

# **Galway County Libraries Committee**

## **Minutes**

**10 May 1926 – 26 Sept 1931,**

**Mar 1932**

**G01/5/1**

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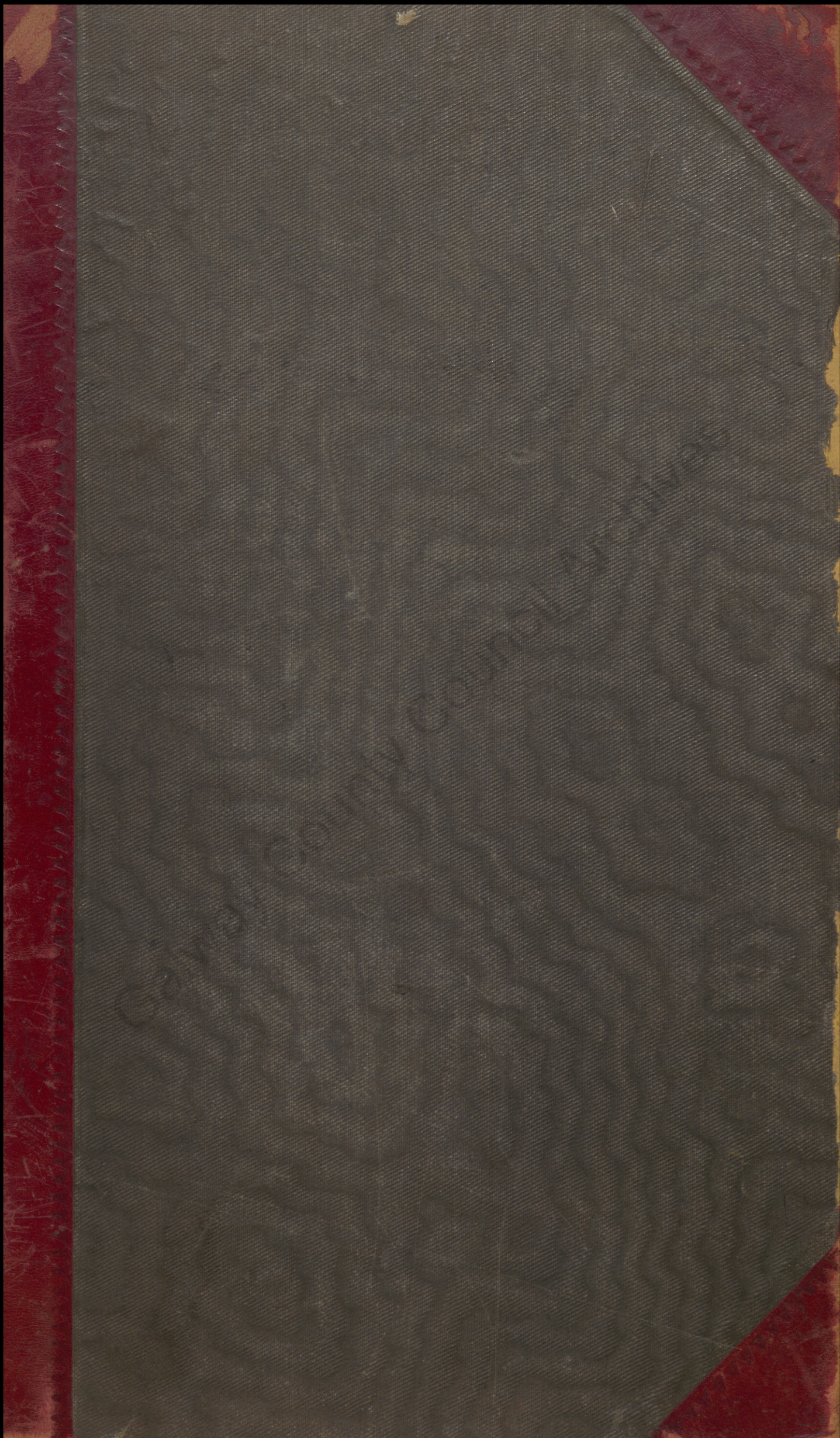
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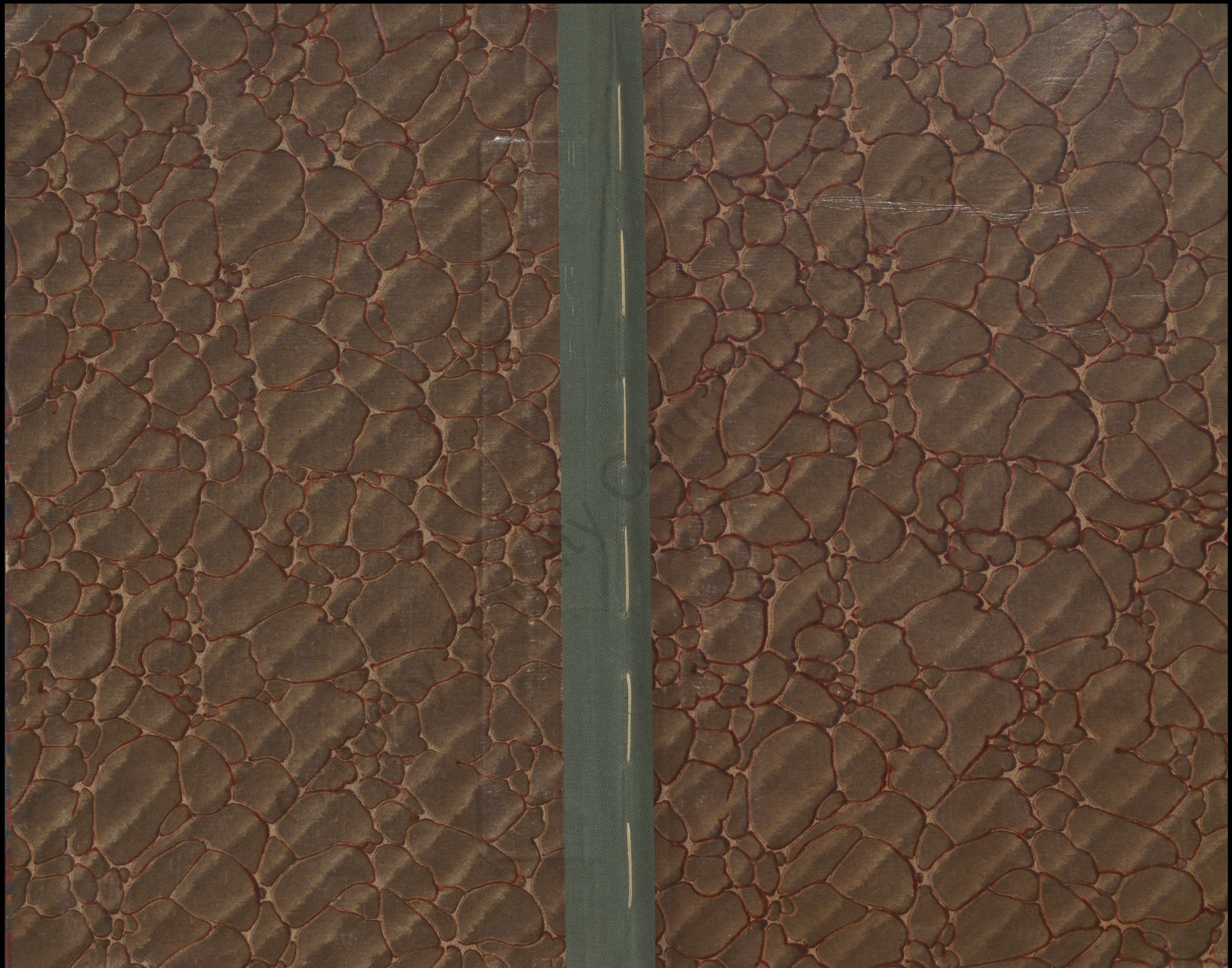
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Galway County Council Archives

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<u>Subject</u>	<u>Minute Number</u>
Accounts	36, 37, 67, 119, 160, 198, 200, 225, 246, 251, 271, 272, 280, 287, 294, 307,
Association of Special Libraries of Information Bureaus	82, 101, 178
Advice Note - signing of	9
Advertising	155, 218, 227
Antiquaries, Royal Society of	$\frac{115}{403}$ , $\frac{125}{432}$ , $\frac{128}{442}$

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Minute No.</u>
Ballinasloe	50, 128, 176, 177, 187
Book Purchase	12, 72, 102, 107, 193, 209, 235, 257, 282, 299, 303
Bibliographical Society of Ireland	$\frac{63}{220}$ , $\frac{63}{221}$ , $\frac{66}{229}$ , $\frac{66}{230}$ , $\frac{74}{267}$ , $\frac{101}{358}$ ,
Bye-Laws	$\frac{93}{320}$ , $\frac{95}{330}$ , $\frac{98}{342}$
Ballinasloe Branch	$\frac{264}{732(6)}$ , $\frac{267}{737}$ , $\frac{276}{754}$ , $\frac{281}{764}$ , $\frac{287}{775}$ , $\frac{294}{785}$
" " Appointments Exam.	$\frac{295}{785}$
Bealadeas	$\frac{197}{629}$
Bunding	$\frac{93}{324}$ , $\frac{96}{332}$ , $\frac{106}{371}$ , $\frac{108}{378}$ , $\frac{110}{387}$
Book Purchase	$\frac{9}{12}$

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W  
Y  
Z

Galway County Council Archives

Subject.

Minute No.

Car.

79, 90, 114, 120, 121, 125, 147, 155,  
171, 219, 226, 262, 276, 283, 295,

Co. Council

25, 32, 53, 68, 75, 77, 85, 86, 139, 161,  
252, 274

Conferences

21, 26, 36, 41, 43, 43, 44, 48, 61, 67  
45, 69, 111, 124, 136, 141, 152, 163, 207, 8, 237

Chairman of Committee

1, 289, 290

Committee, Constitution of

3,

Carnegie United Kingdom Trust

21, 22, 23, 24, 35, 45, 51, 53, 69, 87,  
129, 141, 142, 143, 196, 205, 253,

Catalogue

57, 263, 22, 251, 258, 202, 276, 295  
57, 713, 727, 731(1), 753, 786

Conferences

45, 69, 207, 124, 152, 238, 281

Cabinets, filing

217, 228, 264

Conferences

Carnegie Trust

12, 21, 22, 23, 24, 35, 51, 53, 85, 87,  
41, 43, 72, 93, 99  
129, 141, 253, 323, 345

Membership

124, 125, 128, 204  
425, 435, 440, 441

Membership

204, 641

Block

184, 596

Constitution of Committee

7/3 See also Powers, Delegation of

Courses, Professional

19, 31, 80, 81, 85  
17, 96, 284, 288, 297

County Council - Future Vacancies

13/25

Discounts

98, 106, 114, 247  
339, 372, 396, 710

Duplicator

187, 193, 110, 108  
610, 618, 384, 380

Donations, see also French Councils, etc.

153, 169, 189, 239, 273, 298

Donations.

