

**Draft Minutes of the Special Meeting of Galway City Council
held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and Online via MS Teams
on Monday 22nd April 2024 at 3.00p.m.**

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| Presiding | Cllr. E. Hoare, Mayor of the City of Galway |
| Present (Elected Members) | Councillors: I. Byrne, A. Cheevers, M.J. Crowe, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, T. O'Flaherty |
| Present (virtually) | Councillors: C. Connolly, J. Connolly, M. Cubbard, A. Curran, F. Fahy, C. Higgins, N. Larkin, N. McNelis, N. Murphy, M. O'Connor |
| Apologies | Cllrs. P. Keane, Ms. P. Philbin, Interim CE |
| Present (Executive) | Mr. P. Greene, Director of Services Ms. E. Fanning, A/Director of Services Mr. D. Mahon, A/Director of Services Mr. C. O'Riordan, Senior Engineer Mr. E. Lynch, Senior Planner (Online) Ms. A. Rohan, Meetings Administrator Ms. A. Kenny, Administrative Officer |

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 to take the agenda as set out. This was Seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda item 1.

Item 1: To consider bestowing the Freedom of the City of Galway - draft note from Procedure's Committee meeting held on 16th April, 2024 circulated.

Mayor E. Hoare proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to consider the matter in committee in line with legislation. Members of the media and public left the meeting.

Following conclusion of the meeting held in committee Standing Orders were resumed and members of the media and public returned to the meeting.

Mayor E. Hoare advised of the Motion that he proposed, which was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed unanimously by the sixteen members present at the in committee meeting to accord Freedom of the City of Galway, Honoras Causa to Mr. Keith Finnegan.

Mayor Hoare informed Members that Mr. Finnegan is a Galway native, married to Joan with two grown up children. Keith's love of radio goes back to his childhood and during his formative years his father, who trained as a radio engineer, helped him to build a small radio transmitter. Keith began his broadcasting career with RTE

community radio in 1980, joining Galway Bay FM at its inception in 1989. On the 6th of January 1991 Keith took up the position of Chief Executive of Galway Bay FM. There were many challenges but in a relatively short period of time the station was on a solid footing and grew to where it is today, one of the most successful stations in the country. Keith was a Director until April 2022.

Keith has been the voice of Galway for the last 30 years as host of 'The Keith Finnegan Show'/'Galway Talks' on Galway Bay FM. Each morning from 9am–12noon he deals with the issues affecting the people of Galway city and county, from current affairs to human interest stories. Keith's contribution to Irish journalism is hugely significant. His love and passion for radio is apparent, making his show interesting, compelling and stimulating. He is trusted and dependable and this is apparent. He is also highly respected among his peers.

In 1989 he was instrumental in setting up the Spirit of Galway Committee which has developed strong links between Galway and the USA. In 2011 he was invited by US President Barrack Obama to the White House for St Patrick's Day. This was to honour his work on the Galway Committee of Chicago Sister Cities, campaigning on behalf of the undocumented Irish emigrants. He also represented Galway and Ireland in St Louis for their St Patrick's Day parade in 2016 as Grand Marshall, which was a huge honour. Keith is a proud Galwegian through and through and tirelessly works to promote Galway both nationally and internationally.

Councillors individually and collectively made contributions regarding Keith Finnegan outlining his achievements and contributions to Galway city.

Item 2: Proposal from the Civic Naming Committee - proposed naming of the Salmon Weir Pedestrian & Cycle Bridge

Mayor E. Hoare referred Members to agenda item 2 and invited Ms. A. Rohan to present on this item. Ms. A. Rohan gave a presentation on behalf of the Naming Committee and informed Members that the proposed name for the bridge is "Droichead an Dóchais", the name proposed is "as Gaeilge", reflecting our proud status as a bilingual City" and means the "Bridge of Hope".

A discussion followed and Mayor E. Hoare Proposed a Roll Call Vote on this item. This was Seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and supported by Cllr. D. McDonnell and Cllr. D. Lyons.

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

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| Proposed By: Mayor E. Hoare | Seconded By: Cllr. M. O'Connor |
| 2: Proposal from the Civic Naming Committee - proposed naming of the Salmon Weir Cycle & Pedestrian Bridge " Droichead an Dóchais " | |
| In favour: Cllrs. I. Byrne, M. Cubbard, A. Curran, F. Fahy, E. Hoare, N. Larkin, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, N. Murphy, M. O'Connor, T. O'Flaherty. | |
| Against: Cllrs. A. Cheevers, C. Connolly, J. Connolly, M.J. Crowe. | |

Abstain: None

Absent: Cllrs. C. Higgins, P. Keane

In favour: 12 Against: 4 Abstain: 0 Absent: 2
This motion was carried.

Cllr. F. Fahy proposed the following motion. This was Seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty.

Proposed By: Cllr. F. Fahy

Seconded By: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty

That a temporary crossing solution be put in place for pedestrians and cyclists to slow down traffic to help enable pedestrians and cyclists to get across the bridge safely.

Agreed to include on May meeting agenda.

Mr. E. Lynch responded to the above motion and suggested that it be discussed at the May meeting. Cllr. D. Lyons proposed that this motion be put on the May meeting agenda. This was agreed by Cllr. F. Fahy and Cllr. T. O'Flaherty.

The meeting concluded at 17:00.