

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and Online via MS Teams on Monday 8th April 2024 at 3.00p.m.	
Presiding	Cllr. E. Hoare, Mayor of the City of Galway
Present (Elected Members)	Councillors: A. Cheevers, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, M. Cubbard, A. Curran, C. Higgins, P. Keane, D. Lyons, N. Murphy, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty
Present (virtually)	Councillors: I. Byrne, C. Connolly, D. McDonnell, M. O'Connor
Apologies	Cllr. F. Fahy Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services & Ms. E. Fanning, A/Director of Services
Present (Executive)	Ms. P. Philbin, Chief Executive – Interim Ms. H. Kilroy, Director of Finance & ICT Mr. D. Mahon, 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. M. Lally, Senior Executive Engineer (Online) Mr. G. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. A. Kenny, Administrative Officer Ms. S. King, Staff 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 Loïc Champagnat (RIP), partner of Cllr. C. Connolly. This was Seconded by Cllr. T O'Flaherty. He expressed deepest sympathies to Cllr. C. Connolly.

Mayor E. Hoare further Proposed to take the agenda as set out and to take agenda item 4(a) after item 1, with a 15-minute break at 4.45pm and to finish at 6.30pm. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 4th March 2024

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

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
1(a) Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on 4 th March 2024	
The minutes of the March meeting were agreed and adopted.	

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

Cllr. D. Lyons referred to page 3 of the minutes and to the driver feedback signs and his request for this item to be on the agenda for this meeting. He also referred to his request for a report on estates taken in charge which was not circulated.

Cllr. M. Cubbard referred to a reduction of parking spaces on Raleigh Road area directly outside the school and asked if this parking will be returned.

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty referred to page 2 of the minutes and to the clean-up of the Walter Macken Flats and asked when is the next follow up treatment going to take place.

Cllr. D. McDonnell referred to page 2 of the minutes and to the SPC signage report which was to be circulated by S. Connolly and asked if same could be circulated.

Cllr. C. Connolly referred to the flying of the Peace flag and asked what the policy is in relation to same.

The Executive responded to the above queries and to follow up on query in relation to the Walter Macken flats and circulate report on SPC signage as requested by Cllr. D. McDonnell.

Cllr. D. Lyons **Proposed** that the Driver Feedback Signs be discussed at full Council, and for it to be included on the agenda for the May meeting. This was **Seconded** by Cllr. C. Connolly and agreed.

Cllr. M. Cubbard referred to the Raleigh Road site and asked for clarification on the ownership of same.

The Executive responded to the above queries.

Mayor E. Hoare asked if an update on the Raleigh Road site could be circulated to Members.

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

- (a) Presentation on "SH2AMROCK" - A green hydrogen hub for Galway, presented by Conor O'Dowd and Dr. Rory Monaghan, GH2 Consortium.**

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda item 4(a) and invited Dr. Rory Monaghan, University of Galway and Mr. Conor O'Dowd, CEO, The Port of Galway, to present on this item. Dr. Rory Monaghan presented, and a number of queries were raised by Members and responded to by Dr Monaghan and Mr. O'Dowd.

Mayor E. Hoare thanked Dr. Monaghan and Mr. O'Dowd for their presentation and time.

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to Notice of Motion, reference 11/2024, submitted by Cllr. P. Keane and invited comments.

NOM 11/2024 - Submitted by Cllr. P. Keane on the 5th April 2024 Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons				
That Galway City Council commits to a funding programme of €250,000 over the next 5-year period commencing in Galway City Council Budget 2025, to assist Salthill Knocknacarra GAA Club with the proposed development of their home pitch facilities situate at the Prairie on Dr. Mannix Road, Salthill comprising the completion of a full-size 4G Astro Playing Facility with ancillary Floodlights. This commitment to finance will provide crucial funding for the Club to enable completion of this facility and is in line with similar financial contributions this Council has made to other local clubs and Council Facilities in the Galway City West Local Electoral Area to include facilities at Cappagh Park and Drom.				
This sports infrastructure project is shovel ready and enjoys the benefit of Planning Permission for commencement. The facility when completed will ensure uninterrupted use for the 2,800 girls and boys, women and men from the greater Salthill and Knocknacarra Communities across the 4-codes of Ladies and Girls, Men and Boys Football, Hurling and Camogie.				
In Favour: 14	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 4	Present: 14
The motion was carried.				

Follow a discussion, Mayor E. Hoare called for a show of hands in favour of the above motion.

Mr. D. Mahon referred Members to the Community Recognition Fund as a funding possibility and advised a total fund of €1,702,897 has been allocated to Galway City LCDC for 2024. Funding is targeted at and specifically invested in areas around the city where the highest level of new arrivals are located and where there is a clear need for investment identified and that the portal will be open on Monday.

