

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY THE
25th JANUARY 2010.**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. T. McHugh

ILATHAIR FREISIN:-

Baill: Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, L. Carroll, P. Connaughton, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, J. Cuddy, Comh S O’Cuaig, Comh T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, M. Maher, E Mannion, T. Mannion, J. McClearn, J. McDonagh, M. Mullins, M. Noone, P. Roche, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers.

Oifigigh: Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. J. Cullen, F. Gilmore, K Kelly, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M Dolly, Senior Engineer, B. McDermott, County Secretary; A Comer, M. Owens, Senior Executive Officers; J Keane, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

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A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:-

Mrs. Collins, Corofin, Tuam, Co. Galway.
Mr. Tony Larkin, Kilnahown, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Rose Glynn, Mackney, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Mrs. Mary Crehan, Lowville, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Carmel Cusack, Hanley’s Cross, Athenry Road, Loughrea, Co. Galway
Paddy Joe Ó Cadhain, An Lochán Beag, Indreabhán, Co. na Gaillimhe.
Tom Concannon, Sailechúna, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe
Beartla Ó Cadhain, Caorán na gCearc, Baile na hAbhainn, Co. na Gaillimhe
Mrs. Phyllis Fahy, Annagh, Gort, Co. Galway.
The Hon. Mrs. Eleanor Agnew, Cregmore, Ardrahan, Co. Galway
Mrs. Madeleine Connolly, Nutfield Cross, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Ms. Mary Hanifin T.D., Minister for Social & Family Affairs, Dáil Éireann, Dublin 2

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

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The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 14th December 2009 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr Keaveney, and seconded by Cllr. McClearn.

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 21st December 2009 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr Keaveney, and seconded by Cllr. Mannion.

The Minutes of the Budget Meeting held on 4th January 2010 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr Carroll, and seconded by Cllr. Connaughton.

It was agreed to allow Cllr. D. Connolly to raise an issue at this stage of the meeting:-

Cllr. D Connolly called for immediate action on the Killascope bridge in Mountbellew to restore it to a workable condition for all traffic users and not just pedestrian use.

Mr. Gilmore said that work would commence on the restructuring of the Killascope Bridge this week.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

234

The Report of the Housing SPC meeting held on the 18th February 2009 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. E Mannion and seconded by Cllr Kyne.

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993

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On the proposal of Cllr. E Mannion and seconded by Cllr. Kyne the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with

Road commencing at junction with County Road L-5118-10 in the townland of Fahy and extending westwards for a distance of 200 metres to its finish point in the townland of Fahy.

Electoral Area: Conamara

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993

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On the proposal of Cllr. E Mannion and seconded by Cllr. Kyne the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with

Road commencing at junction with Local Road L-5105-22 in the townland of Renvyle and extending northwards for a distance of 160 metres to its finish point in the townland of Renvyle.

Electoral Area: Conamara

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AND SECTION 211 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 206 (1) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 AND SECTION 88 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1996 ON THE DISPOSAL OF AN APARTMENT AT HIGH STREET, DUNMORE, CO. GALWAY

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Report dated the 14th January, 2010 was already circulated to the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr. Canney, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney, the disposal of an apartment at High Street, Dunmore was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AND SECTION 211 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 206 (1) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 AND SECTION 88 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1996 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.120 HECTARES AND 0.125 HECTARES AT ENNIS RD, GORT, CO. GALWAY

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Report dated the 14th January, 2010 was already circulated to the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty, the disposal of 0.120 hectares and 0.125 hectares at Ennis Rd, Gort, Co Galway was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – MAIGH CUILINN PLAYGROUND

239

Report dated the 19th January, 2010 was already circulated to each member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Kyne, seconded by Cllr. S Walsh, the proposals under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 for Maigh Cuilinn Playground, in the townland of Coill Bhruachláin were approved.

ROAD REPAIRS UPDATE

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The Mayor invited Mr. Gilmore to update the Members on the condition of the roads following the recent severe weather conditions. Mr. Gilmore said that the Council was carrying out a full survey of all the damaged roads however some are still under water. He said that a significant sum of money will be required to repair the damage done by the flooding and frost. A meeting is planned with staff from the Department

of Transport and NRA in order to seek additional funding. He referred to Circular RLR 3/2010 dated the 21st January 2010 received from the Department of Transport which has been circulated to the members setting out the position in relation to the Interim Spending for Regional & Local Roads under the following headings;

- Expenditure from own resources
- Prioritisation of Repair Works arising from the recent Severe Weather
- Spending of 2010 Restoration Improvement grant, Discretionary Maintenance grant Discretionary Improvement Grant, Block Grant and Special Block grant monies
- 2010 Restoration Improvement Programmes

It is proposed to revise the Roads Programme and this item will be brought before the Electoral Area Committees over the next few weeks.

