

The Chairman asked if V.A.T. was levied on children's books. Mr. Sharkey replied that it was levied on all books at the rate of 10%. The Chairman proposed the proper authorities be asked to remove V.A.T. from children's books. Mrs. Croffy seconded this proposal. Mr. Sharkey said that he would forward the proposal to the Department of Local Government.

The Chairman complimented the Co. Librarian on the detailed report given.

PUBLICATION OF BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GALWAY AUTHORS:

Mr. Sharkey explained that Miss Helen Maher had written "A Biographical and Bibliographical index of Galway Authors; with an essay on the history of literature in Galway," for which she was awarded the Fellowship of the Library Association of Ireland, (F.L.A.I.). He said that there was some money available this year, which could be used to publish this work. He had recommended its publication to the Co. Manager and was now recommending it to the Committee. He reminded the committee of the value and use being made of Miss Mary Kavanagh's Bibliography of the County Galway, which was published by Galway County Libraries in 1965. On the proposal of Sen. Mannion seconded by Clr. Melvin it was unanimously agreed that the work be published.

Mrs. Croffy asked what the cost of publication would be. Mr. Sharkey replied £1,480. Mrs. Croffy said she wished to congratulate Miss Maher on her Bibliography. The Chairman remarked that the work would belong to Galway County Library, he also proposed a vote of thanks to the author. Clr. O'Morain asked if the work included authors of works in the Irish language. Mr. Sharkey replied that it did.

ESTIMATED JANUARY-DECEMBER 1977:

Mr. Sharkey said that a copy of the estimates in detail had been sent to each member. He said that the estimate as presented calls for a total nett expenditure of £155,935, or slightly over £1 per head of population. The total nett cost of the service would increase by £6,335. This amount would be absorbed by increased valuations and consequently the rate in the £1 at 20.70p was exactly the same as the amount estimated for the present financial year. The bookfund had been increased by 5%, and salaries and wages by a total of £2,040. Increases under other headings were slight and there was a saving of £2,500 on loan charges.

Clr. O'Morain proposed that these estimates be accepted on a provisional basis in case the estimate for a second mobile would be available and could be included in the estimate for 1977. This proposal was seconded by Sen. Mannion. Clr. Galvin asked if it would not be better to pass the estimates as proposed. The chairman asked Clr. O'Morain if he agreed to this. Clr. O'Morain said he thought it would be better not to tie the committee's hands.

Mr. K. Doyle said that a second mobile would cost a lot of money which was not available at present. Clr. Ryan suggested that a smaller van than the present unit be purchased for use in North Galway. Mr. Sharkey said that a bigger van would carry a greater and more varied stock. Mrs. Croffy asked if Clr. O'Morain's proposal would hold up the estimates under consideration. Mr. Doyle said that if it was found feasible to provide a second mobile the amount required could be added into the estimate for 1977. Clr. O'Morain then withdrew his proposal. He asked that the report when completed be placed before the Committee.

The Chairman remarked that he was pleased that the rate in the £1 had not been increased.

On the proposal of Clr. O'Morain seconded by Sen. Mannion the estimates were passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 4.45 p.m.

Sean Donnellan
11/2/77

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Co. Library H.Qrs.,
Courthouse,
Galway.
3rd February, 1977.

A Chara,

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Friday, 11th February, 1977, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for year 1977.
3. Branch Libraries.
4. Nomination of two delegates to a Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Branch, The Library Association in Tramore, from Wednesday, 18th to Saturday 21st May, 1977.
5. Any other business.

To each member of the Committee.
To County Manager.
To County Secretary.
To 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, Galway on Friday, 11th February, 1977, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. S. O'Domhnallain.

PRESENT: Clr. M. F. Kitt, T.D., Sen. J. M. Mannion, Clrs. S. O'Domhnallain, F. Fahey, P. T. Galvin, E. Haverty, B. Holland, H. Melvin, P. Raftery, M. Ryan, T. Welby, Mrs. M. Croffy, Mrs. T. J. Beatty, Mrs. K. O'Brien, Messrs. J. P. Burke, T. Burke, M. Kelly, F. Mullin, P. O'Grady, C. Townley, M. O'Toole.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. K. Doyle, Acting County Manager, Mr. T. Sharkey, Co. Librarian, Miss M. Moran, Mrs. J. McCarthy and Mrs. M. McSpadden, Assistant Librarians.

Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that he had received letters of apology for non attendance from Mrs. M. Melody and Clr. J. F. King.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting, 13th August, 1976, as circularised to members were adopted and signed on the proposal of Clr. H. Melvin, seconded by Clr. M. Ryan.

ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:V.A.T. ON BOOKS:

Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that he had forwarded the Committee's recommendation that V.A.T. be removed from Children's Books, to the Department of Finance. The reply which he received had been circulated to all members. The Department regretted that it was not possible to accede to the Committee's request for a V.A.T. concession. Mr. Sharkey remarked that the bookfund for 1977 is £52,500, V.A.T. will amount to £5,250, so that the net bookfund for this year is £47,250.

The Chairman asked if there was any hope for the removal of V.A.T. in the future. Mr. Townley said that an Chomhairle Leabharlanna was trying to have V.A.T. removed from all library materials, books and newspapers, but at present there was not much hope of this. Mr. Sharkey said that as much pressure as possible will be brought to bear on this subject. The Chairman remarked that V.A.T. on books was a major problem for text books and library books, and that it was a pity that the Department disregarded the advice of the Library Association.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GALWAY AUTHORS:

Mr. Sharkey told the meeting that this work would be launched within the next two or three weeks.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Clr. M. F. Kitt proposed Mrs. J. Beatty as Vice-Chairman, and was seconded by Clr. H. Melvin. Mrs. Beatty was then elected Vice-Chairman and returned thanks to the members.

BRANCH LIBRARIES:

CLIFDEN: Mr. Doyle told the meeting that a tender for the new Branch Library in Clifden had been accepted, and that the contract documents would be ready within the next few weeks. The Chairman asked if the building would be used as a Branch Library only. Mr. Doyle replied that there would be rooms upstairs which would be available as offices.

Mrs. Beatty asked if a Branch Library was to be built with the new fire station in Mountbellew. Mr. Doyle replied that there were no plans to do this. Clr. M. Ryan enquired if there was a possibility of Branch Library facilities being provided in Mountbellew. He was supported by Mrs. J. Beatty in his suggestion that the Committee should provide library accommodation in Mountbellew within the next year or two. Mr. Sharkey replied that it would take time if a library building were to be provided. The Chairman remarked that he was in favour of combining a Branch Library and Fire Station in the one building for reasons of economy. Clr. M. Ryan said that the fire station in Mountbellew was quite a large building. Mr. Sharkey explained that both these services would have to be provided on the ground floor. Mrs. Beatty wondered if a Branch Library must be on the ground floor, why the Galway City Branch was on the second floor. Mr. Sharkey explained that the City Branch was located in the Courthouse in 1934 as a temporary measure and was still there.

PORTUMNA: Mr. M. Kelly said he understood that it was now planned to build the Portumna Branch Library in the Fairgreen. He asked what was to become of the original site proposed for the Branch Library remarking that it was in very poor condition. He said that it was an eyesore in the centre of the town and was spoiling the town's chances in the "Tidy Towns Competition". Mr. Doyle said that this complaint would be looked into and the site cleared up. He said that there had been no further developments in the Portumna Branch Library project since the previous meeting.

GORT: Mr. Doyle informed the Committee that as yet funds had not been allocated for the new branch in Gort.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN 1977.

Clr. S. O'Domhnallain reminded the meeting that on his election as Chairman the previous year he agreed to hold office for one year only. He then proposed Mr. J. P. Burke as Chairman for 1977. Clr. H. Melvin seconded this proposal. After his unanimous election as Chairman Mr. Burke thanked the members for electing him and said that as one of the members not elected by the public he appreciated the honour, he said he had a great interest in the library and would do his best as Chairman.

Mr. Sharkey on behalf of the County Library Staff thanked the outgoing Chairman Clr. S. O'Domhnallain for his co-operation and help during his period in office. Mr. Doyle on behalf of the County Manager asked to be associated with the County Librarian's remarks.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Clr. M. F. Kitt proposed Mrs. J. Beatty as Vice-Chairman, and was seconded by Clr. H. Melvin. Mrs. Beatty was then elected Vice-Chairman and returned thanks to the members.

3. BRANCH LIBRARIES: Mr. Sharkey told the meeting of the extensive renovations which were carried out in the adult lending area of the Galway City Branch Library. The shelving and floor covering in the Branch had been replaced and the room renovated. Mr. Sharkey stated that he was very pleased with the renovations and public reaction had been most favourable.

Clr. B. Holland asked if the amount of borrowers was decreasing. Mr. Sharkey said that readership was increasing.

Clr. F. Fahey asked for information on the proposed new Branch Library in Gort. Mr. Doyle said that the contract documents were prepared, but that as yet funds had not been allocated for the new Branch Library. Clr. Fahey stated that the condition of the church was most depressing. He said that this building was given by the Protestant Community to the County Council to house a library and museum. He urged Mr. Doyle and the Co. Librarian to have the necessary funds allocated, as it was nearly three years since the building had been handed over. Mr. Townley asked if An Chomhairle Leabharlanna had approved the plans for the Gort Branch Library. Mr. Doyle said the plans had been approved, but the delay was caused by the necessity of having a government loan sanctioned.

4. NOMINATION OF DELEGATES TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

Clr. H. Melvin proposed Clr. S. O'Domhnallain as a delegate to the Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Branch the Library Association, to be held in Tramore, Co. Waterford from 18th - 21st May, 1977. Clr. B. Holland seconded this proposal. Deputy Kitt proposed Mrs. K. O'Brien, but she declined stating that she had attended the 1976 conference in Ennis and felt that some other member should be selected. Mrs. J. Beatty then proposed Mr. F. Mullin and was seconded by Clr. H. Melvin. Both delegates were unanimously nominated and they returned thanks to the members for being selected to represent the Committee at the Conference.

Mr. Townley asked if other members of the library staff besides the Co. Librarian would be attending this Conference. He said that Conferences such as these were of value as an educational exercise for library staff and in particular staff in less senior posts who had little opportunity for meeting their counterparts in other libraries. Mr. Sharkey said that any member of staff who is a member of the Library Association of Ireland could attend the Conference, but that allowing staff to attend was a managerial function. Mr. Townley then proposed that other members of the library staff be sent to the Conference, and was seconded by Clr. B. Holland. The motion was unanimously adopted.

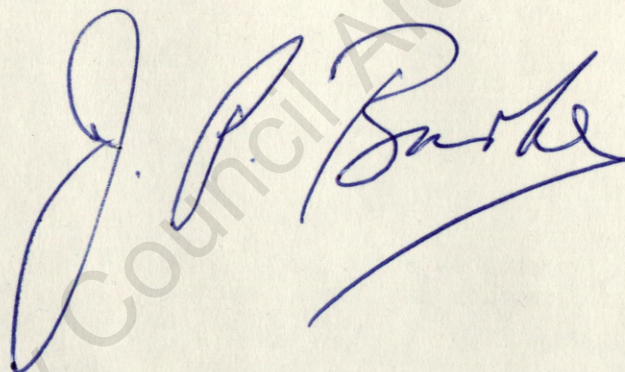
Mr. Townley suggested that the next library committee meeting should be held in the university. Clr. S. O'Domhnallain proposed that the next meeting be held in the university and was seconded by Clr. Holland. The committee adopted this motion unanimously. The Chairman thanked Mr. Townley and hoped that the College Authorities would approve of the proposal.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that Miss Maureen Moran, Assistant Librarian has submitted a thesis to the Library Association of Ireland for which she would be awarded a fellowship of the Library Association of Ireland, (F.L.A.I.) on 4th March.

Clr. Kitt asked Mr. Sharkey the whereabouts of the Clonbrock collection. Mr. Sharkey stated that the Collection was now in the National Library. Mrs. O'Brien proposed that part of this collection be loaned to Galway County Libraries for one month, and was seconded by Clr. Kitt. Mr. Townley suggested that a microfilm of the collection be sought. The Chairman said Mr. Sharkey would make the necessary enquiries.

The meeting ended at 5 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. P. Burke'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end. A faint watermark 'Galway County Council Archives' is visible across the page.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Co. Library H.Qrs.,
Courthouse,
GALWAY.

3rd August, 1977.

A Chara,

The Estimates Meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee will be held in Board Room A114, University College Galway, on Friday 12th August at 4.00p.m. Please ask for directions at the Porter's Office in the College Archway.

Mise, le meas,

LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE

AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Statistical Report 1976
3. Proposed Mobile Library Service for Connemara
4. Estimates January -December, 1978
5. Any other business

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

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

The Galway County Libraries estimates meeting was held at University College Galway on Friday, 12th August, 1977, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Mr. J. P. Burke.

PRESENT: Clrs. J. M. Mannion, T.D., S. Donnellan, P. T. Galvin, E. Haverty, H. Melvin, J. Molloy, P. Raftery, M. Ryan, T. Welby, Mrs. K. O'Brien, Messrs. J. P. Burke, T. Burke, B. Donnellan, F. Mullin, P. O'Grady, M. O'Toole, C. Townley.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. P. Kearns, Acting County Manager, Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian, Miss M. Kavanagh and Mrs. M. McSpadden, Assistant Librarians, Miss M. Killeen, Library Assistant.

The Chairman, Mr. Jarlath Burke, introduced Professor Colm O'hEocha, President of U.C.G., to the Committee members saying that they were honoured to have him present.

Professor O'hEocha speaking in Irish and English welcomed the members to U.C.G. and thanked the County Councils and officials of all the Connacht Counties, and also of Clare and Donegal for their help in the setting up of extra-mural courses organised by U.C.G. He invited the members to a tour, under the guidance of Mr. C. Townley, of the new U.C.G. Library. He said that Connacht would benefit culturally and economically from a co-ordination of our combined library resources.

Clr. Sean Donnellan thanked Professor O'hEocha for the honour he had paid them in attending the meeting and joined with the Chairman in thanking him for permitting the meeting to be held in U.C.G.

Professor O'hEocha said he hoped that this would not be the last time that the Committee would meet in U.C.G.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting, 11th February, 1977, as circularised to members were adopted and signed on the proposal of Clr. H. Melvin, Seconded by Clr. M. Ryan.

ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:V.A.T. ON BOOKS:

Clr. S. Donnellan proposed that the committee continue to bring pressure on the Dept. of Finance to have V.A.T. removed from Children's Books. Mr. C. Townley seconded this proposal.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GALWAY AUTHORS:

Mr. Sharkey told the meeting that £600 worth of copies of the Bibliography of Galway Authors by Miss Helen Maher had been sold. He said that after a successful launching, demand was good from other libraries and institutions, and that there was a steady flow of orders. Clr. S. Donnellan asked how many copies had been published. Mr. Sharkey replied that a total of 750 copies were published.

BRANCH LIBRARIES:

CLIFDEN: Mr. Sharkey said that work on the new Branch Library in Clifden had been held up by the illness of the Contractor. Mr. J. Mannion, T.D. asked if there had been a small legal problem with the site of the new library. Mr. Peter Kearns said part of this site had been sold at a nominal sum and everything was now proceeding well.

PORTUMNA: Mr. Kearns said that as yet funds had not been allocated for the new Branch Library in Portumna.

GORT: Mr. Kearns said that funds had not been allocated for Gort Branch Library. Mr. Sharkey said that it was very embarrassing to see the building lying idle and to try to explain the reason for the delay to the donors.

CLONBROCK COLLECTION: Mr. Sharkey said that photocopies of the books in the Clonbrock Collection, which were donated to the National Library had been ordered and when received would be bound. Mr. Townley remarked that it was important to have such material available in Galway.

2. STATISTICAL REPORT:

Mr. Sharkey said that this report gave information on the working of the library service in the previous year. The Report showed that the total issues from Branch Libraries, Centres and Mobile decreased by 3,825 compared with the previous year. Increases in issues were recorded in sixteen branches and issues dropped in thirteen.

Mr. Sharkey stated that the Galway City Branch Library was closed for one week for renovations which meant a drop of approximately 3,500 in issues, and that the renovations had been a great help to the staff and public.

Clr. S. Donnellan asked if the demand for a mobile service was on the increase. Mr. Sharkey said there had been a slight drop in demand

Clr. S. Donnellan asked what the demand for books in Irish was like in the county. Mr. Sharkey said that demand was slight. He added that as many books as possible were made available and new publications were always purchased. He also stated that many of the Irish Books in the old script were not understood by young people.

Mr. C. Townley said that more people would read books in Irish if there were more exciting publications available and the reason for the present small demand was that many of the books in stock were dull. He said when Brendan O'Eithir's book "Lig Sinn igCathu" appeared it sold very well which showed that the demand was there if books were appealing enough.

The Chairman asked if the members wished to discuss the drop in readership in Abbeyknockmoy, Craughwell and Mervue. Clr. Ryan asked why there was a drop in readership in Abbeyknockmoy. Mr. Sharkey replied that the Branch had been closed due to illness of the Branch Librarian and the service there is now being provided by the mobile unit.

Clr. Ryan asked if the County Librarian had looked for another premises in Abbeyknockmoy. Mr. Sharkey said he had not as a Mobile Unit would have been used there from the beginning instead of a Branch Library if such a system had been in operation at the time.

Clr. Ryan asked what use was being made of worn-out books. Mr. Sharkey stated that they were destroyed but that contact could be made with the Woodquay office if worn-out books were required by interested parties.

Clr. J. Molloy asked why a Juvenile Library service was not available in the Mervue Branch Library. Mr. Sharkey said that the room in which the library is situated would not accommodate a juvenile section. He said that it was an interim service until a new Headquarters was built. Clr. S. Donnellan asked if there would be a demand for juvenile books there if space were available. Mr. Sharkey said that he felt sure there would.

On the proposal of Clr. Melvin seconded by Clr. Ryan the Statistical Report was adopted.

PROPOSED MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE FOR CONNEMARA:

Mr. Sharkey told the meeting that the proposed second mobile library unit had a direct bearing on the estimates. The entire county, one of the biggest in Ireland, was served by a single mobile library, which meant that the stopping points in Connemara were visited only once a month.

He stated that a total of £12,778 was included in the estimate for the proposed Connemara Mobile service which would provide for running costs, salaries, wages and travelling expenses from 1st April, 1978, and also for a half year's loan charges.

Clr. Mannion, T.D., proposed that the Committee accept the estimate for a Connemara Mobile and was seconded by Clr. S. Donnellan.

Clr. Mannion, T.D., asked Mr. Sharkey if some service points were planned. Mr. Sharkey read out the proposed routes and all the members expressed their satisfaction at the comprehensive coverage to be given in the area.

Mr. M. O'Toole asked if it would be possible to provide a service for Inishbofin and Mr. Sharkey said he would look into it.

Mr. C. Townley remarked that with a second mobile in operation, a full library service would be given to the county as a whole.

The Chairman said that the people of the Gaeltacht are entitled to a full library service.

3. ESTIMATE 1978:

The County Librarian presented the Estimate for 1978. The Estimate as presented called for a total net expenditure of £233,690, at a cost of £1.365 per head of population.

Mr. Sharkey said that a total of £12,778 was included in the estimate for the proposed Connemara Mobile service. The amount estimated for the bookfund was £69,660 which was an increase of 20% on the bookfund for 1977. This included the grant of £6,660 from the Department of Education. A total of £11,700 was included for two new delivery vans for the Schools Department.

Clr. Donnellan asked how many times a year books were exchanged at schools, and also what opportunity of book selection was offered to the teachers. Mr. Sharkey replied that exchanges were made three times a year. Under the present system a teacher did not have much time for book selection as four schools were usually visited in one day. He said that the present system was mainly a delivery service. He also pointed out teachers could request the books they required or considered suitable.

Clr. J. Mannion, T.D., proposed the adoption of the estimates for 1978 and was seconded by Clr. T. Welby. The Committee unanimously adopted the estimates as presented.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Sharkey welcomed Mrs. K. O'Brien to the meeting and he was glad to see her present after her recent illness. Clr. Donnellan on behalf of the members associated himself with this welcome.

Mr. Sharkey informed the members that valuable record books, some dating back from before the famine, which included workhouse ledgers and Minute Books of the Board of Guardians had been found recently in Tuam. He had these books rebound by Kenny's Bindery.

Mr. C. Townley said that these old records were extremely important as source material for social historians and appealed to people who come across any kind of old business or household records to preserve them carefully and inform libraries of their existence.

Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that two Branch Librarians, Miss Nora Joyce of Kilconnell, and Mr. William Brandon of Creggs, had died since the last meeting. On the proposal of Clr. Galvin seconded by Mr. Mullin a vote of sympathy to their families and friends was passed.

The Chairman again thanked the President of the University for allowing the meeting to be held there.

The meeting then ended and the members and officials were taken on a tour of the U.C.G. Library by Mr. Townley.

J.P. Burke
24/2/78

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Co. Library Headquarters,
Courthouse,
Galway.

14th February, 1978.

A Chara,

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Friday, 24th February, 1978, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,



LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for year 1978.
3. New Branch Libraries.
4. Nomination of two delegates to a Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Branch, The Library Association in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, Co. Down, from Wednesday, 24th to Saturday, 27th May, 1978.
5. Any other business.

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

Department of Finance,
Upper Merrion Street,
Dublin, 2.

17th October, 1977.

Mr. Thomas Sharkey,
County Librarian,
Courthouse,
Galway.

Dear Mr. Sharkey,

I refer to your letter of 10 October, 1977, requesting the removal of VAT from children's books (i.e. in effect, applying the zero-rate of VAT to the sale of such books) purchased by public libraries. It is not possible to accede to that request for the reasons given in my letter of 20 September, 1976.

The overriding obstacle to granting the request is, of course, the EEC Sixth VAT Directive which was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 17 May last. This Directive permits each Member State only to retain its zero-ratings on consumer outlays which were in force on 31 December, 1975.

In the circumstances, the Government is precluding from extending the range of zero-ratings to additional categories of goods such as children's books.

Yours sincerely,

T. J. Tobin.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE.

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee was held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Friday 24th February, 1978 at 4 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Mr. J. P. Burke.

PRESENT: Cirs. M. Killilea T.D., P. T. Galvin, E. Haverty, Sen. M. Kitt, H. Melvin, J. Molloy, M. O'Morain & P. Raftery, Mrs. J. C. Beatty, Mrs. M. Croffy, Mrs. M. Melody, Messers J. P. Burke, M. Kelly, F. Mullin, P. O'Grady & C. Townley.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. Keating, County Manager, Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian, Miss M. Moran & Messers T. Finn, M. Keating and P. Rabbitt, Assistant Librarians.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. K. O'Brien.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

The minutes of the previous meeting 12th August, 1977, as circularised to members were adopted and signed on the proposal of Mr. P. Raftery and seconded by Mrs. M. Croffy.

ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

Sen. M. Kitt asked where the recently found Tuam Records were located. Mr. Sharkey said they were stored in the County Council strong room because there was a shortage of space in the Library. He added that more Tuam Records were found in the Tuam Fire Station and these were rebound and stored with the others.

Sen. M. Kitt asked Mr. Sharkey if he had any information on Mountbellew Records.

Mr. Sharkey replied that he had no such knowledge but if any member had information about them he would welcome it. Cirs. M. O'Morain asked for a copy of the proposed Connemara Mobile Routes. Mr. Sharkey promised him a copy and pointed out that they were only proposed routes. He added that sanction for a loan was needed before the mobile could be put into service.

Mr. Sharkey referred the members to a letter from the Dept. of Finance, which was circulated, and said it looked as if the library was stuck with V.A.T. on childrens books.

Mr. Sharkey said he got photocopies of the Clonbrock Collection, which was requested by Mrs. K. O'Brien, and that he had them bound. He had one bound volume with him for members to inspect. Mr. C. Townley commended Mr. Sharkey for getting copies of the Clonbrock material and said it was good to have material such as this available in the County Library as it was inconvenient for the general public to see the records in the National Library in Dublin.

Mr. Townley asked the members to record their appreciation of Mr. Sharkey for getting this material and Mr. J. Burke seconded on behalf of the members.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR YEAR 1978.

Clr. M. Killilea proposed that Mr. J. P. Burke continue as Chairman. This was seconded by Clr. E. Haverty and was unanimously agreed by members.

Mr. Burke who accepted the nomination and thanked the members stated that he thought that it was policy that the Chair should rotate each year. The members did not agree and stated they were not bound by any such policy.

Mrs. J. Beatty was proposed by Clr. M. Killilea and seconded by Clr. E. Haverty for Vice-Chairperson and she was unanimously elected.

3. NEW BRANCH LIBRARIES.

CLIFDEN: Mr. Sharkey said that the Clifden Branch Library was nearing completion and should be open in Summer 1978.

GORT: Mr. Sharkey informed members that work at the Gort Branch was going ahead and it was possible that it would be completed at the end of the year.

PORTUMNA: Mr. Sharkey said there was no further progress on the Portumna Branch.

Mr. S. Keating, County Manager, said that it was unlikely that work on the new Portumna Branch would be started this year as the Gort Branch proved to be more expensive than estimated. He added that the capital allocation available was only enough for Gort. Mr. Keating said that it was difficult to get Capital Allocation initially and only £15,000 was available last year and so work on the Gort Branch Library was started with direct labour in order to get on with the job and promote jobs and help the unemployment situation. Mr. Keating said there was no firm Capital Allocation available yet but if there was any money left over it would go towards the Portumna Branch. In answer to a query from a member Mr. Keating said the estimated cost for Gort was about £35,000 but the Council were making out a revised estimate and added that one engineer informed him that the branch would cost in excess of £50,000.

Mr. Keating said there was no difficulty about a site for the Portumna Branch and the proposed site was still the Fairgreen in Portumna which had an entrance close to the main street. He said that the site will be as open as possible and that the library will be on its own. The site is about $\frac{1}{10}$ of an acre.

Mr. Keating also stated that they would not go ahead with the branch until money became available.

Mrs. J. Beatty asked whether there was any proposal to build a branch library in Mountbellew as there was only a mobile service there at present. Sen. M. Kitt asked whether it was possible to build a library upstairs in the Fire Station as the library in Galway was upstairs in the Courthouse.

Mr. Sharkey replying said that there was no plan to build a branch library in Mountbellew and pointed out to members that the Library premises in the Courthouse, Galway, was unsuitable and that it was only put upstairs as a temporary measure in 1934. Mr. Sharkey added that the Library Council in Dublin were totally against upstairs libraries. One reason he said was that it would hinder handicapped people from using the library.

Sen. M. Kitt said he had a motion down for the next County Council meeting for a new Mountbellew branch. Mr. Keating promised Sen. Kitt that he will get the engineers to look for a possible site in Mountbellew.

Mr. C. Townley said that the Library Council was only too willing to give a subvention for library buildings but if the plans were not suitable they would be rejected and this would only cause delays.

4. NOMINATIONS OF TWO DELEGATES TO A JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND & NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH, THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, Co. Down for Wednesday 24th to Sat. 27th May, 1978.

Mrs. M. Croffy was proposed by Clr. Haverty and seconded by Sen. M. Kitt.

Clr. E. Haverty was proposed by Clr. Raftery and seconded by Mrs. M. Croffy. Mr. Haverty said he was not sure if he would be able to attend and so a substitute was proposed in the event of Clr. Haverty being unable to attend. Mr. P. Galvin was proposed by Clr. M. Killilea and seconded by Mr. C. Townley. The nominations were agreed unanimously.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Mrs. J. Beatty stated there was no mobile service in Mountbellew for eight weeks during Summer 1977. Mr. Sharkey said that the windscreen was broken accidentally and it took eight weeks to obtain a new one from England. He apologised to members for the inconvenience caused to readers.

Mrs. J. Beatty said that there was only one book in the Schools' Library Section on Elementary Agriculture for Leaving Certificate Students. Mr. Sharkey said that if Mrs. Beatty had a particular book in mind to let him know and he would ask the Schools' Librarian to order it.

Mr. Sharkey said he had discovered that a newspaper "The Tuam News" was stored in the British Library, and that he ordered it on microfilm. He added that he had asked for a quotation for the "Tuam Herald" from 1936-1950.

Mr. C. Townley said that the in thing in libraries was the microfilm. He said that libraries were going beyond the book stage and were installing microfilm readers and other modern equipment and that Public Libraries should keep abreast of the times.

/4.

