



BALLINASLOE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ARCHIVES COLLECTION

1899 – 1925

G00/6

A Descriptive List Prepared by Galway County Council Archives





BALLINASLOE NO. 1

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ARCHIVES COLLECTION

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Introduction

This collection of archives from Ballinasloe No.1 Rural District Council consists of ten minute books (1909 – 1925), one register of documents and one Road's Register, spanning (1899 – 1911).

The collection was originally incomplete, consisting of five¹ volumes of minutes. These were initially listed and microfilmed in 2001. A later acquisition, consisting of 4 volumes of minutes and one register of documents, acquired in 2012 resulted in an expansion of the collection, and revision of the descriptive list.

A further slight expansion occurred in 2014 with the Abstracts of Account were added to the collection.

Rural District Councils

Rural District Councils were set up under the Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898. Their powers were conferred upon them by Section 27 to 39 of the Act. They 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 Poor Law Guardians were also the Rural District Councillors; the same individuals but working in a separate capacity.

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 the Section 8, Sub-section (2), (3) and (4) 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.² 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.

¹ G00/6/9 Feb 1909-Apr 1910, /10 May 1910-Jun1911, /18 Oct 1917-Nov 1918, 19/ Dec1918-Jan 1920, 20/ Jul 1920-Dec 1924, Apr 1925 were held by Galway County Library at the time of the establishment of the Archives in 2000. Additional volumes were acquired in 2012.

² Guidelines for Local Authority Archives Services, 1996.



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.

Ballinasloe No. 1 Rural District Council

Two separate Councils administered the Ballinasloe Rural District. The No.1 Council came under the jurisdiction of Galway County Council, and the No.2 Council came under the administration of Roscommon County Council. The Rural District Council meetings, commonly held in the Board Room of the Union Workhouse, were generally held twice a month and then only if the required quorum of Councillors was in attendance. There were usually 41 elected and/or co-opted members of Council, however from the early 1920's the number dropped to 17. Lists of elected members are often found in various contemporary directories such as Slaters or Pigots, or indeed may often be listed in local contemporary newspapers.

The Council's geographical area of responsibility included the electoral divisions of Abbeygormican, Ahaseragh, Aughrim, Ballinasloe Rural, Ballymacward, Clonfert, Clontouskert, Kellysgrove, Kilconnell, Killaan, Killalaghtan, Killoran, Killtormer, Killure (aka Killvore), Kilmacshane, Kylemore, Lawrencetown, Lismanny, and Oatfield.

This incomplete and fragmented collection consists primarily of minute books recording the proceedings, with gaps, of Council meetings held between 1907 and 1925. The minutes record general and financial business proceedings, together with the proceedings of the Sanitary Authority, and proceedings conducted under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts. The minutes illustrate the range of issues dealt with by the Council and its concern with a variety of issues from contemporary political and social matters, both local and national, to public health and sanitary issues.

For instance the Council's concern and interest in national political issues is illustrated in several strongly worded resolutions, such as its condemnation of the proposal to introduce conscription to Ireland, *'That we, the Ballinasloe District Council deny the right of England to conscript the Irish People and strongly affirm that we are not bound to obey a law passed by the brutal force of Carson's influence on the English Government. That we hereby pledge ourselves to abide by the advice of our Leaders and the Irish Hierarchy to resist by all our efforts to enforcement of this iniquitous blood tax on the Irish Nation.'* (G00/6/18, p315).

In July 1920 the Council recognised the Irish Republican government and *'Resolved /- "That the Minutes of all our Meetings be sent to An Dáil Éireann and that we ignore the Local Government Board in future'* (31 July 1920, G00/6/20, p1).



Towards the end of World War I the Council expressed its concern regarding the scarcity of essential food-stuffs and ordered, 'THAT IN VIEW OF THE GREAT NEED OF PRODUCING ALL THE FOOD POSSIBLE IN IRELAND DURING THE COMING SEASON, WE NOW NOTIFY ALL TENANTS OF LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN THE DISTRICT THAT WE WILL REQUIRE THEM TO TILL THE ENTIRE PLOTS IN THEIR POSSESSION THIS YEAR, OR FAILING TO DO SO, THEY WILL BE DISPOSSESSED BY US IN VIRTURE OF THE POWER GIVEN TO USE BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD' (26 January 1918, G00/6/18, p237).

The Council was responsible for the building, maintenance and repair of local roads, such as the Clonfert New Road, Annislan Road, Park Bridge, Killallaghan Road and Oatfield Road. The administration of such works took up much of the Council's time and there was considerable discussion at meetings regarding the state of the roads in the district and work carried out by the Council's contractors. The County Surveyor deferred and struck off payments as a result of poor quality work. In January 1910 he wrote to the Council stating that *'With but few exceptions your contractors have done very little during the past three months to remedy the condition of affairs which existed prior to the last quarterly meeting.... As a consequence of this neglect I am sorry that a considerable amount of money is deferred, and as all the inspections for the coming quarter must close at the end of March, I would urge the contractors to go to work at once and spare the unpleasant operation of having to "strike-off" these deferred amounts at the next April meeting...'*(January 1910, G00/6/9, p554). The Council objected to his actions.

