

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY 27th JANUARY, 2014 @ 2.00 pm

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. L. Carroll, Mayor of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh. S. Ó Cuaig, T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, S. Cuniffe, M. Fahy, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, Comh. S. Ó Laoi, Cllrs. M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, P. Roche, K. Ryan, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby & B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs., K. Kelly, & J. Cullen, Directors of Services; Messrs., M. Raftery & L. Gavin, A/Directors of Services M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator, G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Ms. C. McConnell, Senior Planner, Ms. S. Kennedy, Senior Planner, Ms. J. Brann, S.E.O., Ms. Mary Forde, Senior Social Worker, Ms. M. Donoghue, Senior Staff Officer, P. Ó Neachtain, Oifigigh Gaeilge & R. O'Boyle, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1651(a)

The Mayor proposed that the Meeting be adjourned for 5 minutes as a mark of respect to the late Mrs. May Cullen, mother of Mr. Jim Cullen who passed away recently. The Mayor and the Members expressed their condolences to Mr. Cullen and the Cullen family at this sad time.

The Manager, on behalf of the Management and Staff of Galway County Council offered her condolences to the Cullen family on the death of their beloved mother.

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Mr. Cullen thanked the Members and Officials for their kind words of sympathy and for their support at this sad time.

A resolution of sympathy was also extended to the following:

- Mrs. Teresa Kennedy, 27 Holly Grove, Renmore, Co. Galway.
- Mrs. Phyllis Welby, 2 Magenta Crescent, Santry, Dublin 9.
- Mrs. Christina Mannion, Glenaveal, Abbeyknockmoy, Co. Galway.
- Mr & Mrs John Mannion & Family, Farmhill, Newtown, Abbeyknockmoy, Co. Galway.
- Mr. Vincent Flynn, Mountbellew, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- Ms. Eileen Delaney, Abbey Road, Abbeyknockmoy, Tuam, Co. Galway.
- Thomas & Ann Keaney, Murvey, Roundstone, Co. Galway.
- Mr. John Folan, Lough Conartha, Cill Chiaran, Co. na Gaillimhe.
- Mr. Joe Flaherty, Ross Island, An Ceathrú Rua, Co. na Gaillimhe
- Mr. Martin Joe Mc Donagh, Doirín Darach, Tir an Fhia, Leitir Moir, Co. na Gaillimhe.
- Mr. Tommy Conroy, Poulywerrin, Lettermore, Co. Galway.
- Ms. Aideen Regan, Clonboo, Corrandulla, Co. Galway.
- Mr. Páraic Hickey, Dooghty Well, Corr na Móna, Co. na Gaillimhe.
- Mr. Joe Walsh, Cromghlinn, Corr na Móna, Co. na Gaillimhe.
- Mr. Paddy Donohue, Kilbeacanty, Gort, Co. Galway.
- Mr. Oliver Connolly, Rindifin, Gort, Co. Galway.

The Meeting was adjourned and was reconvened after 5 minutes as a mark of respect to the late Mrs. May Cullen.

On the resumption of the Meeting, the Mayor welcomed Mr. Michael Raftery, as A/Director of Services, Corporate, Housing & Emergency Services to the Meeting and wished in well in his new role.

The Mayor informed the Members that it was proposed to defer Item No. 2(g). He further proposed the deferral of Item No. 12 to be considered at a Special Meeting of the Council to be held on Friday, 14th February 2014 at 11.00 am in County Hall.

The Mayor also informed the Members that an apology had been received from the I.D.A., stating that they were unable to addend to give their Presentation as outlined at Item No. 19 and that same would be rescheduled for a later date.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

1652(a)

The Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 12th December 2013 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

Arising from the Minutes, and in reply to requests from Comh O'Tuairisg and Comh. O'Curraoin for an Update on Seanapheisteen Bridge, Mr. Gavin He said that work on the preparation of an application for works to the bridge was in progress and would be forwarded to An Bord Pleanala, he said this should be done by the end of February. The Council would then have to await for the Bord's decision. He confirmed that the temporary works would allow for an increase in the existing limit on the bridge to approx 2.5 tonne but that it would not accommodate Ambulances/Fire Tenders etc. Mr. Gavin in reply to Comh. O'Cuaig confirmed that a copy of the engineer's report on the bridge had been released.

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Mr. Raftery in reply to An Comh. O'Laio, confirmed that €30,000 was made available in Budget 2014 to facilitate the Council in advancing the assessment of a suitable site or a suitable existing building to accommodate a retained fire station in An Cheathru Rua/Casla area and that this process was being advanced.

