


**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council
held in the Ardilaun Hotel and virtually on zoom platform
on Monday 13th of February 2023 at 3.00 pm.**

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Presiding | Cllr. C. Higgins, Mayor of the City of Galway |
| Present | Councillors: A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M. J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, E. Hoare, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, N. Murphy, M. O'Connor, T. O'Flaherty |
| Present (virtually) | Councillors: I. Byrne, C. Connolly, |
| Apologies | Cllr. P. Keane |
| Present | Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive Ms. R. McNally, Director of Services Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Ms. H. Kilroy, Head of Finance/Director of Services Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer Mr. L. Blake, A/Senior Executive Planner Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. S. King, Assistant Staff Officer Mr. E. Purcell, Clerical Officer |
| Present (virtually) | Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services Mr. D. Mahon, Senior Executive Officer Mr. R. O'Reilly, Senior Executive Engineer Mr. G. McMahon, Senior Executive Officer Ms. H. Martyn, A/Senior Executive Officer Mr. R. Lehmann, Tourism Officer Ms. C. Morgan, Administrative Officer Ms. T. Hughes Lannon, 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 intention to conduct the business of the Meeting in line with Standing Orders followed by a moment of silent reflection.

Mayor C. Higgins welcomed all to the meeting. A minutes silence and five minutes adjournment was proposed by Mayor C. Higgins and seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy in memory of Christopher Stokes, John Keenan and Wojciech Panek, RIP, who tragically

Minutes, Confirmed & Signed

Mayor of Galway

died on Saturday. Mayor C. Higgins, and Councillors extended their sympathies to the bereaved families, friends and communities.

As a mark of respect, this was followed by a minute's silence and five minutes adjournment.

The meeting resumed at 15:16.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed that the meeting conclude at 18:30. This was seconded by Mayor C. Higgins and agreed by Council.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

Mayor C. Higgins invited matters of accuracy and matters arising.

Under matters arising, Cllr. M. Cubbard requested a response to Q8/2022 he submitted.

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy | Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons |
| 1(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 9th January, 2023 | |
| The minutes were agreed and adopted. | |

A discussion was held regarding consideration of the Chief Executives report. Councillors agreed to proceed with Business Prescribed by Statute.

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

2(a) To consider changing the date of the March 2023 Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for Monday 13th March, 2023 to Monday 6th March, 2023

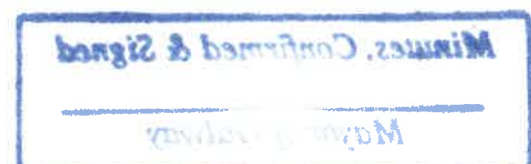
| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy | Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons |
| 2(a) To consider changing the date of the March 2023 Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for Monday 13th March, 2023 to Monday 6th March, 2023. | |
| This was agreed by Council. | |

2(b) St. Patrick's Day Parade Event Licence 2023 - Herewith Report for adoption

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis | Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy |
| 2(b) St. Patrick's Day Parade Event Licence 2023 - Herewith Report for adoption. | |
| This was agreed by Council. | |

2(c) Annual Service Delivery Plan 2023

Councillors discussed the Annual Service Delivery Plan and raised queries.



Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive, Ms. Ruth McNally, Director of Services, Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services, Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services, and Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer, gave detailed responses to queries and clarifications.

Proposed By: Cllr. E. Hoare

Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy

2(c) - To note the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2023, as proposed

This was agreed and noted.

Mayor C. Higgins proposed a 15 minute break at 17:00. This was agreed by Council.

The meeting resumed at 17:18.

The Council considered motions submitted by Councillors.

Proposed By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty

Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell

I'm calling on the City Council to open the toilets in Ballyloughane beach at the weekends including bank holidays with immediate effect.

Cllr. J. Connolly proposed an amendment to the motion, which was considered first.

Proposed By: Cllr. J. Connolly

Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell

I'm calling on the City Council to open the toilets in Ballyloughane beach and Silver Strand beach at the weekends including bank holidays with immediate effect.

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

Against:

In Favour: 16 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 16

This was agreed by Council

Proposed By: Cllr. C. Higgins

Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell

Galway City Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O'Brien, the Minister for Transport and the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan, and the Minister of State for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Kieran O'Donnell urgently to meet with Galway City Councillors and Management to discuss issues impacting housing delivery in Galway City

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

Against:

In Favour: 16 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 16

This was agreed by Council

Proposed By: Cllr. M. Cubbard Seconded By: Cllr. F. Fahy

I propose that Galway City Council write to both the Assistant Secretary General with responsibility for Disability and the Secretary General in the Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth to enact/expedite the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). This international Convention was ratified by the Houses of the Oireachtas in March 2018 and has only been partially implemented to date.

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

Against:

In Favour: 16 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 16

This was agreed by Council

Cllr. C. Connolly proposed a motion: I would like to propose that GCC write to the Department 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. This was seconded by Cllr. M. Cubbard.

Mayor C. Higgins inquired as to whether the Council would need legal advice before proceeding with this motion.

Mr. B. McGrath noted that he would return to this point with information at the next meeting.

Cllr. C. Connolly sought clarification on the previous motion and asked the Chief Executive to produce a more holistic report on the housing situation in Galway City in advance of meeting with Ministers.

Ms. P. Philbin agreed to produce this report.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed to consider proposed conferences, training and votes of sympathy next, in view of limited meeting time.

9. CONFERENCES

Approved Training

Retrospective

1. **Title:** AILG-UCC Certificate in CPD Climate Crisis and Local Government

Dates: Start: 1st February, 12 week course

Venue: Part-time online/blended delivery

2. **Title:** AILG Elected Member Training Programme Module 1 (In-Person)
February 2023 - 'A Briefing on the Electoral Reform Act'

Dates: 23rd – 25th February 2023

Venue: TBC

3. **Title:** LAMA Spring Seminar

Dates: 2nd – 4th March 2023

Venue: West Lodge Hotel, Bantry Co. Cork

4. **Title:** AILG Annual Conference 2023

Dates: 19th – 20th April 2023

Venue: Hotel Kilkenny College Rd, Sugarloafhill, Kilkenny

Other Events

Seattle Sister Cities Twinning Event & St. Patrick's Day festivities 2023.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons

Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell

9. To note conferences and approved training

This was agreed by Council.

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the newly elected City of Menlo Park Mayor, Jen Wolosin.

Kevin Barry, RIP.

Gary Stuart, RIP.

John Conroy, RIP.

Dympna Lydon, RIP.

Pádraig Ó Beaglaíoch, RIP.

Tom Browne, RIP.

Maureen Hourigan, RIP.

Valarie Broderick, RIP.

Mary Geraghty, RIP.

Ben Kelly, RIP.

Eilis Galvin, RIP.

Geraldine Black, RIP.

Tommy Conneely, RIP.

Mary T Murphy, RIP.

Olivia Murphy, RIP.

Peggy Casserly, RIP.

Enda Colleran, RIP.

Shane Downey, RIP.

Alphonsus McCallion, RIP.

Joe Heskin, RIP.

Brendan Clery, RIP.

Myra Hogan, RIP.

John Gilmartin, RIP.

Pádraig (Paddy) Ó Beaglaoich (Begley), RIP

John Gilmartin, RIP

Martin Moran, RIP

John Joseph (Johnny) Hoban, RIP.

Michael Flanagan, RIP.

Peter Murphy, RIP.

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

10. To note votes of sympathy and congratulations

This was agreed by Council.

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Draft notes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Friday 16th December, 2022 – issued 6th January, 2023 for noting.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons Seconded By: Cllr. M. O'Connor

3(a). To adopt the draft notes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Friday 16th December, 2022

This was agreed by Council.

(b) Draft note of Procedures Committee meeting held on Tuesday 7th February, 2023

Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator, read the proposal by Cllr. D. McDonnell to continue hybrid meeting of Galway City Council at an offsite venue with adequate space until December 2023

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy Seconded By: Cllr. M. O'Connor

3(b). To accept the recommendation of the Procedures Committee meeting held on Tuesday 7th February, 2023

This was agreed by Council.

Cllr. D. McDonnell stated that using public buildings as meeting venues should be considered, in the interest of reducing costs.

Mayor C. Higgins noted that the Council's thoughts and prayers were with the people of Turkey and Syria after the recent tragedies that occurred there. It was exceptionally sad, and no words could express the tragedy. Also, she expressed good wishes to Ms. C. Phelan on her retirement, wishing her a healthy and happy retirement.

The full council wished to be associated with these sentiments.

2(d) Public Consultation on draft Regional Water Resources Plan - Draft RWRP North West – Not Considered

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS – Not Considered

(a) Chief Executive's Report:

- i. January 2023 – Not Considered
- ii. February 2023 – Not Considered

(b) Quarterly Reports - October to December, 2022 – issued 6th January 2023 – Not Considered

- i. Economic, Community & Cultural Development
- ii. Environment & Climate Change
- iii. Housing
- iv. Recreation & Amenity
- v. Transport & Infrastructure

(c) Crown Square Update - circulated January, 2023 – Not Considered

(d) EPA Focus On Local Authority Environmental Enforcement - Performance Report 2021 – issued 7th December, 2022 – Not Considered

(e) National Oversight and Audit commission (NOAC) Galway City Council Scrutiny Report – copy issued 6th January, 2023 – Not Considered

(f) Northern & Western Regional Assembly - Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy Two-Year Monitoring Report 2020-2022 - copy issued January 2023 – Not Considered

(g) Proposed Galway City Council Cycling Enhancement Project at Ballyloughane Road – 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 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 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 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.

7. CORRESPONDENCE - Not Considered

- (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 29th June 2022

Cllr. F. Fahy referred to correspondence item 7(d) from Western Inter-County Railway Committee received by Council previously last year and their invitation to Galway City Council to nominate up to four members to join the committee. It was agreed by Council that this will be considered at the next Council meeting.

8. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION - Not Considered

None

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

None

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Not Considered

None

The meeting concluded at 18:24