As Sanitary Authority the Council was responsible for the erection and maintenance of water pumps, such as those at Eskerboy, Corraneena, Lawrencetown and Cloonigney, Cappa and Abbeyland.

Under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts 1883 (46 & 47 Vict. c.60) and 1885 (48 & 49 Vict. c.77)³ the Council was involved in the provision and maintenance of labourers cottages, and had in this regard many dealings with the Congested Districts Board and campaigned for better conditions for local tenants. Such as, *'That we, the Ballinasloe No. 1 Rural District Council demand a Sworn Inquiry into the working of the Congested Districts Board on the Comyn Estate in the County Galway and their treatment of the unfortunate congests in said estate...'*(G00/6/18, p247).

The appointment, or co-opting, of Councillors and chairmen and vice chairmen to the Council is duly recorded in the minutes, as are the postponements of local elections during the war years (1914-18).

³ The Archives of the Office of Public Works at the National Archives of Ireland, Dublin contains a substantial quantity of records relating to the various schemes and may be of value to those seeking further information on this topic. See *Guide to the archives of*



In 1923 the Council voiced its objection to the proposed abolition of Rural District Councils. It is recorded in the minutes that the *'The Clerk read a resolution from the Ida Rural District Council emphatically protesting against the action of the Government in proposing to abolish the Rural District Councils in the Free State, and asking the Council to appoint Delegates to represent them on a deputation which is to wait on the Ministry of Local Government for the purpose of pointing out that Rural District Councils are absolutely indispensable and bearing in mind the efficiency with which the functions of those bodies have been carried out in the past.*

THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE RESOLUTION....'(24 November 1923, G00/6/20, p353).

Nevertheless Rural District Councils were abolished in 1925. In the immediate aftermath Public Works Committees were established to continue their work. The former Clerk to the Council was to act as Clerk to the newly established Committee. However, there being no permanent Clerk in Ballinasloe Mr John J. Hanafin, former Clerk to the Loughrea Council, was appointed Clerk to the Ballinasloe Committee. He was also appointed Clerk to the Gort and Portumna Committees.⁴

Arrangement

The collection consists of minute books, which are arranged chronologically, and one register of Road Maintenance Contracts and Contractor's Ledger Account.

The item reference number (e.g. G00/6/3) 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, e.g. GCCA G00/6/3).

Overall this collection illustrates 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 county, was under British rule, and ending with records recording the authority's recognition of Dáil Eireann. It should therefore be of interest to administrative, economic, political, social, and local historians. The latter in particular should learn much from the collection about the development of the district's infrastructure – the building and maintenance of the roads and bridges - together with the provision and growth of various public and health related services, such as water and sewerage schemes.

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.

the Office of Public Works, Rena Lohan, The Stationery Office, Dublin 1994, (pp256-257)

⁴ Galway County Council Minutes GC01/1/4, p21



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.

Acknowledgment

The microfilming of the collection in 2001 – as it was at that time - was facilitated by a grant from the Heritage Council (i.e. minute books G00/6/9 Feb 1909-Arp 1910, /10 May 1910-Jun1911, /18 Oct 1917-Nov 1918, 19/ Dec1918-Jan 1920, 20/ Jul 1920-Dec 1924, Apr 1925, and Road's Ledger 1900-1911).

Additional volumes acquired in 2012 were digitised in 2014.

Patria McWalter
Archivist



Related Collections

Records held by Galway County Archives:

- Ballinasloe Poor Law Union (G00/5/)
- Ballinasloe No. 2 Rural District Council (G00/7)
- Galway County Council Minutes (GC/1/)

Records held at the National Archives of Ireland

- Office of Public Works, OPW

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- | | |
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Appendices





1. **List of some of the members of the Ballinasloe No. 1 Rural District Council, in the Administrative county of Galway[⊗]**

Ashtown, Lord	Head, James
Barr, James (+1907)	Hoban, James J (Chairman (1915-1919, resigned when appointed Coroner for East Galway)
Bohan, M.	Hogan, M.
Burke, M.	Hanrahan, James
Cahill, Thomas	Kelly, John (B)
Carthy, M.	Kelly, Laurence
Coghlan, M.	Kelly, Thomas
Connolly, Thomas	Kenny, Patrick
Colohan, Edward (+ December 1909)	Kenny, Thomas
Connor, M.	Killeen, T.P. (Chairman, 1919)
Curley, M.	Kirwan, M.
Dempsey, Patrick	Larkin, Patrick (Chairman, 1909-1910) (+1917)
Dolan, M.	Larkin, Peter
Dolan, T. J.	Larkin, Agnes
Donnelly, M.	Lenehan, P.
Dowling, W. E. (Carrana House, Woodlawn, resigned January 1920)	Loughnane, M.
Flaherty, Michael	Loughnane, V.
Finney, R. W. (resigned May 1915)	Lyons, Michael
Frehill, J.	Lynch, James
Garvey, L.	Lynskey, P.
Gavin, Mrs Maggie	Madden, John
Geraghty, Michael (Chairman 1919)	Mannion, M.
Glynn, Thomas	Martin, Michael
Grehan, Michael	Monohan, John
Grehan, John	.Monahan, M
Hanrahan, M.	Mitchell, Thomas
	McDermott, John

[⊗] Not to be taken as a definitive list



McEvoy, James

McKeigue, J.