In reply to Cllr. Cuniffe in relation to the Shop Street/Tullinadaly Rd Junction, Tuam, Mr. Gavin confirmed that design work was currently being undertaken for same and that it was intended to facilitate works at the junction with the benefit of ERDF funding. He confirmed that the design should be completed by the end of February or early March and works could proceed thereafter.

Cllr. D. Connolly said he wished to put on record his total disapproval of the decision by the HSE to proceed with the transfer of beds from St. Brigid's Ballinsloe to UHG. The Mayor in reply to Cllr. D Connolly, confirmed that the resolution of Council in relation to the National Rural Water Monitoring Committee and Department of Environment, Community & Local Government giving consideration and funding to specified areas without the benefit of a water scheme had been acknowledged. Cllr. D. Connolly requested that a full reply be sought on the matter.

The Minutes of Budget Meeting held on 16th December 2013 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McHugh.

Arising from the Minutes, Cllr. D. Connolly enquired as to the provision of School Flashing Lights in two particular areas Killure and Fohenagh and asked if a review would be carried out and areas prioritized. An Comh O'Curraoin referred to the Flashing Lights in Moycullen and said they were not working and enquired as to who is responsible for them.

Replying Mr. Gavin said that the contract for the repair for School Flashing Lights was almost 80% complete. He said he would review the position in relation to Killure and Fohenagh and revert to Cllr. D. Connolly directly on the matter. In reply to query regarding the operation of the safety system at Newtown School, Mr. Gavin confirmed that due to the weak phone signal in the area, alternative means of operating the lights were currently under consideration.

Cllr. McDonagh referred to Motion No. 23 which was on the Agenda for this Meeting in relation to seeking funding from the Department of the Environment for traffic route lighting from Turloughmore Community Centre to Lackagh Village. It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McHugh and agreed to request that the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government provide the necessary funding.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION 1653(a)

The Report of the Planning, Economic Development & Community SPC Meeting held on 30th September 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh seconded by An Comh. O'Tuairisg.

The Report of the Roads & Transportation SPC Meeting held on 28th November 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by An Comh. O'Curraoin.

Arising from the Minute, An Comh.O'Laio said he welcomed the review of the Raised Bogs by Minister J. Deenihan and the outcome of same.

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Arising from same and following discussion, it was proposed by An Comh O'Laoi, seconded by An Comh. O'Tuairisg and agreed that a Review be carried out by the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, on the Moycullen Bogs NHA, similar to the review carried out on Raised Bogs in East Galway to de-designate an insignificant portion of the NHA area to accommodate the new R336 (Barna to Screeb Road).

Cllr. Cunniffe referred to the works taking place at the Shambles Car Park, Tuam and said they were supposed to finish in February. He said that some businesses had to close for a number of days due to the works and asked for an exact timescale of when the works will be finished, and also if there was any compensation available for the impact on trade, suggesting that consideration be given to providing financial support for the painting of buildings impacted by the project on completion of the construction phase of the works.

Mr. Gavin replying said that in relation to works at the Shambles, Tuam, work is going well. The timescale only changed when work stopped over the Christmas. He said that the Council was in ongoing contact with the businesses in the area and will continue to liaise with them in relation to the works.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on the 9th September, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy. Arising from the Minutes Cllr Cuddy asked what the situation is in regard to the works at Knockdoe. He said that he had written to the NRA but had received no response.

He also asked what the situation was in relation to the upgrade of the water pipe serving Oranmore, outlining that a reply he had received in relation to a NOM on the matter indicated that it was necessary to submit the proposal to Irish Water, he outlined that this would result in further delays and that the establishment of Irish Water was a backward step.

He also expressed disappointment that the Speed Limit Bye-Laws were not listed on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the previously stated timeframe, expressing frustration with the delays being encountered while approval was awaited from the National Roads Authority, referring in particular to the need to revise the speed limit on the Airport Road.

Replying to the query in relation to the works at Knockdoe, Mr. Gavin said that the Council had met with the NRA, and they had asked that the Council to look at the design issues. He said that the Council are doing this now and will go back to the NRA with their findings. With regards to the Speed Limits he said the NRA had come back with a number of queries to which the Council had responded and was hopeful that the matter could be listed for consideration at the February Meeting.

Replying to the query in relation to the upgrade of the water pipe going through Oranmore, Mr. Cullen advised the Members that the tender recommendation for this work must be approved by Irish Water before entering into a Contract. He said that he did not foresee any delays in this regard.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on the 30th September, 2013 (Planning Extract) was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 18th November 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. T. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. McClearn.

