
TUAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ARCHIVES COLLECTION

1907 – 1925

G01/11

A Descriptive List Prepared by Galway County Council Archives

TUAM
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1907 – 1925

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INTRODUCTION

The Tuam Rural District Council archives collection is an incomplete collection consisting of minute books (1915-1925), quarterly minute books (1907-1920), and roads ledgers (1917-1920) together with material relating to labourers cottages, rates and sanitary work. The collection has been in the custody of Galway County Libraries since 1977.

Rural District Councils

Rural District Councils were set up under the Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898. Their powers were conferred upon them by Sections 2 to 39 of the Act.

The Council assumed responsibility for the road and public works functions of the Grand Juries where the cost had been borne by the district, and the housing and public health functions of the Boards of Guardians. In the early years of County Councils much of the routine business was transacted through these Councils.

The Councils played an important administrative role in the period pre-dating the formation of an independent Irish state, and when democratic local government was first established and developing in Ireland. The Councils were dissolved in October 1925 under Section 8, Sub-section (2), (3), and (4) of the Local Government Act of that year. Their functions were transferred, under the Local Government Act of 1925 to the county councils. County councils were in turn required to discharge their new sanitary duties through boards of health and public assistance.¹ These boards also had responsibility for the supervision of county homes, hospitals and dispensaries, housing, water and sewerage, home assistance and a number of schemes including blind welfare, boarded out children, infectious diseases, tuberculosis and the school medical service.

The Boards of Health and Public Assistance survived until August 1942 when the administration of public assistance and sanitary matters came under the direct control of the County Council acting through the new county managers. Medical Health Officers were appointed and were responsible for the effective administration of the legislation for safeguarding public health. However, these functions were later transferred from the County Councils to Health Boards, when they established in the early 1970's.

¹ Department of Environment and Local Government

Guidelines for Local Authority Archives Services, 1996



Tuam Rural District Council

The Tuam Rural District Council generally held its meetings in the Boardroom of the Workhouse. Its inaugural meeting was held on 22 April 1899, when John Nolan was elected its first Chairman.

A contemporary newspaper reporting on the first meeting stated that the Councillors *'met on the occasion as befitted men conscious of their real duty and determined to do it. They indulged in no flights of rhetorical fancy or no parade of power but with a quiet self-respecting and manly dignity met and set about their task fully alive to the responsibilities of their trust but fully determined with unswerving fidelity to do it according to the best of their skill and judgement.'*²

Initially there were 75 Councillors. The Council's geographical area of responsibility included the electoral divisions of Abbey (Abbeyknockmoy) East, Abbey West, Addergoole, Annaghdown, Ballinderry, Ballinduff, Ballynapark, Beaghmore, Belclare, Carrowrevagh, ClareTuam, Clonbern, Cummer, Doonbalaly, Doughpatrick, Dunmore, Foxhall, Headford, Hillsbrook, Kilbennan, Kilcoona, Killeany, Killeen, Killererin, Killower, Killursa, Kilmoylan, Kilshanny, Levally, Miltown, Monivea, Moyne, Ryehill, Tuam Rural and Tuam Urban.

Much may be learnt about the work of the Council and the development of the district from the collection. In particular the minutes illustrate the range of topics of concern and interest to the Council, and record together with general and financial business proceedings, the minutes of the Sanitary Authority, the Burial Board, and the proceedings conducted under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts.

The surviving minutes of Council reveal that it kept a watchful eye on national political developments during a period of great change and strife in Ireland, and expressed its opinion on many, such as resolving in July 1915 *'That we declare we will not have conscription'* (G01/11/15, p146), and in February 1916 following a deputation from interested parties it resolved *'That the members of this Council form themselves into a Committee to further the interests of voluntary recruiting by every means in their power'* (G01/11/15, p314).

In June 1916 the Council read the resolution passed by the Portumna Rural District Council *'condemning the action of the authorities in shooting the innocent people without any form of trial during the recent disturbance in Dublin and further for depriving them of the youth and manhood of Ireland by deportation, and whose sympathies were heartily in accordance with the wishes of the Government as far as recruiting is concerned...'* (G01/11/15, pp411-412).

In October that year the Council resolved to place on record its *'unabated confidence in the Irish Parliamentary Party under the leadership of Mr John Redmond, MP., which has achieved so*



much beneficial legislation for the people of Ireland by the National movement organisation; and we call upon the people of Ireland to remain faithful to the constitutional movement as directed by the Irish Party and to remember that Unity is strength. We protest most strongly against the insidious attempts made by certain newspapers and people who have never supported the National organisation to cause disunion in Ireland (G01/11/15, p508).

In January 1919 in a strongly worded resolution it called for the liberation of the imprisoned Irish political leaders and further stated that *'should the united demand of a people prove futile we shall consider in the near future either the expediency and practicability of abstaining from office till the united demand be conceded, or the expediency of our discontinuing to administer the law, in our representative capacity under such an unjust Government by a formal resignation from office in a body as a practical protest against such an injustice and thereby /refuse to become the props and outposts of an alien legislature'* (G01/11/16, p531).