Nolan, John

McKeigue, John

O'Colohan, E.

O'Flanagan, Thomas

O'Riordan, C.J.

Parker, Patrick J.

Quinn, T.

Ronaldson, Robert

Ryan, Michael

Supple, W.

Whyms, John

Whyms, M.

Whelan, Patrick

Clerk of CouncilGill, R.J. ? - +1914⁵

Gill, T.J. 1914 -

Dunne, J.J. ? -1925, retired

County Surveyor

Hardiman, James 1907?- 1909

Dunne, J.

Town surveyor of Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, in the opening years of the twentieth century. J. Hardiman resigned in 1909 to be replaced by JOSEPH L. DUNNE. ⁽¹⁾ He may be identifiable as the James J. Hardiman, civil engineer, born in Co. Galway in 1881 or 1882, who is recorded in the 1911 census as living in Ballinasloe.

⁵ Resolution of sympathy following his death (G006/14, p111)



2. Electoral Divisions covered by Ballinasloe No. 1 Rural District Council

Abbeygormican
Ahaseragh
Aughrim
Ballinasloe Rural
Ballymacward
Clonfert
Clontouskert
Kellysgrove
Kilconnell
Killaan
Killalaghtan
Killoran
Killtormer
Killure (aka Killvore)
Kilmacshane
Kylemore
Lawrencetown
Lismanny
Oatfield





BALLINASLOE NO. 1

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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G00/6/





A. Minutes of Ballinasloe No.1 Rural District Council, 1909-1925

Volumes of minutes of the proceedings of Ballinasloe No.1 Rural District Council meetings. The minutes record attendance at meetings, generally held twice a month, together with proceedings of Council business conducted under various legalisation, covering general, financial, sanitary, and labourers' housing issues. The minutes record resolutions proposed and resolved or rejected by the Council. They also include details of correspondence received, generally from the Local Government Board and actions required thereafter. The proceedings of the Council acting as the 'Sanitary Authority' relate to health and sanitary conditions, such as the prevention of disease, inspection of cow sheds and human living conditions, and the care and management of burial grounds, sewerage systems, and water supply. The proceedings under the 'Labourers Acts' relate to the provision and maintenance of labourers' cottages and rent collection.

Minutes are generally signed by the Chairman and witnessed by the Secretary. The minutes also usually include index to main resolution topics.

Average size 670pp

(1-7.)

- 8⁶. 9 November 1907 - Matters and issues discussed include:-
23 January 1909
- 'Resolved: That this Council condemns in the strongest way burning of hay, and all outrages as it is a big drain on the poor-rate payers compensating parties for each outrage' (p2).
 - Resolved: That we have learned with regret that the Estate Commissioners intend giving a portion (an economic holding) of Mr James Kilmartin's holding at Shalea to an emergency man who has been only 4 years in charge of the farm. That we consider if such an act is contemplated it would be not only a gross hardship and injustice to Mr Kilmartin who has been evicted 20 years and who paid such a heavy fine for this land in the beginning, but also an insult to public feeling on the matter as it exists at present' (p9).
 - Discussion regarding design of cottages (p32).
 - Report from County Surveyor, Hardiman, regarding the 'very poor order' of the roads in the district (p112).
 - Extracts from report from Sir Acheson McCullagh's regarding the work of the Sanitary Sub-Officers (p157).

⁶ Acquired in 2012



9. 13 February 1909 – Matters and issues discussed include,
23 April 1910
- 'Letter from The L.G.B (Local Government Board) No. L1431/1909 dated 5th February 1909 stating that they observe from the Financial Minutes of the 23rd ultimo that the amount of arrears of rent due at the end of December last by the tenants of the Labourers Cottages reached the sum of £32.19.9 which is much too high and has increased since the previous month which stood at £28.6.2 and requesting the Council to warn the Collector to take immediate steps to bring the collections up to date....' (p32).
 - 'Extension of Telegraphs. Letter from the LGB No 26028 dated 20th February 1909 stating that they have before them the Descriptive list giving particular in relation to the proposed extension of the Postal Telegraphs to Ballymacward and Gorteen together with a copy of the Resolution adopted by the council relative to the areas of charge of the cost thereof: and suggesting to the Council that it would be better that the Killoran Dispensary District which contains the several places mentioned in the resolution should be fixed as the areas of charge for the Expenses to be incurred in the matter' (p43).
 - 'The Clerk submitted for signature an application to the Land Commission for the issue of £5,000 being the 3rd installment of the Loan of £20,850 sanctioned for the purposes of the "Ballinasloe No. 1 Rural District Labourers (Unopposed) Order 1907"' (p65).
 - 'Resolved:- That in consideration of the charge imposed on Labourers' Cottages in the way of rent, and for the purpose of relieving this strain, we, the members of the No.1 Rural District Council hereby pledge ourselves to give to each of these Labourers the making of one mile of the public road in places convenient or adjacent to each Cottages (sic), at prices fixed by the County Surveyor's estimate' (p112).
 - 'Letter from the LGC No. L5593/12 stating that they have had before them the entry in the minutes of the 27th ultio relative to the letting of Labourers Cottages to militia men: and stating that the Board consider that this resolution is ultra vires, as there is no provision in the Labourers Acts disqualifying applicants for the tenancy of Laboureres Cottages by reason of their having each year to give temporary service in the Militia or requiring that such persons must obtain a recommendation from at least 8 District Councillors in each case; Also requesting to be informed whether the original applicants for cottages No.s 98 and 123 referred to in the minutes are in occupation of condemned dwellings'.