9, 44, 49, 67, 77, 86  
16, 153, 169, 239, 273, 298

99, 102, 106, 108, 110, 114  
346, 361, 370, 377, 385, 394

118, 125, 124, 164, 144, 153  
411, 430, 456, 525, 494, 523(a)

174, 181, 185, 187, 204, 227  
577, 590, 604, 613, 643, 676

236, 242, 253, 258, 266, 275  
689, 702, 716, 726, 736, 751

289, 282, 297  
779, 768, 789

C  
D  
E  
F  
G  
H  
I  
K  
L  
M  
N  
O  
P  
Q  
R  
S  
T  
V  
W  
Y  
Z

Education, Ministry of 48,

Estimates 165

Examinations, Library Associators - Increase of Salary for Assistants	}	$\frac{74}{265}$ , $\frac{98}{341}$ , $\frac{147}{508}$

Examinations, Library Associators, at Dublin - Expenses for	$\frac{110}{386}$ , $\frac{138}{471}$
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Examinations, Open Competition for blackships	$\frac{173}{573}$
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ditto - Result and Examiner's Report	$\frac{226}{675}$
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Finance Committee

8, 33, 63, 91, 134, 158, 184, 192, 203,  
224, 250, 293

Filing Cabinets

$\frac{63}{217}$ ,  $\frac{66}{228}$ ,  $\frac{74}{264}$

French Consuls

189, 194, 74

Galvan, Julia, Appointment of

$\frac{230}{680}$ ,  $\frac{246}{707(c)}$

Galway County Council Archives

E  
F  
G  
H  
I  
K  
L  
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W  
Y  
Z



Galway: - Library Centre  
" Urban Council

$\frac{9}{14} \cdot \frac{9}{13} \cdot \frac{14}{29}$   
13, 16, 29, 70, 140

Gripini, Mrs.  
" " - Increase

$\frac{22}{58} \cdot \frac{90}{312} \cdot \frac{95}{331}$   
 $\frac{98}{197}$   
340  
628.

Galway Archaeological Society

Headquarters of Scheme

$\frac{13}{25}$   
 $\frac{8}{6} \cdot \frac{17}{38} \cdot \frac{22}{54, 55, 56}$

Home Reading Union

47.

Galway County Council Archives

G  
H  
I  
K  
L  
M  
M<sup>c</sup>  
N  
O  
P  
Q  
R  
S  
T  
V  
W  
Y  
Z

Irish National Teachers' Organisation 52

Imprest System 11

Increase of Salary for Library Assoc. Exam.  $\frac{74}{265}, \frac{98}{341}$

" " " — O'Neill, B.  $\frac{30}{94}, \frac{8}{5}, \frac{44}{148}, \frac{47}{161}, \frac{48}{162}$

" " " — Ronaldson, Kathleen  $\frac{96}{333}, \frac{124}{424}, \frac{127}{439}, \frac{135}{456}, \frac{143}{484}, \frac{150}{517}$

$\frac{227}{677}, \frac{235}{688}, \frac{244}{706}, \frac{246}{707(a)}$

" " " — Tolan, Julia  $\frac{264}{732(7)}$

" " " — Secretary  $\frac{259}{729}$

Insurance, Fire  $\frac{129}{445}, \frac{135}{459}, \frac{197}{626}, \frac{224}{671}$

Insurance of Stock, see Fire Insur.

Galway County Council Archives

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Mc  
N  
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S  
T  
V  
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Z

Leave, Annual  
Meetings

$\frac{62}{214}$ ,  $\frac{99}{348}$   
118, 129,

Local Government Meetings

62,  $\frac{111}{110}$ ,  $\frac{136}{145}$ ,  $\frac{179}{162}$ ,  $\frac{229}{215}$ , 254,  
275, 288, 295, 296, 297

Library Association

$\frac{57}{195}$   
17, 39, 49, 96, 255, 281, 284, 296

" Exam. at Dublin

$\frac{110}{386}$

Lectures

$\frac{27}{73}$ ,  $\frac{30}{89}$ ,  $\frac{35}{108}$   
 $\frac{35}{109}$ ,  $\frac{45}{154}$ ,  $\frac{49}{170}$ ,  $\frac{56}{190}$ ,  $\frac{56}{191}$ ,  $\frac{62}{213}$ ,  $\frac{91}{319}$ ,  $\frac{144}{492}$

"

$\frac{149}{574(a)}$ ,  $\frac{185}{605}$ ,  $\frac{196}{621}$ ,  $\frac{205}{647}$ ,  $\frac{219}{662}$ ,  $\frac{223}{668(d)}$

"

$\frac{234}{684(a),(b)}$ ,  $\frac{235}{685/6}$ ,  $\frac{238}{696}$ ,  $\frac{246}{708}$ ,  $\frac{255}{722}$

"

$\frac{263}{732(s)}$ ,  $\frac{276}{755}$ ,  $\frac{283}{771}$

Library Association of Ireland

$\frac{96}{334}$ ,  $\frac{180}{583}$ ,  $\frac{184}{601}$

Library Summer Schools

$\frac{114}{395, 7}$ ,  $\frac{118}{413}$

Library Review

$\frac{73}{257}$

Meetings, Dates of Hour of

$\frac{9}{15}$ ,  $\frac{49}{168}$ ,  $\frac{125}{434}$ ,  $\frac{139}{479}$ ,  $\frac{225}{673}$

$\frac{235}{687}$ ,  $\frac{259}{728}$ ,  $\frac{281}{763}$

Murray, Patrick

37

McEnri Collection

$\frac{224}{670}$

Motor Car

$\frac{27}{79, 84}$ ,  $\frac{30}{90}$ ,  $\frac{36}{114}$ ,  $\frac{38}{120}$ ,  $\frac{39}{121}$ ,  $\frac{41}{125}$ ,  $\frac{44}{142}$

$\frac{44}{147}$ ,  $\frac{45}{155}$ ,  $\frac{49}{171}$ ,  $\frac{63}{219}$ ,  $\frac{65}{226}$ ,  $\frac{74}{262}$ ,  $\frac{77}{276}$

$\frac{80}{283}$ ,  $\frac{85}{295}$ ,  $\frac{115}{405}$ ,  $\frac{125}{433}$ ,  $\frac{129}{443}$

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M  
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N  
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P  
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R  
S  
T  
V  
W  
Y  
Z

National Club, Galway  $\frac{12}{20}$

~~O'Neill, Miss B. 5, 60, 78, 94, 148, 161~~

Net Books Agreement  $\frac{177/8}{8}$ ,  $\frac{180}{586}$ ,  $\frac{254}{718}$

Galway County Council Archives

M<sup>c</sup>  
N  
O  
P  
Q  
R  
S  
T  
V  
W  
Y  
Z

O'Keefe, Miss B.

