

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Co. Library Headquarters,
Courthouse,
GALWAY.

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 August, 1979, at 4.00p.m.

Mise, le meas,

LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE

AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previcus Meeting
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
3. Statistical Report 1978
4. Branch Libraries
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 Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee was held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Friday, 24th August, 1979, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Mr. J. P. Burke.

PRESENT: Clr. J. M. Mannion T.D., Sen. M. P. Kitt, Clrs. J. Brennan, T. Browne, M. Fahy, F. Fahey, P. Finnegan, E. Haverty, M. J. Kilgannon, M. Ryan, Mrs. L. Broderick, Ms. M. Burke, Mrs. M. Croffy, Ms. M. Stewart and Messers J. P. Burke, T. Burke, J. Crehan, A. Dalton, S. Davin, F. Donoghue, B. Faherty, J. Greaney, M. Lynch, J. Murray, M. O'Cathain, P. Raftery and C. Townley.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. Keating, Co. Manager, Mr. T. Sharkey, Co. Librarian, Ms. M. Kavanagh, Messers P. Rabbitt and T. Finn, Assistant Librarians, and Miss M. Conway, Acting Assistant Librarian.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. M. Melody and Clr. P. O'Foighil.

The Chairman, Mr. J. Burke, welcomed all members, particularly new members, to the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting as circulated to members were taken as read and were signed by the Chairman.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN:

The outgoing Chairman, Mr. Burke, asked for nominations for Chairman. Clr. John Mannion T.D., was proposed by Clr. Kilgannon and seconded by Mr. Tom Burke. Clr. Haverty proposed the outgoing Chairman, but Mr. Burke declined. There being no other proposal Mr. Mannion was declared elected. Mr. Burke then vacated the chair which was taken by Clr. Mannion.

Clr. Mannion said it was an honour for him to be elected Chairman of the Committee. He thanked the outgoing Chairman for the work he had performed on behalf of the Libraries Committee. He also thanked the Staff for their work and stated in his dealings with them he found them very courteous.

He then asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Sen. M. Kitt was proposed by E. Haverty and seconded by Clr. M. Fahey and was unanimously elected.

3. STATISTICAL REPORT 1978:

The Co. Librarian, Mr. Sharkey, pointed out a small error in the Report circulated to members. He said that the Ballinasloe Branch was only opened for twenty-four hours per week in 1978 and the Clifden Branch only ten hours per week in 1978. The hours for these branches have now been increased due to the appointment of full-time staff. He said nothing spectacular happened in 1978, but work was going ahead on the new Branch Libraries in Clifden and Gort.

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Clr. M. J. Kilgannon in paying tribute to the work done by the staff, particularly in the Schools Section, asked if there was a problem obtaining books for junior classes. Bhi se ag lorg freisin leabhar i nGaeilge.

The Co. Librarian in thanking Clr. Kilgannon for his comments said he would ask the School's Section to examine the matter. He thought there should be no problem in getting the books required by the Councillor for Schools.

Mr. J. J. Crehan commenting on the report thought that the mobile was very well used and was interested in the comparing its statistics with the Ballinasloe Branch. He asked how many mobiles were in use in the County and was informed by the Co. Librarian there was only one Mobile Library in operation.

Ms. M. Stewart paid tribute to the service to Secondary Schools and asked if there was any hope of an increase in expenditure on this service. The Co. Librarian in thanking her for her comments said that the service to Secondary Schools was poor but he pointed out that some library services do not provide any service at all to post primary schools. He said he would like to see this service improved but it would require more money, staff and accommodation. Mr. Sharkey said that the Dept. of Education provide a grant for Primary Schools but not for Secondary Schools.

Mr. S. Davin asked the Co. Librarian how expenditure on the Galway Library Service and its readership compared with other counties. The Co. Librarian replied that he did not know.

Clr. M. Ryan asked if there was any further progress on Mountbellew Branch and was informed by the Co. Librarian there was not.

Sen. Kitt asked for more books on poetry for schools. The Co. Librarian stated that it was important to get a feed back from members and if any particular difficulties arose steps would be taken to solve them.

Ms. Stewart asked if the remuneration for Branch Libraries was attractive enough for the post. The Co. Librarian said they were paid £1.14 an hour and in his opinion it was far too low.

Clr. J. Brennan asked would it be possible to supply books to pupils as a supplement to their text books. Mr. Sharkey said that if Principals of Schools supplied lists of their requirements to the Schools' Section an effort would be made to obtain them.

