

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471


Co. Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

13th February, 1986.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 21st February, 1986, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

  
 LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.
AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
3. Estimate 1986.
4. Childrens' Book Week 1985.
5. Nomination of two delegates to a Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Branch, The Library Association, in Sligo, from 21st - 25th April inclusive.
6. Any other business.

To each member of the Committee.  
To the County Manager.  
To the County Secretary.  
To the editors of local newspapers.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries Annual General Meeting held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 21st February, 1986, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. Patrick Finnegan.

PRESENT: Clrs. Patrick Finnegan, J. M. Mannion, Padraic McCormack, Martin Lynch, James Joyce, Paddy McHugh, John Molloy, Peter Raftery and Matt Loughnane; Messrs. Joe Burke, Martin Fallon, Eamon King, Peter Conroy, Patrick Gilmore, Padraig McDonacha, Paud Kennelly, Pat Quinn, Conor Gavin, Michael O'Connell and Gerald Bartley; Mrs. Maura Croffy.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Peter Kearns, Assistant County Manager; Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Miss M. Kavanagh, Executive Librarian; Messrs. P. Rabbitt and M. Keating, Miss A. Joyce, Assistant Librarians; Mrs. A. White, Acting Assistant Librarian; Mrs. B. Kelly, Senior Library Assistant; Mr. B. Keating, Library Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from the Rev. Leslie Forrest and Mr. Henry O'Connor.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been circulated to the members, were adopted, on the proposal of Sen. J. M. Mannion, seconded by Mr. Joe Burke.

Arising from the minutes, the County Librarian informed the Committee that he had written to the Director of Programmes in R.T.E. about advertising the Library service on television. He read the reply which he had received from the Director, which stated he considered that Libraries did not merit a full programme, but that he would keep the matter in mind.

Mr. Sharkey stated that the problem with parking of caravans outside the Ballinasloe Library was still as bad as ever. The Assistant County Manager stated that the Urban Council had no authority to remove caravans unless they could provide alternative parking. A hard stand site had been recommended at the Urban District Council meeting, but it was considered unsuitable. They are at present in the process of looking for another site. Mrs. Croffy stated that the caravans were parked at the Library wall. She said that those caravans destroyed a nice approach to the town as well as being a nuisance to the Library staff and users.

In a reply to Mr. Patrick Gilmore, Mr. Kearns said that the £50,000 in the estimate for the proposed Tuam Library, was intended for loan repayments if the loan would be sanctioned. If not sanctioned £25,000 would be spent on repairs, and insurance against vandalism. He said that the Council were anxious to start the work, but it depended on the granting of the loan.

Prior to the meeting, each member of the Committee was asked to transfer the administration of the Public Library Service to the LEC's no additional costs would be involved. He said that there had been no consultation with the County and City Managers or with the General Council of County Councils.



## 2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN:

On the proposal of Clr. James Joyce, seconded by Clr. Peter Raftery, Clr. Patrick Finnegan was unanimously re-elected Chairman; and on the proposal of Sen. John Mannion, seconded by Clr. Martin Lynch, Clr. P. McCormack was unanimously re-elected Vice-Chairman.

## 3. ESTIMATES 1986:

Mr. Sharkey told the Committee that the type of Library service provided would depend on the amount of money available. He said that there was an increase of 8.57% in the bookfund and that the increase in the cost of expenses of Library Vans, was due to the age of the vehicles; the Mobile Library is in its seventeenth year and the two delivery vans are eight years old. He stated that he proposed to purchase a micro-film reader/printer as many people using the readers, wished to have print outs. He informed the Committee that the audio cassette service was very popular. Clr. P. Finnegan said that at the County Council Estimates Meeting on Friday 28th, the Library Estimate should be voted for in its entirety, as he considered that it was not an excessive estimate. On the proposal of Mr. Michael O'Connell, and seconded by Clr. Martin Lynch the estimates were adopted.

## 4. CHILDRENS' BOOK WEEK, 1985:

Mr. Sharkey informed the Committee that Childrens' Book Week 1985 had been very successful. He said that fourteen Branch Libraries, Schools throughout the County and the Mobile Library had participated in events. Its success was due to the hard work of the Library staff, the children who participated, their parents and teachers and the local business people, the Banks and others who donated prizes. He said that the aim of the project was to encourage children to use the Library and thus find information and enjoyment in books.

