

Mr. Sharkey told Clr. P. Geraghty that the book fund was too low and too few new books were being purchased.

Mr. P. Kennelly said he was satisfied with the Library service in Clifden and paid a compliment to the staff there.

3. NOMINATION OF DELEGATES TO A JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND AND THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH):

Clr. M. Fahey was proposed by Clr. Loughnane. Clr. J. Mannion was proposed by Clr. T. Walsh and Clr. J. McDonagh was proposed by Clr. Mannion. The three nominees were unanimously selected to attend the Conference in April 1992.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Co. Librarian reminded members particularly those who were not Councillors to sign the attendance book and fill in their expenses sheets when they attended meetings of the Library Committee.

Mr. Leo Hallissey told the meeting that he feared that the Library service was on a down slide. The lack of resources meant that fewer new books were purchased and the Libraries needed a frequent turnover of new material. Mr. Hallissey said that there was tremendous good will in the community and in the press for the library and that this committee must tap into it.

Clr. P. Geraghty asked would the Library Committee have any function in organising a research project into the social implications of reading or lack of reading, particularly of young people. Clr. Geraghty thought that the committee had to find out why there was a drop in readership and suggested that the T.V. 'Soaps' were having an effect on the Library service.

Clr. P. McHugh agreed that the Library needed to be promoted. He asked for an up-to-date position on a sub-committee that was set up at a previous meeting to promote the Library Service because he had heard nothing as a member of this sub-committee. Clr. McHugh suggested that the papers like the Connacht Tribune and Tuam Herald together with the local radio service should be asked to do features on the Library in Galway.

Clr. Loughnane agreed with this suggestion and asked that these papers be contacted (as well as the radio) to feature the Library. Clr. Loughnane added that the marketing people in the local media could help with advertising to pay for the features on the Library. Clr. Loughnane backed the idea of resurrecting the sub-committee on promoting the Library service.

The Chairman Clr. J. McDonagh said the ideas from the members tied in with his own suggestion of organising 'a Library week' to promote the Councils Library service.

Mr. Leo Hallissey did not feel that the Library service needed to get finance to do features in the media on the Library service. He suggested that a type of "Friends of the Library" group be set up.

Clr. P. Finnegan informed the meeting that the Co. Arts Committee were running an Arts week in Tuam in July 1992 and that with many activities taking place in the new Library in Tuam it would help with publicity on the Library service.

In reply to the members queries on the sub-committee to promote the Library service the Co. Librarian, Mr. Sharkey, said the Council had told him that no money was available for such a committee. Mr. Sharkey assured members he did not veto expenses.

Clr. Loughnane then suggested that the Librarian with his staff be asked to phone the papers to get publicity for the Libraries.

Clr. McHugh said that he did not see why no expenses would be available for a sub-committee, but if this was the case he said that the sub-committee should still go ahead and he was willing to attend meetings at his own expense.

Mr. Leo Hallissey also agreed to serve on the committee.

The Chairman then suggested that a small sub-committee of five members be set up and he suggested that this matter be referred to the next meeting of the Committee in May.

Clr. O'Baoill stated that he supported the idea of a sub-committee on Library promotion and in fact he as the last Chairman had been instrumental in setting it up originally. He stated that no meetings had taken place due to the non-availability of expenses. He felt that the sub-committee should still go ahead with its work as it was a good cause and offered to continue to serve on it.

Clr. Geraghty suggested that sub-committees be set up in different areas of the County.

Mr. Leo Hallissey emphasised that the sub-committee should not be localised but it should look at an overall strategy for the Library service.

Clr. P. McHugh and other members congratulated the Tuam Herald reporter, D. Varley, present at the meeting, on the publication of his new book.

Clr. O'Baoill informed the meeting that a Folklore exhibition was opening in Ballinasloe Branch Library at 7.50 on Thursday 5th March. He commended it to members and said that having seen it himself he noted the particular emphasis placed on the Irish language in 1937/'38. He said that the committee should be to the forefront in promoting Irish and suggested holding competitions in the schools and libraries.

The Chairman J. McDonagh said that he was attending a function this week which promoted Irish.

The Councillors unanimously proposed a vote of sympathy to Clr. P. Finnegan on his recent bereavement and Mr. Sharkey associated himself with the proposal on behalf of the staff.

Members fixed Wednesday 20th May, 1992, as the date of its next meeting at 4.30p.m. The meeting then ended.

*J. McDonagh*  
20/5/92  
*Chairman*

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471

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

11th May, 1992.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Wednesday, 20th May, 1992, at 4.30 p.m.

Mise, le meas,


LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.
2. Statistical Report 1991.
3. Any other business.

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

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries Committee, held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Wednesday, 20th May, 1992, at 4.30 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. J. McDonagh.

PRESENT: Clrs. Michael Fahy, Patrick Finnegan, Michael Finnerty, Matt Loughnane, Jarlath McDonagh, John M. Mannion, Michael Mullins, Kathleen Quinn, Tiarnan Walsh; Messrs. Paudge Kennelly, Peter Conroy, Frank Donoghue, Joe Donoghue, Justin Flannery, Patsy Geraghty, Leo Hallissey, Tony Leahy, Justin Mitchell, Patrick Pettit, Maurice Whelan; Mrs. Margaret Counihan, Maureen Egan and Noelle Hayes.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian, Mr. T. Coughlan, Administrative Officer, Miss M. Moran and Mr. P. Rabbitt, Assistant Librarians, and Miss M. Kavanagh, Executive Librarian.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for inattendance were received from Mrs. M. Conway, Mountbellew, and Clr. T. O'Baoill, Ballinasloe.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been circulated, were adopted, on the proposal of Mr. P. Geraghty, seconded by Clr. J. M. Mannion.

Clr. J. M. Mannion congratulated Mr. P. Geraghty on his election as Chairman of Ireland West Tourism. Clr. K. Quinn seconded the motion.

The Chairman also congratulated him and wished him good luck.

Mr. P. Geraghty proposed a vote of sympathy with the family of "Inky" Flaherty, recently deceased. Mr. P. Conroy seconded the motion. Mr. Sharkey joined in the proposal and told the meeting that "Inky's" daughter Geraldine is a member of the Library staff. As a mark of respect the meeting adjourned for five minutes.

Arising from the minutes the Chairman inquired if any money had been sanctioned for books, since the previous meeting. Mr. Sharkey stated that at the beginning of April permission was given to go ahead and spend the book allocation as in the estimates. He also said that the Department of Education had increased the book fund for Primary Schools to 47p per pupil. The total grant in 1992 would be £13,277.03.

Mr. T. Donoghue inquired if there had been any progress on acquiring the Church of Ireland, Church in Loughrea, for use as a Library. Mr. T. Coughlan informed the meeting that a letter has been forwarded to Canon Sullivan, requesting him to clarify points on times of usage of the Church by the congregation. On receipt of this information, the next step would be to prepare the contract documents.

Clr. P. Finnegan asked if anything had been done on publicity for the Library Service.

Mr. Sharkey stated that a sub committee of the Library Committee would not be recognised and no travelling expenses would be given to such a sub committee.

Mr. L. Hallissey said that they all wished to do something positive. He suggested that some of the Committee might be willing to meet, without travelling expenses, to discuss the problem and activate a plan.

The Chairman suggested that those who were interested should give their names at the end of the meeting, and a meeting could be arranged later. Mr. T. Geraghty suggested that circulars be sent to the School Principals, relating the wonderful facility of the Library Service, to insure that the young people are aware of this facility.

The Chairman informed the meeting that £20,000 had been given for a Library to the European Centre for Travellers in Tuam. He proposed that a letter be forwarded to the Department, recommending that a similar grant be given to all second level Schools. Mr. J. Donoghue seconded this proposal. The latter also stated that he was puzzled as to why primary school children only and not second level school pupils, should get this grant. He considered that money spent on Libraries was money well spent, and that it was a beneficial way to spend public money.