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Arising from the report, a length discussion ensued in relation to Irish Water, with a wide range of views and varying opinions expressed by the Members in relation to the need for the establishment of Irish Water, the best model to deliver the necessary reform of the system, the degree of oversight and duplication, the costs associated with the establishment of the new utility including consultancy costs, the future of the utility in terms of privatisation, the ability and or need to generate a revenue stream to support investment and the pricing model to be implemented, together with the role of the Minister and Commission for Energy Regulation in the model.

Arising from the discussion, Cllr. T. Walsh proposed a motion for consideration under Mayor's Business.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 6th December, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher

In reply to a query from Cllr. Maher in relation to the implementation of a reduction in NOM funding to fund the repair and upgrade of school flashing lights, the County Manager confirmed that same was approved on foot of a motion passed at the Budget Meeting in December.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed to defer the Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 18th September 2013 to the February Ordinary Meeting.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on 16th September 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of An Comh. O'Tuairisg, seconded by An Comh. O'Curraoin.

Arising from the Minutes An Comh O'Cuaig referred to the visit to Boston by the Mayor for the Inauguration of the Mayor of Boston, Mr. Martin J. Walsh. The Mayor referred to his visit to the inauguration of Mr. Martin J. Walsh as Mayor of Boston and advised that he had extended an invitation to the Mayor to address the Chamber when, and if, he comes to Ireland and that as requested by the local community he had also invited him to lay the Foundation Stone for the Centre in Carna.

Replying to a query from Comh. O'Cuaig on Teach Phiarsaigh, the Manager said that the Working Group is continuing to meet and in the context of funding in the amount of €2million allocated from the Government it was proosed to proceed with the issuing of a CPO to acquire the lands, mainly commonage, necessary to facilitate the development of the centre, including ancillary services and parking and that the necessary public notices would be published in the coming weeks.

Mr. Gavin in reply to Comh. O'Cuaig, confirmed that work was ongoing on the provision of the footpath at Ros an Mhil and that he would revert directly on a timeframe for the completion of same.

In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Gavin confirmed that it was intended to proceed with regulation of parking in Cleggan Village through appropriate signage and lining in advance of the development of the car park.

Mr. Gavin in reply to Cllr. E. Mannion confirmed that work was ongonig at Recess Junction and that he would revert directly with a timeframe for the completion of same.

An Comh O'Laoui said he wished to congratulate Bishop M. O'Toole, who is going to be ordained Bishop of Plymouth whose parents came from Conamara.

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

1654(a)

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. McClearn, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

Abbey Glen Estate, Athenry

Houses No. 29 to 24 (Inclusive)

1. Road commencing at its junction with the R347 in the townland of Knockaunglass & extending in an easterly direction for a distance of approximately 123 meters in the townland of Knockaunglass and ending outside house No.24 in the townland of Knockaunglass.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. McClearn, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

Houses No. 23 to 1 (Inclusive)

2. Road commencing at its junction with the above-mentioned road in the town land of Knockaunglass & extending in semi circular shape for a total distance of approximately 208 meters from house No.23 to 10 & 9 to 1 in the townland of Knockaunglass.

Electoral Area: Loughrea

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1655(a)

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

Barrack Square Estate, Dunmore

1. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at public road R328 beside Garda Barracks and extending South East for a distance of 229m, to the end of the cul-de-sac (serves units 1-22). Road no L-6517-1.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cunniffe seconded by Cllr. McHugh, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

2. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 1. above and extending North and West for a distance of 72m, to the end of the cul-de-sac (serves units 27-40). Road no L-6517-2.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

3. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 2 above and extending East for a distance of 38m to the end of the cul-de-sac (serves units 36-31). Road no L-6517-3.

Electoral Area: Tuam

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

1656(a)

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

Cúirt Cregg, Clifden

1. Main link road pavement and footpath, commencing at public road N59 and extending north for approximately 126m and ending at house No. 28 Cúirt Cregg (all in the townland of Tullyvoheen).

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by An Comh. O'Laoi, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

2. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with house No. 28 and extending eastwards ending at house No. 24 a distance of approximately 26m.

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by Comh. O'Laoi, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

3. Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction with house No. 28 and extending westwards ending at house No. 32 a distance of approximately 32m.

Electoral Area: Conamara

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

1657(a)

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by An Comh. O'Laoi, 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 L1102 in the townland of Claddaghduff and extending west for a distance of 560 meters and in the townland of Claddaghduff and finishing at high water mark in the townland of Claddaghduff.

Electoral Area: Conamara

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

1658(a)

On the proposal of An Comh. O'Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. Welby, 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 L53241-0 in the townland of Cur and extending south for a distance of 1000 meters and finishing at grid reference 93,230; 251,880 in the townland of Teernakill South.

Electoral Area: Conamara

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

1659

On the proposal of An Comh. O'Tuairisg, seconded by An Comh. O'Curraoin, 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-53692-0 in the townland of Droim an Mhuchain and extending west for a distance of 125 meters and in the townland of Droim an Mhuchain and finishing at Mr. Aidan Clancy's house in the townland of Droim an Mhuchain.

Electoral Area: Conamara

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

1660

On the proposal of Cllr. Welby, seconded by Cllr. E. Mannion, 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 LT-13106-3 in the townland of Eighterard and extending north east for a distance of 133 meters in the townland of Eighterard and finishing at Mrs. McQuinn's house in the townland of Eighterard.

Electoral Area: Conamara

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

1661

On the proposal of An Comh O'Tuairisg, seconded by An Comh O'Curraoin, 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 Regional Road R336 in the townland of Teernakill South and extending south for a distance of 1735 meters and in the townland of Teernakill South and finishing at grid reference 97,840 ; 251,180 in the townland of Teernakill South.

Electoral Area: Conamara

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.07 HECTARES AT MAIN STREET, OUGHTERARD, CO. GALWAY

1662

Statutory Notice dated 17th January, 2014 and Report dated the 16th January, 2014 were previously circulated in accordance with the relevant statutory timeframe.

Cllr. Welby declared a potential interest in the item to be considered and having declared same withdrew from the Council Chamber the full duration of the consideration of the item.

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by An Comh O'Laoi it was agreed to lease 0.07 Hectares at Main Street, Oughterard to Oughterard Courthouse Conservation and Heritage Company Limited in accordance with the terms as detailed in the Statutory Notice dated the 17th January 2014.

TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2021 AS PER SECTION 11(5)(A) AND (B) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS MENDED)

1663

It proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed defer consideration of this item to a Special Meeting to be held on the 14th February, 2014, commencing at 11.00 am in County Hall.

Cllr. McHugh referred to the closure of approximately 300 parking spaces in the centre of Tuam and expressed concern in relation to the potential impact of same on the businesses in the town, including the retail and services sector based around the town centre. He outlined that while he fully appreciated that the closure arose from a legal action and that the matter remained before the Courts, he appealed to all involved to enter into dialogue and consultation through an appropriate forum to resolve the issue.

Cllr. Cuniffe stated that the judgement of the court was available and detailed the basis for the closure of the parking. He stated that while the closure may lead to some inconvenience, he was of the opinion that adequate parking remained available in Tuam in alternative locations to serve the business needs of the town and referred to the impact the opening of the car park had on other parking facilities and businesses in the town. He indicated that it was disappointing that it was necessary to commence legal action to address the matter but that the closure was required by a judgement of the High Court.

Cllr. M. Connolly highlighted the importance of sending out a clear message that Tuam remained open for business.

Cllr. Hoade stated that the matter was still before the Courts and it was necessary to be mindfull of same in raising the matter in the Chamber.

The Mayor advised that as the matter remained before the Courts he was not allowing further comment on same.

TO CONSIDER DRAFT TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2014 – 2018

1664

Mr. Raftery detailed the background to the preparation of the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 -2018 and the consideration of same by the Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and invited Ms. Mary Forde, Senior Social Worker to present an overview of the Draft Programme.

Ms. Forde presented the Draft Programme and addressed a number of queries and provided additional clarification on a number of issues that arose in the subsequent consideration of same by the Members.

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Ms. Forde in reply to Cllr. M. Finnerty and other Members confirmed that it was no longer intended to proceed with the construction of two additional units of accommodation in Ahascragh, as following consultation, there was no longer a requirement for same.

Cllr. McClearn stated that there needed to be a recognition of the fact that national policy in this area had failed and that there was a need for a genuine forum on the issue in order make progress in addressing same.

Cllr. G. Finnerty referred to the need to learn lessons from the development of the M18 South of Gort in building the M17/M17 Gort to Tuam in order to ensure that access was not readily available to facilitate caravans parking adjacent to the motorway.

Ms. Forde in reply to comments from a number of members representing the Conamara Electoral Area, confirmed that an adequate number of privately operated caravan park facilities existing in Conamara to accommodate the needs of travellers wishing to

Cllr. Hoade welcomed the interaction with Galway City Council on the programme, particularly in the context of the requirements of the Halting Site on the Headford Road and the decision of An Bord Pleanála to limit the duration of the permission granted for the additional capacity at the site and the need to advance the provision of alternative accommodation for those currently resident on the site.

Cllr. Maher welcomed the approval for the appointment of the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer and requested clarity on the timeframe for the rollout of CCTV. Ms. Forde in reply indicated that the recruitment process for the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer was being advanced and that approval was awaited from the National Oversight Committee to allow the CCTV initiative proceed but that a positive outcome was expected in the coming weeks.

Ms. Forde in reply to Cllr. Broderick confirmed that the accommodation being provided through group schemes was by means of anticipated casual vacancies arising over the period of the programme.

It was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. G. Finnerty and agreed, to adopt the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON STORM WEATHER EVENTS – IMPACT, RESPONSE & INTERIM SUBMISSION FOR FUNDING

1665

Report dated the 27th January, 2014 was circulated to each Member

Mr. Gavin outlined the contents of the report. He said that there had been an unprecedented number of storms causing severe damage/flooding on the Coast and Inland. He informed the Members that submissions had been made to the Department for damage/repairs in the region of €500.000 which had been spent to date.

The Mayor said that he had visited a number of areas affected by the storms and said that he wanted to pay special tribute to the commitment and dedication of Galway County Council staff who worked under severe hardship to carry out clean ups, he also paid tribute to local communities specially in south Conamara and Maree and Rinvile for their assistance and for the community effort in responding to the impact of the storms and flooding. All Members paid tribute to the works carried by staff of Galway County Council over this period. The Members referred to the severe damage done in all areas of the County to -

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- Homes
- Shoreline/coastline,
- Graveyards,
- Piers, Fishing equipment,
- Farms, walls,
- Roads.

They said they hoped that funding would be made available as soon as possible, and that the Council would be reimbursed the €500,000 already spent as no contingency existing in Budget 2014 to cater for same. They said that Rock Armour had been a good form of defence and had worked well where it was in place. Reference was made to the Causeway at Gowla, Lettermore with a full report/survey on the state of the causeway being requested.

The Manager also acknowledged the tremendous work done by Mr. Liam Gavin and his teams both Indoor and Outdoor and expression her appreciation to the contractors who carried out works on behalf of the Council. The Manager advised that the embargo on recruitment remained in operation but that it was possible to avail of the services of panels of Contractors, and they had been mobilised.

In reply to some of the queries raised, Mr. Gavin said that the extent of the works will depend on the funding made available and will be prioritised. He confirmed that Coastal Protection had been included in the Claim and said that a Coastal Protection Plan would be put in place. He pointed out that in relation to the Causeways, inspections indicated that remedial works will be necessary and such works will be the subject of an application for funding.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

1666

It was proposed by Comh. O'Laoi, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed to suspend Standing Order to allow the meeting continue beyond 6.00 pm.

In reply to queries, he confirmed that damage to private within the knowledge of the Council, had been included in the estimates prepared and submitted to the Department but that any decision in relation to such works would be taken in the context of the level of funding made available and the conditions associated with such funding.

TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

1667

Report dated the 27th January, 2014 was already circulated to Members.

Mr. Kelly presented the Report as circulated noting that he was aware the the Members would prefer an opportunity for greater input but that the guidelines for the establishment of the Local Community Development Committee did not allow for same.

Mr. Kelly addressed a range of queries from the Members, in relation to the proposed membership of the Committee, including the opportunity for input by the Family Resources Centres, the need for the Elected Members to be drawn from the membership of the Corporate Policy Group, the future of the Local Action Groups and the future role of the Boards of such Groups.

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The Mayor advised that the proposal was considered by the Corporate Policy Group and the Group agreed to recommend the proposal, as presented by Mr. Kelly, to Council. Cllr. Hoade indicated that while the Council may prefer a different configuration and approach to the formation of the Committee, it did not have a free hand in the matter and on that basis, proposed the membership of the Committee as presented, this was seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed.

TO NOTE INDICATIVE PROGRAMME OF WORKS FOR STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES FOR 2014 **1668**

Report dated the 27th January, 2014 was circulated to each Member the contents of which were noted by the Council.

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES. **1669**

Cllr, S. Walsh was not present in the Chamber for the duration of the consideration of this item.

Report was already circulated to each Member

Esperanza Enterprises – Early Education & Childcare in your Community – 29th – 30th November 2013 – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry – Fee: €150
Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg, Cllr.'s Peter Roche, Jarlath McDonagh

Esperanza Enterprises – Improving Road Safety – Traffic Management – 20th – 21st December 2013 – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo – Fee: €150
Cllr. Michael Connolly

Celtic Conferences – Microsoft Word Training Workshop for Councillors – 15th – 17th January – Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary – Fee: €100
Cllr. Michael Connolly

Ace Training – Rural Housing - Planning & Development Design Guidelines – 17th – 19th January – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee: €100
Cllr.'s Michael Maher, Pat Hynes

Celtic Conferences – Branding in Political Elections – a new quality of Political Communication – 17th – 19th January – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100
Cllr.'s Michael Fahy, Shaun Cunniffe