Mr. Townley said that it should be the policy of the County Library to get copies of old newspaper on microfilm and put them into Branch Libraries throughout the county together with microfilm readers which were inexpensive.

The Chairman, Mr. Burke, agreed that there was a growing interest in looking back on old times but pointed out that it was difficult to maintain equipment in Branch Libraries where there were only part-time Branch Librarians. Mr. Sharkey said that most Branch Libraries were too small and that the large Branch Libraries had only one Branch Librarian.

Clr. O'Morain thought it might be possible to have a microfilm reader in the bigger branches like Ballinasloe and Clifden. Mr. Keating said that Mr. Sharkey would research the matter.

The meeting then concluded.

J. P. Burke
April 24/1978

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

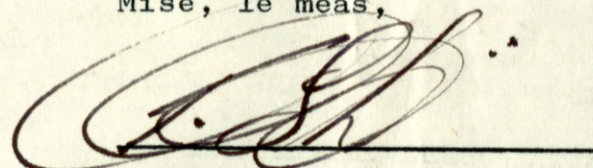
Co. Library H.Qrs.,
Courthouse,
GALWAY.

14th August, 1978.

A Chara,

The Estimates Meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on ~~Friday 25th~~ ^{Thursday 24th} August, 1978, at 4.00p.m.

Mise, le meas,



Leabharlannai Chontae

AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous meeting
2. Statistical Report 1977
3. New Branch Libraries
4. Annual Estimates January - December 1979
5. 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.

The Estimates Meeting of the County Libraries Committee was held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Thursday, 24th August, 1978, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Mr. J. P. Burke.

PRESENT: Cllrs. J. M. Mannion T.D., S. Donnellan, P. T. Galvin, E. Haverty, H. Melvin, Sen. M. P. Kitt, M. O'Morain, P. Raftery, T. Welby, Mrs. Jane C. Beatty, Messrs. J. P. Burke, T. Burke, B. Donnellan, M. Kelly, F. Mullin, P. O'Grady, M. O'Toole, S. Kelly, P. G. Geraghty.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. Keating, County Manager, Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian, Misses M. Kavanagh and M. Moran, Messrs. P. Rabbitt, T. Finn and M. Keating, Assistant Librarians.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. B. Holland.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes of the previous meeting, 24th February, 1978, as circularised to members were adopted and signed on the proposal of Cllr. H. Melvin, seconded by Cllr. P. Raftery.

ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Mr. Sharkey, County Librarian, told the members that he had received "The Tuam News" on microfilm and that "The Tuam Herald" 1938-50 was expected shortly.

Cllr. O'Morain asked for information on the proposed Connemara Mobile. Mr. Keating, County Manager, stated that there was little possibility of providing a Mobile Service for Connemara this year or next year. One of the reasons for this was the substantially increased expenditure for the Clifden and Gort Branches which included provision for books and staff. The Council's priority was to open these Branches. Mr. Keating said that there was no announcement, as yet, from the Government what additional funds would be available but if the Council was favoured with a liberal amount of money he would be quite pleased to provide a Mobile. Mr. Keating told Cllr. O'Morain that there was no provision for a Connemara Mobile Service in the Estimate as presented.

2. STATISTICAL REPORT:

Mr. Sharkey commenting on the Report said that over 29,331 new books were purchased in 1976 and only 24,530 in 1977. This meant there was a decrease of almost 20% in book purchases. It was important to maintain the bookstock at a high level in order to encourage the reading public to make regular use of the Library Service.

Cllr. Kitt asked why there was only one exchange to secondary schools each year. Mr. Sharkey replied that this was due to the fact that the Department of Education only provided a grant for Primary Schools. He also stated that Galway County Library was one of the few services providing service to Secondary Schools. Considerable extra expenditure would be needed to provide a comprehensive service to Secondary Schools. Mr. Sharkey also said that accommodation for processing books was limited and new premises were required. Cllr. H. Melvin proposed the adoption of the Report and Cllr. Welby seconded.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE.

The Estimates Meeting of the County Libraries Committee was held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Thursday, 24th August, 1978, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Mr. J. P. Burke.

PRESENT: Clrs. J. M. Mannion T.D., S. Donnellan, P. T. Galvin, E. Haverty, H. Melvin, Sen. M. P. Kitt, M. O'Morain, P. Raftery, T. Welby, Mrs. Jane C. Beatty, Messrs. J. P. Burke, T. Burke, B. Donnellan, M. Kelly, F. Mullin, P. O'Grady, M. O'Toole, S. Kelly, P. G. Geraghty.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. Keating, County Manager, Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian, Misses M. Kavanagh and M. Moran, Messrs. P. Rabbitt, T. Finn and M. Keating, Assistant Librarians.

APOLOGIES: Clr. B. Holland.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes of the previous meeting, 24th February, 1978, as circularised to members were adopted and signed on the proposal of Clr. H. Melvin, seconded by Clr. P. Raftery.

ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Mr. Sharkey, County Librarian, told the members that he had received "The Tuam News" on microfilm and that "The Tuam Herald" 1938-50 was expected shortly.

Clr. O'Morain asked for information on the proposed Connemara Mobile. Mr. Keating, County Manager, stated that there was little possibility of providing a Mobile Service for Connemara this year or next year. One of the reasons for this was the substantially increased expenditure for the Clifden and Gort Branches which included provision for books and staff. The Council's priority was to open these Branches. Mr. Keating said that there was no announcement, as yet, from the Government what additional funds would be available but if the Council was favoured with a liberal amount of money he would be quite pleased to provide a Mobile. Mr. Keating told Clr. O'Morain that there was no provision for a Connemara Mobile Service in the Estimate as presented.

2. STATISTICAL REPORT:

Mr. Sharkey commenting on the Report said that over 29,331 new books were purchased in 1976 and only 24,530 in 1977. This meant there was a decrease of almost 20% in book purchases. It was important to maintain the bookstock at a high level in order to encourage the reading public to make regular use of the Library Service.

Clr. Kitt asked why there was only one exchange to secondary schools each year. Mr. Sharkey replied that this was due to the fact that the Department of Education only provided a grant for Primary Schools. He also stated that Galway County Library was one of the few services providing service to Secondary Schools. Considerable extra expenditure would be needed to provide a comprehensive service to Secondary Schools. Mr. Sharkey also said that accommodation for processing books was limited and new premises were required. Clr. H. Melvin proposed the adoption of the Report and Clr. Welby seconded.

3. NEW BRANCH LIBRARIES:

Mr. Keating told the meeting that work was proceeding on Clifden and Gort Branch Libraries and he said that Gort should be finished before the end of the year and opened early in the new year. Mr. Keating said that the completion of the Clifden Branch Library was slower than expected, but there was no reason why it should not be finished within two months. Mr. Keating told Deputy J. Mannion that it was hoped to open the Branch by the end of the year.

On Portumna, Mr. Keating said that the Capital for this proposed Branch Library was not available this year. He said that the site was selected, plans for the branch were ready, and he hoped revenue would become available in 1979.

LIBRARY PROVISION FOR GALWAY CITY: Mr. Keating told the meeting that the next important project was the provision of a new library headquarters and branch libraries in the city. He said that the present city branch was on a good site but it was on a second floor, was totally inadequate as a Headquarters and that by any standards the premises was bad. He said that the Council was on the lookout for a site and there were at least three which were suitable. Mr. Keating said that he would have more information on a favourable site at the next Library Committee Meeting.

The County Manager told the meeting that at least three branch libraries were needed in Galway City, one in the city centre, the second in the Renmore/Ballybane area where the local services were expanding to cater for a population of about 7,000 and that this growing population would be entitled to a Branch Library. The third area, Mr. Keating said, was in the Knocknacarra/Salthill/Newcastle/Shantalla region. He told the meeting that there was a possible commercial development in the Newcastle/Shantalla area and a site might become available for a branch library.

Mr. Keating said that the provision of branch libraries in other parts of the County would be looked at and one project at present being undertaken by the County Engineer was the search for a site in Tuam.

4. ANNUAL ESTIMATE JANUARY-DECEMBER, 1979.

Mr. Sharkey asked the Committee to agree to an increase in the Estimate circulated to members of £940 which was due to an increase granted to the Driver Assistants and the Porter in the library service. This would mean Expenditure would be £272,440 gross or a net expenditure of £237,500. Mr. Sharkey said the main increases in the Estimate were for salaries which included the provision for a New Assistant Librarian for Ballinasloe and Library Assistants for the new Clifden Branch Library and the Regional Technical College. He told the members that the salary of one library assistant would be recouped from the Regional Technical College. Mr. Sharkey also told the meeting that the increase for salaries included an increase for Library Staffs which brought them into line with other staffs in the local authorities. Mr. Sharkey also said provision was being made for a new book stock for the new Gort Branch Library. He added that other increases were to guard against inflation. The adoption of the revised estimate as presented by the County Librarian was proposed by Mr. P. Geraghty and seconded by Deputy J. Mannion.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The committee on the proposal of Mrs. Beatty passed a vote of sympathy on the death of Mrs. K. O'Brien a member of the Committee. The vote of sympathy was seconded by Sen. M. Kitt. Mr. J. Burke, Chairman, on behalf of the members paid tribute to Mrs. O'Brien. Mr. Keating and Mr. Sharkey associated themselves with the vote of sympathy on behalf of the staff.

The Committee also congratulated members of the Library Staff on their success in examinations. Miss Mary McHugh, Library Assistant, who was sent on a course in librarianship by the Council had received her Diploma in Librarianship from University College Dublin. Miss M. Kavanagh and Mr. P. Rabbitt had been conferred with their LLB Degrees from University College Galway in July, 1978.

The meeting then concluded.

Galway County Council Archives