## 5. NOMINATION OF TWO DELEGATES TO THE JOINT CONFERENCE:

On the proposal of Clr. M. Loughnane, seconded by Clr. P. Raftery, Clr. J. Molloy was unanimously elected as one representative; and on the proposal of Sen. J. Mannion, seconded by Clr. M. Lynch, Clr. P. McCormack was unanimously elected as the second representative to the Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and Library Association (Northern Ireland Branch) in Sligo from 21st - 25th April inclusive.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Prior to the meeting, each member of the Committee, present, had been handed a memorandum on Library services, prepared by the County Manager, Mr. Seamus Keating. The Assistant County Manager, Mr. P. Kearns, told the meeting that the Minister for Education had published a document in November 1985, "Partners in Education", in which it was stated that "Consideration might also be given to the transfer of responsibility for the Public Library Service to the LEC's" and "if it were decided to transfer the administration of the Public Library Service to the LEC's no additional costs would be involved". He said that there had been no consultation with the County and City Managers or with the General Council of County Councils.



Mr. Sharkey said that it had also taken the County and City Librarians by surprise. Their Association had been asked to make a submission by the end of February, on this document. Following a discussion by the Committee, it was decided to write to the Minister to seek clarification on the proposal regarding the Library service. If the reply was not reassuring, a decision could then be made about sending a deputation to the Minister. Senator J. Mannion suggested that all the other Library Committees should also write to the Minister.

Mr. P. Kennelly asked about the feasibility of having a Library Centre on Inishbofin Island. He said that the Postmistress - Mrs. Concannon - would be willing to supervise the Centre. Mr. Sharkey agreed to contact the Postmistress on this matter.

Clr. P. Finnegan asking when the next Committee meeting would be held, said that he understood that there should be three meetings a year. He asked if the next meeting could be in June. Mr. Sharkey agreed with his proposal.

Clr. P. Finnegan said he was delighted that the County Librarian had agreed to have a Writer in Residence in the County Libraries. Mr. Sharkey said that he was willing to co-operate with the Arts Committee and had been assured that the project would not cost the County Libraries any money.

Patrick Finnegan



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

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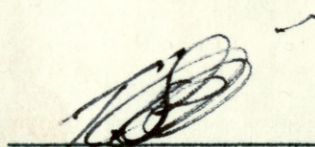
Co. Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

14th July, 1986.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Wednesday, 23rd July, 1986 at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

  
LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.
AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Statistical Report 1985.
3. Branch Libraries.
4. Any other business.

To each member of the Committee.  
To the County Manager.  
To the County Secretary.  
To the editors of local newspapers.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries Committee Meeting held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Wednesday, 23rd July, 1986, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. P. Finnegan.PRESENT: Clrs. P. Finnegan, J. M. Mannion, M. Mullins, P. McCormack, M. Lynch, J. Joyce, P. McHugh, J. Molloy, M. Fahy, M. Loughnane and M. Ryan; Messrs. J. C. Burke, P. Conroy, P. Gilmore, P. Kenneally, P. Quinn, M. O'Connell, S. Finnerty, H. O'Connor and M. O'Connell.IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. E. Gleeson, County Secretary; Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Ms. M. Moran, Ms. A. Joyce, Messrs. P. Rabbitt and M. Keating, Assistant Librarians; Mrs. A. White, Acting Assistant Librarian and Mrs. B. Kelly, Senior Library Assistant.APOLOGIES: Mr. P. Kearns, Assistant County Manager.  
Clr. T. O'Baoill.

Clr. John Mannion proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Padraic Joyce R.I.P. The members unanimously passed the vote of sympathy. Mr. Gleeson, County Secretary, associated himself with the vote on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff. Mr. T. Sharkey told the members that Mr. Joyce was a former Library Committee member and expressed his sympathy with his family.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been circulated to members, were adopted on the proposal of Clr. J. Mannion, seconded by Clr. Ryan.

Arising from the minutes Mr. H. O'Connor asked what was being done to replace the Mobile Library Van which was now seventeen years on the road. Mr. O'Connor thought that the Library service should plan for its replacement. Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that the Mechanical Engineer had recommended the continued use of the Mobile subject to repairs being carried out. The County Librarian also said that there was no provision for a new Mobile in the 1986 estimate but he agreed that it was important to plan for its replacement. Mr. Gleeson, County Secretary, said that consideration would be given to the members views but at the moment it was a question of finance.

Mr. P. Gilmore asked about the proposed development of the new Tuam Branch Library. Mr. Gilmore also asked if approval had been received for the loan from the Department of the Environment. Mr. Gleeson said the Department had not sanctioned the money. The County Secretary also said that the Department asked for further details on the plans but had not cleared the loan approval. The Chairman, Clr. Finnegan, expressed dissatisfaction with rate of progress on the Tuam Branch. He said that the Council had an asset that was rapidly deteriorating. Mr. Gleeson said that he was waiting for a loan approval, but in the meantime a holding operations was needed e.g. for the roof. The County Librarian said that An Chomhairle Leabharlanna had approved the plans. Mr. Gilmore asked if the Council would consider a staged development of the new Library but Mr. Gleeson said that this would be impracticable.



Clr. J. Molloy asked about the latest information on the Local Educational Council and the position in regard to Library Service. Mr. Sharkey told Councillors that after the last committee meeting he wrote to the Department expressing the opposition of the Committee to any change in the administration of the County Library Service but had only received a formal acknowledgement to his letter. Mr. J. Joyce told the meeting that at a recent meeting of the V.E.C. it was revealed that the matter was to be discussed by the Cabinet and a decision was expected shortly. The Chairman, Clr. Finnegan, said that the Committee must be vigilant as matters were moving quickly on the L.E.C.'s with the Cabinet being involved.

Mr. P. Kennelly and Clr. J. Mannion informed the meeting that Mrs. Concannon, Postmistress on Inishbofin, had withdrawn her offer to supervise a Library Centre on the island. Mr. Kennelly asked if a Centre could be opened on Inishbofin, perhaps in the Tourist Centre. Mr. Sharkey told members that he was willing to consider applications from Inishbofin for a Library Press Centre but that the island was too small for a full Branch Library.

Clr. J. Mannion sought information on the writer-in-residence project. The Chairman, Clr. P. Finnegan, informed the meeting that as a result of advertisements he understood that a short list of candidates were about to be interviewed by a selection board. Mr. Sharkey said that the Arts Council were funding the project by £2,000 for a twenty-four week period. The County Librarian added that the writer would initially be based in the Galway City Library, but would visit other parts of the County. Mr. Sharkey told Clr. J. Joyce that he hoped that the writer would be appointed by September in time for the School year.

## 2. STATISTICAL REPORT 1985:

Mr. Sharkey gave an outline of the Statistical Report 1985, which had been circulated, to members noting slight increases in membership and issues particularly on the Mobile. Mr. Sharkey said the increase on the Mobile might be due to the reduced fee of £1 but still showed the value of the service. Mr. H. O'Connor complimented Mr. Sharkey on his report and asked why fiction issues were more popular than non-fiction. The County Librarian replied that fiction was always more popular as many borrowers read Library books for recreational reasons. Mr. Sharkey said that reference facilities were provided in the bigger branches, but such usage were not indicated in the statistics.

Mr. Sharkey told members that a new microfilm reader printer was now in operation in Headquarters. Mr. J. Joyce asked if the Library Service to secondary schools could be improved. Mr. Sharkey said that the schools service had only one van and that the cost of supplying secondary schools with a full service similar to national schools would be very high. The County Librarian pointed out that most secondary schools were located close to Branch Libraries. Ms. Maureen Moran, who was in charge of the schools service told the meeting that it was important to view the service to secondary schools in a different light. For a start there were a whole range of schools, Comprehensive, Community, Vocational etc. and a lot of money would be required to provide a decent Library service for them.



Clr. J. Joyce noted that some areas in the County had a higher usage than others e.g. Clifden as against Eyrecourt. Mr. Sharkey replied that Clifden had a modern well designed Branch Library with a full time Senior Library Assistant and a part-time Assistant. The Branch was also open thirty-seven hours each week as against ten for Eyrecourt. Clr. Joe Burke stressed the need for better Library facilities around the county and particularly in Tuam and again urged the County Secretary to speed up the Tuam Library project. Mr. Gleeson agreed to do what he could.

### 3. BRANCH LIBRARIES

Clr. Loughnane requested information on a new Library for Loughrea. Mr. Gleeson told members that he had no information as he only came to the meeting at short notice, but promised to write to Clr. Loughnane on the matter.

The County Librarian informed members that the new Woodford Branch Library was almost ready and he expected it to be open in the near future.

Mr. O'Connell asked the County Librarian who maintained Branch Libraries. Mr. Sharkey replied that the County Council and its Engineers maintained them, but rented premises were maintained by their owners who were responsible for their upkeep.

Clr. J. Joyce asked about the Ballinasloe Branch Library and the latest on the situation about the caravans in the Fairgreen. The County Librarian told members that some caravans were still parked near the Library. Clr. M. Mullins asked the Librarian to consider a Branch Library for New Inn as it was a rapidly growing area with a lot of facilities such as a new Community Hall. Clr. Mullins mentioned the possibility of getting a room in the Vocational School there for a Branch Library. Other Councillors supported the proposal and Mr. Sharkey promised to investigate the matter.

Clr. M. Lynch asked the County Secretary to increase the rent on the Craughwell Branch. Mr. Sharkey suggested that the owner of the premises write in requesting an increase and it would then be considered.

The meeting ended at 5.15 p.m.

*Patrick Finegan*



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471


Co. Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

14th January, 1987.

A Chara,

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 30th January, 1987, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

  
LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.
AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
3. Estimates 1987.
4. Nomination of two delegates to a Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Branch, The Library Association, in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, from 27th April - 1st May inclusive.
5. Writer in Residence.
6. Children's Book Week 1986.
7. Branch Libraries.

To each member of the Committee.  
To the County Manager.  
To the County Secretary.  
To the editors of local newspapers.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee, held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 30th January, 1987, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. Patrick Finnegan.

PRESENT: Clrs. P. Finnegan, J. M. Mannion, M. Mullins, P. McCormack, M. Lynch, J. Joyce, P. McHugh, J. Molloy, P. Raftery, M. Fahy, M. Loughnane, T. O'Baoill, M. Ryan; Messrs. J. C. Burke, M. Fallon, E. King, P. Conroy, P. Gilmore, P. Quinn, C. Gavin, M. O'Connell, T. Byrne, S. Finnerty; Mrs. M. Croffy and Canon L. D. A. Forrest.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. E. Gleeson, Acting Assistant County Manager; Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Miss M. Kavanagh, Executive Librarian; Misses M. Moran, A. Joyce, Messrs. P. Rabbitt and M. Keating, Assistant Librarians, and Miss E. Burgess, Library Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mr. P. Kearns, Assistant County Manager and Mr. Paid Kennelly.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting which had been circulated to the members, were adopted, on the proposal of Mr. J. Burke, seconded by Clr. J. Mannion.

Arising from the minutes Mr. Sharkey informed the Committee that repairs had been carried out on the Mobile Library at a cost of £2,500, which should make it roadworthy for another five years; that a new Centre had been opened in Inishbofin, in the premises of Mrs. Burke; and that the new Woodford Branch Library had been opened in September.

Mr. E. Gleeson informed the meeting that the County Manager had requested the County Engineer to produce plans to erect bollards at the parking lot near the Library at Ballinasloe. Clr. O'Baoill stated that the County Council estimates included plans to put bollards and booms around the whole area with a roadway by the Town Hall and Ballroom.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Clr. J. Mannion proposed that the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman be postponed to the next meeting for two reasons viz (1) there was a possibility that the persons elected might not be members of the incoming committee, and (2) that there had been a gentleman's agreement that the office of Chairman would rotate between the parties. Clr. McCormack seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously agreed.



6. CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 1986:

Mr. Sharkey told the Committee that a very successful Children's Book Week had been held once more in 1986. He was very impressed at the support by children, parents and teachers in the Branch Libraries and Schools. Dúirt Comhl. T. O'Baoill gur ceart comortas fe leith as Gaelge, a bheith ann, chun go mbeadh deis ag paisti Gaelige a usaid. Dúirt an t'Uasal De Burca gur coir go mbeadh deis ag chuile paiste as Gaelige no as Bearla.

7. BRANCH LIBRARIES:

Mr. J. Burke requested up-to-date information regarding the plans for Tuam. Mr. E. Gleeson informed the Committee that the contract documents were now being prepared and that the final contract documents should be ready within two-three weeks. Mr. Burke stated that the building was deteriorating visibly and that it should be impressed on the Council to press ahead with the plans.

Clr. Mullins requested information on his previous proposal to establish a Branch Library in New Inn. Mr. Sharkey said that the Village was too small to merit a Library. He said that the Mobile Library was providing an adequate service fortnightly. Clr. Joyce stated that there should be a national campaign advertising the Library Service.

The meeting then ended.

Patrick Finney



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471


Co. Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

21st July, 1987.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 31st July, 1987, at 3.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,



LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
3. Statistical Report 1986.
4. Any other business.

To each member of the Committee.  
To the County Manager.  
To the Assistant County Manager.  
To the County Secretary.  
To the editors of local newspapers.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries Committee Meeting held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 31st July, 1987, at 3.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR:

Clr. Patrick Finnegan.

PRESENT:

Clrs. P. Finnegan, J. M. Mannion, J. Molloy, P. McHugh, J. Joyce, P. Raftery, M. Loughnane, M. Mullins, M. Fahy, M. Lynch, T. Walsh, T. O'Baoill; Messrs. P. B. Ryan, P. Conroy, L. Hallissey, J. Burke, C. Mullen, M. Fallon, M. McDermott; Mrs. K. Fallon and Very Rev. Leslie A. Canon Forrest.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Peter Kearns, Assistant County Manager; Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Miss M. Kavanagh, Executive Librarian and Mr. Peter Rabbitt, Assistant Librarian.

A vote of sympathy was passed with the relatives of the late Mrs. Maura Croffy, a member of the Libraries Committee, recently deceased. Proposing a vote of sympathy Clr. P. Finnegan said that Mrs. Croffy had contributed a long term of public service and had always highlighted any problem connected with the Ballinasloe area. Clr. Michael Mullins seconded the vote of sympathy. Mr. Sharkey associated himself with the vote on behalf of the Library Staff.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been circulated to the members, were adopted, on the proposal of Clr. J. M. Mannion and seconded by Clr. John Molloy.

Arising from the minutes Mr. Tom Sharkey, County Librarian, told the meeting that the estimates as had been passed at the previous meeting, had been cut at the County Council Estimates Meeting. He said there had been a cut back under some headings, including the book fund and maintenance.

The County Librarian told the meeting that the Mobile Service to New Inn had been increased to one hour per fortnight and at a more suitable time 3.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. Mr. Joe Burke requested information on the proposed new Library at Tuam. He said that Tuam had only half the readership of Ballinasloe and he considered that this was because Tuam lacked a proper Library. Mr. Kearns informed the committee that approval had been given for spending £1,000 on temporary repairs to the building and that these would be carried out as soon as possible. On the proposal of Clr. Finnegan, seconded by Clr. Mullins, it was decided to send an urgent resolution to the Department of the Environment requesting approval for a loan for the proposed Tuam Library.

RETIREMENT OF MR. PETER KEARNS:

Mr. Sharkey extended his best wishes to Mr. Peter Kearns on his retirement as this would be his last Library Committee Meeting. Any of the members also extended their best wishes to his for a happy retirement.



## 2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN:

On the proposal of Clr. J. M. Mannion, seconded by Clr. Martin Lynch, Clr. Michael Mullins was elected Chairman. Clr. John Molloy was elected Vice-Chairman on the proposal of Clr. James Joyce and seconded by Clr. T. O'Baoill. Clr. P. Finnegan thanked the Committee for its co-operation during his term as Chairman. He also thanked the County Librarian and Staff for doing a great job especially in bad times. The new Chairman, Clr. Michael Mullins, thanked Clr. Finnegan for his impartiality at all meetings. He welcomed the new Committee and he looked forward to helping the Library Service to bear its share of difficulties. He hoped the Library would continue to give good service within the present financial constraints.

## 3. STATISTICAL REPORT 1986:

Commenting on the Statistical Report which had been circulated to the members, Mr. Sharkey said that the numbers of readers and number of books issued had fallen for some years because of increased membership charges, he was delighted that there was a recovery in 1986. There was an increase of 4.49% in the number of books issued, while membership had increased by 10.14%.

The Chairman asked if there were plans to replace the present Mobile Library, which is now eighteen years old. Mr. Sharkey said that major repairs had been carried out in 1986 which the Mechanical Engineer felt would keep it in operation for another four/five years.

Mr. Leo Hallissey asked if the School's van was to be replaced, as moneys had been included in the estimate for one. Mr. Sharkey said that the County Manager had decided to apply for a loan to buy two new delivery vans, and that we are now awaiting sanction for the loan. Mr. Hallissey complimented the Schools Library Service and said it was difficult to estimate the effects of such a service in his area, Letterfrack. Mr. Kearns said that if the loan for the vans was not approved, one van would be bought from revenue this year. He had requested the Mechanical Engineer to get quotations for a van.

## 4. OTHER BUSINESS:

Clr. James Joyce asked if a Writer in Residence would be appointed this year. He said that there had been some criticism of the last one. Mr. P. B. Ryan said that he considered that the Writer in Residence had not contributed much to stimulate creative writing in students. Clr. Pat Finnegan told the Committee that the Writer in Residence was a joint financial project, by the Arts Council and Galway County Council. He considered that it was not up to the Library Committee to make recommendations on job specification or duties. However, he said that constructive criticism was welcome and would be passed on to the Arts Committee.

## RETIREMENT OF MR. PETER KEARNS:

Mr. Sharkey extended his best wishes to Mr. Peter Kearns on his retirement as this would be his last Library Committee Meeting. Many of the members also extended their best wishes to him for a happy retirement.

*Patrick Fudge*



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471

Co. Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

28th October, 1987.

A Chara,

The Estimates Meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 6th November, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
2. Estimates 1988.
3. Branch Libraries.
4. Any other business.

To each member of the Committee.

To the County Manager.

To the Assistant County Manager.

To the County Secretary.

To the editors of local newspapers.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries Committee Meeting, held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 6th November, 1987.

IN CHAIR: Clr. Patrick Finnegan.

PRESENT: Clrs. P. Finnegan, P. McHugh, J. Joyce, P. Raftery, M. Loughnane, M. Fahy, M. Lynch, T. Walsh, T. O'Baoill; Senator P. McCormack; Messrs. C. Gavin, P. B. Ryan, P. Conroy, L. Hallissey, G. Bartley, M. Fallon, T. Byrne and Mrs. K. Fallon.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. Keating, County Manager; Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Miss M. Kavanagh, Executive Librarian; Misses Ann Joyce and Bernie McAleer, and Mr. P. Rabbitt, Assistant Librarians; and Mrs. B. Kelly, Senior Library Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Very Rev. A. Canon Forest and Clr. M. Mullins.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman the Committee elected Clr. Patrick Finnegan to act as Chairman, on the proposal of Clr. M. Fahy and seconded by Mr. Conor Gavin.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been circulated to the members, were adopted, on the proposal of Clr. Michael Fahy and seconded by Mr. Conor Gavin.

Arising from the minutes Mr. Peter Conroy stated that there was an omission in the minutes, which should have recorded that he proposed that a member of the Arts Council should be invited to the next Committee Meeting to discuss the Writer-in-Residence scheme. He stated that his proposal had been seconded by Mr. Leo Hallissey. The County Manager explained to the Committee that the Writer-in-Residence scheme was a joint venture funded by the Arts Council and the County Council. He said that the Committee should not approach the scheme in a critical manner.

2. ESTIMATES 1988:

The estimate of expenditure for 1988 had been circulated previously to the Committee. Mr. Sharkey told the meeting that there would be a big cut in the estimate of expenditure for 1988, which he considered unfortunate, but which could not be avoided. He gave the Committee a summary of the expenditure:- Bookfund £100,000; Operations £570,000; Library Council £12,000 and Loan Charges £46,250; amounting to £728,250. He said that it was necessary to increase the membership charges or charge a fee per issue of each book. He said that the latter would cause many problems in administration, so it had been decided to increase the charges to £12 per adult per calendar year, charged at £6 for each six monthly period. He went on to say that three Library Assistants and one Senior Library Assistant were on career breaks and that in 1988 one more Library Assistant would be going on a career break. None of those vacancies would be filled.



