



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

**Galway County Council,  
National Monuments Advisory  
Committee Minutes**

**18 April 1989 - 17 January 1995**

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MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY, ON TUESDAY 18TH APRIL, 1989

IN THE CHAIR

Clr. J. McDonagh

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. M. J. Joyce, Hon. Sec.; Clr. J. Joyce;  
Mr. E. Kennedy, Mr. Tony Murphy

APOLOGIES

Rev. Dr. P. K. Egan; Dr. T. Fanning; Mrs. M. McDonagh

MINUTES:

On the proposition of Mr. E. Kennedy, seconded by Clr. J. McDonagh the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

ATHENRY TOWN WALLS

The Secretary informed the meeting that he had interviewed Mr. Noel Treacy, Minister for State, in connection with Athenry Town Walls. Mr. Treacy promised he would arrange a meeting with officials of the Office of Public Works and representatives of the National Monuments Advisory Committee.

MINUTES OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. Tony Murphy said a letter from the Co. Secretary confirming the reading of the National Monuments Advisory Committee's meetings at County Council meetings was to be sent during the coming week.

CLONTUSKERT ABBEY

The Secretary to write to Mr. Noel Treacy, Minister of State, asking him to have the construction of the roadway to Clontuskert Abbey expedited.

ARDRAHAN CEMETERY

Deferred.

SIGNPOSTING:

The Secretary to write to County Engineer asking that a list of signposting to be undertaken by the County Council be submitted to the N.M.A.C. before the next (July) meeting.

KILSKEAGH

Deferred.

CLONFERT

Deferred

NEXT MEETING

3 p.m. 19th July, 1989 at ANGLERS' REST HOTEL, HEADFORD FOLLOWED BY A VISIT TO ROSS ABBEY.

N.B.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE ABOVE

Signed: Martin J. Joyce,  
Hon. Secretary  
National Monuments Advisory Committee,  
Aughrim,  
CO. GALWAY

Patrick K. Egan

19/7/89

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE ANGLERS REST, HEADFORD, ON WEDNESDAY, 19th JULY, 1989

IN THE CHAIR: Rev. Dr. P.K. Egan.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. M. J. Joyce, Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. Lardner,  
Councillors T. Welby, J. Joyce, J. McDonagh, M.  
Lynch, Mr. T. Byrne, Mr. H. Bermingham and Mr. J.  
Higgins.

ATHENRY TOWN WALLS:

Deferred.

CLONTUSKERT ABBEY:

Secretary to write again to Mr. Noel Treacy, Minister for State asking  
to have the construction of the roadway to Clontuskert Abbey expedited.

ROSS ABBEY:

A conducted tour of Rosserrily Abbey by Mr. McHugh, N.T. Headford, was  
comprehensive and informative and was deeply appreciated by the Committee  
Members present.

Appreciated also was the hospitality provided by Mr. Heneghan, Proprietor  
of the Anglers Rest, Headford.

Secretary was instructed to ask County Council to provide adequate signposting  
and litter bins at Ross.

ARDRAHAN CEMETERY:

Mr. T. Byrne said conditions were bad at Ardrahan Cemetery. Agreed that  
Mr. Byrne and Mr. O Higgins, Archaeological Officer, meet local Committee  
to discuss necessary repairs. Secretary to inform Rev. Trevor Sullivan,  
Rector, Aughrim.

KILSKEACH CEMETRY:

Concluded.

CLONFERT:

Councillor Joyce informed the meeting that local Church of Ireland Community  
was anxious to divest itself of the Bishop's Palace at Clonfert. Meeting  
agreed that as the Palace was one of the few, if not the only 17th Century  
buildings of its kind it was worthy of preservation.

Secretary to write to Mr. Noel Treacy, Minister for State asking for his  
support.

DUNMORE AND HEADFORD VILLAGE PUMPS.:

Secretary to write to County Council asking to have the Pump restored at  
Barrack Street, Dunmore and the Headford Pump consolidated.

CO-OPTION:

Agreed to ask the County Council to co-opt Mr. Jim Higgins, U.C.G  
as an Hon. Member of the National Monuments Advisory Committee.

NEXT MEETING IN COUNTY BUILDINGS - 3.00 p.m. TUESDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER, 1989.

SIGNED: *Patrick K. Egan 12/9/89* M. JOYCE, AUGHRIM, BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY, ON TUES. 12TH SEPT. 1989

IN THE CHAIR: Rev. Dr. P. K. Egan  
ALSO PRESENT: Mr. T. Byrne; Mr. H. Bermingham; Mr. A. Lardner, Clrs. J. McDonagh; J. Joyce; Mr. M.J. Joyce  
ATHENRY TOWN WALLS: Deferred.  
CLONTUSKERT ABBEY: Awaiting reply from Minister  
ROSS ABBEY: Engineer favourable to suggestions for litter bins and signposts. Secretary should write to Area Engineer in Tuam. Committee deeply impressed by our last meeting in Headford.  
ARDRAHAN CEMETERY: Mr. Sam. Taylor, interested in scheme. Mr. Jim Higgins, U.C.G. to come out. Contact to be made with him and Committee.  
DUNMORE/HEADFORD VILLAGE PUMPS Dunmore pump in place. Engineer to examine the other at Headford.  
CARTYMORE CROSS: (4 miles from Athenry) Monument without inscription to a landlord named Brown. Suggested it might have a plaque.  
CARNASEER, DUNMORE: Mr. Bermingham informed the meeting that Children's Burial Ground contained a Tau Cross, a Bullan Stone, and a foundation of an Old Church. Discussion postponed to next meeting.  
CLONFERT: Deferred.

N.B. NEXT MEETING - 3.30 p.m. TUESDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER, 1989

Signed: P.K. Egan  
MARTIN J. JOYCE,  
AUGHRIM

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY, ON TUESDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER, 1989

In the Chair: Rev. Dr. P. K Egan  
Also Present: Messrs M. J. Joyce, Secretary, A. Lardner, H. Bermingham, Councillors J. McDonagh, Jas. Joyce.  
Minutes: On the proposition of Councillor J. McDonagh, seconded by Mr. A. Lardner, the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted and signed by the Chairman.  
Correspondence: Secretary read a letter received by him from Mrs Mary McDonagh, a member of the Committee, who is at present residing in Saudi Arabia and returning to Galway in September next, asking if she should resign from the Committee. Members present were unwilling to accept a resignation from such a dedicated and interested member.  
Secretary informed the meeting that Mr. Diskin, District Engineer, Mountbellew, had informed him that the tree on top of the Round Tower (built by Denis O'Kelly (1870) had been removed.  
Athenry Town Walls Deferred.  
Cahergowan Cemetery Councillor McDonagh informed the meeting that conditions were wretched in Cahergowan Cemetery Claregalway and a local Committee was anxious to have improvements carried out.  
Clontuskert: Councillor Joyce proposed the Secretary should write to O.P.W. asking to have the construction of the road to Clontuskert Abbey expedited.  
Ross Abbey Councillor McDonagh to contact the District Engineer at Tuam with regard to signposting, litter bins, and road widening leading to Ross Abbey.  
Cartymore Cross Clr. McDonagh to interview Miss Marie Fahy re history of Cross.  
Carnaseer, Dunmore: Mr. Bermingham informed the meeting that metal detectors were being used at the Children's burial ground at Carnaseer. Secretary to ask O.P.W. to place a Preservation Order on the site which contains a Bullaun, A Tau Cross and foundation of Old Church. Owner of site agreeable to same.  
Clonfert Councillor Joyce said local emphasis seemed to have shifted to preservation of ~~Cathedral~~ *bishop's palace.*  
Ballymore Mausoleum: Councillor Joyce to contact County Council to have the Seymour Mausoleum at Lisheen Graveyard, Ballymore, repaired.

NEXT MEETING AT 3.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 16TH JANUARY, 1990

Signed Martin J. Joyce  
Hon. Secretary  
National Monuments Advisory Committee  
Aughrim

Patrick K. Egan  
16/1/90

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY, ON TUESDAY, 16TH JANUARY, 1990.

IN THE CHAIR: Rev Dr P. K. Egan

Also Present: Messrs M. J. Joyce, Hon. Secretary, A. Lardner, E. Kennedy, Councillors J. McDonagh, T. Welby, and J. Joyce.

