

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and Online via MS Teams on Monday 9th September 2024 at 3.00p.m.	
Presiding	Cllr. P. Keane, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present (Elected Members)	Councillors: A. Burke, A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, A. Curran J. Forde, S. Forde, C. Higgins, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, J. McDonagh, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty, E. Seoighthe
Present (virtually)	Councillors: F. Fahy, M. Cubbard, H. Ogbu
Present (Executive)	Mr. L. Cleary, Chief Executive Ms. P. Philbin, Director of Services Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Ms. H. Kilroy, Director of Finance Mr. D. Pender, Director of Services Ms. L. Fanning, A/Director of Services Ms. F. Holland, Senior Engineer Mr. M. Cormican, Senior Engineer Ms. H. Martyn, A/Senior Executive Officer 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.

1. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest (Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 1. There were no conflicts of interests declared.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

a. Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 8th July 2024.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 2(a) and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis	Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare
1(a) Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 8 th July 2024	
The minutes of the July ordinary meeting were agreed and adopted.	

Mayor P. Keane invited matters arising and matters of accuracy. There were no matters of accuracy.

Matters arising were as follows:

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty requested an update on timelines for the Renmore Masterplan and playground.

Cllr. M. Cubbard asked if Members could get an update on timelines for the Masterplan projects.

Cllr. D. McDonnell asked for an update on the Southpark Masterplan and on the St. James contract.

Mr. P. Greene responded to the above queries and will circulate an update on the St. James contract to Cllr. D. McDonnell.

Mayor P. Keane informed Members that an updated timeline and report for the Renmore and Southpark Masterplans will be circulated to Members at the December ordinary meeting.

Mayor P. Keane Proposed the following Motion under Standing Order no.34 for the purposes of dealing with urgent business. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons.

Mr. P. Greene referred to the above motion and informed Members that there are certain criteria that must be met for grading purposes, for example, have examined detailed proposals, it must be a priority project for the City Council delivery programme. The lands referred to in the motion are private lands and are not currently in the City Council's work programme. The City Council can support the application if necessary but cannot give it priority grading.

Cllr. D. McDonnell proposed to proceed with the motion and to get clarification afterwards. This was agreed.

Mayor P. Keane called for a show of hands in favour of the motion.

Motion proposed at meeting (Ref: NOM 38/2024)			
Proposed By: Mayor P. Keane		Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons	
Supported by: Cllrs. A. Curran, E. Hoare, J. McDonagh, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty, S. Forde			
That Galway City Council endorses the priority grading of the current applications by this Council to the Department of Sport under the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) and further resolves to place a priority grading of Number 4 on the application for Knocknacarra AFC relating to its lands at Cappagh, Knocknacarra, Galway.			
In favour: 17	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 1
The Motion was carried unanimously.			

3. Business Prescribed by Statute

- a. **To fix the date for Special Council meeting to agree the LPT Strategy - Proposed date Monday 30th September 2024.**

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(a) and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Mayor P. Keane
3(a) To fix the date for Special Council meeting to agree the LPT Strategy - Proposed date Monday 30 th September 2024 at 3:00pm.	
The proposed date for the Special Council meeting to agree the LPT Strategy was agreed.	

Mr. L. Cleary, Chief Executive, informed Members that workshops with Elected Members will be done in advance.

- 3(b) **To fix the date of the annual budget meeting - Proposed date Monday 18th November 2024.**

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(b) and invited comments.

Ms. H. Kilroy, Director of Services gave a brief update to Members on the budget process.

Mr. L. Cleary informed Members that there is a huge level of ambition for projects in the City, which need to be matched with budgets and consideration given to the additional resources required. He added that there is significant national funding available to Local Authorities if in a position to leverage same.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis
3(b) To fix the date of the annual budget meeting – Proposed date Monday 18 th November 2024	
The proposed date for the Annual Budget Meeting was agreed.	

Cllr. S. Forde asked the Executive if meetings/briefings could be rescheduled to times suitable to Members who are currently working in full time jobs as well as their Councillor role. This was supported by Cllr. J. Connolly.

The Executive agreed to look at meeting times.

- 3(c) **Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads - Ros Ard, Cappagh Road, Knocknacarra, Galway**

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(c) and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. J. Connolly
3(c) Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads - Ros Ard, Cappagh Road, Knocknacarra, Galway	
In favour: 17	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 1
The declaration of Roads to be Public Road at Ros Ard, Cappagh Road, Knocknacarra, Galway was agreed.	

Cllr. J. Connolly asked if the process could be communicated to the public, step-by-step, to highlight the length of the process to the public. Cllr. D. Lyons will bring this request to the relevant SPC for discussion.