Following a letter from Martin J. Nohilly, Honourary Secretary of Tuam McHale Sinn Fein Club regarding the 'hellish' conditions endured by political prisoners, the Rural District Council resolved that *'we strongly condemn the action of the Prison Authorities in their harsh treatment of the Political prisoners'* (G01/11/16, p648).

In July 1920 the Local Government Board wrote to the Council stating it was aware that resolutions had been passed by certain Local Authorities repudiating the authority of the Imperial Parliament and declaring *'their intention to place every obstacle in the way of the existing administration of His Majesty's Government'*. The Board advised that unless it had *'definite'* assurances from local authorities that they would submit their accounts to audit and be prepared to conform to the rules and orders of the Local Government Board it would not be in a position to extend loans or grants from public funds for any purpose (G01/11/18, pp194-195). The Tuam Rural District Council informed the Board that they *'had no objection to submit their accounts to audit'* (G01/11/18, p195). However, the minutes of 28 August 1920 record the receipt of a letter from Dáil Eireann acknowledging the Resolution adopted by the Rural District Council *'acknowledging the Republic established by the will and vote of the Irish People as the only legitimate government of Ireland'* (G01/11/18, p244). And at its meeting of 18 December 1920 the Council resolved *'to sever all relations with the Local Government Board, Custom House, Dublin and have no further communication with that Board'* (G01/11/18, p314).

In addition to monitoring and adjusting to political changes the Council continued with its legislative and administrative duties which primarily involved the provision of labourers cottages,

² Tuam Herald, 22 April 1899



monitoring and improving public health through the provision of water and sewerage schemes, together with road maintenance.

The Council undertook an extensive programme of providing labourers' cottages under various Improvement Schemes. In 1908 the Local Government Board sanctioned a loan of £5,600 for the purposes of the Improvement Scheme authorised by the Tuam Rural District Labourers' Unopposed and Opposed Orders for the erection of cottages. However, not all cottages scheduled for erection were completed prior to the onset of World War I when building work ceased (G01/11/15, p180). Nevertheless by end of 1916 the Council had erected 98 labourers' cottages.

In May 1919 Thomas B. Costello, Medical Superintendent Officer of Health reported that *'The Labourers Cottages have been a great success in every way, still many houses are required particularly in the vicinity of the towns. The old single room cabin is fast disappearing but there is much room for improvement in the housing of the people, particularly in the sleeping accommodation'* (G01/11/16, p642).

In late 1919 details of a report from the Local Government Board Inspector, H.M. Murphy, on housing conditions in the town of Tuam were related to the Rural Council by the Housing Department of the Board, wherein it advised that *'the number of houses available for labourers has been decreasing whilst in many cases the occupied houses have been allowed to fall into disrepair. It is therefore clear to the Board that the housing of the working classes on whom as much of the prosperity of the town and the neighbouring countryside depends should receive early and adequate attention. It appears that there are at least 126 houses which are not reasonably fit for human habitation and at last 60 houses should be erected in the town. While the Board are of opinion that the Town Commissioners are primarily responsible for dealing with this problem of housing under the Housing (Ireland) Act, 1919, they are quite willing to consent to the Rural District Council, if the resources of the Commissioners are inadequate, building some of the houses under the Labourers Acts. The Board are glad to note from the Inspector's report that the Council have already manifested their willingness to take action under the latter code, not only as regards Tuam but with respect to other small towns in the Rural District...'* (G01/11/18, p37).

Following on from this report the Council set up a Committee to consider the best *'means of improving the Housing conditions in the town and also in the Rural District'* (G01/11/18, p86), and requested the Board to issue details of loans that could be procured for that purpose.

With reference to sanitary works the Council was involved in the provision of wells and pumps, and sewers. The provision of a sewerage scheme in Headford, in particular, involved substantial



discussion, when in 1915 the Medical Officer and later the town residents complained about the unsanitary conditions of the town caused by defective sewerage (G01/11/15, p210). Dr Golding, Medical Officer for the district concurred and stated that whilst *'it was hopeless to expect any new system of drainage in Headford, the least that should be done is to have the old sewer opened and cleaned and new grates and traps put down in place of the present grates.'* (G01/11/15, p 210).

The Council's Engineer, Newell submitted a report to the Council on Headford Sewerage in October 1915, wherein he stated that the *'present sewerage system here, consists of a stone drain which starts at the tops of the town in front of Mr O'Connor's Meat Hall and runs along the edge of the footpath on the south side of the Street, beneath the paved channel to Donohoe's gateway where it enters a pipe drain which continues on the same side of the town, until it discharges into the Rivers, a distance of 550 yards, and having in that space, a fall of over 30 feet.*

On the North side of the town, there is neither sewer nor drain. A paved channel runs along the edge of the footpath, from the Market Cross to the Square a distance of 340 yards... These are not sufficient, and there should be at least six, and hence in wet weather, the over flow from the channel floods the streets which is most objectionable....

I would therefore respectfully suggest that the District Council proceed to put the main sewer between the points mentioned...into proper working order, that at least six cross-drains be formed, to carry the water from the channel on the North side of the town, into the main sewer.' (G01/11/15, pp282-283). The estimate expenditure required to carry out these works was £75.00.

In early 1920 subsequent to a request for estimates Professor Rishworth, Engineer, advised the Council that the estimated cost of improving the Tuam water supply would be £1,200. He further advised that if the Council considered the estimate too high he *'could cast out some of the less essential works but he strongly advised the Council to do it all if possible'* (G01/11/18, p90). The Water Committee considered the matter and recommended that the Council proceed with the improvement scheme (G01/11/18, p115).

The Council was also active in providing water pumps and sewerage systems in other parts of the district, erecting pumps for instance at Ryehill, Pollnamall, Belclare, Kilconly, Milltown, Monivea, and in ensuring their maintenance and repair.

Plans for Tuam sewerage were prepared in 1912 (G01/11/15, p331), but had not been proceeded with by 1916.



With regard to health issues the Council was also involved in the control of disease and in the provision of graveyards. Sanitary and living conditions in the district are reflected in the various reports from the Health Officers wherein they reported many instances of nuisances, such as asses and donkeys in dwellings, and the prevalence of disease.

For instance, in late 1918 Dr T B Costello, Medical Superintendent Officer of Health, submitted a report on an influenza epidemic advising the Council that it was at *'its height at the end of the month (October) and the beginning of November. It is still epidemic in the country parts of the District. Up to the present 112 cases have been treated in the Hospital suffering from Influenza, most with Pulmonary complications, some of the cases proved fatal. As in every epidemic influenza which has been recorded for centuries past the people principally affected were those in the prime of life and this caused great inconvenience and disruption of business and work of every kind and increased the difficulties of attending and nursing the sick. It is only right to record the good work done in this way by the Sisters of Mercy here who worked day and night attending the sick and relieving their wants both in the Town and country...'* (G01/11/67, p499).

In its capacity as Burial Board the Council was involved with the appointment of caretakers, and the provision and maintenance of graveyards, such as at Abbey, Tuam Old Cemetery, Creevaghbaun, Kilcoonly, Abbert, Clonfush, Dunmore, and Kilmoylan.

By the early 1920's Rural District Councils were viewed as unnecessary. The Irish Free State government began to consider streamlining local administration and thus the abolition of the Councils. Following their abolition in 1925 Galway County Council set up Public Works Committees *'for the purpose of dealing in the first instance with applications of works and applications for payment, formerly sent to the County Council by the Rural District Councils. The Committees to be known as the Public Works Committees with the addition of the name of the Rural District. Public Works Committees to meet in the towns named and the Clerks of the former District Councils to act as Clerks to the Public Works Committees, pending other arrangements'*(GC01/1/4).³

The arrangement of the collection reflects the importance of the material, commencing with the most significant set of minutes, followed in diminishing order by the more prolific and significant material, and where possible in chronological order. The later (general) minutes (G01/11/20) and the financial minutes (G01/11/31) are incomplete sets of loose sheets. Apart from the minute books the collection is by and large in good condition. Several volumes minute books have suffered some mould damage, and subsequently the paper is weak. The Quarterly Minutes for

³ Galway County Council Minutes, GC01/1/4, p4



the period 1907-1913 originally formed one bound volume, however they were at some point (post-1977) rebound by Galway County Libraries to form two separate volumes, G01/11/26 and G01/11/27. Indeed most of the collection has been rebound and covered in blue buckram. The original binding however would likely have compromised leather or suede spine covers and leather or suede corner covers, with the remainder covered in dark green or dark blue/navy buckram.

Overall this collection illustrates the various aspects of local administration and democratic government during one of the most significant periods in Irish republican history. Commencing with records created when the authority and country was under British rule and ending with records recording the authority's recognition of Dáil Eireann. The collection should be of interest to administrative, economic, political, social, environmental, and local historians. The latter in particular should learn much from the collection about the development of the Tuam district's infrastructure, together with the provision and growth of various public and health related services, such as water and sewerage schemes.

The extracts from the various minutes listed herewith are intended as representations of the proceedings. The purpose of their inclusion is to give the reader an indication of the diversity of the Council's areas of concern and responsibility. However, given the volume and multiplicity of the Council's work it is not practical in this instance to include an extract highlighting every single district, topic and aspect mentioned in the minutes.

The item reference number (e.g. G01/11/15) should be used in full when citing documents or records, and each reference cited should be preceded by the initial GCCA (Galway County Council Archives, GCCA, G01/11/15).

Place names are generally given as they appear in the records.

Readers are also requested not to view as definitive the appended list of District Councillors. Lists of elected members are often found in various contemporary directories, such as Slaters or Pigots, and in contemporary local newspapers.

For security and preservation purposes the collection was microfilmed in 2002.

Disclosure Requirement

As much of the information in this collection clearly identifies families and individuals researchers are requested, in order to prevent possible distress or embarrassment to near descendants, to sign a disclosure form prior to consulting the records verifying a willingness not to cite specific names in research work.



Patria McWalter
Archivist, December 2002



Related Collections

Records held by Galway County Council Archives:

- Tuam Poor Law Union
- Galway County Council Minutes, GC/1/
- County of Galway Board of Health and Public Health, GC5/

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Appendices



Appendix A

1. List of some of the members of the Tuam Rural District Council [⊗]

Lists of members are often found in various contemporary directories such as Slaters or Pigots, or in local contemporary newspapers.

Ansbro, Michael	Dwyer, Michael
Bane, Michael (resigned 1916)	Ellis, Aylmer C. (J.P.)
Blake, Robert (of Ballygluinn, landlord, Ballinapark ED)	Ellis, Oliver
Brennan, John	Fahy, Thomas
Burke, John (Kilmoylan)	Farren, Dan
Burke, Patrick	Feehilly, Daniel
Byrne, Michael	Flattery, H. (Lavally)
Cahill, Thomas, J.	Flattery, Peter
Canavan, Francis	Forde, William
Charles, Patrick (Milltown)	Gleeson, Martin (Cloonberne)
Coen, John	Glynn, James, Jnr.
Colleran, William	Glynn, James, Snr.
Collins, Francis	Goodwin, Terence
Colman, Patrick	Greany, Darby (Killower)
Concannon, Patrick	Greany, Martin
Connelly, James	Greeley, Dermot
Connelly, Patrick (Cummer)	Greene, Thomas (Doonbally)
Connolly, F. (Doonbally)	Haddingan, Michael (Levally, +1919)
Connor, John	Hardiman, Martin,
Corcoran, Mark (Killower)	Heany, Thomas
Costello, Eileen (1917)	Higgins, Martin
Costello, M.J. (Carrorevagh)] Father &	Hughes, Martin,
Costello, Patrick J. (J.P., Carrorevagh)] son	Joyce, Thomas (+1916)
Costello, Thomas	Joyce, Tobias
Cunningham, Thomas	Joyner, John (co-opted in 1916)
Curley, Patrick Jnr.	Kelly, Michael C. (resigned 1921)
Curran, P. (Beaghmore)	Kelly, Patrick C.
Curran, Thomas	Kennedy, Cornelius J.
Curry, Patrick	Kilgarriff, Thomas
Daly, Henry J.	King, Patrick
Daly, Patrick	Kirrane, Patrick
Dermody, Patrick (Moyne, Chairman 1911)	Kirwan, Henry (J.P.) (Milltown)
Devin, Martin	Kirwan, M.B. (Addergoole)
Dolan, John	Kyne, John
Dolly, William	Kyne, Michael
Donnellan, Thomas (Belclare)	Lally, Thomas
Donohoe, Michael	Larkin, Patrick

[⊗] Not to be taken as a definitive list



Lawless, Thomas
Lewin, F. T (Landlord, Foxhall)
Lynch, Philip (Kilbeanna)??
Lynseky, Thaddieus
Lynseky, Thomas (Belclare)
Mangan, Thady
Mannion, Patrick
McDermott, Michael
McDonagh, Stephen J. (Dunmore)
McDonagh, Thomas
McDonnell, Farrell (Merchant, Addergoole)
McDonnell, James, (J.P, Chairman1907)
McDwyer, ?
McGann, Peter
McGrath, Patrick
McGuire, Patrick
McHugh, Michael
McHugh, Patrick (Kilcoona)
McWalter, James
McWalter, John (Dunmore)
McWalter, Thomas (1899)
Miskell, Thomas (Abbey East, +1919)
Mohan, John
Molloy, John
Moloney, Patrick
Monaghan, John
Monaghan, Patrick
Moran, James (Beaghmore)
Morris, Joseph
Mullarkey, B. W.
Mullen, Luke
Mullin, M.T. (Kilbenna)??
Mullowney, Patrick
Murphy, John
Murphy, Patrick (+1921)
Nally, Martin (Moyne)
Naughton, John
Nestor, James
Nilan, Patrick (Ballinapark)
Nohilly, James (Cummer)
Nohilly, Malachy
Nolan, James
Nolan, John (1st Chairman, 1899, co-opted)
Nolan, M. (Annadown)
Nolan, Thomas
O'Brien, John
O'Connor, Arthur B.
O'Connor, Michael (Abbey West)
O'Dea, Mrs. Moira
O'Donnell, Edward
O'Donnell, Thomas (Doonbally, + 1919)
O'Dowd, James
Patterson, John
Quinn, Michael
Rabbitt, John
Reilly, P.
Ronaldson, John, W.
Rooney, J.
Rooney, Thomas
Ruttledge, D., K. (co-opted 1899)
Ryan, Peter
Shaughnessy, Martin
Sheridan, Charles
Staunton, Richard
Synott, Patrick
Tierney, John, (Foxhall)
Treacy, John
Treacy, Martin (Abbey West)
Treacy, Thomas (+1918)
Varden, Pat (Publican, Annadown)
Walsh, James J. (Cloonberne)
Walsh, Thomas

Clerk of Council

McDonagh, J. P. (1899 – 1925)

[Appendix B](#)**2. Electoral Divisions covered by Tuam Rural District Council**

Abbey	Headford
(Abbeyknockmoy) East	Hillsbrook
Abbey West	Kilbennan
Addergoole	Kilcoona
Annaghdown	Killeany
Ballinderry	Killeen
Ballinduff	Killererin
Ballynapark	Killower
Beaghmore	Killursa
Belclare	Kilmoylan
Carrowrevagh	Kilshanny
ClareTuam	Levally
Clonbern	Miltown
Cummer	Monivea
Doonbally	Moyne
Doughpatrick	Ryehill
Dunmore	Tuam Rural
Foxhall	Tuam Urban



3. Abbreviations

Co.Co.	County Council
C.D.B.	Congested Districts Board
D.C.	District Councillor
I.R.A	Irish Republican Army
J.P.	Justice of Peace
L.G.B.	Local Government Board
M.P.	Member of Parliament
R.D.C.	Rural District Council





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A. Minutes of Tuam Rural District Council, 1915 - 1925

Volumes of minutes of proceedings of Council meetings generally held twice monthly. The minutes record attendance, details of correspondence, generally from the Local Government Board, and from the early 1920's from the Local Government Department, and details of actions required thereafter, together with proceedings of Council business conducted under various legalisation relating to the administration of the district under a range of headings such as general, financial, sanitary authority and labourers' cottages. The minutes often incorporate details of reports from the Tuam Waterworks and Sanitary Committee and from various officials, such as the County Surveyor, Medical Officers of Health, Sanitary Officers, Rent Collectors, Inspectors of Dairies and so on.

The proceedings of the Council acting as the 'Sanitary Authority' or from circa 1920 under the Public Health Acts, relate to health and sanitary matters, such as the prevention of disease, the care and management of burial grounds, and the provision and maintenance of sewerage systems and water supply; the latter encompassed reports from the Tuam Waterworks Committee. The proceedings under the 'Labourers Acts' relate to the provision and maintenance of labourers' cottages and rent collection.

The minutes are generally signed or initialed by the Chairman and witnessed by the Clerk. Average size circa 580pp.

(1-14)

15. 26 June 1915 – 31 March 1917 (pages 1 – 99 are missing)

- 'Letter from Mr Newell, Engineer, stating that the Headford Pump well appears to be a marvel of success. The supply of clear spring water which it has yielded daily during the past fortnight is surprisingly great...' (p115).
- 'Read – "Resolution passed by the Limerick County Borough Council stating that in their opinion the action of the Government in ordering the banishment of Irishmen from their native country for no reason assigned, constitutes a grave encroachment upon the civil rights of the people, and that it is the duty of the public representatives to protest against any unwarranted exercise of despotic powers and unjust differentiation against Ireland". Adopted' (p171).



- 'Report from Dr T. B. Costello,....' I beg to report that during the month six cases of enteric Fever occurred in the town of Headford. The outbreak is attributable to the contamination of milk by sewerage. Five of the cases were removed to hospital and I am glad to say all are progressing satisfactorily.
The Main sewer in Bishop Street, Tuam which was choked with solid accumulations is being cleaned and manholes are being put in so that it will not cost so much to clean in future....' (p185).
- 'Read Resolution passed by the Tuam Branch of the United Irish League approving of the Governments action in urging the cultivation of more land but desiring to call the attention of His Majesty's Government to the fact that thousands of acres of land are held by the graziers and Congested Districts Board for grazing purposes which should be distributed amongst small farmers and not perpetuate the grazing system, the Congested Districts Board being established for the object of relieving congestion and providing holdings for small farmers. Also protesting at the erection of Police Barracks at Abbey and Killereerin....' (pp194-195).
- The Council voiced its displeasure at the administration of the Congested Districts Board stating it deplored 'the fact that three fourths of the tenant farmers of this Union are still living in miserable patches of thin wet land and that we earnestly request the C.D. Board and landlords to divide even portions of the farms held by them in the different districts for tillage purposes for the betterment of the Nation....' (p267).
- Report that Mrs Stewart and Mrs Hare of Dublin Road are 'about to have the body of their sister, Miss Hare, who was lost in the Lusitania and was interned at Queenstown (Cobh), disinterred there and re-interred at Tuam New Cemetery...' (p357).
- Report from Arthur Ellis, Local Government Auditor, stating 'It would not be fair for me to pass over this audit without drawing attention to the satisfactory manner in which the collectors of the Rents of Labourers Cottages and also the water Rent Collector discharge their duties....' (p506).
- '....That the action of John Blake (Brooklawn) in prosecuting the Kilgevrin tenants for their ploughing the farm in dispute in order to assist the Government in their food production scheme is sufficient to show his tyranny, inasmuch, that the tenants now suffering incarceration in Galway Jail offered Blake a reasonable rent for this land, a price much in advance of the 11 months grazier he has set the farm to for years past....' (p590).

16. 31 March 1917 – 28 June 1919

- Report from the Medical Officer, Thomas B. Costello advising that 'during the year 1916 there were only 22 cases of Infections disease notified as occurring in the District, five of these were Scarlatina confined to the members of two families, 2 cases of Enteric, one of Diphtheria and thirteen of Typhus Fever....The water supply of the town of Tuam was well maintained during the year and a full supply was always on day and night...' (p18).
- Letter from Local Government Board regarding the 'disposal of wastepaper, etc and stating for the information of the Council that in their opinion the following books and records should not be disposed of, but should be carefully preserved viz :- minute Books, Register of Mortgages, Register of Labourers' Cottages, Fin. Statement Books of receipt and expenditure for ten years; Registers and Ledgers for ten years; Rate books and general estimates cover the last six financial years; Security bonds for existing officers, as well as forms audit vouchers and other documents covering a period of the last two financial years ending 31st March 1917' (p26).
- 'That the Government be called upon to immediately release all political prisoners as in the opinion of this Council no useful end can be gained by sending men to prison (in some cases) on the most trivial charges, and if this course is intended to maintain the peace of the Country, it is not contributing towards that ends, but having quite the opposite effect. The indignation of the people to the treatment of political prisoners (recently exposed) indicates that it is time that such practice be discontinued' (p146).
- Auditor's (Arthur C Ellis) Report stating 'I am pleased to be in a position to report that both the Cottage Rent Collector and Water Rent Collect have no arrears in this collections and they certainly discharge their duties in a most efficient manner' (p291).
- Medical Officer's, Thomas B Costello, report for 1917 stating that '122 Reports were made by the Sanitary Officers and 105 notices to abate nuisances etc served, and six prosecutions took place for non-compliance with the notices...
The improvement in the Housing of the people continues and many new houses were built by the Congested Districts Board and in spite of many difficulties, and some more unsanitary houses were demolished and the people transferred to better houses. The old single room cabin is rapidly disappearing....' (p329-330).
- 'That we desire to protest against the arrest on a charge and trivial charge of our colleague, Mr McDwyer, and we express our indignation at the savage sentence imposed on him' (p652).
- Transcript of notice of intent from James Daly to apply to the Board of Trade for a Provisional Order under the Electric Lighting Act 1882 to 'supply electrical energy for all or any public and private purposes throughout the whole of the Rural District of Tuam in the County of Galway' (p668).

(17.)

18. 29 November 1919 – 22 July 1922

- '...resolved that the Council tender their heartiest congratulations to Mr Michael Dwyer on his co-option as a member of Galway County Council especially as he has only recently come out of His Majesty's prison.'(p19).
- 'That we the Tuam Rural District Council condemn in the strongest manner the action of irresponsible persons in maliciously damaging property throughout the country, and thereby increasing by an enormous amount the taxes which have to be borne by the already overtaxed and innocent ratepayers and we call upon the people to use every means in their power to put an end to this wanton and meaningless practice' (p75).
- Extract from Dr Clinch's, Medical Officer, report on the District advised that the 'sewerage is defective in the town of Tuam; it consists of merely built up sewers, which discharge directly into the river without any intercepting tank or purification of any kind. A new system appears to be badly needed' (p114).
- 'That a new pump be erected at Monivea at a probable cost of £30 to be levied off the existing area of charge, the Abbey Dispensary District' (p161).
- 'That we protest against the harsh sentence imposed on Jim Larkin and demand his release and return to Ireland' (p190).
- 'That we the Tuam Rural District Council cannot find words to condemn the atrocious and savage conduct of members of the R.I. Constabulary, who on the early hours of Tuesday morning 20th inst. caused such havoc and the destruction of several houses in the town, that many lives were not lost and the whole town laid in ruins was not their fault, by their maniacal acts of incendiarism.
That we demand of the British Government, as has already been done by His Grace, The Most Revd. Dr Gilmartin, a sworn public investigation into the barbarous conduct of these men and further we demand full compensation from the British Government for all the losses entailed by the destruction and looting of the property of the people of Tuam ; to whom we tender our sincerest sympathy' (p212).
- 'Letter from the Galway County Council ...informing the District Council that the County Surveyor has reported that the limit of expenditure on roads in Tuam Rural District should be raised from £9,375 to £11,178:15:10 per annum on account of the increased wages to road labourers in the district and requesting to be informed if the District Council approve of same....' (p243).
- 'The Clerk reported that he was informed that the English Military would be evacuating the Workhouse at an early hour on Monday morning next, and request the Council



would appoint someone to take over the building, it would also be necessary to appoint a temporary Caretaker, as there is a considerable amount of the Guardians property still on the premises which must be looked after until disposed of. He also requested permission to occupy the Board Room and office for District Council business, until such time as other arrangements are made for the workhouse buildings' (p530).

- 'That we....protest against the action of those who selected Loughrea as the centre for the County Home in view of the fact that Tuam is situated in the heart of a Congested area, with a population 10,000 higher than Loughrea, and having buildings the best of the class in Ireland requiring no extensive alternation or repairs with accommodation for 2,000 people. The annual number admitted compared to Loughrea is 20 to 1.' (p532).
- 'It was resolved to call your attention to the action of the County Committee who took over possession of the Workhouse. They first held a Public Sale of some effects, since then their agent sold by private treaty a large quantity of lead water pipes, small hot water cistern, wash basins and brass water taps and fixtures. The pipes were in use carrying water from large cistern to laundry and cooking kitchen etc. Should the building be utilized again this piping etc at considerable expense will be required. Your Council is requested to call for a strict Inquiry into this matter' (G01/11/18, p667).

(19.)

20. 1 November 1924 – 13 June 1925 Loose pages

- The Clerk informed the Council that up to a few years ago the Cottage Rents in the Rural District were always collected monthly, but during the recent troubled times this was found impossible, and the tenants often owed three months rent or more, but most of the arrears were subsequently collected...' (3 January 1924, p3).
- 'That we the Tuam District Council protest strongly against the new Penal Law passed by the Free State Government, making it an offence punishable by death penalty to work for the Independence of Ireland. It shows clearly how misguided were those who believed the Treaty to be a stepping stone to Independence – the men who appealed for support on the stepping stone plea, now make it punishable by death or penal servitude to practise what they preached...' (28 March 1925, p3).

B. Quarterly Minutes, 1907 – 1920

Volumes of minutes of proceedings of Council's quarterly meetings. The minutes record attendance, details of correspondence, generally from the Local Government Board and from the early 1920's from the Local Government Department, and actions required thereafter, together with proceedings of Council business relating to the construction and maintenance of the physical infrastructure of the district, namely its roads, bridges, piers and harbours. Such business included applying for, reviewing and approving tenders for works. The proceedings usually incorporate reports, or details of reports, from the County Surveyor, together with schedules of works. The schedules describe the road requiring attention together with details of the period of contract, tons of metals per annum, price per perch per annum, and total or annual cost of maintenance.

Minutes are generally signed or initialed by the Chairman and witnessed by the Clerk.

Average size c. 200pp.

(21-25.)

26. 6 July 1907 – 6 May 1911

- County Surveyors report stating 'I have dealt too leniently with defaulting contractors, I strongly advise contractors to have their roads at all times in good order – for at any time I pass over a road and find it defective I will nil it whether during the period of inspection or otherwise' (p2).
- Memorandum from local residents and parents regarding 'the hardship we and our children are suffering in consequence of the Knock and Carrare road not being made, notwithstanding the labour we had given on that road and are prepared to give more and during the coming winter months, when we can spare time provided that the loan is granted. We cannot understand why it is not, there must be some trickery going on and as we have to pay our share of all public works and have got nothing in the locality we wish to inform you that until the road is made we will refuse to pay taxes (let the consequence be what they may) and we also refuse to comply with the School Attendance Committee Order now in force compelling us to send our children to School. We will not allow our children to suffer such hardship as they have been suffering for years walking in sludge and water down to their knees...' (p15).



- County Surveyor's, P.J. Prendergast, Report stating 'I am happy to report the roads in your district are in fair order for the last quarter, but some very important roads have been neglected and contractors are therefore Struck Off, generally for want of sufficient material...'(p52).
- County Surveyor's report stating '...The work of making a crossing in Tuam near the Protestant Cathedral has not yet been started although the contract for same was taken out in February 1908, however, I am taking steps to have this work commenced at once...'(p62).
- County Surveyor's report stating '...On the part of your Contractors generally, I have to report an earnest endeavour towards improvement. Of course there are the usual exceptions confined principally to the remote portions of your district, where, in character and extent the work done has not been altogether satisfactory....' (p152).
- 'That the interests of Ireland, as well as of Great Britain and the Colonies, demand the establishment of the best possible transit connection between the mother countries and Canada, Newfoundland, Australia, and New Zealand, and that a suitable Scheme for this purpose deserves such financial assistance as may be necessary from the Governments of all these countries.
That the shortest and safest connection and, therefore, the cheapest and best, lies through Ireland.
That Galway is the most suitable Irish Port to connect with Halifax as terminus' (p155).

27. 12 June 1911 – 1 February 1913

- County Surveyor's report stating 'The amount of work done on your roads during the quarter has not been altogether satisfactory. In most cases sufficient material has not been supplied, and in consequence part or the whole of the available money has been deferred...' (p177).
- 'Read – Letter from Mr Devlin, MP requesting the Council to submit the names of Delegates to the Home Rule Convention to be held in Dublin on 23rd instant....'(pp199-200).

74pp

(28-29.)



30. 12 May 1917 – 24 April 1920
- 'That we...protest in the strongest manner against the proposed action of the Government in forcing conscription on Ireland. And we warn them that if they persist in this policy against the wishes of the Irish People that they will find it is the worst course they could adopt to gain recruits for the British Army in Ireland, as the measure will be resisted by every possible means that is considered necessary' (p45).
 - County Surveyor's report stating 'The work of your contractors for the Quarter ended 31st March is disappointing. I have to complain of a shortage of material, late and inadequate spreading...' (p47).
 - 'That this Council protest most strongly against the action of the Government in arresting Irishmen and women and keeping them in prison without trial and that we call upon the Government to either release these prisoners or give them an immediate trial in Ireland' (p57).
 - 'That the District Council adhere to their original Estimate passed on the 25th January last and that the said amount of £7,750 be the limit of expenditure for the year 1920' (p85).

C. Financial Minutes, 1923-1925

31. 29 September 1923 – 28 March 1925
- Incomplete sets of minutes with summary details of receipts, expenditure and payments, together with a Summary and Reconciliation of Treasurer's Account, and an abstract of rent collection and cash account.
- 69pp



D. Labourers' Cottages

(a) Register of Applications for Cottages, 1906 - 1907

32. November 1906 – June 1907 Loose sheets taken from volume of representations (applications) received by Council for cottages, and of the action taken thereon. Recorded details include date on which representation was made, name and address of applicant, name of occupier on whose lands proposed site is to be acquired, name of townland, grounds on which application is made (such as, additional houses and insanitary dwelling), date of receipt of Medical Officer's report, date of nature of Council's decision, and if rejected, reasons for declining to take action, such as '*Has a house and land already and not approved of*', and '*Not a suitable applicant*'.

3ff

(b) Rent Collection, 1910 - 1920

33. 31 December 1910 – 25 May 1918 Volume of Rent Collector's, Patrick Burke, monthly reports submitted to the Finance Meeting of the Rural District Council. The reports record details under the specific headings of State of the Rent Collection, Individual tenants in Arrears, Cottages requiring Repairs, Cottages not Tenanted, Cottages occupied by Tenants not Agricultural Labourers, and Particulars of Legal Proceedings Against Tenants. Details include the total rents accrued up to and including the last day of the preceding month, total to be collected, amount collected during the month and the total arrears, also includes a list of tenants who owed four week's rent and upwards, listing the townland (such as Milltown, Cartron, Kilgarra North, Beaghmore, Headford, and Halfstraddle), the amount of rent arrears and details of Orders of District Council. Details relating to legal proceedings include 'To be summoned for leaving door of cottage open and house exposed to the weather' (f2), and 'For possession' (f81).

89ff

34. 3 February 1911 – 29 September 1920 Volume of counter folio Office Rent Notices issued by Clerk of Council on behalf of Patrick Burke, Rent Collector, to tenants requesting payment of outstanding rent due to the Rural District Council.

100pp



E. Roads Ledgers, 1917 - 1924

Volumes with summary details on the certified cost of work and material expended on various road works, recording details such as road number, amount available (£.s.d.), ganger's name, date when certified, amount (in £.s.d.) for labour, materials, tools and so on, the gross total of pay sheet, the total expenditure to end of fortnight, balance available for future payments, tonnage of material supplied during fortnight and observations. The latter includes items such as '1 day included for Fitzpatrick for day and half deducted fortnight ended 2/6/17, ½ still due to Fitzpatrick' (G01/11/ 41, f29), and '40t stones @ 4d per ton' (G01/11/41, f52).

Includes index to road numbers.

(35-40.)

41. 6 August 1917 – 17 July 1919 166ff

42. 14 July 1919 – 10 July 1920 177ff

(43.)

44. 18 August 1922 – 20 February 1924 52ff

F. Public Notice on Applications for New Road Works, 1924

45. 27 September 1924 Public notice of list of applications made by the County Surveyor or Notice of Motion for new works (roads) or involving new contracts, such as 'Notice of Motion by Mr Henry J Daly, D.C., to putting repair about 500 perches of the road leading from Ryehill Road to the Abbert Road, by Pat Concannon's house, Abbert, at a probable cost of £300'.

1p

G. Dairy Inspector's Reports, 1915 - 1917

46. 27 February 1915 – 28 April 1917 Volume of monthly reports submitted by the Dairy Inspector, Patrick Burke for the RDC's attention. It records the name and address (such as Galway Road, High Street, and Foster Row in Tuam, Foster Street in Dunmore), of proprietors of dairies inspected, state of cows, sheds, and yards, the state of dairy utensils, and the number of cows. The Reports are generally initialed [by Chairman of Council] presumably indicating them as read and approved. Includes several covering letters from Burke to the RDC submitting his monthly reports.
- 119pp

H. Records of Sanitary Work Performed, 1919 - 1924

47. 18 April 1919 – 31 December 1924 Volume recording, on a weekly basis, summary details of sanitary work performed by Sanitary Sub Officer [L. Forde] in the district of Tuam. Details include amount of fines imposed by orders of Justices, the number of houses or rooms [ordered to be] lime-washed, number of dwellings disinfected, and the number of prosecutions for neglect of Orders or Notices served.
- 173pp
48. 20 December 1919 – 28 April 1923 Volume recording, on a weekly basis, summary details of sanitary work performed by Sanitary Sub Officer, John Glynn, in the district of Milltown. Details include amount of fines imposed by orders of Justices, the number of houses or rooms [ordered to be] lime-washed, number of dwellings disinfected, and the number of prosecutions for neglect of Orders or Notices served.
- 176pp



I. Water Analysis Report, 1915

49. 8 July 1915 From Sir Charles A. Cameron, Medical Officer of Health for Dublin, Public Analyst (City Laboratory, Chatham Row, Dublin) to Clerk of Council with results of analysis of water at Toberadash well. Includes comment *'This is a very good water'*.

1p

J. File of Paying Orders, 1921

50. 14 November 1921 – 31 December 1921 With two corresponding invoices, from the Council to creditors for services or goods received, such as *'for manhole cover and frame supplied'* (26 November 1921).

8pp

K. General Warrant Appointing Water Rate Collector, 1922

51. 29 April 1922 Signed and sealed by the Council, authorising Michael Shine to collect water rates in the Tuam Urban Division.

1p

L. Rates Demand Notes and Receipts, [1922]

52. [1922] From Council in respect of two residents of Bishop Street, Tuam.

2 items