8  
5, 60, 78, 30 94, 44 148, 47 161, 66 236, 237, 723 252.

.. .. Redemption of

236 - 254.

Overdraft

257, 275

Overcome, Payment of to Ronaldson, K.

175 180 237 246 263  
580, 584, 691, 707(6), 732(3)

Petty Cash

9  
11

Powers, Delegation of

215  
707

Galway County Council Archives

O  
P  
Q  
R  
S  
T  
V  
W  
Y  
Z

Quorum

9-  
10

de Annual leave

131  
449

Ronaldson, Miss K.

8  $\frac{13}{26}$

" Increase of Salary

4, 59, 61, 765, 784, 797  
 $\frac{96}{333}, \frac{124}{424}, \frac{127}{439}, \frac{135}{456}, \frac{143}{484}, \frac{146}{501}$

" Library/Summer School

$\frac{114}{395}, \frac{118}{413}$

Reports, Library

5  $\frac{22}{2}, \frac{36}{57}, \frac{44}{115}, \frac{44}{144}, \frac{86}{163}, \frac{91}{302}, \frac{114}{316}, \frac{114}{393}$   
 $\frac{166}{555}, \frac{173}{571}, \frac{183}{593}, \frac{204}{642}, \frac{268}{742}, \frac{276}{752}, \frac{289}{777}$

Hedington Collection

$\frac{187}{612}, \frac{192}{617}$

Records Room

240, 300

Rules and Regulations

$\frac{234}{684}$

Galway County Council Archive

Q  
R  
S  
T  
V  
W  
Y  
Z

Shee, Henry 17, 78, 96, 214, 265

" " Annuaire  $\frac{131}{449}, \frac{115}{405},$

" " Resignation of  
Solicitor, County.  $\frac{172}{569}$

Sub-committee, Appointment of  $\frac{135}{461},$

Stacks, Books, Sale of  $\frac{17}{41}$

Staff. See also names of  
Individual members of  $\frac{8}{4, 26, 28, 78, 204, 242, 265, 301}$

" Sanction of Ministers &  $\frac{23}{62}$

Staff Hours  $\frac{125}{428},$

Stationery, Office, Dublin 105, 126, 137

Subscriptions  $\frac{62}{216}$

Students 216

School Bets for Gaelic  $\frac{204}{646}, \frac{219}{659}$

Signs, Debris, for Trees  $\frac{115}{407}, \frac{118}{416}, \frac{125}{431},$

Statutes  $\frac{174}{578}, \frac{185}{606},$

Stocktaking  $\frac{73}{261},$

Students and Franciscans  $\frac{197}{627},$

Table, Sale of  $\frac{17}{40}, \frac{23}{64}$

Tenders 40, 41, 120, 146, 263, 268, 302

Treasurer, Appointment of  $\frac{8}{7}$

" Authority Sheet  $\frac{8}{9}$

Transport 116, 185, 210, 243.

Tram, Archdeacon of  $\frac{66}{233}, \frac{73}{259},$

Typewriter  $\frac{53}{181}, \frac{56}{188}, \frac{62}{211}$

S  
T  
V  
W  
Y  
Z

University College, Galway.

31 35 44 48 55 62  
95, 110, 145, 164, 186, 212, 215

Work Sheets, Staff

61 67 86 95  
203, 212, 301, 328.

Vice-Chairman

290.

Galway County Council Archives

V  
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Galway County Council Archives

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Z



AGENDA.

- (1) Outline of the work of the recent County Library Committee nominated by the Carnegie Trust.
- (2) Consideration of the present Committee as set out by the County Council.  
The following matters arising out of item 2:-
  - (3) The taking over of the present staff.
  - (4) The appointment of an additional assistant as allowed for under the previous Committee.
  - (5) Location of the County Library Headquarters.
  - (6) Financial arrangements as carried on by previous Committee, viz.,
    - (A) The National Bank as Treasurer to the Committee:
    - (B) Members authorised to sign Paying Orders:
    - (C) Petty Cash arrangements:
  - (7) Book Selection.
  - (8) Galway Urban Council Library arrangements.
  - (9) Dates and hours of future meetings.
  - (10) General.

MINUTES

of the

FIRST GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNTY GALWAY COUNTY  
COUNCIL LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

HELD ON 22nd MAY, 1926.

The First General Meeting of the County Galway County Council Libraries Committee was held in the County Book Repository, Galway, on Saturday, 22nd May, 1926.

The following members were present:- Bartley Lydon, Co.C., J.W. Ronaldson, Co.C., Eamonn Corbett, Co.C., T.J. Crowe, Co.C., P.J. McGlew, N.T., James Redington, U.D.C., John Coogan, U.D.C., Martin Finnerly, Co.C., Martin Curley, N.T., Miss May Fogarty, B.A., R.I.A.M., Rev. J.F.M. Nash, M.A., M. McNeill, Co.C., T. Kyne, Co.C., Martin Mylottee, Co.C., J.M. Pringle, U.D.C., and Martin M. Egan, Co.C.

No.1. It was agreed that Mr. Egan, Chairman of the County Council, be Chairman of the Libraries Committee.