Cllr. J. Connolly proposed the following motion. Mayor E. Hoare invited comments and called for a show of hands in favour of motion.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Connolly			Seconded by Cllr. M.J. Crowe		
NOM 12/2024 –					
That the elected Council of Galway City Council receive regular updates on the meetings of the N6 steering group as per ASDP performance standard.					
In Favour: 14		Against: 0		Abstain: 0	
				Absent: 4	
				Present: 14	
The motion was carried.					

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

(a) To Consider the issuing of Polling Cards for Local Government Electors in accordance with Article 55 of the Local Election Regulation 1995 and the Local Elections Order 2024.

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

Mr. Gary McMahon, Returning Officer gave a short briefing to Members on this item and Members were informed of the closing date for receipt of nominations 11th May – 12 Noon on 18th May 2024 (excluding Sunday)) and the closing date for registering to vote (20th May 2024).

Following a discussion, Mayor E. Hoare called for a proposer and seconder and a show of hands in favour of item 2(a).

Proposed By: Cllr. P. Keane		Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons		
2(a) Consider the issuing of Polling Cards for Local Government Electors in accordance with Article 55 of the Local Election Regulation 1995 and the Local Elections Order 2024				
In Favour: 16	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 2	Present: 16
Item 2(a) was unanimously approved by Council.				

Cllr. N. McNelis referred to the accessibility of the current polling stations and proposed the following motion which was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons. Mayor E. Hoare called for a show of hands in favour of this motion.

Proposed By: Cllr. N. McNelis	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
NOM 13/2024	
That this council supports locating polling stations in areas that maximise opportunities for walking and other forms of active travel by those voters allocated to each station. This will minimise car parking requirements, ensuring that those with mobility issues, etc, are able to find accessible parking even during busier periods. In a city like Galway, it should be possible to ensure that a preponderance of voters live within a 1km walk of a polling station, without an increase in the overall number of polling stations required. That there should be a polling station on the west end of Knocknacarra, serving an Electoral Area broadly west of Clybaun Road. That the current Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh Building continue to serve as a polling station for an Electoral Area centred on that site, serving those voters living close to it, bounded by Clybaun Road, Letteragh Road, Western Distributor Rd, and Bishop O'Donnell Rd.	
That this motion be sent to County Registrar.	

In Favour: 14	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 4	Present: 14
This motion was carried.				

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

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

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. N. McNelis			
2(b) Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2023 for noting				
In Favour: 14	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 4	Present: 14
The LCDC Annual Report 2023 was noted by Council.				

2(c) Declaration of Road to be a public road: Taylor's Hill Court Road, Garrán Ard & Carraig Nua

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

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Mayor E. Hoare			
2(c) Declaration of Road to be a public road: Taylor's Hill Court Road, Garrán Ard & Carraig Nua				
In Favour: 15	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 3	Present: 15
Agenda item 2(c) was unanimously approved by Council.				

2(d) Approval for allocation of funding under the Local Authority Home Loan

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

Ms. M. Fallon Ward, Administrative Officer, Housing Department, briefed Members on this item. Following a discussion, Mayor E. Hoare called for a show of hands in favour of item 2(d).

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty			
2(d) Approval for allocation of funding under the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme in the sum of €6,080,000.				
In Favour: 15	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 3	Present: 15
Agenda item 2(d) was unanimously approved by Council.				

Mayor E. Hoare proposed to take agenda items 7, 9 & 10 and called for a proposer and seconder for these items.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Proposed By: Mayor E. Hoare	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
(a) Resolution passed at March meeting of Clare County Council, received on 14/03/2024 (Request to Minister for Social Protection). (b) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Rural and Community Development in relation to NOM01/2024, received on 29/02/2024. (c) Correspondence to the CE from Emma Daly (On behalf of the Irish Healthcare Workers for Palestine network), received on 01/03/24, requesting Galway City Council to endorse the 2022 Amnesty International Report on Israeli Apartheid against the Palestinian People. (d) Correspondence from Westmeath County Council received on 02/04/2024, resolution passed in support of IFA Campaign “Enough is Enough”.	
It was agreed by Council to note correspondence.	

9. CONFERENCES

Proposed By: Mayor E. Hoare	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
Training title and Provider	Date and Location
A AILG Module 2- Local Election 2024 Preparation – A Briefing from the Electoral Commission	Saturday 23 rd March Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone
B AILG Training Webinar 3 How to Use Canva to Create Marketing Images – Beginner Level	Friday 15 th March Online
C AILG Training Webinar 4 - AILG-CMG Security Training – Protecting yourself when canvassing for Local Elections	Friday 5 th April Online
D AILG Training Webinar 5 - AILG Defensive Social Media Training – Protecting yourself online	Friday 12 th April Online
Training and Events were noted and approved by Council.	