The Council's resolution following receipt of the letter read 'The following minute was made. The Council will not give a cottage to any man except a man of good character and that the matter be left to the local Councillors', and ' The original applicants for cottages 98 and 123 were not in occupation of condemned dwellings' (p1136).



- 'Read a letter from Mr John McLoughlin Killure, dated 22nd August 1909 drawing attention to the filthy state of the water supply of the locality; there is no proper drinking water for six months of the year at least and there are about 22 families in the village of Killure; and asking the Council to take notice of the water' (p363).
- 'That we, the Ballinasloe No.1 Rural District Council strongly protest against the retention of an extra Police Force in East Galway, and we challenge Dublin Castle Authorities to point out one single incident that as occurred in our District to justify them in imposing a most unjust tax on the people who are already heavily burdened.

That we demand the immediate withdrawal of these extra Police on the ground of the crimeless state of our District' (p383).

- Report from the County Surveyor, John Moran, for Quarter ended 30th September 1909 stated that ,

'During the quarter ending 30th September 1909, there has been very little done by your contractors to check the continuous waste and destruction of your roads, and which has evidently been going on for a considerable lapse of time.

This no doubt has come forcibly under your own observation. One significant fact regarding your roads stands out prominently before all others, and that is the insufficiency or want of the proper quantity of road material which the contractors by their agreements are bound to supply. There seems moreover a general tendency amongst your contractors to supply inferior worthless materials as a substitute for road metal: and to make use of this as a species of blind wherewith to hide the process of destruction which it at the same time only tends to assist...

In Form 22 which I beg to submit for your approval I have deferred almost the entire amounts. I have recommended very few payments, and in cases of extreme neglect during the quarter, the amounts have been struck-off. The deferred amounts are for insufficiency or entire want of material, and unless the contractors concerned supply the requisite quantity before December, I shall be unable to certify those payments at the following meeting. A deferred amount is a most important item: to it corresponds a certain definite amount of work which the contractor is required to do, and which will be carefully inspected on receipt of a notice that such work has been done...' (p414, see also p418, 451, 553, 554, 654).



10. 14 May 1910 – Matters and issues discussed include, 657pp
12 June 1911
- 'That this Council desires to record their appreciation of the able and distinguished manner in which Counsel and Solicitor defended the Craughwell Prisoners at their recent trial in Dublin' (p43, see also p111).
 - 'Clonfert Pump
A report was read from Mr R W Finney D.C. (District Councillor) as to the condition of this pump in which he says it is in a bad state and requires immediate attention' (p60, see also p645).
 - 'Letter from Rev Mother Brigid, the Convent Ballinasloe dated 11th June 1910 acknowledging the receipt of the Council's resolution of the 28th ultimo and thanking the Council for their kind expression of sympathy with her on the death of her sister, Mrs O'Doherty - "Eva of the Nation" (pen name for Mary Eva O'Doherty (nee Kelly), 1826-1910, poet from Headford, county Galway, married Kevin Izod O'Doherty (1823-1905) a convicted Young Irelander. She died in Brisbane, Australia in May 1910), (p111).
 - 'Water Supplies
Letter from the Board of Works dated 9th March, 1911, forwarding for perfection by the Council Three deeds of Mortgage for a Loan of £225 (3 loans of £75 each) for the purpose of providing a water supply for Villages of Ervally, Ballymanagh and Gorteenaveela....' (p566).
- 11⁷. 24 September 1911 – Includes
27 July 1912
- Dr Gavin, MOH, reported that the pump at Killormer is out of repair. There by causing serious inconvenience to the village. (p89).
 - Kylemore Cottage, no. 184
Letter from the Labourer, Peter Healy, tenant of this cottage and plot stating that the ceiling is down in his two rooms and the doors cannot be shut or opened and asking the council to have the house repaired before he goes to live in it' (p305).
 - 'Resolved: That Mr James Hardiman, Assistant County Surveyor, be appointed Engineer to the council on the terms stated...' (p614).
 - Letter from LGB...relative to the proposal of the county to repair certain cottages provided by them under the Labourers Acts, and stating that, in view of the large number of such cottages provided in the district, namely 158, the council would

⁷ Acquired in 2012



do well to adhere to their original design, indicated in their minutes of the 10th February last, to secure contractors for the keeping of the cottages in repair in accordance with the arrangement suggested in the Board's letter of the 4th January and requesting that they may be informed whether the Engineer prepared the specification as directed by the Council on the 10th February with this object in view...' (p644).

