

Clr. P. Kennelly proposed to the meeting that a plaque be placed at Roundstone Library to acknowledge the work of Kate O'Brien who resided for many years in Roundstone. The proposal was seconded by Clr. Mannion and after a brief discussion the meeting decided to recommend that a plaque be erected in the Library rather than on her former dwelling house in Roundstone.

Clr. P. McHugh asked the County Librarian if he had discussions with the County Manager on publicity relating to the Galway County Library Service. Clr. McHugh said that he had raised the matter at a Council Meeting and was told that the County Manager would contact the County Librarian. Mr. Sharkey said he had not discussed it with the County Manager. The Chairman thanked Clr. McHugh and other Councillors for asking questions relating to the Library Service and in particular an increase in the book fund at Council Meetings.

Clr. J. Mannion asked the County Librarian if he had any breakdown of figures relating to the adult readers in the Library. Mr. Sharkey then gave a breakdown of figures he had available about the 1993 adult membership for the Galway City Library and other Branches.

	£10	£6 ( $\frac{1}{2}$ yr)	£2	£1	Other	OAP	Total
Galway City	653	265	2,034	55		1,033	4,040
Branches and Mobile	703	290	1,448	188	21	1,349	3,999
Total	1,356	555	3,482	243	21	2,382	8,039

The total amount of money was £24,202.00.

3. SELECTION OF DELEGATES FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN ENNISKILLEN - 18th - 22nd April:

The County Librarian told the meeting that three delegates were required. Clr. T. Walsh proposed Mr. F. Donoghue and Clr. J. Mannion. These proposals were seconded by Mr. J. Mitchell. Clr. M. Fahy proposed Clr. P. McHugh and was seconded by Mr. J. Mitchell. Mr. P. Pettit proposed Clr. K. Quinn and this was seconded by Mr. J. Mitchell.

After a brief discussion Clr. K. Quinn agreed to withdraw her name from the nominations and was thanked by the Chairman. The meeting then agreed unanimously that the three delegates were Mr. F. Donoghue, Clr. J. Mannion and Clr. P. McHugh. The meeting also agreed that Clr. K. Quinn would be an alternative delegate in the event of any one of the delegates being unable to attend the Conference.



4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Chairman, Clr. Fahy, and the other members of the Committee congratulated Clr. J. Mannion on becoming the first Chairman of the New Regional Authority.

Mr. Whelan asked the County Librarian if any Lotto Funds were available for the book fund. He said that political clout was needed and urged all members of the Committee to use their influence to get Lotto Funds for the Library Service and in particular the book fund. Mr. Sharkey told the meeting that the Library Association of Ireland had sought funding from the Department of the Environment. Mr. Sharkey told the meeting that one million pounds from Lottery Funds was given to Library Authorities a few years ago for the Schools Library Service. Mr. P. Rabbitt, who is a member of the Executive Board of the Library Association of Ireland, told the meeting that the Association had made representations to the Minister for the Environment for funding to replenish depleted book stocks and a number of motions were passed at a recent Annual General Meeting of the Library Association of Ireland seeking Lottery Funds.

The County Librarian informed members that new guidelines were in force in relation to meetings of the Libraries Committee and urged all members to sign the Attendance Book.

The meeting decided that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 28th June, 1994 and at a new time of 4.30 p.m.



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471

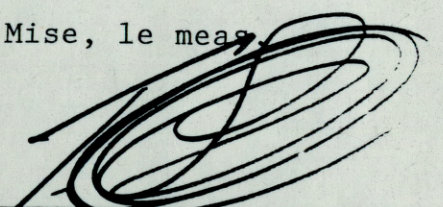
Co. Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

20th June, 1994.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Tuesday, 28th June, 1994, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

  
LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.
AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.
2. Statistical Report 1993.
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 held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings on Tuesday, 28th June, 1994, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Mr. F. Donoghue.