3(d) Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024-2029

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(d) and invited comments.

Mr. L. Cleary gave a brief updated on this item and recommended the SPC Scheme be adopted by Members. Ms. A. Rohan also gave an update to Members on the consultation process and submissions received.

Mayor P. Keane called for a show of hands in favour of agenda item 3(d).

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell	Seconded By: Cllr. E. Hoare
3(d) Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024-2029	
In favour: 17	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 1
The draft SPC Scheme 2024-2029 was agreed and adopted.	

3(e) Part 8 Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) - Dublin Road Cemetery (for noting).

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 3(e) and invited comments.

Mr. J. Callan, Senior Executive Engineer, gave Members a short briefing on this item. A discussion followed and a number of queries were raised and responded to by the Executive.

Cllr. S. Forde asked if a suitable commemoration could be considered for the Magdalene Women as part of this project. Mr. J. Callan informed Members that this will be considered by the Civic Commemoration Committee.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis	Seconded By: Cllr. J. Connolly
3(e) Part 8 Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) - Dublin Road Cemetery	
This item was noted by Members.	

Cllr. D. Lyons added that given the time it has taken to get to this stage with this project, he formally proposed that the City Council commence the process of identifying potential sites for a new Cemetery in the West of the City. This was Seconded by Cllr. J. McDonagh and agreed.

4. Reports of Committee Meetings

(a) Draft note of Corporate Policy Committee meeting held on 2nd September 2024.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 4(a) and invited comments.

Cllr. N. McNelis asked if an update on the Crown project and Airport site could be circulated to Members. Mr. L. Cleary informed Members that an email issued recently informing Members of a proposed workshop, whereby the Elected Members and the Executive will sit down with experts to look at the existing assets of the City Council and the Crown Site.

Mayor P. Keane asked Ms. H. Kilroy, if she could give an update on the bed tourism tax proposal and added that it would be great if Galway City Council could make a business case to be a pilot City for this project.

Ms. H. Kilroy gave an update to Members on the bed tourism tax proposal and added that there is currently no legislative basis for this.

Mayor P. Keane proposed that the Executive go back to the Department of Finance to seek a meeting and to put Galway City Council forward as a pilot for this scheme.

Cllr. M. Cubbard asked if some research could be done on the initial impact on tourism of the bed tax on other cities that have introduced it and proposed that the additional money be ringfenced for specific projects.

As per item No. 5 on the CPG notes, Cllr. D. Lyons Proposed the following:

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell	
That the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in Westside be named the Eugene Dunleavy Multi Use Games Area.			
In favour: 17	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 1
This was agreed.			

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to NOM 36/2024, submitted by Cllr. H. Ogbu and called for a show of hands in favour and against same.

NOM Ref: 36/2024 Submitted by Cllr. H. Ogbu on 10/09/2024
Seconded by Cllr. J. McDonagh
I propose that Galway City Council initiate research into the feasibility of becoming a government pilot for the implementation of a tourism tax. This tax would be collected by Galway City Council and reinvested directly into local

services that benefit both residents and visitors. The aim is to explore how such a tax could support sustainable tourism development in Galway, ensuring that the city's infrastructure and amenities can continue to thrive alongside its growing popularity as a tourist destination.

In favour: 15	Against: 2	Abstain: 0	Absent: 1
This motion was carried.			

5. Consideration of reports of officials

5(a) Chief Executive's Report for August & September 2024

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 5(a) and invited comments.

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

Cllr. M. Cubbard referred to the grass pitch at Corrib Park and is concerned that it may be destroyed if not properly protected. He Proposed that the City Council look at installing a full perimeter fence around the pitch instead of the current proposal of putting a fence on one side only. Mr. P. Greene responded that there is an issue with the ground in Corrib Park for fencing and that full perimeter fencing has not been included in the budget.

5(b) Section 179A planning for a residential project at No.1 Munster Avenue, Galway City, presented at briefing on 02/09/2024 – for noting.

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 5(b) and invited comments. He informed Members that this item is for noting only as it has already been presented & discussed at an information briefing.

Proposed By: Cllr. J. McDonagh	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
5(b) Section 179A planning for a residential project at No.1 Munster Avenue, Galway City, presented at briefing on 02/09/2024	
This item was noted.	

Cllr. F. Fahy raised concerns about parking issues at Munster Avenue and asked if this could be investigated. Cllr. S. Forde asked if parking spaces could be designated to residents.

Mr. P. Greene agreed to review parking issues.

6. Notice of Motions

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 6, NOM 33/2024, and invited comments.

Mr. L. Cleary informed Members that the Council will work with the HSE on this issue.

Mayor P. Keane called for a show of hands in favour and against NOM 33/2024.