12⁸. 28 September 1912 – Matters and issues discussed include:- 680pp
2 September 1913

- Report from Rev D Coghlan, PP, regarding the state of the Aughrim burial ground (p191, see also p330).
- Schedule of works, for which tenders were taken, such as for the maintenance of a1076 perches of road from Ballinasloe to Kilconnell, awarded to James Dwyer for £53.16.0 (p417).
- 'That we the members...present an Address of welcome to Mr Donovan, on his arrival at Ballinasloe, who has distinguished himself by his strenuous exertions on behalf of Ireland, particularly by his labours in Australia and other Countries for funds for Ireland's fight for National Self Government, and other remedial measures for the Irish people' (31 May 1931, p444).
- SSO Connor reported that his District is in a sanitary state and free from sickness; the main drain leading from the pump at Lawrencetown required to be cleaned; that the rabbits are rooting the graves in the Abbey burial Ground at Clontouskert' (p566).
- 'The Council, pursuant to advertisement, had before them only one tender for cleaning the sewers at Lawrencetown in accordance with the Engineer's specification, namely from Patrick White who undertook to do the work for £8.7.6 which was accepted by the Council' (p669).

(13.)

⁸ Acquired in 2012



- 14⁹. 17 October 1914 - Includes partial index to items discussed. P659
31 July 1915
- 'That we, the Ballinasloe no. 1 Rural District Council respectfully ask Mr Birrell chief Secretary for Ireland to withdraw policy protection from Lord Ashtown as we are well aware that no such protection is necessary. That we firstly believe that the grim spectacle of Lord Ashtown and his police escort driving through the county is seriously affecting recruiting in this County, and is a grave injustice to the Ratepayers and a stain in the character of our County' (31 Oct 1914, p43).
 - 'Tender of John Griffin and John Ward for sinking a well and erecting a pump at Callow in the Kilconnell Electoral Division was accepted' (56).
 - 'That we, condemn in the most empathic manner the action of Mr Cooke, Cornfield, in taking the lands of Belview over the heads of poor deserving tenants of the estate. These poor people agitated, in a peaceful constitution manner, for the distribution of these lands and at a moment when success seemed at a hand this land shark stepped in and dashed all their hopes to satisfy his insatiable greed for land. We are convinced that the Government of the County, be aiding this man in his war against the people, are not consulting the interests of peace and we cannot blame young men for refusing to take up arms for the protection of the Empire while vampires, like Cooke, are on the watch to seize their fireside and cast them on the waves of the World' (p79).
 - 'Circular Letter from the LG Board No. 56828 dated the 5th November 1914, on the subject of co-operation between Civil and Military Sanitary Services in Ireland. The Council desire to state that they will give any assistance which may be necessary' (p89).
 - 'Read a letter from Martin Gibbs, Kilconnell dated the 17th December, 1914 stating that he cannot go into his house with the flood from the adjoining River, and stating that if the Council do not do something with it he will have to give it up' (p135).
 - 'That we, the Ballinasloe No. 1 Rural District Council vehemently protest and condemn Lord Mayo's attack on the Irish National Volunteers in the House of Lords and that we believe that the tyrannous acts of the Irish Landlords in the past have damped the ardour of the Irish People from taking a more active part in the War' (23 Jan 1915, p183).
 - Discussion regarding pumps at Carrownea, Moher, Cappagh and Gorteeneveela (p463).
 - 'Aughrim New Burial Ground. Read letter from Messrs Hayden & Taylor dated the 31st July, 1915 stating that they have gone very carefully in to the above, and advising the Council to take the alternative site. The one selected at the end of the field would not, in their opinion be sanctioned by the LGB there being two cottages already on the

⁹ Acquired in 2012



lands: the putting of a site for a grave-yard also on the same field would be deemed to interfere with the Occupiers' interest...' (p667).

15. 28 August 1915 – Includes partial index to items discussed.
26 August 1916
- 'A resolution from Portumna Rural District Council condemning the action of the Authorities in shooting innocent people without any trial during the recent disturbance in Dublin; condemning them for deporting the manhood of Ireland and that a Committee of the Whole Board be appointed to collect funds for the dependants of those shot during the disturbance, was unanimously adopted' (24 June 1916, p555).
 - Proposed well at Ballagh. Mr Dunne reported that on the 7th instant he met a Committee of the council at Ballagh re proposed well. A partly excavated well exists at the village, and which would appear to be a convenient site for a pump...' (p157, see also G006/16, p23)).
16. 30 September 1916 – Includes partial index to items discussed. Pages 657-8 torn
28 September 1917 from the volume. According to the Index p657 contained a resolution relating to Thomas Ashe.
- 'Letter from the Estates commissioners Dublin, ...replying to the Council's letter of the 31st July last relative to the question of erecting a pump at Ballynabana and informing the Council that they will contribute a sum of "25 towards the cost of same' (p21).
 - Notice of Motion 'That rents of all "Labourers' cottages be reduced by sixpence per week for the duration of the War, and that the LGB be asked to express their approval and sanction to same.
The Clerk stated that he had received a letter from the LGB stating that the Board would not express their sanction to the Notice of Motion but he had mislaid same from his file' (p31)
 - 'That we notice with disgust the revival of the conscription campaign by the yellow press of Great Britain and Ireland and now as home Rule is on the Statute Book we deny the right of any British Government to legislate in reference to this matter for our Country, as we contend that the people of Ireland should stand on exactly the same grounds as the self governing Colonies of the Empire.
And furthermore if at the command of the well known enemies of our race and creed any Government attempts to force the abomination of our County we are determined to resist (resist) it by every means in our power' (14 Oct 1916, p45).