PRESENT: Clrs. Michael Fahy, Patrick Finnegan, Jarlath McDonagh, Paddy McHugh, John M. Mannion, Kathleen Quinn, Evelyn Varley, Tiarnan Walsh; Messrs. Frank Donoghue, Joe Donoghue, Paddy Grealish, Leo Hallissey, Paudge Kennelly, Tony Leahy, Justin Mitchell, Patrick Pettit; Mrs. Margaret Counihan, Mrs. Maureen Egan and Ms. Kathleen Fallon.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Miss M. Moran, Messrs. M. Keating and P. Rabbitt, Assistant Librarians.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. N. Hayes, Messrs. J. F. King, P. Geraghty and Very Rev. L. A. Canon Forrest.

Before the meeting began Clr. T. Walsh proposed a vote of sympathy to the Gavin Family of Dunmore on the death of their daughter. Mr. Gavin was a former member of the Libraries Committee. Clr. K. Quinn seconded the vote and Mr. Sharkey extended his sympathy to the family on behalf of the staff.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted on the proposal of Clr. J. Mannion, seconded by Mr. J. Mitchell.

Sen. J. McDonagh extended his congratulations to the County Librarian, Mr. Tom Sharkey, who was retiring in July 1994. Sen. McDonagh thanked Mr. Sharkey for his enormous contribution to the Galway County Library Service. Other members of the Committee offered their best wishes to Mr. Sharkey and those who spoke included Clr. K. Quinn, Clr. J. Mannion, Clr. P. Finnegan and Clr. M. Fahy. The Chairman, F. Donoghue, said that there were many new Libraries built during Mr. Sharkey's tenure as County Librarian such as Clifden, Gort and Portumna. The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee formally thanked Mr. Sharkey for his service to Galway.

The County Librarian, Mr. Sharkey, thanked the members for their sentiments and best wishes and he paid tribute to the Libraries Committee and staff for their co-operation throughout his years as County Librarian.

2. STATISTICAL REPORT 1993:

The County Librarian drew the attention of members to his comments at the end of the Statistical Report presented to the meeting. He noted that the membership had kept up with previous years in spite of a serious cutback in the bookfund. Mr. Sharkey noted that the bookfund was £163,861 in 1987 and £98,244 in 1994. The County Librarian informed the meeting that a once off grant of £56,000 had recently been made by the Minister of the Environment to Galway County Libraries to replenish the bookstock. Mr. Sharkey welcomed the contribution and noted that Galway County Libraries would have got more if the bookfunds for the previous five years were higher. Mr. Leo Hallissey informed the meeting that the



Statistical Report before the Committee meant that they were presiding over a sliding service. Something had to be done to redress the serious situation he added. Mr. Hallissey noted that smaller counties than Galway got a larger allocation from the £2 million because they had higher bookfunds than Galway. The Chairman, Mr. F. Donoghue, agreed that something had to be done to improve the Library Service. He added that a larger bookfund was urgently required. Clr. J. Mitchell thought that a pressure group was needed to get increased funding for the Library Service. Mr. Sharkey said that the present bookfund was decided by the Finance Officer and it was £50,000 plus about another £33,000 taken in receipts.

The Chairman noted the serious decline in the Schools bookstock from 101,128 in 1986 to 85,437 in 1993. Mr. Leo Hallissey pointed out that the Department of Education provided a grant of £14,000 which was very small. He noted that the Minister for Education had expressed an interest in remedial reading but the Library was unable to purchase remedial books out of its small grant. Mr. Hallissey suggested that the Committee write to the Minister for Education seeking special funds for remedial reading materials and an increase in the Schools Library grant.

Clr. J. Mitchell asked about Library grants to V.E.C. schools. Mr. M. Keating told the meeting that no books were given to second level schools for about ten years as the grant received was only for primary schools. Mr. Keating pointed out that because of the small grant the Schools Library Service was concentrated on rural schools which had no access to Branch Libraries and consequently many schools in the County and City lost out. Mr. Sharkey said he was disappointed that he was forced to reduce the Library Service to Schools. Mr. P. Kennelly agreed that the service needed to be improved.

The Chairman again stressed that something needed to be done to increase the bookfund of the Library Service. He urged councillors to raise the issue at Council Meetings. Mr. Hallissey agreed and asked for clarification of the Galway City Corporation contribution to the Library Service. He noted that Galway City was the Cultural Centre of the West and suggested that the Committee contact Galway Corporation to get its support for the Library Service. After a general discussion on the need to make a concerted effort to improve the Library Service the Committee agreed to a proposal from Mr. Leo Hallissey and seconded by Sen. J. McDonagh to raise the matter with Galway County Council and Galway Corporation and get them to place it on their agenda for discussion. It was decided that the Finance Officers from the Corporation and the County Council be invited to the next Library Committee Meeting.

