

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 562471

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

25th April, 1996

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee, will be held at the Branch Library,
Gort on Thursday, 2nd May, 1996, at 4.00p.m.

Mise, le meas,

P. McMahon
LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE

AGENDA

1. Introduction to Gort Branch Library
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Library Development Plan
4. Library Association of Ireland Annual Conference

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

P.S. Gort Branch Library is situated in the former Church of Ireland Building in Gort..

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of Galway County Libraries Committee Meeting held in Gort
Branch Library on Thursday, 2nd May, 1996, at 4.00 p.m.IN CHAIR: Mrs. Margaret Counihan.PRESENT: Cllrs. Michael Fahy, Patrick Finnegan, Michael Mullins, Kathleen Quinn, Evelyn Varley, Tiarnan Walsh; Messrs. Frank Donoghue, Joe Donoghue, Patsy Geraghty, Paudge Kennelly, Tony Leahy, Justin Mitchell, Patrick Pettit, Sean Tully; Mrs. Margaret Counihan and Ms. Kathleen Fallon.IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. P. Carroll, Senior Staff Officer; Mr. P. McMahon, County Librarian; Ms. M. Moran, Executive Librarian; Mrs. Bernie Kelly, Messrs. Martin Keating and Peter Rabbitt, Assistant Librarians.APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Jarlath McDonagh, Michael Ryan, John Mannion; Mrs. L. Broderick and Revd. Dr. R. B. McCarthy.

The Chairperson, Mrs. Margaret Counihan, welcomed the Committee, to Gort Branch Library, saying it was appropriate that the Library Committee Meeting was being held in Gort, an area steeped in literary and historical connections. She proposed a vote of sympathy to the families of Prof. T. P. O'Neill and Clr. F. Rushe.

The County Librarian gave a brief introduction to Gort Branch Library, which is located in the former Church of Ireland and was opened in 1980. It is a successful Library, run efficiently by Mrs. Jo Hickey. The County Librarian said there were plans to refurbish the two galleries to commemorate Lady Gregory and the writers associated with the area.

2. Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Kathleen Quinn. The question of the Famine Exhibition was raised by Cllr. Fahy. The County Librarian replied that it was hoped to have the Exhibition prepared for 1997. He also said the stone monument in Spiddal, proposed by the late Professor T. P. O'Neill, would also go ahead.

Mr. Tony Leahy inquired about the funding for Loughrea Library. The County Librarian replied that no decision had been received from the Department but it was hoped that the funds would be allocated in the next few weeks.

Cllr. Quinn asked if Mountbellew was being considered for a Library. The County Librarian replied that Mountbellew would be included in the Development Plan.

3. Library Development Plan:

The County Librarian outlined developments taking place in the Library Service and gave a brief introduction to the Development Programme.

- (a) The refurbishment of Galway City Library is complete and the the Branch Library has re-opened. The Minister for the Environment has been invited to officially open the City Branch. The County Librarian expressed his thanks to the staff of Galway City Library for their hard work and dedication.
- (b) The Department of Education grant to the Schools Library Service has been increased to £2. There are two hundred and thirty-five Schools in County Galway. Mr. Martin Keating is in charge of the School Library Service and he is in the process of preparing a plan to provide a comprehensive School Library Service to all the Schools in the County.
- (c) The provision of a Library in the West Side of Galway City is being investigated.
- (d) Steps are being taken to improve the Library Service to the Islands. A Library has been set up in Inisheer. It is hoped to improve the service in Inishmore.
- (e) An Academic Library is being set up in Letterfrack to cater for the Woodwork and Design Course provided there in conjunction with the Regional Technical College. Negotiations are taking place regarding the provision of a Public Library Service in co-operation with the Academic Library.

The Development Programme for the Library Service is being prepared at the moment. Each Branch will be looked at and improvements suggested. It is envisaged that each Library in every town in the County will be an attractive and comfortable place for people to visit.

4. Library Association of Ireland Annual Conference:

The following delegates were nominated to attend the Conference in Peebles from 3rd June - 6th June:-

- (1) Mrs. M. Counihan was nominated by Mr. Frank Donoghue, seconded by Mr. P. Geraghty.
- (2) Mr. Frank Donoghue was nominated by Cllr. T. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. M. Mullins.
- (3) Cllr. Michael Fahy was nominated by Cllr. K. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. Finnegan.

5. Any other business:

Mr. Sean Tully paid tribute to the late Professor T. P. O'Neill and the late Cllr. F. Rushe.

Mr. J. Donoghue raised the issue of students studying in the Library and causing disruption to other users. Schools provide study facilities for students and it was agreed that the Library should contact the schools and work in co-operation to minimise the problem.

Mr. P. Geraghty said the Manager's decision to reduce the charges was an excellent one, as more people were attracted to use the Library as a result.

Mr. Tony Leahy suggested that the next Committee Meeting be held in Loughrea. The meeting agreed.

Galway County Council Archives

Gort Library

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Gort Library which is located in the renovated historical St. Colman's Church of Ireland was formally opened by Cllr. Frank Glynn, Chairman of Galway County Council in June 1980.

Others attending the opening included Right Rev. Dr. Edwin Owen, Church of Ireland Bishop of Killaloe, Dr. Eamon Casey, Bishop of Galway, Mr. Seamus Keating, Co. Manager, Mr. Tom Sharkey, Co. Librarian and Canon George Quinn, P.P. Gort.

The Church, which has been historically linked with the Gregory Family of Coole, was handed over to the Catholic Church in 1972 and subsequently handed over to Galway County Council to be developed into a Library. It was renovated at a cost of over £45,000 and the basic structure of the old church was retained.

The Library is approximately 2700sq.ft. and has a book stock of 11,000. There are 600 readers (346 children) registered with the Library in 1995 and over 13,000 were issued to the public. The population of Gort is 1,093 (1991 Census) with 2,400 in the environs of Gort.

St. Colman's Church was built around 1814 on a site donated by the First Viscount Gort. Many famous families worshipped in the church, the most famous being the Gregory family of neighbouring Coole Park. Lady Gregory, Douglas Hyde, W. B. Yeats and George Bernard Shaw are some of the names associated with the church. It is said that Lady Gregory insisted that all Roman Catholic guests attend Mass in St. Colman's Catholic Church on Sunday and all other guests whether members of the Church of Ireland or not, had to attend service at St. Colman's, Church of Ireland.

There are two galleries in St. Colman's which were reserved for the Gregory family (East Gallery) and the Gough family (West Gallery) and Galway Co. Council have plans to refurbish them. The marble plaques commemorating former parishioners like the Gorts and Gregorys have all been retained.

- 2. To engender a love of books and enthusiasm for reading by giving children access to as many works of fiction and non-fiction as possible
- 3. To develop information skills

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Progress Report/Library Development Programme**Galway City Branch Library**

The Galway City Library underwent a full refurbishment between mid-February and mid-April 1996.

The Library was closed for a number of weeks during the refurbishment and has now re-opened.

A new children's library has been provided, the reference library has been re-organised, and additional space has been provided in the main adult library.

The refurbishment has been carried through in a very satisfactory manner and there has been good public reaction to the new facilities.

The Department of the Environment provided a sum of £135,000 towards refurbishment costs and £92,000 for furniture and fittings. Over £50,000 is being provided over the coming year for new book-stock.

The School Library Service

The School Library serves over 235 schools and 26,000 pupils throughout Galway city and county.

Over the past number of years the grant for books for the school library service has increased from 50p per pupil to £2.00 per pupil for the current year.

The School Library Service has functioned at a minimal level for several years due to extremely poor funding. The improved level of funding will enable a better service to be provided and help to achieve the following objectives;

1. To provide books and other resources (where practical) to back up the primary school curriculum needs and interest of all children.
2. To engender a love of books and enthusiasm for reading by giving children access to as many works of fiction and non-fiction as possible.
3. To develop information skills

Library Development Programme

The Local Government Act of 1994, states that a local authority shall prepare a library development programme, and that it will include development measures and priorities for the library service.

A Development Programme for Galway County Libraries is being prepared. The following "mission statement" and priorities for the service are under consideration.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Galway County Council has 21 Branch Libraries situated around the county. The objective of the service is, in the words of Michael Davitt, who was a strong advocate of public libraries in the late 1800's, that -

"each of these libraries be a centre of light and learning in their locality".