Minutes: On the proposition of Councillor T Welby, seconded by Mr A. Lardner, the minutes of the previous Meeting were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

Athenry Town Walls: Deferred.

Cahergowan Cemetery: Councillor McDonagh informed meeting that he had applied to the Department of Archaeology for a report on the site with a view to having a F.A.S. Scheme operated there.

Clontuskert Access Road: Secretary informed the meeting that he had written to the Commissioners of Public Works asking that the provision of an access road to Clontuskert Abbey be expedited, but had received no reply.

Ross Abbey: Councillor McDonagh informed the Meeting that Mr. Tansey, District Engineer, Tuam, had assured him that litter bins and signposting were being provided at Ross, hedge cuttings and road widening organised.

Cartymore Cross Councillor McDonagh said the monument there was erected in memory of Capt Oliver Browne and his Wife who are buried in Athenry.

Turloughmore & Lackagh Historical Society: Councillor McDonagh presented a copy of Turloughmore & Lackagh and Coolarne Parishes to the Chairman. Secretary instructed to express Committee's appreciation of the production to Mr. Moore, N.T., and all connected with such an interesting local historical record.

Clonfert: Councillor Joyce informed the Meeting that local community was interested in having the Bishops Palace preserved.

Ballymore Mauseolum: No reply had been received by Councillor Joyce from the County Engineer in regard to Ballymore Mausoleum.

Carnaseer: No reply from O.P.W. Deferred.

Signposting: Secretary to write again to County Council to have the signposting of archaeological sites expedited.

Ballynagh Castle, Clonbur: Secretary to write to Dr. Gosling, Department of archaeology, UCG., asking for a report on the site.

NEXT MEETING 3.30P.M. ON TUESDAY, APRIL 3RD 1990. Signed: *M. J. Joyce* 3/4/90  
Martin J Joyce  
Hon. Secretary

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS ON TUESDAY, 3RD APRIL, 1990.

In the Chair: Councillor James Joyce.

Also Present: Councillor T. Welby, Cllr. J. McDonagh, Mr. E. Kennedy, Mr. M.J. Joyce, Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. Lardner.

Apologies: Rev. Dr. P K. Egan.

Minutes: On the proposition of Councillor T. Welby, seconded by Mr. A. Lardner, the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

Athenry Town Walls: Deferred.

Cahergowan Cemetery: Councillor McDonagh informed the meeting that the County Council was to apply to F.A.S., who had asked the Department of Archaeology, U.C.G. for a report of the site.

Signposting: The Secretary is to write to County Council asking that signposting be expediated.

Ballymore Mausoleum: No reply received by Councillor Joyce.

Clontuskert: A letter from Mr. Brendan Daly, T.D., Minister of State regarding the access road to Clontuskert Abbey stated that the Commissioners of Public Works had reached agreement with the landowners to provide a small car park near the main road and a pedestrian access route to the site but some title difficulties on the vendor's side has arisen. He hoped, however, that the transaction would be completed in the not too distant future.

Shannon Development: A letter from Mr. Brendan Russel, Manager, Shannon Development, to Councillor James Joyce, concerning a Tourism Development Programme for Lough Derg, was discussed. Councillor Joyce to contact Mr. Brian Callagy, Planning Officer, Galway County Council.

This concluded the buisness of the meeting.

NEXT MEETING 2.30P.M. TUESDAY, 12TH JUNE, 1990.

Signed Mr. Martin J. Joyce,  
Hon. Secretary,  
National Monuments Advisory Committee,  
Aughrim,  
Co. Galway.

*J. Lardner*  
*J. McDonagh*  
*Chairman*  
*12/6/1990*

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY, ON TUESDAY, 12th JUNE, 1990.**