4. BRANCH LIBRARIES:

The Co. Librarian told the members that two new branches were opened, Clifden in March 1979 and Gort in June. He also told the members that sanction was granted for the employment of a full-time Library Assistant in Clifden and this resulted in a better service and longer opening hours. He gave the members some statistics on the sudden increase of borrowers in Clifden. The total at the 31st July, 1979, was 711 (307 Adult, 393 Juvenile and 11 Old Age Pensioners) as against 218 for 1978. He also said there was an increase in Gort 359 (162 Adult and 197 Juvenile) as against 280 for 1978.

Mr. Sharkey said the figures for Gort were bound to increase in the Winter months. The Co. Librarian also told the members that a full-time Assistant Librarian had been appointed to Ballinasloe Branch Library and this had resulted in increased opening hours and a better service to the public.

GALWAY CITY: The Co. Manager, Mr. Keating, told members that the most important development in the service for many years was the proposal for improved library facilities in the city. He outlined the background of developments for the members.

1. He stated that the Headquarters and Galway City Branch operated from the Courthouse which was not suitable for the purpose. A properly designed building capable of operating all the different activities of a library service was needed. He said that it was remarkable that the service was as good as it was.
2. Mr. Keating said that the only Branch Library in Galway was in the Courthouse, on a second floor and that the premises was totally inadequate for the city with a population of more than 36,000.

The County Manager said that he had tried to obtain the Town Hall for a Headquarters and Branch Library, but legal difficulties arose and after protracted litigation the present tenant was granted a lease. Continuing the County Manager said that the first task was to get a suitable building for a Branch Library. A good central location was needed comparable to that required for any commercial development. In Galway the cost of such a site would be very high. An offer was made for half of the ground floor area of the Hynes Building in St. Augustine Street and an architect had been assigned to draw up plans for the new Branch Library. The cost had been tentatively estimated at £40,000. An application had been made to the Dept. of the Environment for money for this project which will take precedence over all other library developments including the Connemara Mobile.

LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS: The Co. Manager said he had earmarked a site for the Headquarters. He had asked an architect for an appraisal of the site as to its suitability for a Headquarters. He said when more details became available he would let the members know. The Co. Manager said that the provision of a site was the first step on a long road, next would be a design where he saw no difficulty, but a delay would probably be caused when it came to financing the site.

Clr. Fahy complimented the Co. Manager on the Galway development and thought it was a good move to get the Hynes Building.

GORT: Clr. Fahy complimented the Co. Manager and Co. Librarian on the new Branch Library in Gort. He stated that the lessor of the old Branch Library had not received the increase granted in the rent of the premises. The Co. Manager said he would discuss this matter with the Solicitor and see what could be done.

The Co. Manager asked the Committee members to do their best to help increase the membership of the branch libraries, particularly in the new branches of Clifden and Gort. He hoped that special interest groups might visit these libraries and see what services were available.

PORTUMNA: Clr. E. Haverty asked about progress on the Portumna Branch Library. The Co. Manager said that tenders had been invited for this project and he was confident that they would be able to start building shortly. Clr. Haverty agreed that people must become interested in the library service particularly in rural areas.

CLIFDEN: The Chairman, Clr. J. Mannion T.D., complimented the Co. Manager and Co. Librarian for the fine building in Clifden. He pointed out that when a new building was provided the public responded and he had no doubt that the readership in the Clifden Branch would increase further during the winter.

He asked when the official opening of the Branch would take place. The Co. Manager informed him that it could be combined with the next meeting of the Committee which would be the estimates meeting.

BALLINASLOE: Mrs. Croffy asked what improvements were pending for the Ballinasloe Branch Library. The Co. Manager said that he would like to see improvements carried out in the Branch e.g. up-to-date furnishings, fittings and window curtains.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Davin asked about study facilities in the proposed Galway City Branch and he said that students should be entitled to local study facilities. The Co. Manager said that they could not fill any short-fall in educational facilities. The Co. Librarian said that there would be some study facilities in the Reference Department of the new Branch and also pointed out there were good study facilities in the Regional Technical College and in University College Galway.

Clr. J. Brennan suggested that aids from the Catholic Communications Institute should be put on display in the Branch Libraries and the Co. Librarian said he would try to obtain them.

Clr. M. J. Kilgannon suggested a project competition in conjunction with the papal visit and in the year of the child. He wondered if money for such projects would be available from the Arts fund. The Co. Manager said he was unclear as to this and suggested they put off a decision on the project to the next meeting.

Mr. J. J. Crehan asked if it would be possible for microfilms to be circulated to various branches, but the Co. Librarian said this would be difficult as it would necessitate buying extra machines and films.

The Co. Manager replying to the Chairman stated that money for the Connemara Mobile had been diverted to the Galway City Branch which would now be given top priority.

The Meeting concluded at 5.00 o'clock.

Michael P. Kitt

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Co. Library Headquarters,
Courthouse,
Galway.

5th December, 1979.

A Chara,

The Estimates Meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Friday 14th December, 1979, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE

AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous meeting
2. Annual Estimates January-December 1980
3. Location of next meeting
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 Blarney Hotel, Blarney, Co. Cork, from 20th - 24th May, 1980.
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 Galway County Libraries Committee was held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Friday, 14th December, 1979, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Sen. M. P. Kitt, Vice-Chairman.

PRESENT: Sen. M. P. Kitt, Clrs. J. Brennan, A. M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, E. Haverty, M. J. Kilgannon, M. Leahy, P. O'Foighil, T. Welby, Mrs. M. Croffy and M. Melody, Messers S. De Burca, P. Conneely, J. J. Crehan, S. Davin, F. Donoghue, S. Fahy, J. Greaney, M. Lynch, L. MacCana, J. Murray, M. O'Cathain, P. Raftery and Ms. M. Stewart.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. Keating, Co. Manager, Mr. T. Sharkey, Co. Librarian, Misses Mary Kavanagh and Maureen Moran, Messers P. Rabbitt and M. Keating, Assistant Librarians and Ms. M. Conway, Acting Assistant Librarian.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. Mary Burke, Mr. J. Burke and Mr. A. Dalton.

Due to the absence of the Chairman, Clr. John Mannion T.D., the Vice-Chairman, Sen. Michael P. Kitt, presided.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting as circulated to members were taken as read and were adopted on the proposal of Mrs. Croffy, seconded by Clr. Brennan, and signed by the Chairman.

2. ANNUAL ESTIMATES JANUARY-DECEMBER 1980.

The Co. Manager, Mr. S. Keating, told members that the Libraries Committee normally had their estimate meeting at this time of year before the General County Council Estimates Meeting which would be held in February 1980. He said that the estimate as presented here showed figures for the maintenance of the service and pointed out that the substantial increase in the estimate was for the development of the Library Service. Mr. Keating said that even though they still did not know what resources would be available in 1980 every effort would be made to put this estimate through at the Co. Council's Estimates Meeting as the Libraries Committee is committed to development.

The County Librarian, Mr. Sharkey, brought his commentary on the Estimate to the notice of the members and said that the estimate made provision for inflation, the new Galway City Branch Library and the maintenance of the new Libraries in Gort and Clifden.

The Co. Manager in commenting on the £3,000 for the Ballinasloe Branch said that this sum was provided for internal improvements to the Branch. Mr. Keating informed Clr. Kilgannon that a phone was on order for the Ballinasloe Branch Library. Clr. Kilgannon welcomed the plans for renovating the Ballinasloe Library.

THE BOOKFUND: Clr. Finnegan pointed out that there was an extraordinary increase of £81,500, in the Bookfund. The Co. Manager said that one major factor causing such an increase was the drastic increase in the cost of books and with new and better library buildings being provided there would be an increased requirement for books. Mr. Keating said that Galway City now has a huge population increase and, at present, the service provided one book per head of population. The Committee should aim at the provision of two books per head.

The Estimate was adopted on the proposal of Clr. Kilgannon seconded by Clr. Leahy.

3. LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:

Clr. Fahy inquired when the official opening of the Gort Branch Library would take place. The County Manager stated that the Committee could decide this matter. He suggested that the opening ceremony be confined to a small group consisting of Councillors and members of the Committee from the electoral area, the Chairman of the County Council and the Catholic and Protestant Bishops of the area. A discussion followed in which Councillor Kilgannon, Mr. Conneely, Mr. Crehan, Councillor Haverty and others took part. The general feeling was that the Committee as a whole should attend as they would like to see the new Branch and the facilities provided for themselves. Clr. Haverty then proposed that the next meeting of the Committee be held in Gort and was seconded by Clr. Fahy. This proposal was carried unanimously. It was agreed to defer a decision on the official opening of Clifden Branch Library to the next meeting.

4. NOMINATION OF TWO DELEGATES TO A JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND & NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH, THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION in the Blarney Hotel, Blarney, Co. Cork, from 20th - 24th May, 1980.

The Committee decided to nominate two delegates and two substitute delegates to the conference.