Priorities;

(1) to develop in each of our branch libraries a quality book collection and to promote the art of reading

(2) to make all the programmes and services provided by the County Library open and accessible to all irrespective of social or economic status

(3) to make each of our libraries a special place for children

[It has been said that many of today's media - television, video and computer games - grab the intelligence and imagination of young children and stultifies them. We need young people who know how to read, think, dream, and analyse, and these skills are not developed by sitting lazily in front of an electronic tube. A good collection of children's books in each of our libraries will not just entertain but will educate and provoke young minds into thought, reflection and imagination.]

Background and Tradition

Perhaps more than any other function of local government, the public library of today is intimately linked by tradition, by custom, and even by law, with its historic backgrounds. The modern public library descends from an institution solidly bulwarked in tradition. The English word "library" derives from the Latin word for book, *Liber*, just as the French *bibliothèque* (library) comes from the Greek *biblios* (book), denoting the august ancestry of our homely and democratic public library. The tradition of these words and the institution they define go back to antiquity. But the spiritual essence and inner core of the library remains the same. It is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and it is one of the most precious things in the world. This inner core is knowledge; the knowledge of the world, preserved, cherished, and made available, more and more, in useful and pleasurable forms for the people, all the people who need it and have the capacity to use it.

That is what library tradition should mean, a liberating, never a hampering force, one which invests the modern library with confidence, authority, and a stable base from which to advance toward the creation of new uses for its ancient treasure house.

The Galway County Library service was established in 1924. In its over 70 years of existence it has a record of progress and success which has confirmed its position as an integral branch of the Galway Local Authority Service. The service now has full time libraries in Galway City, Ballinasloe, Clifden, Gort, Athenry, Portumna and Tuam and sub libraries in Ballygar, Craughwell, Dunmore, Glenamaddy, Ahascragh, Killimor, Kilronan, Loughrea, Moylough, Oughterard, Roundstone, Spiddal, Tir an Fhia and Woodford. A mobile library brings books to many smaller towns and villages and a School Book Mobile services over 200 primary schools.

Almost 500,000 books are issued to and returned by library users each year.

Charter

Guiding Principles

The public library's functions and programmes derive from the conviction that books and other printed matter as well as certain audio-visual materials are powerful, indispensable agents for bringing enlightenment, new knowledge, encouragement and inspiration to every member of the community.

In Galway County Library our concept of audience will start with a definition of services which are of positive personal and social value, and we will seek maximum quality and maximum audiences for these services provided.

The staff in Galway County Library are uniquely the community's *specialists* in books and other informational materials; there are no others who are charged with this responsibility. People of all ages, from all walks of life have a right to expect that their public librarians will bring to the community a *mastery* of books and other materials that is based on intelligent choice and taste and that flows from reading, judgement, and belief in the social utility of the product.

The responsibility of all involved in Galway County Libraries is clear and profound. The library is there for use by any person from any background, who chooses to enter it. The librarians should maintain and uphold the high standards of selection and service that have always characterised the public library concept.

Our faith in the individual and social value of reading persists with undiminished vitality. We wish to provide a library that conveys some sense of and regard for the the permanence and the greatness of the record of human experience; that will serve the community as a general centre of reliable information; and that will provide opportunity and encouragement for people of all ages to educate themselves continuously.

THE BRANCH LIBRARY

Every public library, no matter where it is situated, is a very worthwhile educational and cultural facility. For the overwhelming majority, the quickest and easiest access to the world's best thought is through their local public library.

Each of our libraries from the largest in Galway City to the smallest rural branch library should be housed in a building whose exterior design and internal layout truly reflects the high ideals and purposes of the library service. Each of our libraries should be housed in an inviting building, full of interest and colour, where all will delight to come, and yet where people who seek quiet will find it thoughtfully provided.

Each of our library buildings, whether purpose built or in rented accommodation, should have a tranquil ambience - one that is distinctly different from schools, book-shops, shopping arcades, or video outlets. Each must be a place where learning, reflection, and meditation can flourish. Each one should be something a little bit old-fashioned, dignified and friendly.

There should be a community library, or a mobile library stop, easily accessible to every reader, and it should connect with the total resources of the county and through inter-library loan to the wider library world.

Service goals

To provide equal access to library services to all county residents

To increase general awareness of the resources and services available to county and city residents.

To provide at each service point a collection of books, each worthwhile in its own right and potentially useful to the community.

To provide all staff with a sense of purpose and a substantial knowledge of books.

To provide for the establishment, or refurbishment, or relocation of branch libraries.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 562471

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

8th November, 1996.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held at the Branch Library Loughrea, on Monday, 18th November, 1996, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

Pat McMahon
LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.AGENDA

1. Election of Chairman.
2. Election of Vice-Chairman.
3. Minutes of previous meeting.
4. Proposed Loughrea Library - visit to site.
5. Introduction to Loughrea Library.
6. Progress Report on Library Service.
7. Estimate of Expenditure for County Library Service, 1997.
8. Any other business.

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

Loughrea Library is situated in the Temperance Hall,
Barrack St., Loughrea.

Minutes of Galway Co. Libraries Committee Meeting held in Loughrea Branch Library on Monday 18th November, 1996, at 4.00p.m.In Chair: Mrs. Margaret CounihanPresent: Cllr. Michael Fahy, Cllr. Patrick Finnegan, Cllr. Matt Loughnane, Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh, Cllr. John M. Mannion, Cllr. Michael Mullins, Cllr. Kathleen Quinn, Mrs. Margaret Counihan, Mr. Frank Donoghue, Mrs. Maureen Egan, Mr. Patsy Geraghty, Mr. Paddy Grealish, Mr. Leo Hallissey, Mr. Tony Leahy, Mr. Justin Mitchell, Mr. Patrick Pettit, Mr. Sean Tully, Mr. Maurice Whelan, Revd. Dr. Robert B. MacCarthyIn Attendance: Mr. Declan Nelson, Assistant Co. Manager
Ms. Catherine O'Hara, Staff Officer
Mr. Pat McMahon, Co. Librarian
Ms. Maureen Moran, Executive Librarian
Mrs. Bernie Kelly, Messrs. Martin Keating and Peter Rabbitt, Assistant LibrariansApologies: Mr. Paudge Kennelly, Mr. J. F. King, Ms. Kathleen Fallon

Fr. Iggy Clark, Chairman of the Temperance Hall Committee welcomed the County Libraries Committee to Loughrea.

The County Librarian thanked Fr. Clark and his committee for their help and support over the years. The Library was established in the Temperance Hall over sixty years ago. Mrs. Florence Joynt was appointed Branch Librarian. She served for fifty years. On her retirement Mrs. Marie Jennings was appointed. The Library has served generations of people in Loughrea, issuing over a million books. The Co. Librarian said the Library had a very distinctive ambience and had served Loughrea well.

The Chairperson Mrs. Margaret Counihan proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Mr. Liam Naughton, Cathaoirleach of the Seanad. A minute's silence was observed.

Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Mrs. Margaret Counihan thanked the Co. Librarian and the committee for their help and co-operation during the year.

Cllr. Kathleen Quinn was elected Chair-person on the proposal of Cllr. Pat Finnegan, seconded by Cllr. Michael Fahy. Cllr. Michael Mullins was elected Vice-Chairperson on the proposal of Cllr. J. Mannion, seconded by Mrs. Margaret Counihan.

The Co. Librarian thanked Mrs. Counihan for her work and co-operation during the year.

Estimate

The County Librarian explained that the increase in the estimate was in the area of salaries and wages. The book fund was increased by £5,000.

Clr. Matt Loughnane asked if the lease on Island House allowed for increase every year and at what rate? Mr. McMahon said he would have to check the details and he would let him know.

The estimate was adopted on the proposal of Clr. Mullins, seconded by Mr. Patsy Geraghty.

Mr. Geraghty suggested that more money was needed for the upkeep and repair of branch libraries. He said Ballinasloe Branch urgently needed attention.

Visit to Church of Ireland, site of proposed new Branch Library

The County Librarian explained that the Church was handed over to Galway Co. Council some years ago. It was decided it would be appropriate to establish a library in the Church to serve the people of Loughrea and environs. The two stages of the project were now completed and all that remained was sanction of the funding from the DOE to complete the project.

