

Adopted Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and Online via MS Teams on Monday 4th March 2024 at 3.00p.m.	
Presiding	Cllr. E. Hoare, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present (Elected Members)	Councillors: A. Cheever, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, A. Curran, C. Higgins, P. Keane, D. McDonnell, N. Murphy, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty
Present (virtually)	Councillors: I. Byrne, F. Fahy, D. Lyons, M. O'Connor
Apologies	Cllr. C. Connolly, Cllr. N. Larkin Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services & Mr. U. Finn, A/Director of Services
Present (Executive)	Ms. P. Philbin, Chief Executive – Interim Ms. H. Kilroy, Director of Finance & ICT Mr. B. Barrett, A/Director of Services Ms. E. Fanning, A/Director of Services Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner (Online) Ms. F. Holland, Senior Engineer Mr. C. O'Riordan, Senior Engineer Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer (Online) Mr. M. Cormican, Senior Engineer Mr. G. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer Ms. R. Mulhern, Arts 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.

Mayor E. Hoare Proposed a minute's silence in memory of Conor Kelly (RIP) who was an Administrative Officer in Galway City Council. He expressed deepest sympathies to his wife Sandra and their two children Ciara and Aoife. Mayor E. Hoare further Proposed to take the agenda as set out, with a 15-minute break at 4.45pm and to finish at 6.30pm. This was Seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis and agreed.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 12th February 2024

Mayor E. Hoare referred members to agenda item 1 and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell
1(a) Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 12 th February 2024	
The minutes of the February meeting were agreed and adopted.	

There were no matters of accuracy. Matters arising were as follows:

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty expressed her thanks to Ms. E. Fanning, A/Director of Services for arranging the cleaning of the Walter Macken Flats. This was supported by Cllr. D. McDonnell.

Cllr. D. Lyons referred to page 2 of the draft Minutes and to the request for a meeting with the NTA and asked for an update from the Chief Executive on same.

Cllr. M Cubbard referred to the issue of signage at sports clubs and requested that a report be circulated to Members on same as soon as possible.

Cllr. N McNelis referred to the request to fly a Peace Flag and asked for confirmation on this. He also referred to St. Patricks Day Event Licence and asked for an update on how many groups have registered to date.

In relation to the meeting with the NTA, Ms. P. Philbin confirmed that the NTA will be invited to attend the May Ordinary meeting and Galway Hydrogen Hub (GH2) Consortium will be invited to attend the April Ordinary meeting.

In relation to the numbers who have registered for a licence for St. Patrick's Day, Ms E. Fanning confirmed that 35 groups have registered to date and approx. 2500 people have registered for the parade.

Cllr. D. McDonnell asked for confirmation from Ms. S. Connolly that the SPC Signage Report will be furnished at the next Council meeting. Ms. S. Connolly confirmed that it will be available for the next meeting.

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

(a) To consider the recommendation received from the Public Appointments Service (PAS) in relation to the Chief Executive for Galway City Council: Local Government (Appointment of Chief Executive) Regulations, 2014

Mayor E. Hoare referred Elected Members to agenda item no. 2(a) which had issued separately to the Members.

He referred to the Local Government (Appointment of Chief Executive) Regulations, 2014 which states 'that meetings held by the elected council in accordance with Regulations 3 and 4 for the purpose of the consideration of a recommendation shall take place in the absence of members of the public and representatives of the media.' Mayor Hoare proposed to suspend Standing Order no. 19 so that the agenda

item could be discussed “in committee”. This was agreed by all, and members of the public and representatives of the media departed the meeting.

Following the ‘in committee’ meeting, Mayor Hoare advised that on his proposal which was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons, the full Council unanimously voted in favour to appoint the recommended person, Mr. Leonard Cleary as Chief Executive of Galway City Council pursuant to the provisions of S.I. No. 589/2014 – Local Government (Appointment of Chief Executive) Regulations 2014.

Proposed By: Mayor E. Hoare	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
2(a) To approve the Recommendation from the Corporate Policy Group to full Council pursuant to S.I. No. 589 of 2014 Local Government (Appointment of Chief Executive) Regulations 2014 to appoint the recommended person from the Public Appointments Services; Mr. Leonard Cleary as Chief Executive of Galway City Council	
In Favour: 16 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 2 Present: 16 The Recommendation of Mr. Leonard Cleary as Chief Executive of Galway City Council was approved unanimously by Council.	

Mayor E. Hoare and Elected Members recognised and thanked Ms. P. Philbin for her support in her role as Interim Chief Executive.

2(b) Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024-2025 for adoption

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda item 2(b) and invited comments.

Cllr. N. Murphy Proposed to extend speaking time to 5 minutes per Member instead of 3 minutes. This was Seconded by Mayor. E. Hoare. Following discussion, Mayor E. Hoare called for a show of hands in favour of this proposal.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. Murphy	Seconded By: Mayor E. Hoare
Proposal to extend Members speaking time to 5 minutes instead of 3 minutes to discuss agenda item 2(b).	
In Favour: 10 Against: 6 Abstain: 0 Absent: 2 Present: 16 The motion was carried to extend speaking time to 5 minutes.	

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

Cllr. D. Lyons requested that the driver feedback signs report, presented by Mr. F. McEvoy at the recent JPC meeting, be brought to the City Council for discussion at the next Council meeting.

Ms. F. Holland agreed to circulate an updated report on the number of estates taking in charge. Ms. P. Philbin agreed to circulate data on the Christmas Park n Ride system.

Ms. S. Connolly will revert to Members with an update on Barna Woods & Rusheen Park, drainage of pitches and a list of funding drawdowns.

Mayor E. Hoare called for Proposer and Seconder for agenda item 2(b) and for a show of hands in favour of same.

Proposed By: Cllr. J. Connolly	Seconded By: Cllr. C. Higgins
2(b) Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024-2025 for adoption.	
In Favour: 15 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 3 Present: 15 The ASDP 2024-2025 was adopted subject to amendment outlined in NOM 07/2024.	

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to a number of Notice of Motions that were submitted at the meeting and proposed that they be considered without debate. This was agreed by all.

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to NOM Ref. 08/2024, Proposed by Cllr. N. Murphy and Seconded by Cllr. A. Curran and called for a show of hands in favour of same.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. Murphy	Seconded By: Cllr. A. Curran
NOM 08/2024 – Submitted on 4th March 2024	
The City Development Plan has an objective to audit the city for accessibility. Objective 16 under Public Realm section is “Carry out an audit of existing roads and public realm spaces in Galway in order to itemise in priority order the specific locations which need to be modified to improve accessibility.”	
I propose that Galway City Council seek funding under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2024 or other suitable fund to carry out this audit and that this objective be implemented under point 10 of the Housing Operations and Social Inclusion Department section (page 37).	
In Favour: 15 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 3 Present: 15 The motion was carried.	

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to NOM Ref. 09/2024, Proposed by Cllr. T. O’Flaherty and Seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell and called for a show of hands in favour of same.

Proposed By: Cllr. T. O’Flaherty	Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell
NOM 09/2024 – Submitted on 4th March 2024	
I now call on Galway City Council to prioritise the Renmore playground in the proposed Renmore Master Plan. Considering that funding has been set aside for the playground for Renmore, this funding has been secured through a number of budgets since 2015. The children in Renmore should not have to wait any longer for the much needed playground.	

In Favour: 15	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 3	Present: 15
The motion was carried.				

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to NOM Ref. 07/2024, Proposed by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and Seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell and called for a show of hands in favour of same.

Proposed By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty	Seconded By: Cllr. D. McDonnell
NOM 07/2024 – Submitted on 24th February 2024	

With reference to the objective in the City Council's Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024 to "Review Silverstrand and Ballyloughane Beaches for locations of a new APC" (page 19, number 13), I request that the toilets for Ballyloughane be treated as a stand-alone project, and that the word "review" be replaced with "construct".

In Favour: 15	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 3	Present: 15
The motion was carried.				

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to NOM Ref. 10/2024, Proposed by Cllr. M. Cubbard and Seconded by Cllr. A. Curran. Cllr. M. Cubbard called for a Roll Call Vote on this motion. This was supported by Cllr. A. Curran and Cllr. D. McDonnell. Councillors were advised that this development was an Executive function.

Ms. A. Rohan proceeded to a Roll Call Vote.

Proposed By: Cllr. M. Cubbard	Seconded By: Cllr. A. Curran
NOM 10/2024 – Submitted on 4th March 2024	

In line with the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 which under policy 3.5 notes:

3. Enhance established suburbs, such as the Mervue residential area, through the implementation of environmental Improvement Schemes and the protection of all open spaces including existing green spaces.
4. Review and implement the draft regeneration plan for Ballinfoile Park entitled A Better Ballinfoile in consultation with the local community and stakeholders.

And under policy 3.6 notes:

Enhance inner residential areas such as Claddagh, Shantalla and Bohermore, through the implementation of environmental improvement schemes and the protection of all open spaces, including existing green spaces.

I propose that Galway City Council do not proceed with any development on the green space infill sites in Ballinfoile Park and look to retain them as open green spaces for the Community.

In favour: Cllrs. I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, A. Curran, F. Fahy, E. Hoare, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, T. O'Flaherty

Against: Cllr. J. Connolly, C. Higgins, P. Keane, N. McNelis, N. Murphy
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In Favour: 10	Against: 5	Abstain: 0	Absent: 3	Present: 15
The motion was carried.				

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to NOM Ref. 19/2023, Proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and Seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis and called for a show of hands in favour of same.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis
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 Rahoon Road, lacking the necessary infrastructure like footpaths and public lighting.

In Favour: 15	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 3	Present: 15
The motion was carried.				

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to NOM Ref. 26/2023, Proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and Seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis and called for a show of hands in favour of same.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis
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.

In Favour: 15	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 3	Present: 15
The motion was carried.				

Mayor E. Hoare Proposed to suspend Standing Orders and to extend the meeting to consider agenda item 4(c), Arts Grants 2024. This was Seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis and agreed.

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda items 7, 9 & 10 and invited comments.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
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(a) Correspondence received on 07/02/2024 from NUI Galway – Plant Based Treaty Action Plan, Edinburgh City Council.
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(b) Correspondence received on 06/02/2024 from the Chief Superintendent regarding NOM44/2023.

It was agreed by Council to note correspondence.

9. CONFERENCES

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell		Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
	Training title and Provider	Date and Location
A	AILG 2024 – Annual Conference	14 th & 15 th February 2024 Arklow Bay Hotel Sea Rd., Ferrybank Arklow, Co. Wicklow (Retrospective)
B	Policy Forum for Ireland - National Transport Authority Keynote - PFfl keynote seminar	22 nd March 2024 Online Seminar
C	Celtic Conferences - A Practical Guide to Personal Taxation in Ireland	1 st – 3 rd March 2024 O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
D	Annual Suck Valley Way Training Conference	13 th & 14 th March 2024, Hannon's Hotel, Co. Roscommon
Training and Events were noted and approved by Council.		

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
• Mr. Conor Kelly, RIP • Mr. Denis Foley, RIP • Mr. Gerry Morris, RIP • Mr. Jim Finan, RIP	
Votes of sympathy were approved by Council.	

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Notes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 26th February 2024

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda item 3(a) and informed Members that it was agreed at the recent CPG meeting to recommend to full Council to fly the Polish Flag outside City Hall on 3rd May, 2024 for the National Day of the Polish Constitution and that a Peace Flag would fly in the flagpole in Eyre Square for the duration of this Council. This was agreed by all.

Mayor E. Hoare called for a Proposer and Seconder for agenda item 3(a) and for a show of hands in favour of noting same.

Proposed By: Cllr. J. Connolly	Seconded By: Cllr. C. Higgins
3(a) Notes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 26 th February 2024	
In Favour: 15	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 3
Present: 15	
The notes of CPG Meeting were noted.	

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

(c) Arts Act Grants to organisations 2024.

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda item 4(c) and invited Ms. Ruth Mulhern, Arts Officer to present on this item.

A discussion followed and a number of queries were raised by Members and responded to by Ms. R. Mulhern.

Mayor E. Hoare called for a Proposed and Seconded for this item and for a show of hand in favour of same.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis	Seconded By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty
4(c) Consideration of Arts Grants to organisations 2024.	
In Favour: 11	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 7
Present: 11	
The Arts Grants to organisations 2024 was considered and approved by Council.	

Ms. A. Rohan informed Members of the appointment of two new Audit Committee Members, in place of Mr. Aidan Horan and Mr. Niall Bradley, as follows:

(1) Dr Deirdre Bane (PhD, FCCA, CIPFA, LIB, MPA, MADAH, MSc, PGDip, PGCert.)
- Senior Finance and Governance Specialist with the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) Governance Team.

(2) Mr. Dermot Byrne, (CPFA), former Head of the ERDF Audit Authority in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER).