**In the Chair:** Councillor Jarlath McDonagh.  
**Also Present:** Mr. MJ Joyce, Secretary, Dr. J. Claffey, Cllr. James Joyce, Mr. H. Bermingham.  
**Apology:** Rev. Dr. P. K. Ryan.  
**Minutes:** On the proposition of Cllr. J. Joyce, seconded by Mr. H. Bermingham, the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted and signed by the Chairman.  
**Athenry Town Walls:** Deferred.  
**Cahergowan Cemetary:** Cllr. McDonagh informed the meeting that he had contacted the Archaeological Department, U.C.G. with a view to organise a Social Employment Scheme at Cahergowan Cemetary, Claregalway and FAS had approved of the project.  
**Signposting:** Dr. J. Claffey asked what were the priorities in selecting signposting of National Monuments and was informed by Mr. Tony Murphy, C.E.O., Galway County Council, that Regional Engineers in consultation with local Councillors decided on the erection of signposts.  
**Kilbannon:** Secretary instructed to write to County Council to have the existing road sign at Kilbannon two miles north of Tuam replaced. Secretary to write to O.P.W. asking that an informative plaque be erected at Kilbannon.  
**Ballymore Mausoleum:** Deferred.  
**Clontuskert:** Cllr. Joyce informed the meeting that work on the access road to Clontuskert had not commenced.  
**Shannon Lough Derg Development:** Cllr. Joyce said matter had been raised at the last meeting of County Council, June 9th. Copies of brochure produced by Lough Derg Development Group to be distributed to members of Galway County Council.  
**Carnaseer Children Burial Ground:** No reply from O.P.W. Secretary to write again.  
**Dunmore Castle:** A signed petition from people in Dunmore asking for repairs and restorations of Dunmore Castle was submitted by Mr. H. Bermingham. Secretary instructed to forward same to Office of Public Works.  
**County Development Plan:** Cllr. Joyce informed meeting that County Development Plan was on display in County Buildings.  
**NEXT MEETING ST. CATHERINES HALL, AUGHIRM 3.30 PM ON TUESDAY, 17TH JULY, 1990.**

Signed Mr. Martin J. Joyce,  
Hon. Secretary,  
National Monuments Advisory Committee,  
Aughrim,  
Co. Galway.

*James Joyce*  
CHAIRMAN.

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN St. CATHERINES HALL, AUGHIRM ON TUESDAY, 17th JULY, 1990.**

**IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor James Joyce.  
**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. M. L. Joyce, Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. Kennedy, Mr. H. Bermingham, Mr. A. Lardner, Cllr. M. Lynch, Mr. M. J. Molloy, Cllr. J. McDonagh.  
**MINUTES:** On the proposition of Cllr. M. Lynch seconded by Mr. H. Bermingham the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted and signed by the Chairman.  
**CONGRATULATIONS:** Cllr. James Joyce was warmly congratulated on his election as Chairman of Galway County Council.  
**SYMPATHY:** A vote of sympathy was passed with the family of the late D. J. Murphy, Tuam, a long time and valued member of the National Monuments Advisory Committee.  
**ATHENRY TOWN WALLS:** Cllr. Lynch informed the meeting that some repairs were being carried out under a County Council employment Scheme. Boy Scouts had carried out repairs in St. Marys.  
**LOCAL CEMETRIES:** Two motions were passed with regard to Local Cemeteries.  
No. 1 Asking the County Engineer to have grass cutting carried out in all cemeteries.  
No. 2 Asking Mr. Flynn Minister, that all Local Authorities be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of Local Cemeteries.  
**FAS:** Cllr. McDonagh suggested that as schemes under Fas were being held up because of lack of liaison between the Department of Archaeology U.C.G. and Fas Chairman should invite representatives of Fas and Department of Archaeology U.C.G. to the next meeting of the National Monuments Advisory Committee.  
**SIGNPOSTING:** Secretary to write again to County Council asking that signposting of National Monuments be expedited.  
**BALLYMORE MAUSOLEUM:** Deferred.  
**CLONFERT:** Deferred.  
**SHANNON DEVELOPMENT:** Launch of brochure took place in Killaloe on Monday 16th July  
**DUNMORE CASTLE:** Mr. Bermingham informed meeting that some improvements were carried out.  
**COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN:** Adopted.  
**NEXT MEETING 3.30 p.m. Tuesday, 18th September, 1990.**

SIGNED Martin Joyce,  
Hon. Secretary,  
National Monuments Advisory Committee,  
Aughrim,  
Co. Galway.

*Jarlath McDonagh*



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY ON TUESDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1990.

IN THE CHAIR:- Councillor Jarlath McDonagh.

ALSO PRESENT:- Mr. M.J. Joyce, Hon. Seecretary, Mr. A. Lardner, Councillors T. Welby, M. Lynch, Mr. T. Byrne, Mr. H. Bermingham.