He said that in 1988 the amount for Renovations would be reduced to £8,000, and that no money would be available for Audio Visual Aids or Office Equipment. He said that the grant from the Department of Education towards the Schools' service had been reduced from 35p per pupil to 21p.

Mr. Toddie Byrne said that the reduced estimate reflected the problem of the County Council as a whole, but that it was unfortunate that the reduction in expenditure for the Library service was so great. He said that the Schools' Libraries' Scheme is an excellent scheme and said that it produced a general awareness of books among children. He also regretted that the grant had been reduced. He thanked the County Librarian and staff for providing an excellent service to the schools.

The County Manager said that because the Library Service had been kept to a high standard during the past years we were now saved from greater reductions. He said that many ideals would not be achieved this year.

Clr. J. Burke said that only where necessary should the facility of paying the Library charge in two moieties be allowed. He advised against putting pressure on reduced members of staff by collecting twice a year. Clr. James Joyce stated that the increase would not work, as people are feeling the pinch, and have many financial difficulties. He felt that this would be the straw that would break the cammel's back, as the increase was too great. The County Manager said that there would be nothing to cut but the bookfund, if the charges were not increased. If that were to happen we would have an elaborate structure of staff and buildings, with no books, which would be meaningless. He said he hoped to raise £50,000 from charges. He said if there were no books, we would be beginning the process of closing down our Libraries. Mr. P. B. Ryan said that he endorsed Clr. Joyce's comments and asked could people on unemployment be facilitated. The Manager informed him that the unemployed paid £2 per adult or £3 for a married couple.

Mr. L. Hallissey stated that the grant from the Department of Education is paltry and that it showed a total lack of commitment. He said that the grant was inadequate by international standards. He concurred with other members in praise of the Schools' Library service. He said that it was with regret that he agreed to the new charges and that he hoped that the expenditure would be back to the original figure as soon as possible. The Manager told the Committee that the other options to increased charges would be to close Branch Libraries, the Mobile or the Schools' Service. He said that if the Mobile Library vehicle needs to be replaced this year, we must look at the options. He went on to say that the £100,000 for new books would depend on £50,000 being realized from charges. Clr. Paddy McHugh said that he agreed with the County Librarian that the best option had been taken and that he thought that charges may not be the deterrent that some members thought. He said that the facilities in Libraries should be advertised. Clr. T. O'Baoill asked if the amount for maintenance would cover having a second entrance to Ballinasloe Library, which could be used during Fair Week etc. The County Librarian informed him that he would request the Engineering staff to provide an estimate for the work. Mr. L. Hallissey said that there is a need for an awareness programme in schools and that he knew that many teachers were willing to do this. He said that he considered that a once off payment of £12 would be preferable to payment in two moieties. Other members agreed with this. The County Manager stated that members should be encouraged to pay the subscription for the calendar year, with the option to pay in two moieties. Clr. Paddy McHugh proposed the adoption of the estimate, seconded by Clr. Michael Fahy.



3. BRANCH LIBRARIES:

Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that certain renovations had been carried out in the Branch Libraries during the year:- in Ballinasloe, a ramp for wheelchairs had been erected and certain interior decoration and repairs carried out. In Gort Library, part of the roof had been repaired and some interior decoration had been carried out. In Eyrecourt Library, the interior had been decorated and floor covering installed and in Portumna a fungus on the exterior walls had been treated and the whole exterior painted; a "Leabharlann" sign had been erected outside.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Clr. Pat Finnegan proposed a vote of sympathy with the family of the late Mrs. May Grogan, Branch Librarian in Tuam. He said that her death was sad and untimely and that she had given great service to the Tuam Library. The County Librarian associated himself with this vote of sympathy on behalf of the Library staff.

*John Malloy*

Galway County Council Archives



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471

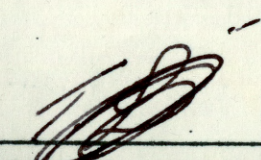
Co. Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

20th October, 1988.

A Chara,

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 28th October, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,



LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
3. Statistical Report 1987.
4. Estimates 1989.
5. Any other business.

To each member of the Committee.  
To the County Manager.  
To the Assistant County Manager.  
To the County Secretary.  
To the editors of local newspapers.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries Committee Meeting, held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 28th October, 1988, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. John Molloy.PRESENT: Clrs. P. Finnegan, J. M. Mannion, J. Molloy, P. McHugh, J. Joyce, P. Raftery, M. Loughnane, M. Fahy, M. Lynch, T. O'Baoill; Sen. P. McCormack; Messrs. C. Gavin, P. Conroy, L. Hallissey, C. Mullen, M. Fallon, T. Costello and Mrs. K. Fallon.IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. E. Gleeson, County Secretary; Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Miss M. Kavanagh, Executive Librarian; Miss A. Joyce and Messrs. P. Rabbitt and M. Keating, Assistant Librarians.APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Clr. Michael Mullins, Mr. P. B. Ryan and the County Manager.

In the absence of the Chairman, Clr. M. Mullins, Clr. J. Molloy, Vice-Chairman, took the chair, on the proposal of Clr. P. Raftery, seconded by Clr. T. O'Baoill.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

On the proposal of Clr. M. Fahy, seconded by Sen. P. McCormack, a vote of sympathy was passed with Mr. Toddy Byrne on the recent death of his brother.

On the proposal of Clr. J. M. Mannion, seconded by Clr. P. Raftery, a vote of sympathy was passed with Mrs. Brandon, Branch Librarian, Creggs, on the recent death of her brother.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been circulated to the members, were adopted, on the proposal of Clr. J. M. Mannion, seconded by Clr. Paddy McHugh.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN:

On the proposal of Clr. P. Raftery, seconded by Clr. T. O'Baoill, Clr. John Molloy, was unanimously elected Chairman.

Clr. Molloy thanked the Committee for electing him.

On the proposal of Clr. J. M. Mannion, seconded by Sen. P. McCormack, Clr. Martin Lynch was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman. Clr. Lynch thanked the Committee for electing him.

Life members i.e. over sixty-five years - Free of Charge.



### 3. STATISTICAL REPORT, 1987:

Mr. T. Sharkey gave a brief resume of the Statistical Report, which had previously been circulated to the Committee.

Clr. O'Baoill drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that students had to pay a £5 membership fee, whereas an unemployed person had only to pay £2. He said that where there is more than one child in a family, using the Library, this is an exorbitant amount. He considered that if the fee was less than the membership would be greater. Mr. L. Hallissey said that this was an anomaly, where an unemployed person i.e. unwaged person paid £2 and an unwaged student paid £5. He said students should be classed in the same category. The County Secretary told the meeting that he would discuss this matter with the County Manager. Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that the bookfund depended on the amount of revenue received in charges. Clr. O'Baoill stated that it would be more realistic to encourage students to become members by having lower fees. Mr. L. Hallissey proposed that a recommendation be forwarded to the County Council that a reduced fee of £2 be charged to students. This was seconded by Clr. T. O'Baoill. Sen. McCormack noted that Woodford Branch had shown an increase of almost 5,000 books issued between 1986 and 1987. The County Librarian said that a new Library was opened in Woodford during the year and that the old Library had been in a very bad state of repair. This accounted for the increased membership.

On the proposal of Clr. P. Finnegan, seconded by Mr. C. Gavin, the Statistical Report was adopted.

### 4. ESTIMATES, 1989:

The County Librarian informed the Committee that the estimate of expenditure for 1989 was much the same as the current year. There was a slight increase in salaries. Regarding the bookfund, he said that while the bookfund for 1988 was given as £100,000, in fact that amount was dependent on receipts of £50,000. In fact only about £28,000 would be collected this year. There has been a slight alteration in Library charges during the year. The County Manager has agreed that the following revised charges be made for the library service as from 19th September, 1988:-

#### Membership:-

- (i) Individual Adult Membership - £6 for a period of six months from date of joining or date of renewal or £10 for a period of twelve months from date of joining or date of renewal.
- (ii) Husband and Wife Membership - £10 for a period of six months from date of joining or date of renewal or £18 for a period of twelve months from date of joining or date of renewal.
- (iii) Juvenile using Adult Library - £5 per annum.
- (iv) Members served by the Mobile Library - £6 per annum.
- (v) Members who are unemployed - £2 per annum.
- (vi) Elderly members i.e. over sixty-five years - Free of Charge.