- 'That we call on Mr Lee, the County Surveyor to get the work on the Clonfert New Road completed as soon as possible, as the people can now give the free labour more conveniently than in spring...' (p79).
- 'Dr Fair Medical Officer of Health Lawrencetown reported that the Street at Lawrencetown is in an unsanitary state owing to the presence of heaps of mud, that owing to the stoppage of a drain near the cottages at Killeveney there is an unsanitary pool of water' (p293).
- 'That we the Ballinasloe No. 2 Rural District Council condemn in the strongest manner the action of the eleven representatives on Galway County Council who at the last meeting voted for keeping a disgraceful resolution in reference to the 1916 Rebellion on the minute book of the Galway County Council, and we call on their constituents to take notice of their action' (p589).

(17.)

18. 20 October 1917 – Matters and issues discussed include: 680pp
30 November 1918
- M.J. Kennedy's, B.A., BE, County Surveyor, Quarterly Report stating 'There are twenty-two contracts still remaining in your District for which you will find my rulings in Form 22. If the contractors still persist in shirking their obligations, I shall be compelled to take preliminary proceedings against them at an early date...' (p9).
 - Letter from the Local Government Board referring to the Council's Resolution of 27 October 1917 'requesting approval of the carrying out of repairs to cottages provided in the District under the Labourers' Acts by the tenants owing to the scarcity of labour at the present time, and pointing out that the Council's proposal is open to several objections, but stating that the Council should take into consideration the propriety of framing a scheme whereby the necessary repairs to the cottages could be executed by Direct Labour under the superintendence of their Engineer....(p133).
 - County Surveyor's report stating that '...all roads in your District have been substantially repaired where metal has been broken. Very substantial work has been done in the way of patch rolling, over twelve miles of road being done by this means, and the results obtained are very satisfactory. The District is still backward in the way of having material broken, but I have now two stone crushers working in your District and I hope to have all material broken within the current half-years. The estimate cost of roads in your District for the year ending on the 31st March, 1919 is as follows :- Main Roads £2,100, District Roads £1,900 or a total for all roads of £4,000...' (p181).
 - 'That as we understand a Local Committee has been formed in Ballinasloe for the purpose of buying up food stuffs in order to conserve such for the use of the Irish



- People, and thus avert a repetition of Black '47 we call on all farmers coming into Ballinasloe with feeding stuffs to at least give a preference to such Local Committee, and on all public bodies in the District to use their influence towards this desirable end' (p213).
- 'THAT IN VIEW OF THE GREAT NEED OF PRODUCING ALL THE FOOD POSSIBLE IN IRELAND DURING THE COMING SEASON, WE NOW NOTIFY ALL TENANTS OF LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN THE DISTRICT THAT WE WILL REQUIRE THEM TO TILL THE ENTIRE PLOTS IN THEIR POSSESSION THIS YEAR, OR FAILING TO DO SO, THEY WILL BE DISPOSSESSED BY US IN VIRTURE OF THE POWER GIVEN TO USE BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD' (p237).
 - 'That we the Ballinasloe No. 1. Rural District Council demand a Sworn Inquiry into the working of the Congested Districts Board on the Comyn Estate in the County Galway and their treatment of the unfortunate congests in said estate....' (p247).
 - 'Ordered /- THAT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD BE RESPECTIELY REQUESTED TO ALLOW THE COUNCIL TO REDUCE THE RENTS TO ONE SHILLING PROPORIONATELY IN THE LETTING FOR THE DURATION OF THE WAR (World War I)' (p260).
 - 'That we, the Ballinasloe District Council deny the right of England to conscript the Irish People and strongly affirm that we are not bound to obey a law passed by the brutal force of Carson's influence on the English Government. That we hereby pledge ourselves to abide by the advice of our Leaders and the Irish Hierarchy to resist by all our efforts to enforcement of this iniquitous blood tax on the Irish Nation' (p315).
 - 'That we, the Ballinasloe Board of Guardians protest and condemn in the strongest possible manner the tyrannical and unjust action of the Military Government of Ireland in arresting and depriving of their public and personal liberty, prominent Irishmen whose only crime is love of the small Nation to which they have the honour to belong, and that we are of opinion that the action is part of the British propaganda for the purpose of defaming the fair name of Ireland before the American people, and that copies be sent to the Prime Minister, the Chief Secretary and President Wilson' (25 May 1918, p349).
 - 'ESKERBOY PUMP The Clerk stated that on the 26th May, 1918 he had received a memorial from the inhabitants of Eskerboy protecting against the sinking of a well and erection of a pump in that locality, and that the Local Government Board had forwarded him on the 5th June, 1918 per Letter No. 26,150 a protest signed by Francis Finerty and others against the proposed erection of a pump at Eskerboy, and requesting that the Local Government Board may be furnished with the observations of the Council on the subject...' (p429).
 - AHASCRAUGH BURIAL GROUND Arising out of complaints to the dirty condition of the above Burial-ground, the Clerk was directed to communicate with the Caretaker to have same cleaned up within one week' (p431).