On the proposals of Clr. Kilgannon and Clr. Fahy, Mr. P. Conneely and Clr. E. Haverty were nominated as delegates. Miss Margaret Stewart was proposed by Clr. Leahy but declined stating she would not be able to attend at that time. Mrs. Maura Croffy and Mr. Liam MacCana were nominated as substitutes on the proposals of Clr. Haverty seconded by Clr. Fahy and of Clr. O'Foighil seconded by Mr. M. Lynch respectively.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Liam MacCana stated that he did not receive notification of the last meeting held in August 1979, he said it may have been due to an error in his name and on the suggestion of the Co. Librarian he agreed to check that his name and address were correctly entered in the Attendance Book.

Mr. P. Conneely told the meeting that representations were made to him by the Wheelchair Association to see that access to the new Galway City Branch in the Hynes Building would be provided for their members. Mr. Conneely stated that simple items e.g. size of the door and steps could provide a handicap for people in Wheelchairs. The Co. Manager said that the Architect for the new Branch Library had been instructed to provide access for handicapped people. Mr. Keating also said that there could be difficulties in adapting the toilets but he would have this matter examined.

Ms. M. Stewart asked if a seat outside the Library on the first floor of the Courthouse, removed during renovations in the Courthouse, could be replaced as it was used regularly by readers, particularly elderly people. The Co. Manager told Ms. Stewart that a seat would be provided there as soon as possible.

Ms. Stewart asked the Co. Librarian what facilities for photocopying would be available in the new Galway City Branch particularly in relation to Reference Books which cannot be removed from the Library. Mr. Sharkey told the meeting that he had to be careful in relation to copyright when photocopying material, but agreed that it would be important to have an improved photocopying service. He said that a photocopying service was available at present and he hoped a new and improved photocopier would be available in the Hynes Building.

Rinne an Chomharloir P. O'Foighil tagairt don leabharlana nua i Tir an Fhia. Clr. O'Foighil pointed out that the local co-op had provided a room for a library service free of charge and asked if the Council could pay for heating this room. Mr. Keating told Clr. O'Foighil that some arrangement could be made with the co-op with regard to heating the library and the library would pay its share.

Clr. Leahy said that signposts for the new Galway City Library would be required around Galway and the Co. Manager said this suggestion would be implemented.

Clr. Kilgannon asked whether a map of the County of Galway could be made available to schools through the library service. Mr. L. MacCana said that maps were available in University College Galway and could be consulted by visitors. Clr. Kilgannon asked if these could be photocopied. Mr. Keating said there may be copyright problems in photocopying maps. Mr. Sharkey said he would try and get maps requested by Clr. Kilgannon.

Clr. Leahy said there were few books available on Padraic Pearse in the Galway City Branch and the Co. Librarian replied that some material on P. H. Pearse was available and he would try to get more.

NEW GALWAY CITY BRANCH IN HYNES BUILDING: Mr. P. Conneely asked when would the new Branch be opened. The Co. Manager said that the lease was now being examined by the Co. Council. He hoped that the building would be opened by early Summer. He also had to check with An Comhairle Leabharlanna to ensure the lease was in order.

Mr. Conneely wondered if it was possible to transfer some functions of the library service to the Hynes Building as soon as possible to try and relieve the congestion in the Courthouse. Mr. Sharkey thanked Mr. Conneely for bringing the very bad conditions which the library staff had to work under in the Courthouse to the attention of members. The Co. Librarian said that the processing of new books and the backup service for the Galway City Branch were carried out in the same office, and that Canteen facilities were also provided there. He hoped to move the book processing service temporarily to the Hynes Building. The Co. Manager said everything possible will be done to relieve the congestion in the Courthouse.

Mr. L. MacCana asked the Co. Manager about the duration of the lease for the Hynes Building and was the rent subject to review. Mr. Keating said that the lease was for thirty-five years renewable and the rent was subject to review every four years.

Mr. MacCana asked would it have been worthwhile to purchase a site. In reply Mr. Keating said that there were many issues to be taken into account:-

1. Location - it was important to have a central location.
2. Availability of suitable space - this was limited in Galway.
3. Cost - this was prohibitive in Galway.
4. The question of availability of Capital.

He said the problem of moving onto property in Galway was great and at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of a million pounds would be needed. The Co. Manager said that the library could have been moved from the centre of the city but a central location was required.

Mr. Keating said that in a developing suburbia a local shopping centre would be an ideal location for a library. Mr. Conneely said that libraries would be needed in various parts of the city e.g. Newcastle and he asked the Co. Manager would one be provided in the proposed shopping centre in Newcastle. Mr. Keating said that the deal for the centre included provision for a developed site for a library.

TUAM: Mr. S. Davin asked about library developments in Tuam. Mr. Keating pointed out to members the fact that the library programme was a big one with new libraries in Ballinasloe, Dunmore, Athenry, Gort, Clifden and others being planned for Galway and Portumna. The Co. Manager said that property coming onto the market in Tuam would be examined. He agreed that Tuam deserved a good library.

CLIFDEN: Mr. P. Conneely asked about the proposed plan for the upper floor in the Clifden Branch Library. Mr. Keating said that Ireland West were invited to rent it but declined presumably because it was an upper floor. He said that it would be let, hopefully for a single public service as this would be compatible with the Library Service. The Co. Manager promised that an advertisement would appear in January 1980 seeking tenants for this floor.

Clr. Brennan asked if it would be possible to provide a second floor in the Ballinasloe Branch for a museum. The Co. Manager pointed out that the function of the Libraries Committee was solely in relation to Libraries. Mr. Keating said that if the Council had any available property in Ballinasloe they might help the museum project, but doubted if it would be financed. He said that Dublin and Galway Corporation had museums but these were limited in their range of activity and at one stage the National Museum in Dublin intended to decentralise its collection, but this had not occurred.

Mr. P. Conneely proposed a vote of congratulations to Clr. P. O'Foighil - a library committee member - on his election to Udaras na Gaeltachta. The Chairman also congratulated Clr. O'Foighil. The Co. Manager associated himself with this proposal on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff.

The Chairman then concluded the meeting at 5.10 p.m.

John M. Keating

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Co. Library H.qrs.,
Courthouse,
Galway.

27th May, 1980.

A Chara,

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee will be held in the New Branch Library in Gort, on Friday the 6th June, 1980, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.AGENDA

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2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
3. Statistical Report 1979.
4. Branch Libraries.
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 Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee was held in Glynn's Hotel, Gort, on Friday, 6th June, 1980, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. John Mannion, T.D.

PRESENT: Clr. John M. Mannion, T.D., Clr. Anthony M. Fahy, Clr. Frank Fahey, Clr. Edward Haverty, Mr. Tom Burke, Mr. Padraic Conneely, Mr. John Joe Crehan, Mrs. Maura Croffy, Mr. Seamus Davin, Mr. Francis Donoghue, Mr. James Greaney, Mr. Patrick Hynes, Mrs. M. Melody, Mr. Peter Raftery, Miss Margaret Stewart, Mr. Christopher Townley.

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

APOLOGIES: Sen. M. P. Kitt and Mr. A. Dalton.

The Chairman of the County Libraries Committee, Clr. Mannion, congratulated all those who had been involved in providing the new Branch Library in Gort.

The Branch was officially opened by Clr. Frank Glynn, Chairman Galway County Council at 2.30 p.m. on Friday, 6th June, 1980. A blessing ceremony by His Lordship, The Bishop of Galway, Dr. Eamon Casey, D.D., and the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, The Right Rev. Edwin Owen, followed. Speakers at the opening ceremony included Dr. Casey and Right Rev. E. Owen, Clr. F. Glynn, Mr. T. Sharkey, Clr. Frank Fahey, Clr. T. Byrne, Mr. C. Townley and Canon George Quinn, P.P., Gort.

Clr. Mannion wished the library every success and said he was very impressed with the huge increase in membership at Gort Library and said it augered well for the future.

Clr. Mannion apologised for not attending the last meeting in December 1979, explaining that he was in Dublin when the notification arrived.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted on the proposal of Clr. E. Haverty seconded by Mrs. Croffy.

Arising from the minutes Miss M. Stewart informed the meeting that the seat which had been removed from outside the Library Premises in the Galway Courthouse had still not been replaced. The County Manager, Mr. Keating, promised that a replacement would be provided.

2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Clr. T. Burke seconded by Mr. J. Greaney proposed the outgoing Chairman, Clr. Mannion, and he was elected unanimously. Sen. M. Kitt was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Clr. E. Haverty seconded by Mrs. Croffy and was also re-elected unanimously.

3. Statistical Report 1979.

Mr. John Joe Crehan commented on the readership in the report and noted the concentration on serious reading in some areas e.g. Galway City. He also said that the library served the educational needs of the community and was to be commended.

Mr. Sharkey the County Librarian told the members that some branches were more library minded than others. He said that no particular part of the County was favoured but gave as an example Clifden Branch Library which sent in many special requests for Non-Fiction. He said that a book on any subject would be read in Galway City Branch. The County Librarian also told members that he was awaiting the appointment of a new Branch Librarian in St. Bridget's in Ballinasloe so that the Branch there could be re-opened.

Mr. Townley paid tribute to Mr. Sharkey for his report and said it was useful for members of the committee to get concise and detailed figures.

4. Branch Libraries.

Mr. Keating told the meeting that work should start soon on Portumna Branch Library. He said he had signed an order requesting a tender for this work.

GALWAY CITY: The County Manager told members that the lease on the Hynes Building had now been executed and he expected work to begin on the premises in the near future.

Mr. P. Conneely asked the County Manager if he foresaw a long delay in opening the branch. Mr. Keating said the property only became available on the 1st May, 1980 and he was now waiting for loan sanction from the Department of the Environment. The County Manager told the meeting that direct labour would be used and he said there should be little delay in opening the branch.

5. Any Other Business.

Mr. Sharkey told members that he hoped to combine the official opening of Clifden Branch Library with the next meeting of the County Libraries Committee. The County Librarian asked for views on the time and date for such a meeting. After a short discussion with contributions from the Chairman and Mr. E. Haverty it was decided to open the branch and hold the meeting at the usual time of 4.00 p.m. on a Friday afternoon, and if possible in August or September.

Clr. Mannion drew members attention to the illness of the Clifden Branch Librarian, Miss Georgina Carberry, and wished her a speedy recovery. Mr. Sharkey associated himself with the Chairman's wishes on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff.

A vote of congratulations was passed to four members of the staff on their recent marriages i.e. Ted and Maire Finn, Mary Dillon and Margaret Garvey.

The meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.

John M. Mannion.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

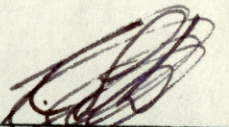
Co. Library H.qrs.,
Courthouse,
Galway.

15th September, 1980.

A Chara,

A Meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee will be held in the New Branch Library premises, Clifden, on Friday the 26th September, 1980, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,


LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
2. New Branch Libraries - Galway City and Portumna.
3. Selection of two Committee members to attend a Seminar on Librarianship at The Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar, from Wednesday 15th - Friday 17th October, 1980.
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.

A Meeting of the County Libraries Committee was held in the new Branch Library, Clifden, on Friday the 26th September, 1980, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. J. Mannion, T.D.

PRESENT: Clr. J. Mannion, Sen. M. P. Kitt, Clrs. J. Brennan, T. Browne, M. A. Fahy, P. J. Finnegan, E. Haverty, M. J. Kilgannon, M. Leahy, P. McNamara, M. Ryan, Mrs. M. Croffy and M. Melody, Ms. M. Burke and Messers S. C. de Burca, T. Burke, P. Conneely, F. Coogan, Jnr., J. J. Crehan, S. Davin, F. Donoghue, S. Fahy, J. Greaney, M. Lynch, J. Murray and P. Raftery.

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

APOLOGIES: Miss M. Stewart and Messers M. O'Cathain and C. Townley.

The Chairman, Clr. Mannion, welcomed the members to Clifden. Clr. Mannion proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Joe Feehan, builder of the Branch Library, and all present observed a few moments silent prayer as a mark of respect to the deceased.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Mr. T. Burke and signed by the Chairman.

2. NEW BRANCH LIBRARIES - GALWAY CITY:

The County Librarian informed members that work on the Hynes Building was progressing and he expected the library to open early in 1981. The County Manager assured Clr. Kilgannon that ramps would be provided for the physically handicapped in the Hynes Building.

PORTUMNA: Mr. Sharkey said that he understood that work was about to commence on the Branch Library in Portumna.

3. SELECTION OF TWO COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO ATTEND A SEMINAR ON LIBRARIANSHIP at The Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar, from Wednesday 15th - Friday 17th October, 1980.

The County Librarian read out details of the Autumn Seminar to members and asked for nominations. Mr. P. Conneely and Mrs. M. Croffy were nominated as delegates on the proposals of Clrs. M. Kilgannon and E. Haverty. Clr. M. Fahy was also nominated but withdrew in favour of Mrs. Croffy.

Mr. Sharkey told Mr. J. J. Crehan that it would be difficult for delegates to compile a report on Seminars and Conferences and that in any case lectures were usually published in "An Leabharlann", the journal of The Library Association of Ireland.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. P. Conneely asked the County Manager about progress on the letting of the room above the Clifden Branch Library. Mr. Keating told members that the whole matter was in auctioneers hands, but because of the depressed market he saw no immediate prospect for the letting of the premises. He said that his mind would be open on the possible usage of the room.