MINUTES.

On the proposition of Councillor Lynch and seconded by Mr. A. Lardner, the Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

ATHENRY TOWN WALLS: Deferred.

FAS.

Councillor McDonagh welcomed representatives of the Department of Archaeology, University College, Galway - Prof. E. Rynne, Dr. Paul Gosling, Ms. Cait DeHora and Ms. Ann McGovern, Manager, External Training, FAS, and said the purpose of the Meeting was to expedite liaison with the Department of Archaeology, University College Galway in the promotion of the FAS Schemes in County Galway. Prof. Rynne said permission as such was not required but surveyor should be contacted and professional advice sought from an Archaeologist.

Dr. Gosling said that in June, 1988, County Council had agreed to contact the Department of Archaeology before schemes involving the cleaning of graveyards were started. Headstones should not be cleaned.

Ms. Cait DeHora said there had been some improvement in the last few years but she felt the Archaeological Report had not received sufficient attention as regards notice beforehand of location of schemes.

Ms. Ann McGovern, FAS, said there were two different schemes involved - (i) Social Employment Schemes where the O.P.W. should be contacted beforehand, (ii) Scheme involved a code of practice, large amount of training, an outside consultant <sup>ing</sup> ~~involved~~.

Councillor McDonagh thanked the speakers.

SIGNPOSTING.

Councillor Byrne proposed a signpost to Turoe Stone be erected at Kilrickle/Bullaun Junction.

LOCAL CEMETERIES.

Secretary to write again to an Engineer asking that grass cutting be carried out by the Local Authority in all local

cemeteries.

TOUR OF AUGHRIM BATTLEFIELD.

Mr. M. Joyce was warmly thanked by the Members present for conducting a tour of the Battlefield of Aughrim subsequent to the last Meeting of the Committee.

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 1990.

Martin J. Joyce,  
Hon. Secretary,  
National Monuments Advisory Committee,  
Aughrim,  
CO. GALWAY.

*Patrick H. Egan*  
27/11/90

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD  
IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY ON TUESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER, 1990.

IN THE CHAIR: Very Rev. P. K. Egan, PHD.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Martin J. Joyce, Honorary Secretary,  
Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh,  
Cllr. James Joyce, Cllr. Martin Lynch.  
Mr. H. Bermingham, Mr. A. Lardner.

MINUTES: On the proposition of Councillor Jarlath McDonagh seconded  
by Mr. A. Lardner the minutes of the previous meeting were  
adopted and signed by the Chairman.

Athenry Town Walls: Councillor Lynch informed the meeting that good progress was  
being made in the castle. Boy Scouts had done a good job  
in cleaning St. Mary's Church.

FAS: After discussions decided to await reply from the Department of  
Archaeology U.C.G.

SIGNPOSTING: Secretary to write to County Council asking that signposting  
of historical sites be expedited.

Cemetries: Councillors McDonagh and Lynch to raise the matter of grass  
cutting in local cemetries with the County Council.

Clontuskert Abbey: Secretary to write again to the Office of Public Works asking  
that the construction of the access road to Clontuskert  
Abbey be expedited.

Congratulations: Congratulations were extended to Mr. Martin Joyce on being voted  
Man of The Year by Galway County Council.

Sympathy: A vote of sympathy was passed with the Chairman Very Rev.  
P.K. Egan on the death of his brother R.I.P.

NEXT MEETING: 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday 12th February, 1991.

SIGNED: Mr. Martin J. Joyce,  
Honorary Secretary,  
National Monuments Advisory Committee,  
Aughrim,  
Co. Galway.

*Patrick K. Egan*  
*12/2/91*

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY ON TUESDAY 14th MAY, 1991.

PRESENT:-

In the Chair.

Very Rev. P.K. Egan, P.H.D.,

Also present:-

Councillors James Joyce, Jarlath McDonagh,  
Thomas Welby, Martin Lynch, Mr. Aiden Lardner,  
Mr. Hubert Bermingham, Mr. Owen Kennedy.  
Professor Etienne Rynne and Mr. T. Murphy, Galway Co.Co.