- County Surveyor's (M.J. Kennedy) Report stating 'I beg to report that all roads in your District will be maintained by Direct Labour as from the 1st July last, and the expiring contracts are incorporated in the existing proposal. It will not be necessary to advertise roads and works for tender in future.....The Direct Labour staff are now engaged in quarrying materials for next season, and I can record fair progress notwithstanding the difficulties of obtaining explosives and other facilities. I have arranged for a stone-breaking machine to start work immediately, and later I hope to have a roller employed...' (p451).
- 'Resolved /- That We, the Ballinasloe No.1 Rural District Council protest in the strongest possible manner against the treatment of the Irish people by the English Government, and drawing attention to the fact that whilst proclaiming for the past four years that her war aims are for the liberation and freedom of all small Nations, the fact is that Ireland whom she holds by the sword one of the grandest and oldest small Nations of Europe is suffering every form of oppression and tyranny at the hands of England, large numbers of her sons and daughters are deported on mock charges without trial to a foreign county, the National games are proscribed and the Nation's language banned, all public opinion stifled, in short hardly any parallel can be found in history for the present treatment of Ireland by the British Military Government....(27 July 1918, p485).

19. 22 December 1918 Matters and issues discussed include: (680pp)
 24 January 1920

- 'The Council unanimously adopted a resolution from the Antrim Rural District Council protesting against such matters as Public Health Administration, Hospital Control Etc., being centralised under the County Council's or any other new authority which may be established' (p111).
- 'Read a letter from the Rev. D Coghlan, P.P. Aughrim requesting the Council, now that the War was over, to provide a new cemetery for the people of the parish.....' (p123).
- 'Resolved. That we, the members of Ballinasloe No.1 Rural District Council, having noticed for a long time that the prosperity of the town of Ballinasloe and surrounding districts is seriously handicapped for want of a suitable Sports Ground, strongly call on the Ballinasloe Agricultural and Horse Show Society to take immediate steps to extend, remodel and improve their Show Grounds so as to allow of football matches, hurling matches, sports, and other amusements being held therein. That we also call on al public bodies, irrespective of class, creed, or politics, to give their support in this just demand for the improvement, welfare, and prosperity of the town and district...' (p385).
- 'The Council had before them 180 applications for Cottages under the New Housing Scheme, when after a discussion the Clerk was directed to write to the several



Committee's of the Council and ascertain from them where proposed sites are to be taken, ..., to summon Committees of the Council as done in the No. 10 Scheme, the Committee to have power to add the Local Clergy to their numbers' (p519).

- 'Resolved / - That We, the No. 1. Rural District Council place on record our strong condemnation of the Congested Districts Board in the treatment to the Congested Tenants on the Comyn Estate, and we pledge our support to them in their endeavours to secure their lawful rights' (p587, see also p621).

20. 31 July 1920, 27 December 1924, 4 Apr 1926

Matters and issues discussed include: 685pp

- 'Resolved /- "That the Minutes of all our Meetings be sent to An Dail Eireann and that we ignore the Local Government Board in future' (p1).
- 'Arising out of the reading of a letter from the Local Government Board in relative to the stoppage of grants etc, unless the Council gave an Assurance to work as heretofore, it was on the motion of the Chairman (Mr Flanagan) Seconded by Mr L.Garvey "That the Correspondence from the Local Government Board be burned". The letter was then destroyed' (p1).
- 'Letter from An Dail Eireann dated August, 1920 on the subject of finding labour for all Members of the R.I.C. who have discarded the Uniform of the Army of Occupation was unanimously adopted, and the Clerk was directed to ascertain any man who has left the Force and bring the matter up for consideration with a view of finding him suitable employment, and that a copy of the letter be sent to the Press' (p43).
- 'Pass unanimously:- "...call on all Traders, Shopkeepers, etc., in Ballinasloe District to cease trading with the Firms in Ulster whose name do not appear on the White List as issued by Dail Eireann"' (p43).
- 'That We, the Ballinasloe Rural District Council call on all who hold England's Commission of the Peace to immediately resign same, and take their place with the majority of their fellow Country men as loyal and faithful subjects of the Irish Republic' (p43).
- '...the Meeting adjourned without transacting any business as a mark of respect of the Lord Mayor of Cork (Terence McSweeney, Republican, died on hunger strike), and the other Patriots who laid down their lives for Ireland' (p111).
- 'The Clerk read correspondence from Mr Browne Agent to the Pollok Estate with reference to the payment of half the cost of damage done to the Clontouskert Abbey Burial Ground by Mr Pollok's Stock, Mr Browne not having given a definite reply to the Council's request for half payment the matter was adjourned to next meeting' (p225).