Cllr. Canney pointed out that this was a vexatious issue, as roads already on the programme for repairs may not now be repaired. There is a need to lobby the Minister for Transport for additional funding.

It was the proposed by Cllr. Canney and seconded by Cllr. M Connolly and agreed “that Galway County Council initiate an alliance of all Local Authorities to lobby the Minister for Transport for additional funding to properly address the condition of our roads.

It was also proposed that this motion be forwarded to all Local Authorities for support”.

In relation to the use of the Council website, the Council will look at publishing a list of the roadworks as they are carried out.

In relation to claims for damage to motor vehicles, each case is evaluated on its merits.

The Council is meeting with the Galway International Rally organisers tomorrow and will raise issues of concern expressed by the Members.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS) COUNTY GALWAY BYE LAWS 2010 **241**

Report dated the 19th January, 2010 was already circulated to each member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Canney, the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County Galway Bye Laws 2010 were adopted by the Members and signed and sealed by the Mayor.

In response to queries raised by members Mr. Dolly said that the extension of the speed limits on the Kilcolgan side of Ballindereen village had been raised on numerous occasions and submitted to the NRA but had not been given approval. He agreed that these could be resubmitted to the NRA.

The implementation of a wider review of speed limits will have cost implications.

DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2010-2014 **242**

Mr. Kelly referred to the Draft Corporate Plan 2010-2014 which had been circulated. The Corporate Plan is a statutory requirement under the Local Government Act 2001 and he pointed out that while the draft plan was a briefer version than the previous plan it still complies with the requirements of the legislation. The plan sets out the priority strategies for each unit.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed that the Draft Corporate Plan 2010-2014 be approved.

TUAM SWIMMING POOL **243**

While it was agreed to defer this item, a brief update was requested.

Mr. Kelly said he was confident that a number of issues raised with Kingfisher the new operators of the Pool had been taken on board and acted upon in an appropriate manner. A number of organizations had expressed satisfaction with the changes. The first Swimming Gala had been held at the venue over the weekend and the operators were looking forward to further events.

The members in general expressed satisfaction with the running of the pool, however, Cllr. M Connolly said that people who were 'pay as you go' customers were not happy with the hours available.

MANAGERS BUSINESS **244**

There was no Managers business.

MAYORS BUSINESS **245**

In support of the Resolutions of the Ballinasloe Town Council which had been circulated to the Members it was proposed by Cllr Mullins, seconded by Cllr T. Mannion and agreed:-

“That this Council write to the Minister of the Environment and seek assurances that a strategic flood risk management programme will now be implemented to lessen the risk of future flooding and to give advance warning of flood risk”

“That the Government introduce a scheme to protect householders who cannot obtain household insurance due to flooding through regular insurance bodies”

It was proposed by Cllr Hoade, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh and agreed that the Council extend an invitation to the three MEP's for Connacht Ulster to visit the Council, and address the Members in relation to flooding and other EU issues.

In response to a query raised, Ms. McDermott confirmed that a favourable response had been received from the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Environment, Heritage & Local Government regarding meeting a delegation of Members from Galway County Council regarding excessive designations and their effects on County Galway. They will revert back to the Council with dates and times. She agreed to follow up on this matter with the Committee.

Mr. Kelly said in relation to Loughrea Swimming Pool that the Council had met with the developer last Friday. Some work has been done on the tender documents and funding for the project is secure. He advised that legal arrangements were in place to provide that funding is only drawn down at the end of the construction period and that a detailed time scale would be agreed with the Department in the next couple of weeks.

Referring to the flooding issue the Manager advised as follows:

- A working group has been set up with the OPW which has held three meetings to date.
- At least fifty locations which have been impacted were identified with over 200 houses affected.
- There is an ongoing programme of inspections taking place
- A number of minor relief works applications are being prepared for submission to the OPW
- The OPW is due to commence a Flood Risk Management Study of the River Shannon this year
- The OPW is also commissioning a study on the Clare River which is expected to commence shortly with a completion date of 3 months
- There are 12 drainage districts in the County and in the current year Galway County Council has a total of €70,000 to spend on same.
- Galway County Council is currently compiling a comprehensive map of the County outlining areas of responsibility of Galway County Council and of the OPW

Mr. Kelly advised that notice has been served on the Council by the main unions regarding the commencement of industrial action with effect from Monday 25th January 2010, and in some instances with effect from 1st February 2010. The industrial action proposed is non co-operation with changes including non co-operation with Council meetings.

CONFERENCES

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On the proposal of Cllr McDonagh and seconded by Cllr Mullins the proposed attendances at conferences was agreed.

Antrim Tourism Conference – Tourism in the 21st Century – A Challenge for All – 29th – 30th January – Dunadry Hotel, Dunadry, Co. Antrim

Cllr. M Maher

TJK Conferences – Planning Seminar for Councillors – 29th – 30th January – Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick

Cllr. P Roche, Cllr. J McDonagh, Cllr. S Walsh, Cllr. M Hoade, Cllr. T McHugh, Cllr. T Walsh, Cllr. P Hynes

Mid-West Regional Authority – 16th Annual Conference – Environmental Designations – Barriers or Opportunities – 4th – 5th February – Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Rd., Limerick

Cllr. M Hoade

Superior Training – Flood Management & Local Government – 5th – 6th February – Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare

Cllr. P Roche

A.M.A.I. Spring Seminar – Perspectives on National Recovery – 12th – 13th February – Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo

Cllr. M Hoade, Cllr. T Ó Curráoin, Cllr. M Maher, Cllr. J Cuddy, Cllr. M Fahy, Cllr. J McDonagh, Cllr. P Hynes, Cllr. P Feeney, Cllr. T Mannion, Cllr. M Mullins. Cllr. P Roche

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 13 – CLLR. C. KEAVENEY

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The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council wrote to all schools in the County on 24th September last advising them of the change to full volumetric charging for schools from January 1st 2010. The Council included with this correspondence specially produced leaflets and useful information for schools regarding water conservation. In addition, the Council offered the assistance of the Water Services Section and the Environmental Awareness Officer in terms of advice and further assistance in this matter. It is the Council’s understanding that all primary and post primary schools were informed directly of the Summer Works Scheme initiative by the Department of Education and Science in the Circular Letter 0057/2009, and that the closing date for applications under this initiative was 27th November 2009.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 14 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

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The following reply was given:-

“The location highlighted does not satisfy existing criteria for the erection of the proposed sign. Signs of this nature are erected on roads of a primary residential character with continuous housing frontage.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 15 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 249

The following reply was given:-

“There is no recorded accident history at the highlighted location and there is currently no funding available to facilitate the provision of protective railings/ barrier. The provision of appropriate signage on the approaches to the area will be considered by the Area Office.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 16 – CLLR. M. MAHER 250

The following reply was given:-

“A formal request will be made to the National Roads Authority with regard to the maintenance and upkeep of the local road network in the immediate vicinity of the M6 Junction at Carrowkeel.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 17 – CLLR. M. MAHER 251

The following reply was given:-

“These works will be considered in the context of preparing the 2010 Roads Programme.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 18 – CLLR. M. MAHER 252

The following reply was given:-

“The transfer of lands at this location to the Council has not been finalised to date, it is intended that the necessary works required to complete the project will be undertaken on completion of the land transfer.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 19 - COMH S. Ó TUAIRISG 253

The following reply was given:-

“Tá an t-ábhar seo curtha faoi bhráid Gníomhaire Dlí na Comhairle do Chomhairle Dlí. Cuirfear scéala chugat maidir le beartais na Comhairle a luaithe agus is feidir”.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 20 - COMH S. Ó TUAIRISG 254

The following reply was given:-

“**Reilig Mhaírois Carna** .Tá plé déanta ag an gComhairle leis an úinéir talún áitiúil maidir le talamh breise a cheannacht cóngarach don reilig i Maíros, Carna. Bheadh

ceist maidir le bealach isteach ar an suíomh agus an praghas atá iarrtha ag an úinéir talún.

Reilig an Líonáin. Ag cruinniú le Cumann Forbartha an Líonáin ar an 2ú Feabhra 2010, aontaíodh a dhul ar ais chuig an gCumann le moltaí do shíneadh na reilige.

Reilig Mháirois, Baile na hAbhann. Tá an Comhairle ag fanacht le tuairisc oiriúnacht suímh ón FSS.

Reilig Bhéal an Átha Fada (Ballinfad). Scríobh an Comhairle chuig úinéirí coimíneacht le taobh an tsuímh. Beidh litir eile dhá eisiúint go luath.

Reilig Chuigéil, Leitir Mealláin. Cuireadh iarratas chuig an gComharchumann le suíomh oiriúnach a aimsiú ó tharla nár tagadh ar aon aontú maidir le úsáid an tsuímh le taobh na reilige”.

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN