

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Co. Library Headquarters,  
Courthouse,  
Galway.

18th January, 1984.

A Chara,

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 27th January, 1984, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
3. Estimate 1984.
4. Nomination of two delegates to a Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Branch, The Library Association, in Portrush, Co. Antrim, from 14th - 18th May, inclusive.
5. Overdue Books.
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

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee was held in the Council Chamber, Galway County Council, County Buildings, on Friday, 27th January, 1984, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. Michael A. Fahy.

PRESENT: Sen. John M. Mannion, Co.C.; Deputy M. P. Kitt, Co.C.; Cirs. Michael Ryan, Nioclás O'Conchubhair, Patrick J. Finnegan, Edward Haverty, Michael A. Fahy, Thomas Welby, Joe Callanan, Padraic McCormack and T. Byrne; Mrs. Maura Croffy; Messrs. Tom Browne, Sean Fahy, Frank Donoghue, Padraic Conneely and Alf MacLochlainn.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. Keating, County Manager; Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Misses Maureen Moran, Anne Joyce, Bernadette McAleer, Messrs. Peter Rabbitt and Martin Keating, Assistant Librarians.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. Margaret Stewart.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Chairman, Clr. Michael Fahy, welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday, 24th August, 1983, in the Community Hall, Moylough, as circulated to members were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Clr. Ryan seconded by Clr. Joe Callanan.

Arising from the Minutes the County Librarian, Mr. Sharkey, informed members on:-

(1) Free Membership for the Unemployed: that in his opinion a proposal by Deputy F. Coogan to give unemployed people free membership of the Library Service would be very difficult to implement and that it would be better not to do so.

(2) New Library Headquarters: Mr. Sharkey said that he hoped to move into the new Library Headquarters at Island House in February 1984. He added that he was waiting on shelving and pointed out that the present Headquarters was located in the Courthouse as a temporary measure since around 1934.

(3) Kinvara Branch Library: the County Librarian said that provision was being made in the estimates for buying a site in Kinvara for a new Library.

Cir. M. Ryan requested that a sign be erected in Moylough informing the public about the Library there. Clr. E. Haverty inquired about an official opening of the new Headquarters, but Mr. Keating said that the new premises was rented and did not warrant an official opening. Mr. Keating told Clr. Finnegan that he hoped to have a design prepared in 1984 for a new Library Headquarters but thought that it would be a number of years before it could be built due to lack of finance.



Mr. P. Conneely asked the County Manager about the necessity to purchase a site (which was available) in the Westside Shopping Centre for a Branch Library. Mr. Keating explained that the site was owned by Galway Corporation; that it was set aside for a Library; and when finance was available, he hoped that the Corporation would treat the Council sympathetically when they sought to purchase it. Mr. Keating added that there were no proposals to build a Library there, at present.

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

Clr. J. Mannion stated that an arrangement existed to rotate the Chair among the members. He proposed Clr. T. Byrne and was seconded by Clr. P. McCormack. Clr. T. Byrne was then unanimously elected Chairman. Before vacating the Chair, Clr. Fahy paid tribute to the members and staff for their co-operation during his term as Chairman. Clr. Fahy wished his fellow South Galway Colleague well in his term as Chairman. Clr. Haverty proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman, Clr. Fahy.

On taking the Chair, Clr. Byrne thanked the meeting for electing him Chairman of the Libraries Committee. He promised to work hard for the Library Service in the difficult year ahead. Clr. Byrne appealed for co-operation from members and he also thanked Clr. Fahy for his good wishes.

Clr. P. Finnegan was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Clr. M. Fahy, seconded by Clr. N. O'Conchubhair, and was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman.

## 3. ESTIMATE 1984:

The County Librarian at the request of the Chairman, Clr. Byrne, briefed members on the proposed Libraries Estimate for 1984. Mr. Sharkey pointed out that in 1983 the County Council at its Annual Estimates Meeting had cut the Library Estimate passed by the Libraries Committee for the first time in his experience. The County Librarian explained that every item in the proposed Library Estimate for 1984 had been discussed with the County Manager and the Finance Officer. Mr. Sharkey added that the bookfund of £175,000 he had proposed was cut back to £122,200. Mr. Sharkey pointed out that the proposed bookfund was a little better than 1983. Replying to Mrs. Croffy, Mr. Sharkey said that in his opinion the bookfund should be one third of the total estimate and it should not be less than one quarter of same. In fact only 21% of the total was being provided for books in the estimate. The County Librarian said that he had hoped to improve the stock in the older Branch Libraries in 1983, but was unable to do so. Mr. Sharkey appealed to members not to cut the bookfund at the Annual Estimates Meeting in March.