- 'The Council unanimously adopted the following resolutions Wexford Rural District Council on the abolition of District Councils, and Macroom Union and Rural District calling on the Government to "release all Political Prisoners immediately and unconditionally"' (p249).
- 'Dr Egan, Kilconnell, Medical Officer of Health came before the Council with regard to the Calla Pump, and stated the people in the locality were in a very bad way for water. The Council having the tender before them, rescinded their resolution of 28th July 1923 and opened the Tenders of the Artesian Well Boring Companies, on examination of the Tenders it was found that the lowest was from the Artesian Well Boring Company, Belville, Kilmeedy, but as this Contractor, as well as the other tendered for all pumps advertised, the Clerk was directed to communicate with the Firm and ascertain from them if they area prepared to carry out the work of the Calla Well at the prices set out in their tender, and proceed the work at once....' (p259).
- 'The Clerk read a Memorial from the inhabitants of Ardranny, Carrowkeel and Gurteenaveela complaining to the Council that the road leading from Larkin's Forge to Butler's Cross is for the greater part of the Winter completely impassable, and that the road is (sic) many places flooded to such an extent as to be rendered quite impossible for a person to walk it, and requesting the Council to give the matter their attention...' (p281).
- 'Letter from the Ministry of Local Government No. F 15021 /1923 dated the 6th November, 1923 enclosing for the information of the Council a copy of an Order which was made under Sub-Section 2 of Section 1 of the Local Elections (Postponement) Act, 1922 further postponing the statutory elections of Rural, Districts, County Councillors and Guardians in Urban Districts, and adding that the Minister intends to introduce legislation to extend the limits of postponement of the 1922 Act so as to admit of those elections being held on a suitable date in 1924' (p329, see also p485 and 20 December 1924).
- 'The Clerk reads a resolution from the Ida Rural District Council emphatically protesting against the action of the Government in proposing to abolish the Rural District Councils in the Free State, and asking the Council to appoint Delegates to represent them on a deputation which is to wait on the Ministry of local Government for the purpose of pointing out that Rural District Councils are absolutely indispensable and bearing in mind the efficiency with which the functions of those bodies have been carried out in the past.....THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE RESOLUTION (p351-353).
- 'The Clerk reported to the Council that the Registration Registers for Births, Deaths & Marriages were handed over to the Secretary of the Loughrea County Home, and requesting the Council to fix a temporary gratuity for him pending final arrangements.

The Clerk informed the Council that he was 9 years Superintendent Registrar, and



that fees received from his office averaged £30 per year.

The Council allowed the Clerk £104 temporary compensation pending the final granting of same by the Central Authority' (p415).

- '...unanimously condemn the Cobh outrage. We firmly believe this horror cannot be committed by the Agents of any Political Party, being so hideously (sic) un-Irish, but by some irresponsible Blackguards anxious to tarnish the name of our Country and cause further trouble....' (p487).
- '...congratulate President De Valera on his release from prison and pledge our fidelity to him to steer the ship of Irish Freedom safe to Port... ' (p595).
- 'The Council unanimously adopted the Resolution of the Galway Hospital and Dispensaries Committee viewing with horror the desecration of the dead which the removal of patriot Irishmen from their grave at Tuam entailed' (p609, see also p633).
- 'Resolved /- "That this Council views with extreme concern the hopeless and bankrupt condition into which the interests of the small farming community of the Twenty Six Counties is drifting daily.

General trade depression, low prices for stock and farming produce, ruinous bank interest for those who, unfortunately are faced (sic) to seek aid in that direction, and high rates are all fast crippling the small farmer community and must in the near future end in the total wiping out of these, the mainstay of the Country.

The high hopes built in the Land Bill which was introduced with such rosy promises are crumbling day by day and the poor farmers are fast recognising that these promises were only paper promises and the Land Bill only a paper Bill, meant only to catch votes.

The Government of the Country has proved itself a Capitalist Government pure and simple and while millionaire concerns like Guinness's (sic) and others are enabled to pay a forty per cent dividend year after year the poor of the Country the particular pets of our legislators at Election times are left to drift to ruin.

We consider the Government should in decency either make some attempt to redeem their undertaking to improve the lot of the farmer or candidly confess themselves unable to do so and make room for others....' (p661-663).

- 'Letter from the Secretary Central Hospital Galway stating that the Board of Health took no action on the Council's resolution suggesting to have a District Hospital provided at Ballinasloe' (p671, see also 20 December 1924).

(21– 29.)



B. Register of Road Maintenance Contracts and Contractor's Ledger Account, 1899 – 1911

30. October 1899 – March 1911
- Volume recording contractor's details and details of project, such as the number of perches of road at a specified location to be maintained and repaired by a specified contractor. Details also include contractor's name and address, period of contract – generally for a number of years - terms of contract, totally yearly contract (in pounds, shilling and pence), together with details of payments made to the contract for work carried out.

61pp

C. Register of Documents

31. n/d
- Blank pre-formatted bound volume to be used to record details of documents created, with subject matter and location, recording details under title Subject, Date, Reference, Cabinet where Filed (no. of Cabinet; No. of Drawer; No.) and Observations. (Retained as a sample)

D. Abstracts of Account, 1923-1925

Printed and handwritten Abstracts of Accounts, also known as Financial Statements, which show the Receipts and Expenditure, with a statement of balance and other particular for the close at the half year. The accounts generally certified by the Local Government Auditor.

Approx 5pp

32. Mar 1923 – 24 Jan 1925
33. Sept 1923 – 29 Jan 1925
34. Mar 1924 – 26 Jan 1925
35. Jan 1925 – 29 Jan 1925 For the ¼ year