Mr. Sharkey told Mr. J. Donoghue that the Department of the Environment was responsible for the Library Service. Mr. Donoghue expressed disappointment that with large amounts of money coming from Europe none seemed to be going to Libraries in the west of Ireland. The County Librarian agreed with members that the Library Service appeared to be a low priority with the Department and said that he was sad to leave the Library Service at such a low point.



3. BRANCH LIBRARIES:

Mr. Sharkey said he was awaiting information from An Chomhairle Leabharlanna as regards Galway City and Loughrea Libraries. Mr. Sharkey also told the meeting he was awaiting an engineers report on car parking facilities to the proposed Loughrea Library project.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Chairman, Mr. F. Donoghue, noted that no County Council Officers attended the last three meetings and hoped that they would attend the next meeting which was expected to be in October or November - the Estimates Meeting.

*Frank Donoghue*  
*10/11/94*

Galway County Council Archives



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

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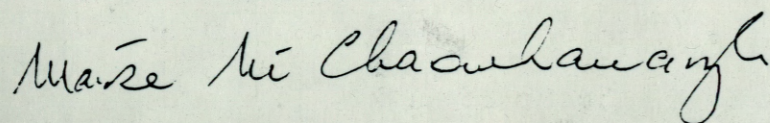
Co. Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

26th October, 1994.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee, will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Thursday, 10th November, 1994, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,


LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE SEAL.AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.
3. Estimates 1994.
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.  
To the City Manager.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries Committee held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Thursday, 10th November, 1994, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Mr. F. O'Donoghue.

PRESENT: Clrs. Michael Fahy, Patrick Finnegan, Matt Loughnane, Jarlath McDonagh, John M. Mannion, Kathleen Quinn, Evelyn Varley, Tiarnan Walsh; Messrs. Frank Donoghue, Patsy Geraghty, Paddy Grealish, Paudge Kennelly, Justin Mitchell, Patrick Pettit, Frank Rushe, Sean Tully; Mrs. Margaret Counihan and Mrs. Maureen Egan.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager; Mr. T. Coughlan, Administrative Officer; Ms. M. Kavanagh, Acting Co. Librarian; Ms. M. Moran, Messrs. M. Keating and P. Rabbitt, Assistant Librarians.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. Lily Broderick.1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted on the proposal of Clr. J. Mannion seconded by Clr. Kathleen Quinn. Mr. P. Geraghty commented on the low level of funding for books and asked if a grant could be sought from the Arts Council. The Chairman concurred with this and he referred the matter to the Manager. The Chairman then welcomed Mr. Donal O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, to his first meeting of this Committee. He also welcomed Ms. Mary Kavanagh, Acting Co. Librarian, and Mr. T. Coughlan, Administrative Officer.

The Manager then addressed the meeting. He paid tribute to Mr. Sharkey and wished him well in his retirement. He informed the meeting that a Five Year Development Plan for Galway County Libraries is being prepared. This plan will set out the aims and objectives of the service. It will be presented to this Committee for their comments before being presented to the County Council.

The marketing and promotion of the service was emphasised by the Manager. The decline in membership will have to be addressed by promoting and advertising the various services that the Libraries have to offer. The service is costing £1,000,000 approximately and this money will have to be spent effectively and efficiently.

The Manager informed the meeting that the new County Librarian, Mr. Pat McMahon, will take up duty early in 1995. Mr. McMahon has been County Librarian in Mayo for a number of years.

A discount of 50% on the membership charge was then announced by the Manager. A reduced charge of £5 per adult will be introduced on a trial basis to encourage more people to become members and avail of the facilities and services of the Libraries. The Manager also emphasised the importance of staff training in helping staff to provide an effective and efficient service.



The Manager then referred to developments that are in progress. The plans for Loughrea Library have been received from the Architect. The extension to Galway City Library should be completed in the very near future. Discussions are taking place with Udaras na Gaeltachta regarding a development in Carraroe.