Mr. Tony Leahy thanked the Committee for coming to Loughrea. The Chairperson thanked Marie Jennings, Branch Librarian, for her hospitality.

The Chairperson then adjourned the meeting to allow the members to attend the funeral of Mr. Liam Naughton, Cathaoirleach of Seanad.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 562471

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

12th March, 1997.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee, will be held
at the Branch Library, Spiddal on Thursday, 20th March, 1997,
at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

Patmahon
LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.AGENDA

1. Introduction to Spiddal Branch Library.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.
3. Progress Report on Library Services.
4. Library Association of Ireland Annual Conference.

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

Minutes of Galway Co. Libraries Committee meeting held in Spiddal Branch Library on
Thursday, 20th March, 1997, at 4.00p.m.In Chair: Cllr. Kathleen QuinnPresent: Cllrs. Michael Fahy, Matt Loughnane, Kathleen Quinn, Evelyn Varley;
Revd. Robert B. MacCarthy; Messrs. Frank Donoghue, Joe Donoghue,
Patsy Geraghty, Paddy Grealish, Leo Hallissey, Tony Leahy, Justin
Mitchell, Patrick Pettit, Sean Tully,In attendance: Ms. Catherine O'Hara, Staff Officer
Mr. Pat McMahon, Co. Librarian
Ms. Maureen Moran, Executive Librarian
Messrs. Martin Keating and Peter Rabbitt, Assistant LibrariansApologies: Mrs. Maureen Egan, Mr. Paudge Kennelly, Ms. Kathleen FallonCllr. Michael Fahy proposed a five minute adjournment of the meeting as a mark of respect
to Cllr. K. Quinn on the death of her brother Mr. Naughton.The Co. Librarian opened the meeting by giving a short history of Spiddal Library. The
building was formerly a school but for the last 50 years has been used as a library and
courthouse. Since February the library has acquired extra space which will extend the
range of services offered to the public. This space is now available for reference and
reading purposes. It is also intended to hold exhibitions and occasional lectures and poetry
readings. There is a stock of 5,000 vols. and the library is open for 10 hours per week.Mr. Geraghty asked about the use of Irish in the library. The Co. Librarian explained that
all signage will be in Irish only.The Co. Librarian said that the aim was to have a quality book collection in each Branch
Library, but the new technology also had a role to play. P.C.'s, CD ROM's, the Internet
are very much part of life today. Many people have P.C.'s with access to the Internet in
their own homes. Libraries should be catering for people who cannot afford the
technology by having P.C.'s available in the library and access to the Internet for public
use. A discussion ensued on the importance of technology in today's world. Mr. Leo
Hallssey and Cllr. Matt Loughnane proposed that computer companies in the Galway area
should be approached for sponsorship. The Co. Librarian said he would investigate this.Minutes of previous meetingThe minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. M. Fahey, seconded by Mr. F.
Donoghue.

Progress Report on the Library Service

The Co. Librarian explained that all the necessary documentation in relation to Loughrea is with the Department of the Environment since 1995. The Revd. MacCarthy proposed that political pressure should be used. This was seconded by Mr. Frank Donoghue.

The proposals for libraries at Oranmore and West Side came before The Library Council at its February meeting. The Co. Librarian said that a ~~discussion~~ ^{decision} on approval-in-principle is awaited from the Department.

Mr. Leo Hallissey proposed that all library buildings should have wheelchair access. The meeting concurred with this.

The Department of Education allocation to the Primary School Library Service has been increased from £2.00 to £2.08 per pupil. Mr. L. Hallissey said the increased funding for the Primary School Library Service was very welcome. After years of neglect the schools library service was on the way to being properly funded, but rather than being complacent he said it was important to let the Department of Education know that while the increase was appreciated, it was only a step on the road to a proper and adequately funded Schools' Library Service.

Mr. Hallissey proposed that the committee write to the Department of Education acknowledging the very welcome increase in the schools' book fund allocation but stating that it is still inadequate, and should be increased realistically every year.

This proposal was seconded by the Revd. MacCarthy.

L.A.I. Annual Conference

The Conference is being held in Letterkenny from 22nd April - 25th April, 1997.

Three delegates were nominated to attend.

Cllr. Kathleen Quinn proposed by Mr. F. Donoghue, seconded by Cllr. M. Fahey.

Cllr. Michael Fahey proposed by Mr. J. Mitchell, seconded by Cllr. K. Quinn.

Mr. Sean Tully proposed by Mr. F. Donoghue, seconded by Mr. P. Geraghty.

The Chairperson congratulated all associated with the refurbishment of Spiddal Library. She thanked the Branch Librarian, Mrs. Maureen Gavin, who has been working in Spiddal Library for over twenty years. Mr. F. Donoghue proposed that the next meeting be held in Clifden Branch Library.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 562471

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

31st October, 1997.

A Chara,

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held at the Branch Library Clifden, on Friday, 7th November, 1997, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

P. Finnegan
LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.AGENDA

1. Election of Chairman.
2. Election of Vice-Chairman.
3. Minutes of previous meeting.
4. Progress Report on Library Service.
5. Estimate of Expenditure for County Library Service, 1998.
6. Any other business.

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

Report of the Galway Co. Libraries Committee Meeting held in Clifden Branch Library on Friday 7th November, 1997, at 4.00p.m.

In Chair: Cllr. Kathleen Quinn

Present: Cllrs. Michael Fahy, Patrick Finnegan, Evelyn Varley, Tiernan Walsh, Messrs. Frank Donoghue, Paddy Grealish, Leo Hallissey, Paudge Kennelly, Tony Leahy, Justin Mitchell, Patrick Pettit, Mrs. Margaret Counihan.

In Attendance: Mr. John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager
Mr. Pat McMahon, Co. Librarian
Ms. Maureen Moran, Executive Librarian
Mr. Peter Rabbitt, Acting Executive Librarian

Apologies: Senator Jarlath McDonagh, Ms. Kathleen Fallon, Mrs. Maureen Egan, Revd. R. MacCarthy, Mr. John F. King, Cllr. Matt Loughnane.

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Chairperson Cllr. Kathleen Quinn thanked the Co. Librarian and staff of Galway Co. Libraries for their help and co-operation during her term of office. She also thanked the committee for their support.

Cllr. Tiernan Walsh was elected Chairman on the proposal of Mr. Frank Donoghue, seconded by Cllr. E. Varley.

Mr. Justin Mitchell was elected Vice-Chairman on the proposal of Cllr. M. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Kathleen Quinn.

The Co. Librarian welcomed the committee to Clifden Branch Library. He thanked Cllr. Quinn for her co-operation and work during the year.

He congratulated Cllr. Tiernan Walsh on his election as Chairman.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Mr. P. Kennelly enquired if the Department of Education had responded on the question of increasing the school grant. The Co. Librarian said that the Department were addressing this matter. Mr. L. Hallissey asked if any of the computer companies had responded to the request for sponsorship. The Co. Librarian replied that his requests to companies in Galway had not been successful so far.

The minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. M. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. P. Finnegan.

3. Progress Report on Library Service

The Co. Librarian presented his Report outlining the developments such as the Automation of the Library catalogue which is about to take place. New Library premises have been acquired in Glenamaddy and Ballygar and it is hoped that both Libraries will open before Christmas. It is expected that a new School Mobile Library and Branch Library Mobile will be delivered shortly. Both vehicles are larger and better equipped than the two existing vans.

Cllr. Quinn enquired about the position of a new Library for Mountbellew. The Co. Librarian said Mountbellew was included in the Development Plan.

Mr. P. Kennelly paid tribute to the Branch Librarian in Roundstone who worked extra hours for free during the summer to facilitate Tourists with information. The Co. Librarian said Roundstone Branch held a very successful commemoration lecture on Kate O'Brien, the Sunday of the October Bank Holiday Weekend. It was given by Mr. John Logan, University of Limerick and fifty people attended.

Mr. Tony Leahy enquired about the position of Loughrea. He understood there was pressure on the Co. Manager to put Oranmore first. The Assistant Manager said the Department was looking at the cost of Loughrea project. Oranmore was a smaller project which would cost less. He said the matter had been considered at an area meeting.

The meeting agreed that Loughrea should be number one priority. It had been on the agenda for a long time. The Building was deteriorating and urgently needed attention. Cllr. Fahy asked if the money being offered by the Department for Oranmore should be held in the county. Other members agreed that the loss of the funding to the county should be avoided.