10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

Proposed By: Mayor E. Hoare	Seconded By: Cllr. D. Lyons
• Mr. Loïc Champagnat, RIP • Mr. Michael Demeter, RIP • Ms. Christina Maloney, RIP • Mr. Conor Kelly, RIP • Ms. Anna O’Loughlin, RIP	• Ms. Maura Donohoe, RIP • Mr. Peter O’Brien, RIP • Ms. Carmel Donohoe, RIP • Mr. Gerry Sheridan, RIP • Ms. Kathleen Grealish, RIP

• Mr. Joe Divilly, RIP • Mr. Jimmy Scully, RIP • Mr. Paddy Dunican, RIP • Ms. Mary O'Sullivan, RIP • Mr. Padraic O'Connor, RIP • Ms. Margaret Collins, RIP • Ms. Marie Harty, RIP • Mr. Hugo Toner, RIP	• Mr. Pat Farragher, RIP • Mr. Joe O'Gorman, RIP • Ms. Marie Harty, RIP • Ms. Nora Bernard (nee Rennick) RIP • Mr. David (Davy) Condon, RIP • Mr. Tommy McClean, RIP
Votes of sympathy were approved by Council.	

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Notes of CPG Meeting held on Tuesday 26th March 2024

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda item 3(a) and invited comments.

Proposed By: Cllr. D. Lyons	Seconded By: Cllr. M. Cubbard
3(a) Notes of CPG Meeting held on Tuesday 26 th March 2024	
Agenda item 3(a) was noted by Council.	

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS

4(b) Chief Executive's Report for March 2024 &

4(c) Chief Executive's Report for April 2024 and Quarterly Report January to March 2024

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda items 4(b) & 4(c) and proposed that these two items be taken together. This was agreed. Mayor E. Hoare invited comments.

A discussion followed and a number of queries were raised by Members. Mayor E. Hoare proposed to suspend Standing Orders and to extend the meeting to deal with queries raised by Members. This was agreed.

The Executive responded to queries raised.

Mayor E. Hoare called for a proposer and seconder for items 4(a) & 4(b).

Proposed By: Cllr. M. Cubbard	Seconded By: Cllr. M.J. Crowe
4(b) Chief Executive's Report for March 2024	
Agenda item 4(b) was noted by Council.	

Proposed By: Cllr. M. Cubbard	Seconded By: Cllr. M.J. Crowe
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4(c) Chief Executive's Report for April 2024 and Quarterly Report January to March 2024

Agenda item 4(c) was noted by Council.

Cllr. M. J. Crowe proposed the following motion:

Proposed By: Cllr. M.J. Crowe

Seconded By: Cllr. A. Cheevers

That the Merlin Woods Development be an affordable only scheme.

It was agreed that this motion be left on the agenda.

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.

NOM 02/2024 - Section 34 Motion submitted on 8th January 2024

Proposed By: Cllr. D. McDonnell

Seconded By: Cllr. P. Keane

In the interest of facilitating fundraising endeavours 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.

NOM 11/2022 – Resubmitted 30th March 2024

Submitted by Cllr. D. Lyons on the 30th May 2022 – Response issued

16/06/2022 Resubmitted 1st May 2023 – Response issued 17/05/2023

I request Galway City Council to enter immediate discussions with relevant land owners on the Upper Ballymoneen Road so as to acquire sufficient lands by negotiation or by Compulsory Purchase Order so that a bus turning bay can be installed which will permit a bus service operation on the Upper Ballymoneen Road serving the following estates; Slí Burca, Leitir Burca, Leas na Mara, Drisín, Maoilín, Slí Gheal, Fana Buí, Radharc na Farrage, Magh Burca, Ard Cre and a number of other estates now in construction and further developments due to take place on Ballymoneen Road in the future.

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 Up and Lwr Clybaun Road and Up 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.

Q4/2024

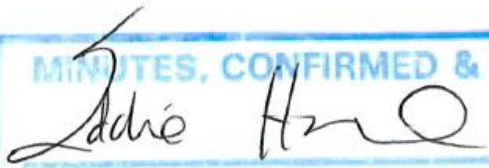
Submitted by Cllr. J. Connolly on 18th March 2024

How many people held annual subscriptions for the Galway City Bike Share Scheme in 2022 and 2023, and how many currently hold a subscription? Can data be provided as to the total number of journeys undertaken by customers per month in 2022, 2023 and to the end of March 2024? What was the annual cost of running the scheme in 2022 and 2023.

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

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Not Considered

The meeting concluded at 7.14pm.

MINUTES, CONFIRMED & SIGNED

MAYOR OF GALWAY