The Chairman welcomed the Manager's announcement of the reduction in the membership fee. Mr. P. Geraghty and Mr. Justin Mitchell also welcomed the reduction.

Mr. Paudge Kennelly enquired about the erection of a plaque to Kate O'Brien in Roundstone Branch Library, which he had raised at a Committee Meeting. The outside wall of Roundstone Library is in bad condition and would require repair before a plaque could be erected. Mr. Kennelly stated that the three committee members from the Clifden area would approach the banks for sponsorship. The Manager replied that Mr. John Noone, Area Engineer, Clifden, should be contacted concerning the erection of the plaque, when it will be completed.

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

Clr. Michael Fahey, elected Chairman on the proposal of Mr. Patsy Geraghty, seconded by Clr. K. Quinn.

Mrs. Margaret Counihan was elected Vice-Chairman on the proposal of Clr. Jarlath McDonagh, seconded by Clr. John Mannion.

The outgoing Chairman, Mr. Frank Donoghue, thanked the Committee, Library Staff and Council for their help and co-operation during his year of office. He congratulated Clr. Michael Fahey on his election as Chairman. Clr. M. Fahey in his opening remarks paid tribute to Mr. T. Sharkey and recommended that a letter be sent from the Committee to thank Mr. Sharkey for his dedication and work in developing the Library Service during his career as County Librarian.

## 3. ESTIMATES:

Mr. Tom Coughlan explained that there was an overall increase of 6% in the 1995 estimate. This was due to non recurring items of expenditure on the payroll in 1994.

The Estimates were adopted on the proposal of Mr. P. Geraghty, seconded by Clr. J. McDonagh.

Mr. Geraghty raised the question of a grant from the Arts Council towards the purchase of books. The Manager replied that two million pounds had been made available to Libraries this year. Galway had received £56,000 towards the purchase of books.

## 4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Kavanagh informed the meeting of an E.U. circular on funding for cultural and conservation projects. The Kaleidoscope Programme promoted cultural events and exhibitions between organisations representing three member states. There is funding available also for the conservation of Religious Buildings.



Mr. Justin Mitchell enquired if there were any plans to change the entrance to Ballinasloe Branch Library, which could be a problem if the new County Council Offices are built beside the Library. Mr. Tom Coughlan said there was no problem and the situation was being monitored.

The Chairman proposed a vote of sympathy to Senator Frank Fahey, Gort on the death of his aunt. The Manager extended his sympathy to the family on behalf of the staff.

Galway County Council Archives



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471

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

13th March, 1995.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Wednesday, 22nd March, 1995, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

Pat McMahon  
LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.
2. Branch Libraries.
3. Nomination of Delegates to the Annual Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Library Association (Northern Ireland Branch), in the Mount Brandon Hotel, Tralee, from 25th to 28th April, 1995.
4. Any other business.

To each member of the Committee.  
To the County Manager.  
To the Assistant County Manager.  
To the City Manager (Mr. Joe Gavin).  
To the County Secretary.  
To the editors of local newspapers.  
To Galway Bay FM.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries Committee held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Wednesday, 22nd March, 1995, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. Michael Fahey.

PRESENT: Clrs. Michael Fahy, Patrick Finnegan, Paddy McHugh, John M. Mannion, Michael Ryan, Evelyn Varley, Tiarnan Walsh; Messrs. Frank Donoghue, Patsy Geraghty, Paddy Grealish, Leo Hallissey, Paudge Kennelly, Tony Leahy, Justin Mitchell, Patrick Pettit, Sean Tully, Maurice Whelan; Mrs. Margaret Counihan and Ms. Kathleen Fallon.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Tom Kavanagh, County Secretary; Mr. Pat McMahon, County Librarian; Ms. Maureen Moran, Messrs. Martin Keating and Peter Rabbitt, Assistant Librarians.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. Lily Broderick, Mrs. Noelle Hayes, Mr. Frank Rushe, Mr. J. F. King.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Pat McMahon, County Librarian, to his first meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee. Mr. McMahon addressed the meeting. He said he looked forward to working with the Committee and together with the staff, the Local Authority and the Libraries Committee, he hoped that the Library Service would continue to contribute to the cultural life of the City and County.

Mr. T. Kavanagh welcomed Mr. McMahon and said that during his service with Mayo County Council, he had a reputation of being innovative. Galway County Library service will benefit from this experience.

Clrs. Ryan and Finnegan also welcomed Mr. McMahon.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted on the proposal of Clr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. F. Donoghue.

Mr. F. Donoghue inquired about the response to the reduction in fees. Mr. Peter Rabbitt informed the meeting that the response was enthusiastic. There was an increase in membership for January/February and also an increase in the money collected.

Mr. P. Kennelly raised the issue of the plaque to Kate O'Brien. The Banks in Clifden are prepared to give sponsorship of £200. The quotation from Mr. Wilkins (Sculptor) is between £400 and £500 approx. for a granite plaque. Mr. Kennelly asked if Galway County Council would sponsor the remaining £300 approximately. Mr. Kavanagh replied that the problem was, whether the wall of Roundstone Branch Library, which is in bad condition, would support a granite plaque. He would have the matter investigated for the next meeting.

Mr. L. Hallissey welcomed the reduction in fees. He quoted from the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, which recommends that Public Libraries should be free. Mr. Hallissey proposed that the Manifesto be put on the agenda of the next Library Committee Meeting. Clr. Mannion seconded the proposal.



2. Branch Libraries:

Mr. Pat McMahon informed the meeting that the sketch plans for Loughrea Branch Library had been submitted to the Department of the Environment. Mr. Tony Leahy asked Mr. Kavanagh if the project would commence this year. Mr. Kavanagh replied that he could not give a definite time. Mr. Pat McMahon outlined the various stages in the planning of a project before the actual building can commence. The sketch plans are available in Library Headquarters, Island House, for any member to consult.

3. Nomination of Delegates to the Joint Conference of The Library Association of Ireland and the Library Association Northern Ireland Branch in the Mount Brandon Hotel, Tralee, from 25th - 28th April, 1995:

The following delegates were proposed and seconded. Clrs. M. Ryan, Michael Fahy and Tiarnan Walsh.

4. Any other business:

Mr. P. McMahon informed the meeting that the Department of Education's allocation to the Schools Library Service has been increased to £1 per pupil. Mr. P. Geraghty and Mr. L. Hallissey asked Mr. McMahon to investigate the possibility of European Funding or Lottery Funding for books.

The Chairman suggested that something should be done to commemorate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Great Famine. He suggested inviting Mr. T. P. O'Neill to give a short lecture on the Famine at the next meeting. Ms. Moran informed the meeting that a Galway Famine Committee had been set up, and is affiliated to the National Famine Committee. This Committee is investigating a number of projects to commemorate the Famine.

The meeting concluded at 4.45 p.m.



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471

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

28th June, 1995.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the City Library, Hynes Building, Augustine St., Galway, on Thursday, 6th July, 1995, at 3.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

*Patrick Mahony*LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
2. Branch Libraries.
3. UNESCO Manifesto on Public Libraries.
4. Any other business.

Professor T. P. O'Neill will address the committee on the subject of the Famine immediately after the meeting. This will be at 4.00 p.m.

Please note that the venue for the meeting and Professor O'Neill's address is the City Library, Augustine St., Galway.

To each member of the Committee.  
To the County Manager.  
To the Assistant County Manager.  
To the City Manager.  
To the County Secretary.  
To the editors of local newspapers.  
To Galway Bay FM.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries Committee held in the Galway City Library on Thursday, 6th July, 1995, at 3.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. M. Fahey.

PRESENT: Clrs. Michael Fahy, Patrick Finnegan, Jarlath McDonagh, John M. Mannion, Kathleen Quinn, Tiarnan Walsh; Messrs. Frank Donoghue, Kathleen Fallon, Justin Flannery, Patsy Geraghty, Paddy Grealish, Paudge Kennelly, John Francis King, Tony Leahy, Justin Mitchell, Patrick Pettit, Sean Tully, Maurice Whelan and Mrs. Margaret Counihan.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Brian Doyle, Acting County Secretary; Mr. Pat McMahon, County Librarian; Ms. Maureen Moran, Mr. Martin Keating, Assistant Librarians; Ms. Bernie Kelly, Senior Library Assistant; Mr. Tom Browne, Acting Senior Library Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. Lily Broderick.