## II. STATISTICAL REPORT:

The County Librarian highlighted certain aspects of the Statistical Report, which had already been circulated to the members. The overall issues had increased in thirteen Branches and decreased in nine. He said in order to maintain the momentum in the large increase in membership in Tuam, it would be necessary to keep a good stock of books in the Branch. There was a slight decrease in the Galway City Library issues, due primarily to disruption of the service owing to renovations to the Building during 1990/91. He stated that the audio cassettes were very popular, but there is not enough money for this service. He said that the number of books at Galway City Library was well below that recommended in the I.F.L.A. Standards.

## III. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. L. Hallissey stated that a small bookfund impinges on the weakest group - the children. He considered that the Department of Education was not giving enough funds. He also stated that he is still unhappy with the charges. He asked that an approach be made to the University Authorities, requesting that each student submitting a thesis dealing with any aspect of County Galway, should be requested to submit a synopsis of four to six pages, on the subject of the thesis, which would be donated to the County Library and thus be available to the public. Mrs. M. Egan suggested that other third level colleges be requested to do likewise.

The following members submitted their names for the P.R. Committee:-

The Chairman, Clr. J. McDonagh,  
Clr. K. Quinn (0907) 55058,  
Clr. P. Finnegan,  
Mrs. M. Egan and  
Mr. L. Hallissey (095) 43443.

*J. McDonagh*  
*21st Nov 92*  
*Chairman*

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471

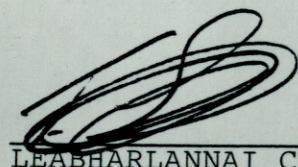
Co. Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

3rd November, 1992.

A Chara,

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Thursday, 12th November, 1992, 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 1993.
4. Branch Libraries.
5. Any other business.

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

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries Committee, held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on 12th November, 1992, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. J. McDonagh.

PRESENT: Clrs. Michael Fahy, Michael Finnerty, Matt Loughnane, Jarlath McDonagh, John M. Mannion, T. O'Baoill, Kathleen Quinn, Evelyn Varley, Tiarnan Walsh; Messrs. Pudge Kennelly, Frank Donoghue, Joe Donoghue, Justin Flannery, Patsy Geraghty, Paddy Grealish, Tony Leahy, Justin Mitchell, Patrick Pettit, Maurice Whelan; Mrs. Margaret Counihan, Maureen Egan; Ms. Kathleen Fallon and Very Rev. L. A. Canon Forrest.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Mr. E. Lusby, Finance Officer; Miss M. Moran, Mrs. A. Walsh, Mr. P. Rabbitt, Assistant Librarians, and Miss M. Kavanagh, Executive Librarian.

APOLOGIES: An apology was received from Mr. John F. King.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been circulated, were adopted and signed on the proposal of Mr. Frank Donoghue, seconded by Clr. John Mannion.

Arising from the minutes the County Librarian informed the meeting that he had contacted the Irish Universities and Regional Colleges, on the matter of students submitting a short synopsis of each thesis, on a subject relating to County Galway, to the County Library, for reference use. He said that he has received some positive replies.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Patsy Geraghty was unanimously elected Chairman, on the proposal of Clr. Michael Fahy, seconded by Mr. Justin Mitchell.

Mr. Frank Donoghue, was unanimously elected Vice Chairman, on the proposal of Clr. Tiarnan Walsh, seconded by Clr. Jarlath McDonagh. Mr. Patsy Geraghty, on formally taking the chair, thanked the Committee for electing him. He paid tribute to Clr. Jarlath McDonagh, the previous Chairman, for the work he had done and for his gracious manner at all times.

3. ESTIMATES 1993:

The estimates 1993, had been previously circulated to all members.

Mr. Sharkey informed the Committee that the bookfund for 1993, would be the same as in 1992. There would be a drop in salaries, as the R.T.C., would be responsible from January for the salaries of the Library Staff in the College. There would be an increase in office equipment from

£2,000 (1992) to £10,000 (1993). There would be an increase in renovations, improvements from £10,000 (1992) to £15,000 (1993).

The Chairman said that the bookfund was disappointing and said that the culture of reading should be encouraged in young people. He also said that quarterly meetings should be held as there was a necessity for a regular basis of discussion, and a consolidated policy.

Clr. Michael A. Fahy proposed that quarterly meetings be held; this was seconded by Clr. Kathleen Quinn, and agreed unanimously. Mr. Lusby informed the meeting that this was not a matter for the Library Estimates, but was part of the general meetings' expenses of the County Council.

There was a general discussion by the members on methods of financing the bookfund. Clr. Tiarnan Walsh proposed appealing for lottery funding for the Library service. This was seconded by Mr. Joe Donoghue. Clr. Jarlath McDonagh proposed an addendum to the previous proposal that second level schools get funding for books.

Clr. T. O'Baoill congratulated the Branch Libraries which took part in "Children's Book Week". He asked why all Branch Libraries did not participate. Dúirt sé go raibh baint aige leis an dea obair i Leabharlann amhain agus an méid obair ar son na gaeilge a bhí ann. Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that the activities of Children's Book Week was entirely voluntary work, organised by the local Librarians. He said that some of the Branch Libraries were too small for any type of organised activity.

#### 4. BRANCH LIBRARIES:

Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that the agreement between the County Council and the Church of Ireland Authorities, on taking over the Church of Ireland Church in Loughrea, for use as a Library, was to be signed this week. A discussion followed on whether it would be better to use the Courthouse in Loughrea as a Library, Museum, Heritage Centre, etc., than the Church, which would cost a lot of money to put in order.

Mr. Lusby said that the Department of the Environment had already been approached by the County Council for funding. They were awaiting a reply from the Department. He considered that it was wiser to press ahead with these plans. Mr. Sharkey stated that the Minister for the Environment had agreed to an extension to the Galway City Library. This extension would be 2,500 sq. feet and would be built by O'Malleys, the owners of Hynes Building. This extension, which it is hoped will be started in the New Year, will incorporate a new Children's Library.

Clr. Evelyn Varley proposed that the old Church of Ireland building in Headford be acquired for use as a Library. She said that while the people in Headford are pleased with the Mobile Library Service, the timetable does not suit everyone and it only calls fortnightly. Clr. Jarlath McDonagh supported Clr. Varley's proposal. He requested that the matter would be investigated by the County Council.

Mr. Tony Leahy requested that the Branch Library in Loughrea be painted internally.

Clr. Michael A. Fahy proposed that the date for the next meeting would be Thursday, 18th February, 1993. This was seconded by Clr. Jarlath McDonagh and agreed to unanimously.

There was a discussion on whether the two books on Bishop Casey should be circulated in the Library. It was decided by the Committee not to impose censorship on readers.

Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that the Library Conference would be held in Jury's Hotel, Cork, from April 19 - 23, 1993. Delegates for the Conference would be selected at the next meeting of the Committee.

*John Sharkey*  
16/2/93

Galway County Council Archives

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471

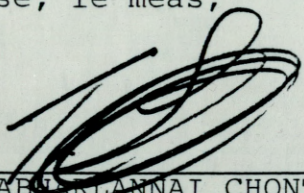
County Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

9th February, 1993.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Tuesday, 16th February, 1993, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

  
 LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE.
AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.
2. Branch Libraries.
3. Nomination of Delegates to a Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Library Association (Northern Ireland Branch) in Jury's Hotel, Cork, 19th - 23rd April, 1993.
4. Any other business.

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

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries' Committee, held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on 16th February, 1993, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Mr. Patsy Geraghty.

PRESENT: Clrs. Michael Fahy, Patrick Finnegan, Michael Finnerty, Jarlath McDonagh, Paddy McHugh, John M. Mannion, Michael Mullins, T. O'Baoill, Kathleen Quinn, Evelyn Varley, Tiarnan Walsh; Mrs. Margaret Counihan; Messrs. Frank Donoghue, Joe Donoghue, Justin Flannery, Patsy Geraghty, Paddy Grealish, Leo Hallissey, Tony Leahy, Justin Mitchell and Patrick Pettit.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Mr. Tom Coughlan, Acting County Secretary; Miss M. Moran; Messrs. Peter Rabbitt and Martin Keating, Assistant Librarians, and Miss M. Kavanagh, Executive Librarian.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs. Kathleen Fallon and Noelle Hayes.

The Chairman passed a vote of sympathy with Clr. Michael Finnerty, on the recent death of his mother. Senator Jarlath McDonagh seconded the vote of sympathy. Mr. T. Sharkey associated himself with the vote on behalf of the Library Staff. The Chairman adjourned the meeting for five minutes, as a mark of respect. On resumption the Chairman congratulated Clr. J. McDonagh on being appointed a Senator.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting, which has been circulated, were adopted and signed on the proposal of Mr. Frank Donoghue, seconded by Mr. Tony Leahy.

Mr. Tony Leahy stated that the sentence in the minutes under item 4 "...to use the Courthouse in Loughrea" should read the "Town Hall in Loughrea".

2. BRANCH LIBRARIES:

The County Librarian informed the meeting that the Church of Ireland in Loughrea, had now been handed over to the County Council, by the Church of Ireland Representative Body; and that plans have now to be drawn up, for its use as a Library. With regard to the City Library extension Mr. T. Coughlan told the meeting that work would start next week on the extension, which comprises 2½ thousand square feet. In reply to a question from Mr. Justin Mitchell on the safety of the Church in Loughrea, and insurance on same, he said that the building is insured, new locks had been put on the doors and gate, and a window had been barred up.

*Frank Donoghue*  
16th June 1993



3. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

The following three delegates were nominated as delegates to the Annual Conference:- Mr. Patsy Geraghty on the proposal of Clr. Michael Fahy, seconded by Mr. Tony Leahy; Clrs. Tiernan Walsh and John Mannion on the proposal of Senator Jarlath McDonagh seconded by Mr. Frank Donoghue.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 10th June. Mr. Leo Hallissey requested that further funds be made available, to supplement the Department of Education grant of £13,000 for the Schools Libraries Service.

Mr. Sharkey stated that the service in the Branch Libraries would suffer if more money were given to the Schools' Service. He said that the Schools' Service was faring badly in the whole country.

Mr. Hallissey said that (i) a statement should be forwarded to the Department of Education, saying that the funding is derisory in these hard financial times and (ii) that the Schools' Service is on a slide, and that it will eventually come to an end. He said that even a small allocation of £5,000 would help to boost the grant, and that, speaking as a teacher in Connemara, he fully appreciated the School Library Service, and that he hoped that something could be done to stop the slide, to a certain extent.

Mr. Sharkey stated that he had already written to the Department of Education, on this matter.

The Chairman proposed that the Committee should ask the County Council to write to the Department of Education for an allocation and to ask the County Council to help out the allowance in next years estimates, as this years estimates had already been agreed. This proposal was agreed to by the meeting.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471

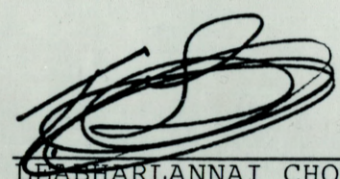
Co. Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

2nd June, 1993.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Thursday, 10th June, 1993, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,


LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.
2. Statistical Report 1992.
3. Any other business.

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

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries' Committee, held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Thursday, 10th June, 1993, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Mr. Frank Donoghue, Vice-Chairman.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Michael Fahy, Patrick Finnegan, Michael Finnerty, Matt Loughnane, Paddy McHugh, John M. Mannion, T. O'Baoill, Kathleen Quinn, Evelyn Varley, Tiarnan Walsh; Messrs. Frank Donoghue, Justin Flannery, Paddy Grealish, Leo Hallissey, Tony Leahy, Justin Mitchell, Patrick Pettit; Mrs. Margaret Counihan, Maureen Egan, Noelle Hayes; Ms. Kathleen Fallon and Very Rev. L. A. Canon Forrest.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Mr. Tom Coughlan, Acting Co. Secretary; Miss Maureen Moran and Mr. Peter Rabbitt, Assistant Librarians, and Miss Mary Kavanagh, Executive Librarian.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mr. Patsy Geraghty, Chairman, and Mr. Paudge Kennelly.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

On the proposal of Cllr. John Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Michael Fahy, the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted and signed. Arising from the minutes Mr. Tony Leahy requested information on the progress of the plans for the proposed new Library at Loughrea. Mr. T. Coughlan informed the meeting that the Council is now ready to submit the first stage of the plans, to the Department of the Environment.

2. STATISTICAL REPORT 1992:

A copy of the Statistical Report had been circulated to members. Mr. T. Sharkey gave a summary of the Statistical Report. He said that overall the total number of books and tapes issued in 1992 in County Branches showed an increase of 5,075; there was an increase in eleven Branches and a decrease in eleven. The Mobile Library also showed an increase. Galway City Branch had an increase of 10,144 in 1992. There was an increase in the number of audio tapes issued in 1992. Adult membership showed an increase of 171 in total, but overall there was a decrease in membership of 1,046. Very Rev. Canon Forrest remarked that the City Library showed a decrease of 1,158 in adult members and asked if the County Librarian could comment on the reason for it. On request from the County Librarian, Miss Moran - in charge of the City Library - told the meeting that there was insufficient stock to cater for adult readers, particularly in fiction books. She said that a good book stock was the greatest factor in attracting people to the Library.

Mr. Leo Hallissey said that the statistics were alarming and that he considered that the high membership fee was responsible for this. He asked if there was a plan to deal with this decrease.

Individuals. If such a meeting were to be held, it would be necessary for the individuals to arrange a time and venue as the meeting would not be organised by the Council.

Mr. Sharkey stated that the book fund was inadequate. It consisted of £50,000 plus receipts from Branch Libraries, giving a total of approx. £80,000. The Department of Education contributed an inadequate sum of £13,279 (1992) for books in Schools; the book fund was £150,000 a few years ago. Mr. Hallissey said that the Library Service was a very valuable service, but that there should be a campaign to up grade the service.

There was a general discussion on methods of attracting more people to use the Library. Canon Forrest suggested that the £10 membership fee should be reduced in order to try and increase membership.

Mr. Coughlan told the meeting that the economics of the matter would be examined in the light of the statistics, but that charges were a managerial matter.

Mr. Hallissey suggested the bones of a plan to increase membership:-

- (a) Reduce the fees.
- (b) Publicity for the Library service,
- (c) and a plan to stop the slide in the service.

He said that the local newspapers gave very little publicity to the service. Clr. Matt Loughnane stated that the clear opinion of the meeting was that there was a decline in the service. He suggested that more money be made available for cassettes and videos. He said that Libraries are now in competition with video outlets. He considered that the Library Service should be addressed on a nationwide basis.

Clr. Michael Finnerty said that he considered that £3.611 as the cost per head of population for the Library Service, was very small and he considered that £10 per annum for the service to the public was very good value.

Mr. Coughlan suggested that the Library Service be sold to the media as a positive rather than a negative view.

Clr. Paddy McHugh said that a sub committee of the Library Committee has been set up at a previous meeting to market the service to the media. He said that the sub committee was willing to go ahead even though no travelling expenses were available.

Clr. Pat Finnegan said that no one had been appointed to convene the first meeting.

Clr. M. Loughnane suggested that Mr. Declan Varley of "The Tuam Herald" be appointed as a Press Officer, if he is prepared to act as such. He said that Galway Bay F.M. had a great impact on the young people; a positive report on Library Committee Meetings would be very worthwhile.

Mr. Coughlan informed the Meeting that the Committee does not have the power to form a Sub-Committee to do what was proposed by the Library Committee, but as previously stated, if a number of people wish to meet informally to discuss the Library service, they may do so. Expenses would not be paid, and the group would be acting as a group of individuals. If such a meeting were to be held, it would be necessary for the individuals to arrange a time and venue as the meeting would not be organised by the Council.

After the meeting the following committee members agreed to meet in the County Library Headquarters, Island House, on Friday, July 16:-  
Clrs. Pat Finnegan, Michael Finnerty, Kathleen Quinn, Paddy McHugh, T. O'Baoill; Mr. Leo Hallissey and Mrs. Maureen Egan. Mr. Declan Varley of "The Tuam Herald" was also invited to attend.

Galway County Council Archives

Patricia L. Langan  
9/11/93

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471

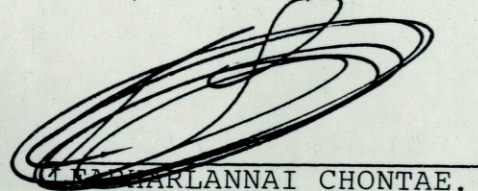
Co. Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

28th October, 1993.

A Chara,

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Tuesday, 9th November, 1993, 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 1994.
4. Any other business.

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

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee, held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Tuesday, 9th November, 1993, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Mr. Patsy Geraghty, Chairman.

PRESENT: Clrs. Michael Fahy, Patrick Finnegan, Michael Finnerty, Jarlath McDonagh, Paddy McHugh, John M. Mannion, Michael Mullins, T. O'Baoill, Tiarnan Walsh; Messrs. Paudge Kennelly, Frank Donoghue, Joe Donoghue, Patsy Geraghty, Paddy Grealish, Leo Hallissey, John Francis King, Justin Mitchell, Patrick Pettit; Mrs. Margaret Counihan, Maureen Egan and Very Rev. L. A. Canon Forrest.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Miss Maureen Moran, Messrs. Peter Rabbitt and Martin Keating, Assistant Librarians and Miss Mary Kavanagh, Executive Librarian.

APOLOGY: An apology was received from Mrs. Kathleen Fallon.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

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

Arising from the minutes the Chairman thanked Mr. Frank Donoghue, the Vice Chairman, for acting as Chairman at the previous meeting. He also thanked Mr. Sharkey and the Library Staff, as well as the Committee for making his year as Chairman an easy task. He said that because of the financial stringency that exists in all public expenditure, the Committee seemed to be getting nowhere. He hoped that if money could be obtained from E.C. funds, we could have a more efficient Library service in the future. He complimented the Ballinasloe Library Staff on its very successful Children's Book Festival.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Frank Donoghue was unanimously elected Chairman on the proposal of Clr. Jarlath McDonagh, seconded by Clr. Tiarnan Walsh. Clr. Michael Fahy was unanimously elected Vice Chairman on the proposal of Mr. Justin Mitchell, seconded by Clr. T. O'Baoill. The newly elected Chairman, Mr. Frank Donoghue, took the chair. He concurred with the remarks of the outgoing Chairman. He thanked his proposer and seconder and all the committee members. Clr. M. Fahy congratulated the in-coming Chairman and thanked his own proposer and seconder. He also thanked the outgoing Chairman on his success in having four meetings in the year and wished him every success.

*Frank Donoghue*  
8th March 1994

### 3. ESTIMATES 1994:

A copy of the 1994 estimates had been circulated to the members. Mr. Sharkey gave a brief summary. He stated that there was a slight increase over all. The amount of money for books, audio visuals and periodicals will remain the same as in 1993 - £50,000 plus the amount collected in fees, fines, etc., plus the Department of Education grant of £14,000. The amount shown for rent and maintenance for County Headquarters and Galway City Library showed an increase of £22,120 due to the rent on new extension at the City Library. The amount allocated for renovations and improvements shows a decrease of £1,000.

A general discussion followed, on the payment of such high rentals for Library premises. Mr. Leo Hallissey commented on the fees and asked were the charges reasonable. He pointed out that there was a drop of 1,100 borrowers at the City Library in 1992. He compared these figures with places like the Mobile Library where there was no drop in membership, but there was a lower fee. He proposed that the membership fee be reduced to £6. This proposal was seconded by Clr. Michael Mullins. The latter said that if the reduced membership fee were advertised and a good public relations job done on the Library service the amount of money taken in, in fees, would increase in the long term. He said that the Library service had served this County well. Canon Forrest said that with the increased facility in the new addition at the City Library, and an offer of a discount for early membership, it might increase the membership. Clr. Geraghty said that the membership fees were a managerial matter. He considered that £10 was not very much as people spent £10 a week on hiring out videos. By reducing the fee it was taking a chance on reducing the amount available for books. He considered that the reading population was reduced by other factors and not by the increase in fees.

Mrs. Maureen Egan said that a number of people were exempt from paying fees. She suggested that a flat rate of £2 across the board be charged. She said that the fact that there was no parking facility at the City Library was a contributing factor to loss of membership. She said that an enormous amount of money was spent each year on rent and asked if a site for a purpose built Library could be found.

Clr. T. Walsh said that there was logic on both sides of the argument.

Clr. McHugh said that the promotion of the service was necessary. He considered that £10 p.a. was not excessive, with a charge of £2 for the unemployed.

Mr. Joe Donoghue said that by taxing reading, people were not encouraged to read. He said that the Library is a sanctuary for reading. He considered that the Library should not be a facility for studying, as students appear to use the Library for other purposes than studying. He suggested a fee at a flat rate of £3.

Canon Forrest asked if there had been a response from the Council on Mr. Hallissey's request at the previous meeting.

Clr. Finnegan asked for a break down, by the staff, on information re numbers paying £10 fee, for the next meeting.

Clr. Geraghty proposed "that fees be left as they are". Clr. Michael Finnerty seconded this. After a prolonged discussion a vote was taken on the two proposals. On the proposal of a reduced flat fee across the board: four voted for. On the proposal to leave the fees as they are: seven voted for. It was recommended that the fees be left as they are.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that the Annual Conference of the Library Association, will be held in Enniskillen from 19th to 22nd April, 1994.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the next meeting would be on Tuesday, 8th March, 1994, at 4.00 p.m.

*Frank Dowling*  
8/3/93

Galway County Council Archives

## LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 62471

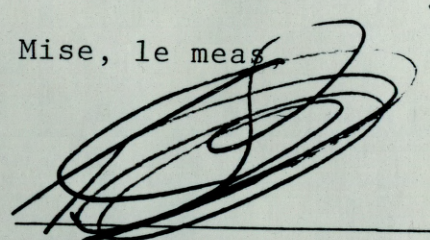
Co. Library Headquarters,  
Island House,  
Cathedral Square,  
Galway.

22nd February, 1994.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Tuesday, 8th March, 1994, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas

  
LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.
AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.
2. Branch Libraries.
3. Nomination of Delegates to a Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Library Association (Northern Ireland Branch) in the Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, 19th - 22nd April, 1994.
4. Any other business.

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

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Libraries Committee held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Tuesday, 8th March, 1994, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Mr. F. Donoghue.

PRESENT: Clrs. Michael Fahy, Michael Finnerty, Matt Loughnane, Paddy McHugh, John M. Mannion, Michael Mullins, T. O'Baoill, Kathleen Quinn, Evelyn Varley, Tiarnan Walsh; Messrs. Paudge Kennelly, Frank Donoghue, Justin Flannery, Paddy Grealish, Leo Hallissey, Tony Leahy, Justin Mitchell, Patrick Pettit, Maurice Whelan and Mrs. Margaret Counihan.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Miss Maureen Moran, Messrs. Martin Keating and Peter Rabbitt, Assistant Librarians.

APOLOGIES: Very Rev. L. A. Canon Forrest.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting, 9th November, 1993, which were circulated to members were adopted on the proposal of Clr. M. Fahy and seconded by Clr. J. Mannion.

2. BRANCH LIBRARIES:

The County Librarian, Mr. Sharkey, told members that work was continuing on the extension to the Galway City Branch Library and that he was awaiting further development on the proposed new Library for Loughrea.

Mr. Sharkey said that the Director of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, Mrs. Norma McDermott, had visited Galway and Loughrea and he was hopeful that a favourable decision would be received to proceed with Galway City and Loughrea projects. The County Librarian hoped that a grant would be approved for furnishings and new books for the Galway City Library and said the next meeting of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna was scheduled for April.

Mr. L. Hallissey asked about the role of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna. Mr. Sharkey explained that Library Authorities seek approval for various projects through An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and it makes recommendations to the Department of the Environment who then grant aid the projects.

Clr. M. Loughnane asked the County Librarian about the proposed Loughrea Library and in particular what property the Council had acquired. Clr. Loughnane wanted to know if car parking spaces would be provided for Library users and requested the County Librarian to write to him on the matter. Mr. Sharkey said that no plans had been prepared for the Loughrea Library but undertook to investigate the car parking facilities.

The County Librarian told Mr. J. Mitchell that a grant for Loughrea would cover all developments on the Library project.

Frank Donoghue  
27/6/94