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Celtic Conferences – Doing more with less – Managing Time & Productivity – 24th – 26th January – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Cllr.'s Michael Fahy, Shaun Cunniffe

Ace Training – Domestic Water Charges – Preparation & Practicalities – 24th – 26th January – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee: €100

Cllr.'s Pat Hynes, Tomás Mannion

Monaghan County Council – LAMA Spring Seminar 2014 – 31st January – 1st February – Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan – Fee: €150

Cllr.'s Jarlath McDonagh, Peter Feeney, Tiarnan Walsh, Bridie Willers, Jimmy McClearn, Tom McHugh

Ace Training – Good Governance of Community, Voluntary & Charitable Organisations in Ireland – 31st January – 2nd February – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee: €100

Cllr. Pat Hynes

Celtic Conferences – Changes in Construction Tendering for Local Authorities – 31st January – 2nd February – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Ryan, attendance at the Conferences as circulated, was authorized by the Council.

TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED 1670

Report was already circulated to each member.

Association of County & City Councils – Annual Conference 2013 – 7th – 8th March – Tower Hotel, Waterford

Cllr. Peter Feeney

TJK Conferences – Freedom of Information Seminar for Councillors – 22nd – 24th March – Woodfield House Hotel, Limerick

Cllr. Peter Feeney

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Wexford County Council – LAMA Spring Seminar 2013 – 5th – 6th April – Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford

Cllr. Peter Feeney

Carlow Tourism – 11th National Conference – The Gathering – Diaspora Tourism Matters – 18th – 20th April – Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow

Cllr. Seamus Walsh

BG Seminarz – Community Development – Arts & Sport – 26th – 28th July – Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Cllr. Seamus Walsh

BG Seminarz – Rural Crime Prevention & Detection – 2nd – 4th August 2013 – Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Cllr. Seamus Walsh

BG Seminarz – European Convention on Human Rights – 16th – 18th August 2013 – Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Cllr. Seamus Walsh

Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht – World Heritage Seminar – 12th September – Dublin Castle, Dublin

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

Esperanza Enterprises – Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2013 – 20th – 21st September – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Cllr. Peter Feeney

BG Seminarz – Community Mental Health & the Elected Member – 20th – 22nd September – Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Cllr. Seamus Walsh

BG Seminarz – How the Elected Member can help Combat Crime – 27th – 29th September – Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Cllr. Seamus Walsh

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Superior Training – Local Government & Enterprise Development – 18th – 19th October – Holyrood Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

BG Seminarz – Future Energy Needs: Wind Turbines to Nuclear – 25th – 26th October – Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Cllr. Seamus Walsh

Esperanza Enterprises – Local Governments & Planning & Development Act 2013 – 1st – 2nd November – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo

Cllr. Peter Roche

BG Seminarz – Council Budgets – Preparation, Adoption & Amendments – 1st – 3rd November – Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Cllr.'s Peter Feeney, Seamus Walsh

Irish Centre for European Law – Implementation & Enforcement of EU Environmental Legislation – 8th November 2013 – Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson St., Dublin 2

Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi

Loughrea Memorial Group – Aspect's of Galway's Military History & Private John Oliver's Remembrance Weekend – 8th – 10th November – Loughrea, Co. Galway

Cllr. Tim Broderick

Celtic Conferences – Debt Solutions – The New Personal Insolvency Legislation – 22nd – 24th November – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Tomás Mannion

Esperanza Enterprises – Early Education & Childcare in your Community – 29th – 30th November 2013 – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg, Cllr.'s Peter Roche, Jarlath McDonagh

Teagasc – Future Weather / Future Farming – 5th December 2013 – Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin

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Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg

Ace Training – Local Authority Employment Law, Practice & Procedure – 6th – 8th December 2013 – Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Cllr.'s Eileen Mannion, Tiarnan Walsh

Celtic Conferences – Tourism Technology & Competitive Strategies for 2014 – 13th – 15th December 2013 – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Michael Fahy

Celtic Conferences – Microsoft Excel Training for Councillors – 20th – 22nd December 2013 – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Peter Roche

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Ryan, it was agreed to note the summary of proceedings at Conferences, as circulated.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

1671

The Manager informed the Members that the Reform of Local Government Bill had progressed through the Oireachtas and was now enacted.

She stated that the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water had been signed and this allowed Galway County Council to fulfill its service obligation on behalf of Irish Water over the next 12 years.

Mr. Owens informed the Members that Polling for the European Parliament and Local Elections 2014 will take place on Friday 23rd May 2014 with the hours of poll being 7.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m.

He advised that the closing date for the Supplement to the Register is Tuesday 6th May 2014 and that the closing date for the Supplement to the Postal and Special Voters List is Saturday 26th April 2014.