The Chairman welcomed the Committee and extended a special welcome to Mr. T. P. O'Neill for accepting the invitation to address the Committee on the Famine. The County Librarian said he hoped this was the first of many meetings to be held in the City Library and in Branch Libraries throughout the County. He outlined the services provided by the City Library, and the planned refurbishment that will take place in the near future.

Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted on the proposal of Mr. Frank Donoghue, seconded by Clr. P. Finnegan. Mr. T. Leahy inquired about the plans for Loughrea Library. The County Librarian replied that An Chomhairle Leabharlanna had granted approval and the project would now proceed to Stage II with more detailed plans and costings to be submitted.

Mr. Paudge Kennelly asked if there had been any development on the proposal to erect a plaque to Kate O'Brien in the wall of Roundstone Branch Library. The County Librarian replied that Roundstone was on the agenda for renovation and hopefully the plaque could then be erected.

Branch Libraries:

The County Librarian informed the meeting that An Chomhairle Leabharlanna had approved of the plans for Loughrea Library. A supplementary grant for the refurbishment of the City Library had also been approved.

Woodford Branch Library is closed temporarily due to reconstruction work being carried out to the Parish Hall. Temporary accommodation is being sought to ensure the continuance of the service.

The development in the grounds of The Church of Ireland in Loughrea was raised. Mr. B. Doyle informed the meeting that the matter was being looked after by the Law Agent.



The County Librarian said a Five Year Plan for Library development was being prepared and when it was finalised, it would be presented to the Committee for discussion

The question of a Branch Library for Mountbellew was raised. Mountbellew has a school going population of 1,000 pupils approximately and some years ago it was planned that the Library would be part of the County Council Fire Station development.

The Lackagh Museum was also mentioned as a location for a Branch Library. The County Librarian replied that both areas would be considered in terms of The Five Year Plan.

#### UNESCO Manifesto:

The UNESCO Manifesto was circulated to all members of the Committee. The County Librarian gave a brief analysis of the Manifesto, which sees the Public Library as a living force for education, culture and information, free and open to all peoples regardless of age, status or ideology.

#### Any other business:

There was a general debate on the Schools Library Service. A number of members commented on the inadequate funding and the deterioration of the School Library Service to Primary Schools. The County Librarian commented that it was hoped that the £1 per pupil provided by the Department of Education this year would be increased again next year.

The provision of a Library Service to Second Level Schools was raised by a number of members. The County Librarian replied that a Library Service to Second Level Schools would have to be adequately funded by the Department of Education. During the discussion the question of encouraging children to read was raised. It was suggested that Library staff should go into the schools promoting books and the Library Service.

#### Talk on the Famine by Mr. T. P. O'Neill:

This complex historical event was made more relevant and interesting by Mr. O'Neills references to local events in the Galway area, and to local Landlords both bad and good. During the course of the talk Mr. O'Neill suggested that a simple monument of stone, with an inscription should be erected in the Spiddal area, to commemorate all who died during the Famine. He also suggested that the doctors who died should be remembered by some plaque or memorial in the grounds of the Regional Hospital, the site of the old Workhouse. He commented on the Archive Records available in the County Library and suggested that an Exhibition based on these sources could be mounted in the Library and then transferred to the various Branch Libraries.

The meeting was completed at 4.45 p.m.



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 562471

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

1st November, 1995.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee, will be held at Library Headquarters, Island House, on Thursday, 9th November, 1995, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

*P. McMahon*  
LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.
3. Estimates 1996.
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 City Manager.  
To the editors of local newspapers.

P.S. The Library Headquarters is situated on the ground floor of Island House, near the Cathedral.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Galway County Libraries Committee held in the County Library Headquarters, Island House, on Thursday, 9th November, 1995, at 4.00p.m.