Cllr. Fahy said the Minister for the Environment Mr. Noel Dempsey was coming to Galway shortly. He should be asked to guarantee the money needed for the three Galway projects, Loughrea, Westside and Oranmore.

The Chairman asked the meeting if there was agreement on retaining the Loughrea Project as a number one priority and secondly if the funding of £70,000 offered by the Department could be given to Oranmore rather than the county lose the allocation. There was overall agreement on this.

A discussion followed on the best course of action open to the committee to ensure the funding of the three Galway Library Projects. Following this discussion

it was proposed by Cllr. Fahy
and seconded by Mr. T. Leahy

and resolved; that this committee through Galway Co. Council forward a request to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, to guarantee funding for the three Galway Library projects, Loughrea, Westside, and Oranmore and that the capital allocation for Library projects be substantially increased from its present level of £2½ million.

4. Estimates

The Co. Librarian presented the Estimates pointing out the increase of £5,000 in the book fund, the increase in salaries and the increase in rents.

The Assistant Manager pointed out that Galway Co. Council were in a difficult financial position this year. He pointed out that the money for computerisation was additional to the estimates.

The Estimates was proposed by Mr. F. Donoghue, seconded by Cllr. K. Quinn, and recommended to Galway Co. Co. for adoption.

A.O.B.

Mr. Frank Donoghue proposed a vote of sympathy to the Shiel family on the death of their mother Mrs. Carmel Shiel, Branch Librarian, Killimor.

Cllr. Fahy proposed a vote of sympathy to Cllr. John Mannion on the death of his mother.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Phone: (091) 562471

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

23rd March, 1998.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee, will be held at the new Glenamaddy Library on Wednesday, 4th March, 1998, at 5.00 p.m. The Library is situated in the Town Hall, Glenamaddy.

Mise, le meas,

Pádraic Ó Súilleabháin
LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
2. Library Development Programme (copy enclosed).
3. Library Association of Ireland Annual Conference.
4. Any other business.

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

The official opening of Glenamaddy Library by the Chairman of Galway County Council, Cllr. Michael Finnerty, will take place after the meeting at 6.30 p.m.

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Report of the meeting of the Galway Co. Libraries Committee held in Glenamaddy Branch Library on Wednesday 4th March, 1998, at 5.00p.m.

In Chair: Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh

Present: Cllrs. Michael Fahy, Patrick Finnegan, Paddy McHugh, Michael Mullins, Kathleen Quinn, Evelyn Varley, Tiarnan Walsh, Mrs. Margaret Counihan, Messrs. Frank Donohue, Joe Donoghue, Ms. Kathleen Fallon, Messrs. Patsy Geraghty, Paddy Grealish, Leo Hallissey, Tony Leahy, Justin Mitchell, Patrick Pettit, Sean Tully, Maurice Whelan.

In Attendance: Mr. John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager
Mr. Pat McMahon, Co. Librarian
Ms. Maureen Moran, Ms. Bernie Kelly, Executive Librarians
Messrs. Peter Rabbitt, Martin Keating, John Fitzgibbon, Assistant Librarians.

Apologies: Revd. Dr. Robert MacCarthy.

The Chairman welcomed all the members to Glenamaddy.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. M. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. K. Quinn.

The Assistant Manager gave the updated position in regard to the three capital library projects, Loughrea, West-Side and Oranmore.

Cllr. Fahy proposed that a letter of thanks be forwarded to the Minister.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors and all who were involved in negotiating funding for the capital projects.

2. Library Development Programme

The Library Development Programme was circulated to all members of the committee. The Co. Librarian outlined the Development Programme, briefly discussing the main areas.

A discussion followed and a number of members raised the issue of Branch Libraries for Moycullen, Headford, and Killimor. The Co. Librarian said that if opportunities presented themselves in those areas, such as had happened in Glenamaddy and Ballygar, these opportunities would be availed of.

Mr. Leo Hallissey raised the issue of the "Writers in Schools & Libraries Scheme" run by the Arts Council. The Co. Librarian explained that the funding was £33,000 for Schools and £1,000 for Libraries. Mr. Hallissey proposed that the Arts Council be asked to increase the Library allocation to a realistic amount.