No.2. It was agreed that the following report of the Organising Librarian be approved:-

It would not be amiss to outline the work of the previous committee with the object of clearly understanding the work of the library as an educational institution. This is best expressed in the formula 'self-development in an atmosphere of freedom', as contrasted with the aim of the school which is 'training in an atmosphere of restraint or discipline'. In the school the teacher is dominant, because it is possible to pass on a form, to teach an art. In the library, however, the pupil strikes out his own line, and becomes his own teacher. The library supplies the material upon which the powers awakened and trained in the school can be exercised. The library and the school depend upon two different ideas, deal with different material in different ways, and there is no administrative relation between the two. Furthermore, the contacts of the library with organised education necessarily cease at the point where the educational machinery itself terminates, but the library continues as an educational force of national importance in its contacts with the whole social, political and intellectual life of the community.

The young man or young woman who has had something of the higher education is in a position to make progress in knowledge. He or she could only do this if the mind has been trained; but if so then something new is opened to him - the teaching not of this or that teacher however excellent, but of

the great spirits who have recorded what they had to say in books - books which are sealed unless the mind has been sufficiently trained to entertain them. That is the principal connection between the library and education.

The Carnegie Trust has been concentrating on how best the public library service could be brought to the village and the most out-of-the-way district in our rural areas, and the County Council as the Library Authority instead of the Rural District Councils appeared to be the best and in fact the only solution. Pending the necessary legislation to empower County Councils to take over this duty the Trust decided to begin County Library Schemes at their own expense and so prove that no excuse could remain for denying the inhabitants of our countryside those educational facilities which is their due. Through the efforts of several prominent residents of County Galway (several of whom were County Councillors) the Trust decided to equip and maintain a scheme for two years under the direct administration of a committee representative of all interests in the County. Such a committee made up of representatives of from the Urban and Rural District Councils, the County Council, County Committees of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, the Churches, Elementary and Secondary teachers, Inspectors of Schools, and the T.D's for the county, met early in August, 1924. A general scheme of advertising, interviewing, newspaper articles followed, and in a short time applications for centres flowed in. It was anticipated that there would not be more than 70 or 80 centres operating throughout the county by the end of the Trust's period of maintenance, but this anticipation has been found to fall far short. At the present time 100 centres are at work and more could be dealt with were there enough books available.

The Trust's grant has been paid in half-yearly instalments to the Organising Librarian for lodgment with the committee's Treasurer (The National Bank, Galway). At the moment the final instalment of £71 is due.

Every effort has been made by the committee to ensure that no books of an objectionable nature should be allowed to circulate and where a complaint (however trivial) relative to any book such work has been withdrawn at once. No little difficulty has been experienced in book selection, particularly in dealing with works of fiction as the general tendency has been in recent years of authors has lain more in the realm of sex, psycho-analysis, and other objectionable studies totally extraneous to any story.

The method of distribution may be perhaps new to many of you and it may be permitted to outline this most important part of the work of the library. From the headquarters books in special boxes (each box carries on an average 50 books) are sent out by rail, carrier, motor van, motor car, etc., to the village schools, clubs, parish halls, etc., to be handed to the readers by volunteer librarians (in most cases these are the school teachers). Each of these branches or centres using the library is controlled by a local committee with an honorary secretary and an honorary librarian. The local committee are responsible for all details of local administration, and on formation frame rules to govern their activities. The circulating stock in all cases consists of books for children and books for the general reader - that is, fiction and works of information. The County Committee has a standing rule that 25% of all books issued to centres must consist of non-fiction works. In addition to the facilities found in the County Library there are the books available from the Central Library for Students at Dublin. Any reader in the county can be supplied from this reservoir with any work of a standard nature, not stocked at the County Library, costing not less than six shillings and not more than three guineas, at a total cost to the reader of the postage charges to and from his home.

Accounts have been checked at the monthly meetings, and the method of payment and book-keeping is that in use at the offices of all local authorities.

No. 3. It was agreed that the following constitution of the committee be approved:-

To this committee is delegated all the powers and duties vested in the County Council of Galway as the Library Authority under the Public Libraries (Ireland) Acts, 1855-1902, and the Local Government Act, 1925, with the following reservations: 1. The sanctions of raising loans for any purposes. 2. The making and collection of the annual library rate. 3. The confirmation of agreements with adjoining library authorities for the joint use of libraries. 4. The confirmation of the appointment of members of the staff and any future appointments. 5. The proceedings of this committee to be reported monthly to the Council, but only for confirmation and sanction as regards Clauses 1 to 4 of this constitution. 6. The County Organising Librarian to act as Secretary to this committee.

The duties of the committee cover:- general oversight of the staff and the work of the various phases of the library; careful supervision of the selection of the books; compilation and revision of public rules and regulations; regular checking of

accounts, etc.; regular meetings on fixed dates.

No. 4. It was agreed that the staff at present working the libraries be appointed, subject to the approval of the County Council, and at their present salaries. The staff consists of

Position	Name
Organising County Librarian and Secretary to the Committee.	S.J. Maguire
1st. Assistant	Henry Shee
2nd. " and clerk-typist.	Miss B. O'Neill

No. 4. It was agreed that Miss Kathlyn Ronaldson be appointed, subject to the approval of the County Council, as Junior Assistant at a salary of 30/- (thirty shillings) weekly. Provision had been made for such assistant under the previous committee but as their term of office was coming to a close it was agreed that the question of her appointment was one for the present committee.

No. 5. The following Notice of Motion was given:-  
"I, J.M. Pringle, hereby give notice that at the next meeting of this committee, I shall propose the following resolution:-  
That the salary of Miss B.O'Neill be raised to 30/- (thirty shillings)".

No. 6. It was agreed that the question of the location of the County Library Headquarters be adjourned for further consideration when the Secretary shall submit the decision of the Ministry of Education as to the housing the Library Headquarters at the Galway Model School.

No. 7. It was agreed that The National Bank, Galway, continue as Treasurer to this committee.

No. 8. It was agreed that the whole committee be the Finance Committee; and

No. 9. Any three members of this committee are authorised to sign Advice Notes; and

No.10 That Three members constitute a quorum.

No.11. It was agreed that the Imprest System of Petty Cash Book-keeping be introduced in place of the system operating heretofore.

No.12. It was agreed that all books for purchase must come before the committee and that the authority of the committee be received for the purchase of any book or books; that lists be prepared periodically and forwarded one week in advance of meetings to all the members; that a copy of all lists of books suggested for purchase be sent to the Archbishop of Tuam; that all books in Irish be purchased through the Gaelic League; that the Catholic Truth Society receive a share of the orders for books and that the system of purchasing books locally, except as already stated, be retained.

No.13. The Galway Urban Council having struck a rate of a penny in the pound for Public Libraries Purposes and having delegated its powers as the Library Authority for the Urban District of Galway to the County Council, it was agreed that Messrs. J.S.Redington, J.M.Pringle, E.J.O'Flaherty, T.C.McDonagh, and J.Coogan, Co.C., being members of the Local Library Committee elected by the Urban Council for the town of Galway, be members also of this committee, subject to the approval of the County Council; and

No.14. That details of the administration of the Galway Urban Library Centre, in accordance with the general rule on the administering of local centres, be in the hands of the Galway Local Library Committee; and that this local committee report progress to this - the County - Committee.

No.15. It was agreed that this committee shall meet on the first Saturday of each month (except when such Saturday be a day on which there is a meeting of the County Council, when the meeting of this committee shall be held on the Saturday following, i.e., the second Saturday), at the hour of one o'clock p.m.

No.16. It was agreed that the best thanks of the committee be conveyed to the donors of pamphlets and books.

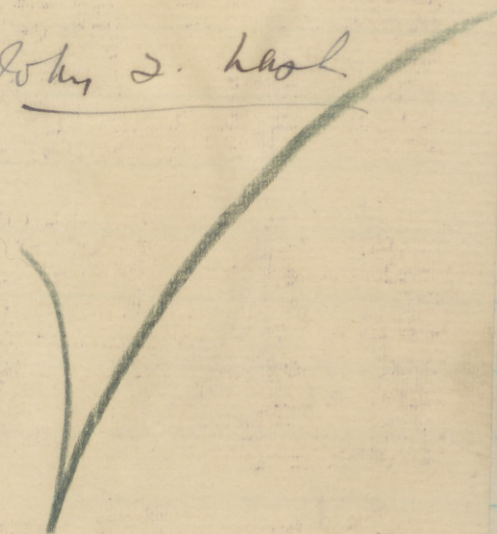
No.17. It was agreed that Mr.Henry Shee be granted permission to attend the Library Association Summer School at the National University of Wales, University College, Aberystwyth, to take lectures in the subject of County Library Organisation; and that the sum of £10 (ten pounds) be allowed him for fees and travelling expenses.

No.18. It was agreed to grant libraries to the following:-  
Carna National School; Garbally; Attymon.

This concluded the business.

July 10. 1926.

John J. Walsh



## LEABHARLAINN CHEARNAIGE CHONNDAE GAILLIMHE

(County Galway Carnegie Libraries).

S. J. MAGUIRE, Organising Librarian.

J. BRENNAN, Assistant.

COUNTY BOOK REPOSITORY,  
BISHOP'S COURT,  
GALWAY.

2nd July, 1926.

Sir,

The usual Monthly Meeting of the County Library Committee will be held on Saturday, 10th July, 1926, in the County Book Repository, Galway, at the hour of one o'clock P.M., when the business as set out on the appended agenda will be dealt with.

NOTE.

The MONTHLY MEETING of the Finance Committee will be held immediately after the County Committee Meeting.

I am, sir,  
your obedient servant,  
S.J. Maguire,  
Secretary.

To each member of the County Library Committee.  
To the Minister of Local Government.  
To the Secretary to the County Council.  
To the Town Clerk, Galway.  
To the Town Clerk, Ballinasloe.  
To the Editors of all papers published in the County of Galway.

AGENDA.

1. Minutes of last meeting.
2. Negotiations with the proprietors of the County Book Repository relative to rent, etc.
3. Correspondence from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust apropos:
  4. Increased grant to the County Galway Libraries.
  5. Reports on County Libraries.
  6. List of books on agriculture.
  7. General.
8. County Council and Library Committee.
9. Holidays of staff.
10. Galway Urban Library.
11. School Centres and District or Parish Centres.
12. New Centres.
13. General.

THE MONTHLY MEETING of the County Galway Libraries Committee was held in the County Book Repository, Galway, on Saturday, 10th July, 1926.

Present :—

Rev. J. F. M. Nash, M.A., P. J. McGlew, J. M. Pringle, J. S. Redington, Bartley Lydon, Tadg O Cadhain, Eamonn Ua Corbain, and M. McNeill.

In Attendance :—

S. J. Maguire, Secretary and County Organising Librarian.

Chairman of Meeting :—

RESOLVED :—That Rev. J. F. M. Nash be Chairman of the meeting.

No. 19. Minutes :—

The Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read and signed.

No. 20. National Club :—

The Secretary reported on negotiations held between him and the proprietors of the Book Repository, (the National Club, Galway), relative to rent, etc. As the matter of premises was now settled—the County Council having placed the County Hospital at the disposal of the Committee as a County Book Repository—it was RESOLVED—that the Secretary's action be approved.

No. 21. Carnegie Trust :—

RESOLVED—That the letter from the Secretary of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust refusing a supplementary grant be not taken as final, and that the Secretary be instructed to again write the Secretary of the Trust on the matter.

No. 22. Carnegie Trust—Reports on County Libraries :—

RESOLVED—That the Secretary convey to the Trust the Committee's best thanks for the copies of the Reports. A copy of the Report to be supplied to each County Councillor and Local Centre.

No. 23. Carnegie Trust—List of Books on Agriculture :—

RESOLVED—That the Committee's best thanks be conveyed to the Trust for the detailed list of books on Agriculture, most of which are at present in stock at the County Book Repository, or at the Central Library for

Students at Dublin. RESOLVED further—That the Press be asked to give publicity to the fact that a special Agricultural Section is available for farmers and others at the County Book Repository.

**No. 24. Carnegie Trust—Current Grant :—**

NOTED—A letter from the Trust's Secretary stating that the current and final grant (long over-due) would be available on or about the 17th inst.

**No. 25. County Council :—**

A letter was read from the Secretary to the County Council, stating :—

(a) That he had applied to the Ministry of Local Government for sanction for the staff of the Libraries.

(b) Suggesting that rent, etc., could be saved to the Committee by transferring the Library Headquarters to the County Hospital, Prospect Hill, Galway.

(c) Appointing Rev. J. O'Dea, St. Mary's College, Galway, a member of the Libraries Committee, in place of Very Rev. Dean Considine, resigned.

(d) Directing that on the occurrence of any vacancy upon the Staff no steps are to be taken to fill such vacancy pending a report from the Finance Committee of the County Council under Minute No. 1535 of the Council.

The Secretary having reported in favour of the County Hospital, it was

RESOLVED—That the Finance Committee of the Council be requested to put the rooms found suitable in order.

RESOLVED—That the Secretary make the necessary arrangements for the removal of all equipment, books etc., to the County Hospital by 1st August next, as the lease of the present premises expires on that date.

**No. 26. Notice of Motion :—**

"That I will move at the next meeting of the Committee to have the recent appointment of assistant rescinded."

EAMONN CORBETT.

**No. 27. Notice of Motion :—**

"The notice of motion given by me for consideration to-day, is now withdrawn pending consideration of Mr. Corbett's motion."

J. M. PRINGLE.

**No. 28. Holidays of Staff :—**

RESOLVED—That all arrangements for the holidays of the staff be left in the hands of the Secretary.

**No. 29. Urban Library :—**

RESOLVED—That the arrangements made in connection with the Urban Library be approved.

**No. 30. School Centres :—**

RESOLVED—That the Secretary write the Ministry of Education pointing out that the County Scheme is not big enough to furnish all the schools in the County of Galway with school libraries.

**No. 31. New Centres :—**

RESOLVED—That a centre be established at Knocktone School provided that the books will also be available for the use of all residents in the district.

RESOLVED—That a centre be established at Kilkerrin (Carna).

**No. 32. Grant from County Council :—**

RESOLVED—That application be made at once to the Finance Committee of the County Council for a grant from the rates.

**No. 33. Meeting of Finance Committee :—**

RESOLVED—That a meeting of the Finance Committee be held on 24th July, 1926.

*In witness*



LEABHARLAINN CHEARNAIGE CHONNDAE GAILLIMHE  
(County Galway Carnegie Libraries).

S. J. MAGUIRE, Organising Librarian.  
J. BRENNAN, Assistant.

COUNTY BOOK REPOSITORY,  
BISHOP'S COURT,  
GALWAY.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Date of Meeting - 24th July, 1926.

AGENDA.

1. Chairman of Meeting.
2. Report of Receipt of last instalment of grant from Carnegie Trust and inspection of Expenditure and Receipt Book and Bank Pass Book.
3. Payment and part - payment of accounts.
4. Report on new Repository and loan of furniture from Board of Health.
5. Correspondence (General).
6. Tender for purchase of table.
7. Report on sale of Stock by previous Committee (Payment not yet received).
8. Orders relative to temporary Office in County Hospital pending completion of office and library.
9. General.

LEABHARLAINN CHEARNAIGE CHONNDAE GAILLIMHE  
(County Galway Carnegie Libraries).

S. J. MAGUIRE, Organising Librarian.  
J. BRENNAN, Assistant.

COUNTY BOOK REPOSITORY,  
BISHOP'S COURT,  
GALWAY.

The Monthly Meeting of the Finance Committee of the County Libraries Committee was held on Saturday, 24th July, 1926, at the County Book Repository, Bishop's Court, Galway.

PRESENT. Rev. J. O' Dea, B.A., B.C.L., Rev. J. F. M. Nash, M.A., J. S. Redington, Esq., U.D.C., E. J. O' Flaherty, Esq., U.D.C.

CHAIRMAN. No. 34. RESOLVED - That Rev. J. O' Dea be Chairman of the meeting.

INSTALMENT OF GRANT. The Secretary reported that the final instalment of the grant from the Carnegie Trust amounting to £71 . 19 . 1 had been lodged with the Treasurer.

RESOLUTION FROM TRUST.

No. 35

Resolved that copies of the letter and Resolution from the Carnegie Trust be circulated the members of the committee for consideration at the next meeting of the County Committee.

PAYMENT AND PART-PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

No. 36.

RESOLVED - That the following payments be authorised and that the necessary Paying-Orders be issued in accordance with the Signed

Treasurer's Advice Note:-

No.	Issued To	Purpose	Amount		
			£	s	d
71	Thunder and Fitzgerald	Audit fee	6	6	.
72	Mr. W. P. Higgins	Part payment for petrol, etc.	10	.	.
73	National Club	Rent, cleaning, etc., 9mths.	52	17	6
74	Thos. McCullagh & Son	Part payment for books	5	.	.
75	S. J. Maguire	Salary for July	25	.	.
76	Henry Shee	ditto	8	13	4
77	Miss B. O' Neill	ditto	4	6	8
78	Miss K. Ronaldson	ditto	6	10	.
79	S. J. Maguire	Petty Cash for month	3	.	.
80	Henry Shee	Expenses as per Minute No. 17	10	.	.
81	James Behan	Part payment for transport	2	.	.

No. 37

RESOLVED - That full payment to the value of £10 be made to Patrick Murray in full settlement for the work of repairs, etc., to motor while employed by the previous committee, and that the following Paying Order be issued:

82	Patrick Murray	Work on motor, etc.	10	.	.
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LEABHARLAINN CHEARNAIGE CHONNDAE GAILLIMHE  
(County Galway Carnegie Libraries).