IN CHAIR: Cllr. M. Fahy

PRESENT: Cllrs. Michael Fahy, Patrick Finnegan, Matt Loughnane, John M. Mannion, Kathleen Quinn, Tiarnan Walsh; Mrs. Lilly Broderick, Mrs. Margaret Counihan, Mrs. Maureen Egan, Ms. Kathleen Fallon; Messrs. Frank Donoghue, Patsy Geraghty, Paddy Grealish, Leo Hallissey, Justin Mitchell, Patrick Pettit and Sean Tully.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. D. O'Donoghue, County Manger; Mr. P. Carroll, Senior Staff Officer; Mr. P. McMahon, County Librarian; Ms. M. Moran, Executive Librarian; Messrs. Martin Keating and Peter Rabbitt, Assistant Librarians.

APOLOGIES: Mr. P. Kennelly, Mr. M. Whelan, Ms. Noelle Hayes and Cllr. Matt Loughnane.

The Chairman proposed a vote of sympathy to the Lenihan Family on the death of Mr. Brian Lenihan and the Blaney Family on the death of Mr. Niall Blaney. Cllr. Mannion seconded the proposal. The County Manager concurred with the vote of sympathy on behalf of the staff.

The County Librarian welcomed the Committee to the County Library Headquarters and outlined the services provided there. The County Manager suggested that Library Committee Meetings should be held in Branch Libraries such as Tuam or Ballinasloe in the future.

Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes were adopted on the proposal of Mr. P. Geraghty and seconded by Cllr. K. Quinn.

The issue of the development in the grounds of the Church of Ireland in Loughrea was raised. Mr. P. Carroll said the case was coming up in the next week.

The County Librarian informed the meeting that Stage II of the plans for the new Loughrea Branch Library had been approved by An Chomhairle.

Library staff will meet with Mr. T. P. O'Neill in the next two weeks to plan the Famine Exhibition based on the Resources of the County Libraries Local History Collection. The stone monument for the Spiddal area will also be discussed.

The County Librarian then gave a broad outline of the Five Year Plan. The mission statement will be Michael Davitts philosophy "all Libraries should be centres of light and learning". The three key areas will be:-

- (a) Good book collections and the promotion of reading
- (b) Libraries accessible and available to all people in the County.
- (c) Children's Libraries



Mr. P. Geraghty said the Local History Resources of Branch Libraries should be highlighted and children should be encouraged to use the Library to learn the history of their local town or townland. Cllr. P. Finnegan said that FAS schemes should be encouraged to donate their research projects to their local Library.

## 2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman:

The Chairman, Cllr. M. Fahey, thanked the County Manager, the County Librarian and the Committee for their help and co-operation during his term of office.

Mrs. Margaret Counihan was elected Chairperson on the proposal of Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Mr. Frank Donoghue.

Cllr. P. Finnegan was elected Vice-Chairman on the proposal of Cllr. M. Fahey, seconded by Mr. P. Geraghty.

## 3. Estimates 1996:

The County Librarian outlined the 1996 Estimate, pointing out the increase of £10,000 in the bookfund.

Mr. J. Mitchell raised the issue of the very high leasing charges for the Hynes Building. The Manager replied that it is envisaged that a City Branch Library and Headquarters will be incorporated into the proposed County Buildings project in Prospect Hill.

Cllr. Fahy thanked all concerned with the opening of Woodford Branch Library in the Bank of Ireland premises in Woodford. This is a co-operative venture with the Bank on a temporary basis.

The estimate was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. M. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. M. Fahy.

## 4. Any other business:

The County Librarian informed the meeting that the reduction of the registration charge from £10 to £5 had ensured that more people were using the Library. In 1994 £30,000 was collected from fees, in 1995 the figures suggest that £26,000 approximately will be collected.

He also outlined a number of promotions undertaken to publicise the Library Service.

A maildrop of 1,000 leaflets were distributed to the Gort, Portumna and Clifden areas. The feedback is positive from Portumna and Clifden. A lot of enquiries about the services and also a rise in membership.

Galway City Library's Summer Reading Tree Project was very successful with over two hundred children participating. Eighty children completed the project by reading ten books. McDonald's sponsored the project.

Activities to promote children's books and reading were held in fourteen Branch Libraries during the National Children's Festival 20th October - 5th November. It was suggested that the list of activities be circulated to the Committee members.