Clr. Brennan complimented the County Manager and County Librarian on the library service in Ballinasloe and proposed a vote of appreciation to Mrs. M. Dolphin recently retired Branch Librarian in Ballinasloe and suggested that some memento be presented to her. Clr. Kilgannon supported the sentiments of Clr. Brennan. The County Manager said he would consider the situation when he visited Ballinasloe Branch Library. He also expressed his appreciation of Mrs. Dolphin's services.

The Chairman, Clr. J. Mannion, thanked Comdt. Greaney and the Civil Defence for providing members with refreshments and Mr. Sharkey associated himself with the Chairman's remarks.

The Meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.

The new Branch Library was then officially opened by Clr. J. Mannion, T.D., Chairman of Galway County Libraries Committee. A Blessing Ceremony was performed by Rev. Canon J. P. Lewis and Very Rev. T. Canon Herity, P.P., Clifden. Speakers at the opening ceremony included Clr. Mannion, Very Rev. T. Canon Herity, Rev. Canon J. P. Lewis, Clr. Bartley, Mr. P. Power, Architect, Mr. Keating, County Manager and Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian.

John M. Mannion
20/2/87.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Co. Library H.qrs.,
Courthouse,
Galway.

11th February, 1981.

A Chara,

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Friday, 20th February, 1981, 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 1981.
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 11th - 15th May, 1981.
5. New Branch Libraries.
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

A meeting of the County Libraries Committee was held in the Council Chambers, County Buildings, on Friday, 20th February, 1981, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. J. Mannion, T.D.

PRESENT: Clr. J. Mannion, Sen. M. P. Kitt, Clrs. M. A. Fahy, F. Fahey, P. J. Finnegan, E. Haverty, M. J. Kilgannon, P. O'Foighil, T. Welby, Mrs. M. Croffy and M. Melody, Ms. Mary Burke and M. Stewart, Messers S. C. de Burca, T. Burke, P. Conneely, F. Coogan, Jnr., J. J. Crehan, A. Dalton, F. Donoghue, S. Fahy, J. Murray, M. O'Cathain, P. Raftery.

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

APOLOGIES: Mr. S. Keating, County Manager, Mr. C. Townley and Mr. J. Burke.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes of the previous meeting, as circulated to members, were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Mr. J. J. Crehan seconded by Mr. F. Donoghue.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN 1981.

Clr. M. Fahy proposed the outgoing Vice-Chairman, Sen. M. Kitt, as Chairman and was seconded by Clr. E. Haverty. Clr. J. Mannion was proposed but withdrew in favour of Sen. Kitt saying he felt that the chairmanship should rotate between members of the Libraries Committee. Sen. Kitt was unanimously elected Chairman and took the chair.

Sen. Kitt complimented Clr. Mannion on his gesture and said that it was fitting that Deputy Mannion was Chairman of the Committee when the new Library in Clifden was opened. Clr. E. Haverty also complimented the former Chairman on his goodwill gesture.

Clr. Kilgannon proposed Clr. J. Mannion for the Vice-Chairman and was seconded by Mrs. Croffy. He was unanimously elected and Clr. Mannion thanked the members for electing him Vice-Chairman.

3. ESTIMATES 1981:

The County Librarian, Mr. Sharkey, told members that the proposed estimate was less than what he would have liked but was all the money which was available in the present financial situation. He pointed out that it was more than the 12% limit but with the new Galway City Branch Library in the Hynes Building opening this year it was restrictive. Mr. Sharkey said that books were now very expensive and when E.M.S. and V.A.T. were added - as most books come from England - it created more problems. The result was that every penny in the estimate would be needed as the other library services must also be catered for i.e. Branch Libraries, Mobile Service and Schools. Mr. Sharkey told members that the largest item in the estimate was salaries and three new Library Assistants would be required for the Hynes Building.

The third large item in the estimate was Loan Charges which provided for the new Branch Libraries in Tuam, Galway City and Portumna and also for Gort and Clifden Branches. The County Librarian added that 50% of Loan Charges is recouped from the Library Council. The Assistant County Manager, Mr. Peter Kearns, said that the net expenditure for 1981 was £421,045 an increase of £59,000 which was still above the 12% limit imposed on services.

Miss M. Stewart wanted it recorded that she thought that the rate for part-time Branch Librarians was very small. Mr. Sharkey said that £1.566 per hour was the rate for part-time Branch Librarians all over the country. Mr. John Fahy asked whether it was better to have full or part-time Branch Librarians. Mr. Sharkey said that there were permanent library officials in Ballinasloe and Clifden, but told Clr. F. Fahy that because money was scarce the County Manager deferred the appointment of a Library Assistant to Gort Branch Library. The County Council was now appointing permanent library staff in the larger branch libraries and Mr. Sharkey said he preferred to have full-time Library Assistants in such Branches.

Mr. J. J. Crehan thought that the proposed estimate for training courses for library staffs was very small but Mr. Sharkey replied that this was the case as no Galway library staff had gained a place in the School of Librarianship this year.

Mr. J. Mannion congratulated the Librarian for securing extra money over and above the 12% limit imposed on local authorities. He noted that the book fund of £154,550 for 1980 was cut back to £128,900 during the year. Mr. Sharkey said that he was instructed to cut back during the year by the County Manager and in order to pay a back-dated increase for staff. The estimate was passed unanimously on the proposal of Deputy Mannion, and seconded by Councillor Kilgannon.

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 11th - 15th May, 1981.

Mr. Sharkey informed members that the Joint Conference is held in Northern Ireland every third year.

Mr. T. Burke proposed Clr. Mannion and was seconded by Clr. E. Haverty. Clr. Haverty was proposed by Clr. M. Fahy and seconded by Clr. F. Fahy. They were unanimously nominated as delegates to attend the Conference in May. The meeting agreed to a suggestion from Clr. E. Haverty to nominate a substitute delegate and Mr. P. Raftery was proposed by Mr. J. J. Crehan and was approved by the meeting.

5. NEW BRANCH LIBRARIES:

GALWAY CITY: The County Librarian, Mr. Sharkey, told members that work was proceeding on the Galway City Branch Library in the Hynes Building and that on information he had received it should open in May 1981.

PORTUMNA: Mr. Sharkey said that work had started on the Portumna Branch Library. The County Librarian told Clr. E. Haverty that so far he had no idea of the opening date - perhaps late 1981 or early 1982.

TUAM: The County Librarian informed members that the Council had recently purchased a Bank premises in Tuam and it would need costly renovations. Mr. Sharkey told Clr. Finnegan that there was no target date for opening the premises as a lot of work needed to be carried out and he thought that 1982 would be the earliest time that the Branch would open.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Clr. Kilgannon told the meeting that he attended a conference where it was stressed that the needs of children should be catered for in libraries. He said that areas should be set aside in the library for childrens activities including story hours, and he hoped that an area would be set aside in the Hynes Building for such activities.

He asked that librarians encourage young people to use libraries and help them extract information from books and catalogues. Young people are put off today from using libraries, Clr. Kilgannon said, because of the difficulty in extracting information from sources.

In the U.S.A., Clr. Kilgannon added, senior citizens come into libraries particularly in deprived areas and read stories to young people. He recommended that the library should provide such facilities.

Mr. Sharkey thanked Clr. Kilgannon for his comments and said that librarians were aware of such activities and in fact story hours were held in many libraries in Ireland but there was no scope for these activities in the present Galway City Branch Library in the Courthouse.

Clr. J. Burke proposed putting Clr. Kilgannons ideas into effect in the new Tuam Branch and asked the Librarian to plan accordingly.

MERVUE BRANCH LIBRARY: Mr. Sharkey informed members that he would recommend the closure of the Mervue Branch Library to the County Manager and transfer its stock of Adult books to the new Galway City Branch Library in the Hynes Building. He told members that there were only forty-five people using the branch in 1980 and that they had borrowed a total of 986 books. The Branch was in operation since 1970.

Mr. F. Coogan asked Mr. Sharkey would it be practical to remove the adult book stock and replace it with childrens books. Mr. Sharkey replied it was too small and unattractive for a children's library. In fact, Mr. Sharkey said, one of the draw backs in the present Mervue service was that it was not possible to put a childrens library in the centre. He also informed members that the library staff has been harassed by young thugs. Mr. P. Conneely asked Mr. Sharkey could the same situation arise in the proposed Newcastle Branch Library. In reply Mr. Sharkey said he was looking forward to the Newcastle project which would be a properly planned library incorporating an adult and childrens library.

Clr. Kitt complimented the library on providing good books for children.

Clr. J. Mannion proposed a vote of sympathy on the death of Mr. S. Donlon, a former chairman of the Libraries Committee and Clr. Welby proposed a vote of sympathy on the death of Mr. T. Fitzgerald, husband of the Headford Branch Librarian.

The meeting ended at 4.50 p.m.