The Meetings Administrator proceeded to call for a Proposer and Seconder and a show of hands in favour of same.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell	Seconded By: Cllr. A. Curran
To appoint two new Audit Committee Members to the Audit Committee as noted in the CPG notes of meeting held on 26/02/2024.	
In Favour: 11	Against: 0
Abstain: 0	Absent: 7
Present: 11	
The motion was carried.	

Cllr. J. Connolly referred to item 7(b), correspondence from the Chief Superintendent and requested that the response issued to the Chief Superintendent be circulated to Members.

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE – Not Considered

(c) Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2023 – for noting.

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS – Not Considered

(a) Chief Executives Report for February 2024 (report attached).

(b) Chief Executives Report for March 2024 (report attached).

5. NOTICES OF MOTION – Not Considered

NOM 8/2022

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

Response issued 18/05/2023

Response issued 06/10/2023 - 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 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 37/2023

Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly on the 2nd November 2023

That the planning notices provided to elected members would include all applications made for licences to Galway City Council under section 254 of Planning and Development Act, 2000.

Section 34 Motion submitted on 8th January 2024**Proposed By:** Cllr. D. McDonnell
NOM 02/2024**Seconded By:** Cllr. P. Keane

In the interest of facilitating fundraising endeavors of Clubs to whom Pitch Licenses are granted, Galway City Council resolves to insert an amendment to the current Licenses to allow for Pitch-side Advertisement Hoardings.

NOM 03/2024**Submitted by Cllr. C. Higgins on the 29th January 2024**

That the government recognises the urgent situation of the crisis facing the hospitality sector and acts swiftly to provide immediate support to SMEs in the hospitality sector by way of a suite of measures. Failure to do so, risks irreversible damage to our economy and loss of countless jobs and livelihoods. Recognising the urgency of the matter Galway City Council calls on the Government to take the following immediate actions to support SMEs in the hospitality sector;

1. Reduce the VAT rate to 9%
2. Extension of Warehouse Tax scheme in line with calls from the Restaurant Association of Ireland which will give businesses a viable opportunity to pay back what they owe over an extended period.
3. An overhaul of the electric support which is one of the most crippling costs to SMEs in the hospitality sector at present.

NOM 04/2024**Submitted by Cllr. C. Higgins on the 6th February 2024**

That this Council recognises, supports and endorses the Institute of Professional Auctioneers and Valuers (IPAV) draft legislation the Seller's Legal Pack for Property Buyers' Bill 2021 which has completed first and second stage in Dail Eireann. The introduction of the Seller's Legal Pack will reduce delays in conveyancing by 50% by frontloading the process thereby giving consumers certainty. It will reduce gazumping and gazundering, and it will align general sales with public auctions and online sales whereby legal documents are sought upfront.

The Seller's Legal Pack will include;

- Law Society Conditions/Contract of Sale
- Certified copy of file and file plan or root of unregistered title
- Architect's Certificate of Compliance with planning permission
- Architect's Certificate of Compliance with building regulations
- Copy of all planning permission and building regulations documents
- Receipts for financial conditions
- Letter confirming roads and services or evidence of rights of way and wayleaves
- Local property history details
- A BER Certificate and Advisory Report

- Certificate of discharge or exemption from Non-Private Residence Charge.

That this Council circulates this motion to the Houses of the Oireachtas, Minister for Justice and all Councils.

6. QUESTIONS – Not Considered

Q4/2023

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

Q8/2023

Submitted by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty on the 6th November 2023

Please outline a time frame for completion of the Renmore Neighbourhood Project Framework Scheme, which will provide junior and senior playgrounds, if there are no objections; to include target dates for each of the following stages:

Stage I: Feasibility and Concept Design

Stage II: Preliminary Design for Planning Consent and Development for Initial Pre-Tender Cost estimate

Stage III: Tender Action, Evaluation and Award

Stage IV: Construction

Stage V: Handover

Q1/2024

Submitted by Cllr. N. Murphy on 23rd January 2024

The Galway City Development Plan in section 5.10 in specific objective 29 states: "Continue the phased recording of Public Rights of Way in accordance with OPR good practice guidance and make publicly available by inclusion in the website inventory and by use of the plan variation process. The website will be updated within one year of adoption of the plan."

Can I please get an update of how much progress has been made. The plan is more than a year old, so the inventory should be in place.

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

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Not Considered

The meeting concluded at 18.51