Mrs. Croffy asked for a change in policy of building new branches in favour of buying new books, but Mr. Keating, County Manager, pointed out that they were unable to take on new buildings in any case in 1984. Mrs. Croffy noted that Limerick County with a smaller population had a bigger bookfund than Galway. She appealed to Council members present to preserve the bookfund.



On the operations side of the Estimate the County Librarian, Mr. Sharkey, said that all items had been carefully examined and there could be no further pruning on this section of the estimate. Mr. Sharkey pointed out that the amount for renovations was cut from £30,000 to £20,000. He added that he hoped renovations on the Oughterard Branch could be carried out in 1984. Mr. Sharkey told Clr. N. O'Conchubhair that the big increase under Maintenance was due to rent on the new Headquarters. Clr. Welby asked the County Librarian if the Land Registry Office would replace the Library in the Courthouse as promised in October 1983 and what was causing the delay in moving the Library. The County Manager said he had a letter from the County Registrar on the matter, but the Library was unable to move from the Courthouse until the shelving, which was on order, had arrived. Mr. Sharkey told Clr. T. Browne that the shelving had been ordered by the County Council's Engineer. Clr. Welby pointed out that rent was being paid on the new Headquarters and asked where the shelving was purchased. Mr. Keating said they had delayed as long as possible in paying rent for the new Headquarters. Mr. Sharkey replied that the shelving was ordered through a firm in Clare; that it was a special type of Library shelving; and was of foreign origin. Clr. Haverty asked whether the shelving could be bought locally, but Mr. Keating pointed out that only industrial shelving was available and it was unsuitable. A debate on the possibility of such shelving being manufactured locally followed to which Clrs. Welby, Browne, Haverty and Byrne contributed. It was pointed out that there would be a very small market for such a venture in this country.

On income from registration Mr. Sharkey said that there was a definite fall off in adult readership due to increased library charges. He hoped for an increase in income for 1984. The County Librarian told Clr. O'Conchubhair that he hoped £10,000 would be sufficient for insurance in 1984.

Clr. McCormack said that there was a danger that the general estimates meeting of the County Council would cut the Library Estimate and that members here must decide whether to defend it or not. The Chairman, Clr. Byrne, said that they cut the bookfund in 1983, but it should not be repeated in 1984. He hoped that the estimate would be left intact and he urged members to make an all out effort to preserve it at the Annual Estimates Meeting. The County Manager told members that Libraries cannot function on buildings and staff alone. They need books and he urged members to protect the Library Estimate.

Clr. J. Mannion proposed the adoption of the Estimate and Clr. Ryan seconded. It was adopted unanimously.

4. NOMINATION OF TWO DELEGATES TO A JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND and the Northern Ireland Branch, The Library Association, in Portrush, Co. Antrim, from 14th - 18th May, inclusive.

The meeting nominated Clr. J. Mannion (on the proposal of Clr. P. McCormack) and Clr. N. O'Conchubhair (on the proposal of Clr. E. Haverty) to attend the Joint Conference in May. Clr. McCormack was nominated as an alternative for Clr. Mannion and Clr. Fahy as an alternative for Clr. O'Conchubhair.



5. OVERDUE BOOKS:

The County Librarian, Mr. Sharkey, told the meeting that he was proposing an amnesty so that borrowers who returned overdue books between February 6 and 20 would not be charged any fines. He pointed out that people seem reluctant to return long overdue books either through fear of a heavy fine or embarrassment. Mr. Sharkey said that the maximum fine was £1 per book, and he wanted to encourage people to return overdue library books. Mr. Sharkey urged people to make a special effort to return library books and he appealed to members and Press to publicize the campaign. Clr. P. McCormack thought the idea of an amnesty was a good one.

Mr. Sharkey informed members that some books were being vandalised. He said that pages and sections were being torn from books. Mrs. Croffy condemned this practice as blagardism and thought that tearing a book was inexcusable. Mr. Sharkey told Clr. N. O'Conchubhair that photocopying was available provided there was no infringement of copyright.

Mr. Alf MacLochlainn asked Mr. Sharkey about the age of the Mobile Library. Mr. Sharkey replied that it was twelve years old and it was passed for another two years by the Mechanical Engineer when it would have to be replaced at a cost of about £60,000.

The Chairman, Clr. T. Byrne, complimented Mr. Sharkey on the Schools Library Service and asked that it be improved. The County Librarian said that only £13,000 was spent on new books for schools in 1983 due to the cut made in the bookfund.

Clr. T. Welby welcomed the plan to renovate Oughterard. The County Librarian also said he hoped to have Spiddal Branch Library painted in 1984. Clr. Welby asked that a light be placed outside the Branch in Spiddal especially during night opening hours and Mr. Sharkey promised to investigate it.

Mr. Frank O'Donoghue asked about plans for Tuam, but Mr. Sharkey said that there was no money for a new Library in Tuam at present.

The meeting then adjourned 5.30 p.m.



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

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

17th September, 1984.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 28th September, 1984, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Statistical Report 1983.
3. Branch Libraries.
4. Any other business.

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

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries Committee, held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Friday, 28th September, 1984.

IN CHAIR: Clr. T. Byrne.

PRESENT: Clrs. Michael J. Kilgannon, Michael Ryan, Patrick J. Finnegan, Edward Haverty, Michael A. Fahy, Thomas Welby and T. Byrne; Mrs. Maura Croffy; Messrs. Frank Donoghue and Padraic Conneely.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Miss M. Kavanagh, Executive Librarian; Messrs. P. Rabbitt, and M. Keating, Assistant Librarians; and Miss A. Grey, Library Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Miss Margaret Stewart, Mr. Alf MacLochlainn and Mr. S. Keating, County Manager.

The Chairman, Clr. T. Byrne, proposed a vote of sympathy with the family of Mrs. May Brennan, Branch Librarian, Gort, who had died during the week. He said that she had been Branch Librarian for thirty years, that she had been an exceptional and kind lady, who had done great work in the Library in Gort and that she would be a great loss to the community. Clr. Michael A. Fahy seconded the vote of sympathy. He then proposed that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Padraic Conneely seconded the motion for adjournment.

Clr. T. Byrne proposed a vote of sympathy with Mr. Sean Fahy and family on the tragic death of their daughter on the previous night. Clr. Edward Haverty seconded the vote of sympathy.

Mr. Padraic Conneely proposed a vote of sympathy with Miss Margaret Stewart on the recent death of her mother. It was seconded by Clr. Kilgannon.

Clr. Michael Ryan proposed a vote of sympathy with Clr. Padraic McCormack on the recent death of his mother and was seconded by Clr. Byrne.

The County Librarian on behalf of the Library staff and the County Manager associated himself with the votes of sympathy.

It was decided that the meeting be adjourned to Monday, 8th October.



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

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

2nd October, 1984.

A Chara,

The County Libraries Committee Meeting of the 28th September which was adjourned due to the death of Mrs. Mary Brennan, Branch Librarian, Gort, will be held on Monday next the 8th October at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries Committee, held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Monday, 8th October, 1984, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. T. Byrne.

PRESENT: Sen. J. M. Mannion, Co.C.; Deputies M. P. Kitt, Co.C. and F. Coogan, Jnr.; Cirs. M. J. Kilgannon, N. O'Conchubhair, P. J. Finnegan, E. Haverty, M. A. Fahy, T. Welby, J. Callanan, P. McCormack, T. Byrne, N.T. and T. Browne; Mrs. M. Croffy; Mr. P. Conneely.

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

APOLOGIES: Miss M. Stewart.

The Chairman, Clr. T. Byrne, proposed a vote of sympathy with the County Manager, Mr. S. Keating, on the death of his father. Clr. T. Browne seconded the vote of sympathy. All members of the Committee present associated themselves with the vote of sympathy. Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian, associated himself with the vote of sympathy on behalf of the staff. The Chairman proposed that the meeting be adjourned for five minutes and this was seconded by Clr. T. Browne. The meeting then adjourned for five minutes.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

On resuming the minutes for the meetings held on the 27th January, 1984, and 28th September, 1984, were adopted unanimously on the proposal of Clr. Kilgannon seconded by Mrs. Croffy.

Arising from the minutes, the County Librarian, Mr. Sharkey, informed members that the library had moved into its new Headquarters in Island House, Cathedral Square, in February 1984, and he was very satisfied with the new premises.

Mr. Sharkey also informed members that a new signpost for the Moylough Branch Library, as requested by Clr. Ryan, would be supplied within a month.

On the amnesty for overdue books which operated between February 6 and 20, 1984, Mr. Sharkey informed the Committee that approximately 1,000 books were returned which were six months or more overdue, and he was pleased with the result. The County Librarian thanked the Press for the publicity they gave to this matter.

The County Librarian apologised to Clr. T. Browne for failing to list him as apologising for his inability to attend the meeting of 28th September, 1984.



## 2. STATISTICAL REPORT 1983:

The Chairman invited the County Librarian to comment on the report. Mr. Sharkey told members that 1983 was a bad year for the Library Service in that the adult membership fee was raised to £5 and the County Council had cut the bookfund by 40%. As a result Mr. Sharkey added the membership of the library decreased and in particular adult membership. The County Librarian also said that the juvenile membership had also declined particularly in Galway City and he gave it as his opinion that this was due to parents giving up their membership of the Library and not taking their children there. Mr. Sharkey said there was no noticeable decrease in the juvenile membership in smaller branches. The County Librarian pointed out that the mobile membership had increased and he felt that the £1 membership for this service was sufficient because the Mobile only visited service points once every two weeks.

On value for money Mr. Sharkey pointed out that the bookfund was 15.41% of the expenditure for 1983 as against 26% of the 1982 expenditure.

Clr. Kilgannon complimented Mr. Sharkey and his staff on the comprehensive report. He said he was in favour of the increased adult fees when they were originally adopted, but he was now having second thoughts on charges. He felt that the criteria for making charges was not the same as for other services and Clr. Kilgannon felt that the Council would have to look again at the membership charge.

On the image of the library service Clr. Kilgannon felt that the Committee and staff would have to look at the best means of promoting the Library. He said that 'an education job' would have to be done on the public. He said that the thinking abroad was that the library service was a small and restricted one confined and used mainly by the old and retired. He felt that the Library had to reach out to the working population and it must be used by all the people. He stated that the committed reader would continue to use the library, but that there was not an awareness of the service by other people.

Clr. Kilgannon said that something would need to be done to continually remind borrowers about the library as it was very easy for people to borrow books and forget about them as he himself had experienced.

Clr. Kilgannon praised the Schools Service and its range of materials despite severe cutbacks. The County Librarian said that Miss Maureen Moran operated the service as best she could under severe financial difficulties in 1983.

Mrs. Croffy felt that the steep rise in Library fees particularly from £2 to £5 contributed to the fall off in membership. Mrs. Croffy added that she herself had suggested joining the Library to members of a craft group to which she belonged in order to get craft books, but they declined owing to the fee. Mrs. Croffy asked members to do something about the Library fee.

Mr. Sharkey told Clr. J. Callanan that the increase in the fee from £2 to £5 only made a difference of about £5,000 in revenue. Clr. Callanan suggested that the Committee should reduce the fee.



Clr. M. Fahy suggested offering the public a special relief period of about three weeks around Christmas time where the public could join the library free of charge. Many of the members present felt it was an excellent idea and pressed for its implementation, but Mr. Sharkey told members that permission would have to be got from the County Manager and Council and also the scheme might be administratively difficult to operate.

Clr. Fahy asked Mr. Sharkey about publicising the Mobile Library timetable as he felt many people outside small towns did not know about the service. The County Librarian felt that the cost of an advertisement was expensive in that there were sixty-eight service points. Clr. Finnegan felt that people already knew about the library service and that there was no need for expensive publicity schemes. Deputy M. Kitt suggested putting up notices in shops and other public areas. Clr. E. Haverly suggested asking priests to help in promoting the library and possibly putting articles in parish newsletters. Clr. Kilgannon said that leaflets and other promotional material should be distributed widely because the library service now exists in the television age and it had to be continually promoted.

Deputy F. Coogan pointed out that children used the Library at an early age, but when it came to second level schooling they tended to drop out perhaps never to return. Deputy Coogan felt that something should be done to maintain their interest in the service. He suggested increasing audio-visual material available in the Library. Deputy Coogan thought that some sort of local history unit could be set up which would benefit young people and also tourists and perhaps a grant might be available from Bord Failte. He hoped that a tape-slide unit could be utilised to get young people interested in their locality and agreed to Mr. Sharkey's request to discuss his ideas with the library staff.

The County Librarian told Deputy Coogan that the rent on the new Headquarters was approximately £32,000, but that 50% of this amount was recouped from An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.

The Chairman, Clr. T. Byrne, pointed out that only 10% of the adult population were members and felt that in the age of technology and publicity that the Library had to be vigorously promoted. Clr. Byrne informed members that he had recently visited the new Headquarters and found that there were excellent facilities there for study and research. The Chairman said that the services were there but were not being publicised.

Deputy Coogan suggested to the County Librarian that The Information Services in Ballybane could be utilised by the Library, as information on hundreds of subjects in periodicals was available there and Library users of this service could be charged for the articles required. Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that he would investigate the systems available and see if they could be used by Galway County Libraries.

Deputy Coogan complimented the County Librarian on the Library exhibitions. Mr. Sharkey told members that these were organised by Miss Mary Kavanagh and were on going. Clr. Kilgannon requested that extra publicity should be given to the exhibitions. He was unaware of them and he was a member of the Library Committee. He felt that the public at large should be made more aware of them.



Clr. Kilgannon asked the County Librarian if the Library could prepare a gift voucher for adult membership of the Library. He felt that this would encourage people to use the Library Service and would also make an ideal Christmas present. Clr. Kilgannon felt that to overcome difficulties of people who had already joined that the voucher be valid for twelve months over a two year period and would operate when the donee's membership has expired. Mr. Sharkey promised to investigate the idea.

### 3. BRANCH LIBRARIES:

Mr. Sharkey informed members that:-

BALLINASLOE BRANCH LIBRARY has been extensively renovated and work was nearing completion;

DUNMORE BRANCH LIBRARY has been painted;

CLIFDEN BRANCH LIBRARY has been painted and repairs carried out;

OUGHTERARD BRANCH LIBRARY was being extensively renovated and

SPIDDAL BRANCH LIBRARY was painted internally and externally and the County Librarian said that new shelving and a carpet would be provided.

Mr. Sharkey hoped that further renovations could be carried out on other Branch Libraries for example Roundstone in 1985.

Deputy Coogan said he was delighted to see renovations being carried out on the Regional Technical College Library and hoped that staff facilities would be improved. Mr. Sharkey told Mr. Coogan that recommendations for extra staff would have to come from the Regional Technical College, which was the responsibility of the Department of Education, first, before the Council could discuss recruitment.

### 4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Clr. Kilgannon suggested that some kind of service be offered to the handicapped and housebound. He noted that little was done by the service in the year of the handicapped but he now suggested writing to An Bord Poist to see if they could come up with some sort of postal service to the handicapped. Clr. Kilgannon added that a new regime exists in our postal service and they seemed to be coming up with imaginative schemes in other areas and might come up with some idea for the Library Service even if only to give preferential postal rates.

Clr. M. Fahy told the Committee that a valuable painting was donated by Mr. P. J. Burke (now living in the U.S.A.) to Gort Branch Library. Clr. Fahy thought that this painting, of the Madonna which was a copy of an original made in about 1210 A.D., was an excellent gift to the people of Gort and he was unhappy with its security in the Library. Clr. Fahy asked Mr. Sharkey to check on insurance for the painting. Mr. Sharkey agreed to this request and informed the meeting that he had written to Mr. Burke thanking him for his gift.

Clr. P. McCormack thanked members for their vote of sympathy on the death of his mother.

The meeting terminated at 5.25 p.m.

*Jodda Byrne*  
8. 2 1985



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471


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

30th January, 1985.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 8th February, 1985, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

  
LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.
AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
3. Estimate 1985.
4. Children's Book Week 1984.
5. Nomination of two delegates to a Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Branch, The Library Association, in Cork, from 16th - 20th April inclusive.
6. Any other business.

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

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee, held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Friday, 8th February, 1985, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. T. Byrne.

PRESENT: Sen. J. M. Mannion, Co.C.; Deputies M. P. Kitt, Co.C., F. Fahey and F. Coogan, Jnr.; Clrs. M. J. Kilgannon, M. Ryan, P. J. Finnegan, M. A. Fahy, T. Welby, J. Callanan, P. McCormack and T. Byrne; Messrs. T. Browne, S. Fahy, F. Donoghue and P. Conneely; Mrs. M. Croffy, Mrs. M. Burke; Miss M. Stewart.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. J. Howlett, Acting County Manager; Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Miss M. Kavanagh, Executive Librarian; Misses M. Moran, A. Joyce, B. McAleer and Mr. Peter Rabbitt, Assistant Librarians; Mrs. Anne White, Senior Library Assistant.

Clr. T. Byrne proposed votes of sympathy to Clr. Michael A. Fahy on the recent death of his father, to Deputy Fintan Coogan on the death of his father, and to Deputy Paul Connaughton, Minister of State, on the death of his mother. The proposal was seconded by Clr. Thomas Welby. Acting County Manager, Mr. John Howlett, associated himself with the votes on behalf of himself and the Library Staff. Deputy Fintan Coogan proposed a vote of sympathy with the County Librarian, Mr. T. Sharkey, on the death of his mother. The vote was seconded by Clr. Michael A. Fahy.

The meeting was adjourned for five minutes as a mark of respect.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted, on the proposal of Senator John Mannion and seconded by Deputy Michael Kitt. Arising from the minutes, the County Librarian, Mr. T. Sharkey, read a letter from An Post, stating that they did not intend at the moment providing a free postal service for the handicapped and housebound. They do, however, plan to introduce a "Bookpost" service in 1985 which will offer reduced rates for sending books through the post.

Re Mobile Library time-table, Mr. T. Sharkey, said that the Branch Librarians had been requested to publicize the service by having the time-table inserted in Parish Newsletters, in local business premises and in Banks.

Re the Library sign on Moylough Branch Library, Mr. T. Sharkey informed the meeting that the sign is to be erected shortly.

In reply to a question by Clr. Michael A. Fahy re the picture in Gort Branch Library, the County Librarian said that it was covered by insurance and that it would shortly be inspected re its present position in the Library.

Mr. T. Sharkey said that he had written to Information Sources Ltd. re its services to Libraries, and from their reply understood that their initial primary market would be U.S. Libraries. Deputy Fintan Coogan said that since the last meeting the situation as regards the company had changed.



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

On the proposal of Deputy Michael Kitt, seconded by Clr. Michael A. Fahy, Clr. Patrick Finnegan was elected unanimously as Chairman. On vacating the chair Clr. T. Byrne complimented the County Librarian and the Library Staff. Clr. P. Finnegan took the chair. He complimented Clr. T. Byrne on his chairmanship during the year. He thanked the Committee for electing him. Sen. J. Mannion proposed Clr. P. McCormack as Vice-Chairman. He was seconded by Deputy Fintan Coogan, and elected unanimously.

## 3. ESTIMATES 1985:

The proposed Estimate of Expenditure for Galway County Libraries for 1985 had been circulated to all the members. The County Librarian discussed each item. He said that the bookfund accounted for a little over 17% of the net expenditure. He hoped that there would be no cut back in the service. Clr. Finnegan inquired re the new proposed Branch Library in Tuam and was informed by the County Librarian that it was hoped to make a start on it this year. Senator Mannion inquired re alterations to Roundstone Branch and was informed that if funds were available the alterations would be started this year.

Clr. Kilgannon inquired re the rent on Library Headquarters and was informed by Mr. T. Sharkey that it was £31,000 a year, but that half of it was recouped.

Mrs. Maura Croffy asked if it was intended to cut the staffing in Ballinasloe Branch Library. She was informed by the County Librarian that the present staffing was to be reduced from an Assistant Librarian and a Library Assistant to an Assistant Librarian and a part-time Branch Librarian. She said that the Library is now being used as a Library should, and that from a building with no heart or soul, it had now become a beehive of activity. It is now a focal point for the people of the locality and she felt that it would be a shame to cut back on staff now. Deputy Kitt said that for such a small amount of money saved it would be a shame to cut back on staff. Mrs. Croffy went on to say that it was a disgrace that the caravans which park outside the Library were not moved. She said that broken bottles, used pampers and other unmentionable items were thrown inside the Library wall; children using the Library were harassed and it was absolutely disgraceful that such a lovely area was so despoiled. Clr. E. Haverty said that the remainder of the Fairgreen had been chained to stop the caravans and asked why the area around the Library has not also been chained. Clr. Finnegan said that a full report on what can be done by the County Council and Ballinasloe Urban District Council would be ready for the next meeting. Clr. J. Callanan said that Mrs. Croffy's statement was true. He said that the owners of these caravans were well-off traders. Clr. Haverty said that the U.D.C. should be contacted to see what they were doing about the matter.

On the proposal of Senator Mannion, seconded by Clr. P. McCormack, the estimates were adopted unanimously. Mr. T. Sharkey asked the County Councillors to support the estimate at the County Council estimates meeting.

Deputy Fintan Coogan asked that "Amnesty Week" be repeated again this year as it had been so successful in 1984. The Committee agreed to this proposal.



4. CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK:

A report on Children's Book Week had been circulated to members. The County Librarian thanked the sponsors for the prizes and said that the week had been very successful. Clr. T. Byrne complimented the County Librarian and staff and said that great enthusiasm had been shown for the activities. He hoped that the remaining Branch Librarians would participate in future. Clr. Finnegan also complimented the staff. He said it was a laudable exercise and these activities would highlight the work of the Library.

Dubhairt an Comh. Kilgannon go raibh ganntanas leabhar as gaeilge do phaisti. He suggested an approach to the Department of Education to have suitable reading material in Irish available for children. The County Librarian said that he would write to the Department of Education and to Bord na Gaeilge and make them aware of the situation.

5. NOMINATION OF DELEGATES TO THE JOINT LIBRARY CONFERENCE:

Senator Mannion proposed Clr. Michael Ryan as a delegate and was seconded by Deputy F. Coogan; Deputy M. Kitt proposed Clr. E. Haverty and was seconded by Mrs. M. Croffy. They were appointed unanimously. It was also agreed that the delegates could choose substitutes in the event of their not being able to attend.

Miss Margaret Stewart thanked the Committee and staff for their vote of sympathy at the previous meeting, on the death of her mother.

*Patrick Finnegan*



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

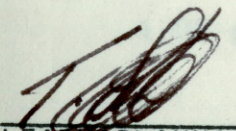
Co. Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

16th September, 1985.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 27th September, 1985, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

  
LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Statistical Report 1984.
3. Branch Libraries.
4. Any other business.

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

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries Committee held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Wednesday, 9th October, 1985, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. Patrick Finnegan.

PRESENT: Clrs. Patrick Finnegan, J. M. Mannion, Michael Mullins, Martin Lynch, James Joyce, Paddy McHugh, John Molloy, Peter Raftery and Matt Loughnane; Messrs. Joe Burke, Martin Fallon, Eamon King, Peter Conroy, Patrick Gilmore, Padraig McDonacha, Pat Quinn, Conor Gavin, Michael O'Connell, Gerald Bartley, Toddie Byrne, Henry O'Connor and Martin O'Connell; Mrs. Maura Croffy; Rev. Leslie D. A. Forrest.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. Keating, County Manager; Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Miss M. Kavanagh, Executive Librarian; Misses M. Moran, A. Joyce, Messrs. P. Rabbitt, M. Keating, Assistant Librarians; Mrs. A. White, Acting Assistant Librarian; and Ms. B. Kelly and C. Farragher, Senior Library Assistants.

APOLOGY: An apology for inattendance was received from Mr. Paud Kennelly.

Clr. P. Finnegan proposed a vote of sympathy with the wife and family of the late Clr. Eddie Haverty. He paid tribute to him in taking an active part in the affairs of the Library Committee. Clr. Peter Raftery seconded the motion. Mr. T. Sharkey requested that the Library Staff be associated with the vote. Clr. P. Finnegan then welcomed the Committee, particularly the new members.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

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

Arising from the minutes the County Librarian informed the meeting that the Library sign would shortly be erected on Moylough Library, and that the work on refurbishing the Library at Roundstone was in progress. He said that Amnesty Week has been responsible for the return of 472 books at the City Branch and 267 at the other Branch Libraries.

The County Manager informed the meeting that a new change of status for Galway City would take place shortly. The City had now the right to become a separate Library Authority. This had been discussed at County Council meetings, where it had been recommended that the existing structure should remain as it has been. He said that under the Local Government Act (1955) an agreement could be made that the County Council would continue to give a service and that the Corporation would continue to pay towards the cost of same. The cost of the Library Service in 1985 amounted to £632,980 of which the city's contribution was £196,223. The implications, if the County were to lose this money, would be that it would weaken the capability of the two authorities; there would be two separate staffing arrangements and inevitable duplication of personnel, buildings and book stock. Because of the new arrangements, the City might wish to have stronger representation on the Committee, as it would be a Library Authority in its own right.



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

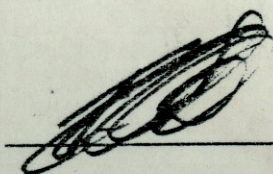
Co. Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

26th September, 1985.

A Chara,

The County Libraries' Committee Meeting due to be held on Friday,  
the 27th inst. will now be held on Wednesday the 9th October, at  
4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,



LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.



LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

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IN CHAIR:

Clr. Patrick Finnegan.

PRESENT:

Clrs. Patrick Finnegan, J. M. Mannion, Michael Mullins, Martin Lynch, James Joyce, Paddy McHugh, John Molloy, Peter Raftery and Matt Loughnane; Messrs. Joe Burke, Martin Fallon, Eamon King, Peter Conroy, Patrick Gilmore, Padraig McDonacha, Pat Quinn, Conor Gavin, Michael O'Connell, Gerald Bartley, Toddie Byrne, Henry O'Connor and Martin O'Connell; Mrs. Maura Croffy; Rev. Leslie D. A. Forrest.