Mr. Gavin informed the Members that the 2014 Regional & Local Roads Grant Allocation had been notified. He said that he would be advancing the preparation of the Draft Roads Programme and the Area Committees would be convened to allow for the consideration of same.

The following items of correspondence which were circulated at the meeting were noted:

- Correspondence dated 14th January 2014 from Kerry County Council adopting the resolution that Kerry County Council in conjunction with other Local Authorities, would have a direct representative dealing with all EU funding.
- Correspondence dated 16th January 2014 from South Tipperary County Council passing the resolution to call on the Ministers for Finance, Education and Social Welfare to immediately review the flat fee of €833.00 introduced in the October Budget for apprentices attending Institutes of Technology.

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- Correspondence dated 23rd December 2013, received from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government acknowledging Galway County Councils letter in connection with rural water supply.
- Correspondence dated 2nd January 2014, received from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging Galway County Councils letter in connection with Rural Regeneration.
- Correspondence dated 6th January 2014, received from the Department of Communication, Energy & Natural Resources, acknowledging Galway County Councils letter in relation to New Inland Fisheries Legislation.
- Correspondence dated 17th January 2014, received from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government, acknowledging Galway County Councils letter in relation to the National Rural Water Monitoring Committee.
- Correspondence dated 23rd January 2014, received from the Department of Health & Children, acknowledging Galway County Councils letter in relation to the closure of St Brigids, Ballinasloe.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

1672

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM IDA IRELAND

As previously stated the IDA were unable to attend and sent their apologies.

It was proposed by An Comh. O'Cuaig, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly that Galway County Council requests the President and the Government to release Margaretta D'Arcy from Prison on Humanitarian Grounds.

The Mayor then asked if all of the Members agreed to the proposal, as there was no agreement, the Mayor called for a vote and the following was the result of the vote:

For:	Cllrs., D. Connolly, O'Curraoin, Noone, [3]
Against:	Cllr. Broderick, Carroll, Finnerty, Maher, Welby [5]
Abstained:	Cllr. Hoade [1]

As a result of the vote, the Mayor declared the Motion Defeated.

It was proposed by An Comh O'Curraoin, seconded by An Comh. O'Cuaig and agreed that Galway County Council reinstate damaged Burial Grounds in County Galway during recent storms and that reinforcement measures also be put in place to prevent future damage, and that Galway County Council calls on Government to provide assistance to small holders along the shoreline who have significant damage done.

It was proposed by Cllr. T. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh that this Council allocates a fixed time each Month for Members to condemn the Government on any decision they make. This I feel would be better than using Minutes of Meetings to speak on any subject they desire.

The Mayor then asked if all of the Members agreed to the proposal, as there was no agreement, the Mayor called for a vote and the following was the result of the vote:

For:	Cllrs., Broderick, Maher. [2]
Against:	Cllr. Carroll, D. Connolly, Cuddy, O'Curraoin, Finnerty,

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Hoade, Noone, Welby [8]

Abstained: An Comh. O'Laoi [1]

As a result of the vote, the Mayor declared the Motion Defeated.

It was proposed by Cllr. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed that graveyards have a standard practice of walls or stone and the height of Headstones implemented as a standard practice throughout the County. The Role of the Caretaker or Committee be consulted when these matters arise.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Canney and agreed that Galway County Council calls on the Government Departments of Agriculture and Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government to address the issue of Dead Animal Collection and Rendering as because of recent developments prices that farmers now have to pay have sky rocketed at collection plants.

It was proposed by An Comh. O'Laoi, seconded by Cllr. Maher that Reception be held for the Galway Minor Ladies Football Team on winning the All Ireland Minor A Ladies Football Title.

Mr. Gavin in reply to Cllr. Cuddy confirmed that consultants had been appointed to advance the Galway City Outer Bypass in conjunction with the project team. He advised that the legal costs arising from the challenge to the previous process had yet to be determined but that the NRA had committed to meeting all costs to be incurred by the Council, if any.

Cllr. Welby asked that where a Planning Permission had been granted would the connection be done by Irish Water and if this would involve the payment of a Fee.

He asked what the legal status was in this situation.

In reply to Cllr. Welby, Mr. Cullen confirmed that the existing fees and charges relating to Water Services and connections contineud to apply but through a different administrative process but that same may change at a later date.

The Mayor referred to correspondence received from Cllr. John Cummins, Mayor of Waterford City relating to the 1,100th anniversary of the City of Waterford and an invitation to receive on behalf of the County of Galway a Tricolour that will have flown at 33 The Mall in Waterford, the building that Thomas F. Meagher, a hero of the Rising of 1948m flew the Irish flag for the first time. He advised that he had been invited to nominate a school from the county to also receive a flag at the 1948 tricolour festival on Sunday, 9th March 2014 to be permanently flown in the Council Chamber and chosen school. The Members agreed for the Mayor to select a school and for the tricolour to be flown in the Council Chamber.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy and agreed for the March, April and May Ordinary Meetings of Council to commence at 11.00 am.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1673

The following reply was given:-

“Colas Roadbridge JV (CRJV) is the maintenance contractor appointed by the NRA under the Motorway Maintenance and Renewals Contract (MMaRC) for Network B which includes Winter Service provision on the N/M18, in County Galway and County Clare and the N19 and the N85 in County Clare. For this part of their network CRJV run their

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operations out of their depot on the Tulla Road, Ennis incorporating 4 Treatment routes. Under the MMaRC contract Winter Service provision commenced on 1st October 2013 and runs until the 15th May 2014.

During December 2013 CRJV provided Winter Treatments from the Ennis Depot on 10 separate days/ nights over the course of the month (4th, 16th, 19th, 22nd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 28th, 29th, and 31st).

With regards to particular issues experienced on the 19th December 2013 when An Garda Siochána (AGS) made the decision to close the M18 (between Jn. 14 and Jn. 16¹) at approximately 11am and again at 4pm the information and records held for that period show that the M18 received three precautionary treatments at c.00:00 and c10:30. Even though these treatments were carried out, the hail showers experienced on the day were of such severity and intensity that at one point (just after 2pm) they caused the road surface temperature to drop by approximately 5 Deg Celsius in a 30 minute period. Notwithstanding this, the precautionary salting treatments that were carried out prevented the road surface from freezing at any time throughout the 19th of December and a further treatment was carried out at 17:00.

There is no advance treatment that can protect against the hazard that develops as a result of intense hail showers and it is incumbent on drivers to adjust their behaviour to take driving conditions into account.

Variable Message signs were erected by NRA's motorway maintenance contractor at request of Gardaí as drivers were not driving with due regard for the road conditions. The continued use of these signs will be discussed between the Gardaí and NRA.

The safety barrier terminals used on the N18 are a P4 type terminal. The NRA Safety Barrier Standard TD 19/09 (January 2009) states that for "roads with a design speed of 100km/h or greater upstream terminals shall be of performance Class P4."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1674

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council entered into discussions with the NRA on the issue of caravans parked alongside the motorway. In the interim the caravans have vacated the site. Galway County Council will liaise with the NRA and local landowners concerning this site and area."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1675

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will examine this area and if appropriate will enter discussions with the OPW on the need and costs associated with this scheme. Should the OPW consider this scheme appropriate Galway County Council will progress the scheme as required."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 23 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1676

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council have a limited budget for the operation, maintenance and development of public lighting throughout the County. All available funding for public

lighting is spent on the operation and maintenance of existing lighting for 2014. No funding is available during 2014 for the provision and development of new public lighting.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 24 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1677

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 25 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1678

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council are currently in discussions with the NRA concerning the provision of an overlay and improvements through the village of Claregalway. It should be noted that no allocation has been provided in the 2014 national roads grant for work in Claregalway. The development of the N17 route through Claregalway will require substantial planning and design in consultation with the NRA before works can proceed.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 26 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1679

The following reply was given:-

“The Council is in receipt of a tender recommendation report in respect of a civil engineering contract which includes the works the subject of this notice of motion. With the advent of Irish Water it is now necessary to forward this tender recommendation to Irish Water for their evaluation prior to accepting this tender or the commencement of any works. It is therefore not possible at present to give with any level of accuracy a commencement date for the works in question.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 27 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1680

The following reply was given:-

“Initially it must be noted that the dual carriageway pre dates the Costa na Mara housing development. Galway County Council have prepared a Noise Action Plan 2013 to 2018. There is a five year programme set out in this plan within which Galway County Council are required to identify specific area which warrant further assessment and monitoring. The plan also requires identifying appropriate mitigation measures. Galway County Council will progress noise monitoring in accordance with this plan.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 28 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1681

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have had discussions with the NRA concerning the improvement of the pavement and footpaths through Kinvara. However, the road improvement works and footpath will not proceed until the proposed sewer scheme is completed through the town of Kinvara.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 29 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1682

The following reply was given:-

“To date Galway County Council have had no involvement in this scheme. However, should funding be made available Galway County Council in partnership with the local FAS scheme would consider completing this work.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 30 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1683

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have been in contact with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport seeking funding for the provision of bus shelters, However, no funding has been made available for bus shelters in County Galway for 2014.”

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin
