank Mulkerrins, Corbally, on the death of his mother, Mary (Maureen) Kilkerrins, RIP. • The Wall Family, 30 Renmore Park, Galway, on the death of their Father Tom Wall, RIP. 	
Votes of Sympathy were noted and approved by Council	

Cllr. C. Connolly referred to Correspondence Item 7(a) regarding a resolution passed by Sligo County Council on Free School Transport and referred to a similar motion that she submitted some time ago and asked for an update on this.

U. Finn recalled the motion and advised that a letter was issued to the Minister and added that he will follow up on this matter. He also suggested that this could be raised at the SPC meeting.

4(di) Chief Executive's Report September 2023

The Chair referred members to agenda item 4(d i) and invited comments.

Cllr. D. Lyons referred to the accuracy of the September report and that he had requested names of some photos to be amended. This was noted and agreed by the Executive and by Council.

Proposed By: Mayor E. Hoare **Seconded By:** Cllr. N. Murphy
Chief Executive's Report: (i) Chief Executive's Report September 2023

The September CE Report was noted and agreed by Council

4(dii) Chief Executive's Report October 2023 & Quarterly Reports for period July to September 2023

The Chair referred members to agenda item 4(dii) and invited comments.

A discussion followed and the following comments/queries were raised:

1. Compliments to everyone involved in Culture Night and the new CE report format.
2. A request for a more detailed update/report on the Crown Square Project to be included in the report.
3. Will "Taking in Charge" be items on the CE Report going forward.
4. Has the Black Rock Tower refurbishment taken place yet.
5. Some links on the CE report did not work.
6. GMATS appears to be left out of the report.
7. Update requested on earlier motion for an urgent meeting with the Housing Minister, Darragh O'Brien and asked Executive to see if they can secure a date for a meeting.
8. Can the Executive confirm and circulate a list of businesses that have a licence to trade and have tables and chairs on public roads and how much they pay.
9. Update requested on the toilets and shelter in Ballyloughane.
10. Roundabout maintenance – issue with grass at GMIT roundabout.
11. What is the timeline for the new cemetery on the Dublin Road and has access been considered as part of the design.
12. Can a water fountain be put on the Prom.
13. Can litter bins be placed in the area along South Park.

The executive responded to queries raised.

U. Finn agreed to provide an update on GMATS in the next CE Report.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty Proposed to suspend Standing Orders and to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. This was Seconded by Mayor E. Hoare and agreed.

The Executive will follow up on points 3, 7 & 8 above and will report back to members in due course.

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 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.

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.

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

The meeting concluded at 18.40.