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Sen. Mannion proposed that the service remain unchanged. It was seconded by Mr. G. Bartley. The Committee agreed unanimously to the proposal.

The County Manager informed the meeting that the old Bank of Ireland premises, Tuam, is to be converted into a Library, at a cost of £250,000 - £300,000. He said that he did not think the Council would be in a position in 1986 to take up the loan repayments, even if a loan were available. He wished to sound a warning note because it might not be possible to proceed with the plans in 1986.

Clr. J. Joyce asked if a survey had been carried out on the expenditure by Libraries in other counties; and if Co. Galway, which is a very large County, is spending as much vis-a-vis the other Counties. The County Manager replied that even though there has been a very serious shortage of funds, the Library service in Co. Galway has done well. He said that in the past number of years, a new Library for the City had been opened; new Libraries had been built in Clifden, Portumna and Athenry, as well as minor improvements carried out in other Branch Libraries. While a severe cut in the book fund had been made in 1983, this had nearly been restored in 1985.

Clr. P. Finnegan said that there has been a lot of publicity in Tuam about the amount of the loan which was needed and it was felt by many that this money should be spent on providing jobs in the area. However, he said that Tuam was a fast growing town with poor Library facilities. He said that the present premises in the Town Hall was unsuitable, and that a new Library would be an asset to the Town and people. Mr. P. Gilmore said that Tuam was a growing educational centre which had 3,000 school going children. He hoped that the proposed new Library would not be postponed indefinitely. The County Manager said that the quality of service in Tuam was poor, and that most towns of comparable size had much better Libraries. He said that the location was important, as it is in the centre of the Town, that the price of the building was reasonable and in fact it was lower than the price of a site. He said that An Chomhairle Leabharlanna had approved the plans, and that the architect had also designed Ennis Library. Mr. C. Gavin asked if the building would be used to house historical and archaeological artifacts. The County Manager showed the architect's plans to the Committee and pointed out that on the first floor, there would be a room for exhibitions and other activities.

## 2. STATISTICAL REPORT 1984:

The County Librarian commented on the report by stating that there had been a drop of book issues in many of the Branch Libraries including Galway City Branch. He said that this was due to the increased charges. He said that there had been a lot of opposition to this increase. When adults stopped using the service they no longer brought their children to the Library. This mainly applied to the Galway City Branch. Mr. Sharkey said that there had been an increase in membership on the Mobile Library, but that the membership fee for adults there, was only £1.00.

Clr. P. Finnegan complimented the Library Staff on the excellent service provided.



Clr. M. Lynch said that he regarded the fees as too high for the average person. He said that it was better to have people using the Libraries. Mr. M. Fallon proposed that there be a reduction in Library charges. Clr. J. Joyce considered the charges low for the use of the Library. He suggested that the Library service should be advertised on television. He said that many people were shy about going to the Library and that in rural areas very few farmers use the Library. After a discussion on the charges, it was agreed that the Library charges remain unchanged on the proposal of Mr. J. Burke and seconded by Mr. P. McHugh.

### 3. BRANCH LIBRARIES:

Mrs. M. Croffy stated that nothing had been done since the previous meeting, about the parking of caravans outside the Library in Ballinasloe. She said that she had been unable to discover where the fault lay, and that it was deplorable that Library Staff and users of the Library, had to walk past such filth and dirt. She said that she had expected a reply back from the County Council meeting, but had not received any. Clr. P. Finnegan said that there was some confusion as to who is responsible.

Mr. P. Conroy suggested writing to Ballinasloe U.D.C. for their plans for parking caravans, and then to work up to the County Council for a report. Mr. T. Sharkey stated that he had written to the Town Clerk in Ballinasloe on 26th February last and had received an acknowledgement saying that the matter was receiving attention.

Clr. M. Loughnane stated that Loughrea Branch Library was inaccessible to many people because of the steep steps at the entrance. He asked if there are any long term plans for a new Library. He said that the old dispensary building, beside the Temperance Hall, and also a site opposite the Cathedral, should be investigated as likely sites.

Mr. C. Gavin asked if video tapes could be borrowed through the Library for use in schools. Mr. Sharkey said that the matter would be investigated.

*Patrick Finnegan*  
*21/2 / 1986*