NOM Ref: 33/2024 Submitted by Cllr. N. McNelis on 02/09/2024			
Proposed by Cllr. N. McNelis		Seconded by: Cllr. F. Fahy	
That this Council urgently tackles the distribution of porridge being spread across the City Centre. It is becoming a slip hazard, attracting vermin and is not good for the wildlife in City. That this Council work with business groups, Gardai and other agencies to stop this practice.			
In favour: 14	Against: 2	Abstain: 0	Absent: 2
This motion was carried.			

It was agreed at the last CPG meeting that NOM 35/2024 would be referred to the East Area Committee for discussion.

NOM Ref: 35/2024 Submitted by Cllr. H. Ogbu on 01/09/2024
I propose that Galway City Council take immediate action to develop comprehensive sports and recreational facilities in two key areas: 1. East United Field, Castlepark Ballybane: This location is in dire need of an astro turf, playground, running tracks, and mini gyms to cater to the diverse needs of families and young people in the area. While a football pitch currently exists, it is essential to expand and upgrade the facility to include a standard basketball court, ensuring that our diverse community has access to a variety of sports. 2. Baille An Choiste, Castlegar: This area is also overdue for the installation of an astro turf and a play area. The space behind the Ballinfoile/Castlegar Community Centre, which is owned by the Council, is ideally suited for these developments and should be utilized to its full potential. These areas have long been awaiting these essential facilities, despite numerous requests from residents. The lack of action has left many families without the necessary resources to support the health and well-being of their young people.
Refer to next East Area Committee meeting for discussion.

7. Correspondence

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 7 and invited comments.

Proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded by: Cllr. D. McDonnell
(a) Correspondence from Wexford County Council, received on 09/08/2024, motions pass at July meeting.	
Correspondence was noted.	

8. Conferences & Training

Mayor P. Keane referred Members to agenda item 8 and invited comments.

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Lyons Seconded by: Cllr. D. McDonnell Conferences and training were approved by Council		
Provider	Details	Date & Location
AILG	AILG Elected Member Training Induction Training (In-person) event	Thursday 11 th July 2024 – Mullingar Park Hotel (<i>Retrospective</i>)
AILG	AILG Elected Member Training Induction Training (In-person) event	Saturday 13 th July 2024 – Radisson Blu Hotel Cork (<i>Retrospective</i>)
AILG	AILG Autumn Training Seminar 2024	Wednesday 11 th and Thursday 12 th of September 2024 Hillgrove Hotel, Co. Monaghan
AILG	An Overview of the Planning System" – Delivered by the OPR	Saturday 28 th Sept 2024, The Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore
AILG	UCC Climate Crisis and Local Government Course for Councillors (12 week course)	Sept/Oct 2024
AILG	"An Overview of the Community Engagement Teams" - A briefing from the DCEDIY	Friday, 20 th Sept 2024 (Online)
AILG	"Overview of the National Retrofitting Programme" - A briefing from SEAI/CARO	Friday, 11 th Oct 2024 (Online)
AILG	"The Process of Preparing Statutory Plans" - A briefing from the OPR	Friday, 25 th Oct 2024 (Online)
AILG	"Overview of the implementation of the Local Authority Climate Action Plans" - A briefing from CARO	Friday, 22 nd Nov 2024 (Online)
AILG	"The Development Management Process" - A Briefing from the OPR	Friday, 29 th Nov 2024 (Online)
The Parnell Society	IVY DAY SYMPOSIUM 2024 Symposium Theme 'The Irish Parliamentary Tradition'	Woodenbridge Hotel, Co. Wicklow Friday Oct 4 th – 5 th Saturday Oct 5 th

		Glasnevin Cemetery October 6th, 2024 133rd Wreath Laying and Oration Charles Stewart Parnell Grave 12 noon
Celtic Conferences	A Practical Guide to Budget 2025	Mc Kevitt's Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 11th, 12th & 13th October 2024
Training and Conferences were noted and agreed.		

9. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons		Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis
• Mr. Liam Walsh, RIP • Mr. Colm Walsh, RIP • Ms. Cathy Huges, RIP • Mr. Anthony (Tony) Conboy, RIP • Ms. Claire Rooney, RIP • Ms. Attracta Gorman, RIP		• Mr. Aidan O'Leary, RIP • Ms. Siobhan Murphy, RIP • Mr. Patrick (Podge) Hyland, RIP • Ms. Kathy Timmons, RIP • Ms. Mary Nestor, RIP • Prof. Fred Given, RIP
Votes of Sympathy were noted.		

10. Other Business set forth in the notice convening the meeting

None

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

The meeting closed at 17.59.