S. J. MAGUIRE, Organising Librarian.  
J. BRENNAN, Assistant.

COUNTY BOOK REPOSITORY,  
BISHOP'S COURT,  
GALWAY.

2

NEW REPOSITORY.

The Secretary reported on the complete removal of all the stock, equipment, etc., from Bishop's Court to the new address at Prospect Hill.

No. 38

RESOLVED - That the Committee's best thanks be tendered to the Secretary to the Board of Health for placing at the Committee's disposal chairs and tables stored at the Infirmary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Secretary submitted letters from The Ministry of Education acknowledging the committee's letter relative to School Libraries; from the Library Association relative to the Annual Conference at Leeds and to the election of new members to the Council of the Association; from the Carnegie Trust relative to the Committee's application for an increased grant; and from the Ballinasloe Social Club relative to a supply of books.

No. 39

RESOLVED - That the correspondence be submitted to the next meeting of the County Committee.

TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF TABLE.

A tender for the purchase of the large table in the office at Bishop's Court for the sum of £4 was accepted from the Galway Branch of the All Ireland Town Tenants League.

No. 40

SALE OF STACK.

The Secretary reported that payment had not yet been received for the book stack supplied to Moycullen Centre in May last.

No. 41

NOTED - the Secretary's report on the matter.

GENERAL : TEMPORARY OFFICE PENDING RENOVATION OF NEW REPOSITORY.

RESOLVED - That the Secretary be instructed to carry on with the work as best he can during renovations.

No. 42

*Martin Maguire*

LEABHARLAINN CHEARNAIGE CHONNDAE GAILLIMHE  
(County Galway Carnegie Libraries).

S. J. MAGUIRE, Organising Librarian.  
J. BRENNAN, Assistant.

COUNTY BOOK REPOSITORY,  
7th AUGUST BISHOP'S COURT,  
GALWAY.

Sir (Madam),

The Monthly Meeting of the County Galway Libraries' Committee will be held in the County Book Repository THE INFIRMARY PROSPECT HILL, Galway, on Saturday 14th August, 1926, at the hour of one o'clock P.M., when the business as set out in the appended agenda will be dealt with.

I am, Sir (Madam),  
Your obedient servant,  
S. J. Maguire,  
Secretary.

To each member of the Libraries Committee.  
To the Minister of Local Government.  
To the Secretary to the County Council.  
To the Town Clerk Galway.  
To the Town Clerk Ballinasloe.  
To the Editors of all newspapers published in the County of Galway.

AGENDA.

1. Minutes of the last meeting.
2. General Correspondence.
3. The following letter from the Treasurer to the Carnegie Trustees:

Maguire,  
The Trustees have received from other Irish Counties, which have already taken over complete control of the Libraries, a formal assurance on the lines of the Resolution of which a copy is enclosed with this letter. The Trustees know, of course, that the Galway County Council actually took over the Library on the 1st of July, but, if the Council would adopt a resolution on the lines of the enclosed and would send a copy to the Trustees, it would serve to make the Trust records complete. This is of course in the nature of a formality but it is important that the record in the case of each County should be in identical form.

Yours sincerely,  
A. B. Hyslop.

4. Report on the new Repository.
5. Arrangements for the cleaning of the Repository and the office.
6. Arrangements for the publication of the Annual Report.

## LEABHARLAINN CHEARNAIGE CHONNDAE GAILLIMHE

(County Galway Carnegie Libraries)

7. Notice of letter No. 26.  
 The next meeting of the Committee to have the  
 "reco... of assistant rescinded".  
 Eamonn Corbett.
3. Sanction of staff- Letter from Secretary to the County Council.
9. Minutes of the last Finance Meeting.
10. Consideration of any other business that may arise.

RESOLUTION FROM CARNEGIE TRUST.

"That we hereby adopt the Public Libraries (Ireland) Act, 1855, for the County of Galway, exclusive of the Urban Districts of Galway and Ballinasloe, and we agree to a rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d in the £ for this purpose.

"That we further agree to take over the County Galway Library Service, established under the Carnegie Library Trust on the understanding that the County Council shall have full power and control in regard to the management of same, the books which are to be retained and obtained for the library and the appointment of a Committee of Management.

"That the Urban Districts of Galway and Ballinasloe be informed that in order to take advantage of the library service in the future it will be necessary for them to strike a rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d in the £ for this purpose or arrange for the payment of an equivalent contribution to the County Council in lieu thereof.

"That the Galway County Council hereby delegates to the Central Library Committee of County Galway all powers and duties vested in it as the Library Authority under Section 12 of the Public Libraries (Ireland) Act, 1855. Provided always that agreements with adjoining Library Authorities for the joint use of the Library Service shall be subject to the approval of the other areas co-operating in the Service; and that the proceedings of the Central Library Committee, including the appointment and dismissal of paid officers, shall be reported quarterly to the various authorities concerned, and that the Central Library Committee shall submit an annual estimate of the expenditure proposes for each year.

"That this Council agrees to the proposal of the Carnegie Library Trust that the Librarian appointed to administer the Scheme shall always be a person recognised by the Trust as a trained and competent Librarian at a salary not less than £250 per annum (except in the case of the present Librarian whose salary shall not be less than £300 per annum); that an annual report and statistics of the Scheme be sent to the Carnegie Trust, Dunfermline, and that instructions be given to the Central Library Committee to invite the Secretary and Organiser of the Carnegie Trust from time to time to visit the County Book Repository and report as to the progress of the work.

## LEABHARLAINN CHEARNAIGE CHONNDAE GAILLIMHE

(County Galway Carnegie Libraries).

S. J. MAGUIRE, Organising Librarian.  
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COUNTY BOOK REPOSITORY,  
 BISHOP'S COURT,  
 GALWAY.

MINUTESOF THEMONTHLY MEETINGS HELD ON 14th AUGUST 1926.