The Chairman said that the Minutes of the last Meeting were not available due to the death of the Secretary, Mr. Martin Joyce on the 24th March, 1991. He said that Martin Joyce was a close personal friend of his whom he admired and greatly respected and he was aware that all who knew Martin had this respect and admiration for him. He said that he was a great Teacher, Patriot and Historian and his interest in and knowledge of the Battle of Aughrim was unsurpassed. Fr. Egan said that the day on which the first sod for the Aughrim Interpretative Centre was turned was one of the proudest days of Martin's life and it was a source of great sadness to him that Martin did not live to see the progress now being made on the Centre. Finally he expressed his sympathy to Mrs. Joyce and her family on the death of Martin and asked the Members to rise in silent prayer for the happy repose of his soul. The Members of the Committee joined in the expression of sympathy and many tributes were paid to Mr. Joyce for his work as Member and later long time Secretary of the National Monuments Advisory Committee and his many other achievements as Teacher, Historian and Community Worker.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Chairman said that a letter had been received from the County Secretary, Galway County Council replying to a letter received from Mr. Joyce regarding the setting up of a Sub-Committee to liaise between U.C.G., FAS, The County Council and the National Monuments Advisory Committee. In his reply the County Secretary stated that there was no authority for the setting up of such a sub-committee. Professor Rynne said that he was not satisfied with this answer and could not understand why a group of people could not get together with a view to aiding the work of the National Monuments Advisory Committee. Following discussion it was agreed to defer this matter until the New Committee had been formed after the forthcoming local elections.

The Chairman said that a letter had also been received from Oak Park Research Centre regarding the 150th Anniversary of the Famine. It was agreed to send a copy of this letter to each Member of the Committee. In this connection Councillor Joyce referred to the proposal by the Western Health Board to acquire part of Bullies Acre, Ballinasloe. He said that the local historical committee had strenuously opposed this proposal and it was agreed to include this site on the list for Oak Park Research Centre, and this would also be of assistance to the Historical Committee in ensuring its preservation.

OTHER BUSINESS.

Professor Rynne referred to the 750th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Dominican Priory in Athenry which will be celebrated in August of this year. He requested that the County Council make every effort to ensure that the Graveyard adjoining the Priory is cut and cleaned up around this time. Councillor Lynch said that he had been informed that this Graveyard was not Council property. It was agreed that Mr. Murphy would investigate the ownership

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of this Graveyard and also St. Mary's Churchyard and inform Messrs. Lynch and Rynne.

NEXT MEETING.

It was agreed to hold the next Meeting on Tuesday on Tuesday, 23rd July, 1991 at 3.30 p.m.

THE MEETING THEN TERMINATED

SIGNED James Joyce  
15/9/91  
CHAIRMAN.

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE  
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Post Office Box No. 27,  
County Buildings,  
Prospect Hill,  
Galway.  
MO THAG  
Mv Ref. **TM/ROB.**  
DO THAG  
Your Ref. ....



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31st October, 1991.

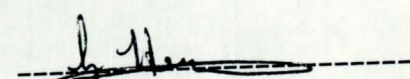
TO EACH MEMBER ON THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

RE: NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING.

A Chara,

The next Meeting of the above Committee will be held on Tuesday, 5th November, 1991 at 4.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway. Copy of Minutes of Meeting of the 10th September, 1991 attached.

Mise, le meas,

  
a.s. Runai.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of last Meeting.
2. Matters arising from Minuters.
3. Correspondence.
4. 150th Famine Commemoration.
5. FAS Liaison Sub-Committee.
6. County Council Liaison with Office of Public Works re Sites and Monuments Record for Co. Galway.
7. Any other Business.

Minutes  
of  
the Proceedings of the National Monuments Advisory  
Committee held in  
the County Buildings, Galway, Tuesday, 10th September, 1991

In Attendance: Tadhg Mc Loughlin  
Micheal Cunningham  
Paddy Mc Hugh  
Paul Gosling  
Larry Kilcummins  
Erin Gibbons  
Pierce Joyce  
Evelyn Varley  
Jarlath Mc Donagh  
Micheal Finnerty  
Owen F. Kennedy  
James Joyce  
Michael Mullins  
Pat O'Sullivan  
Anna Mc Hugh  
Very Rev. P. K. Egan

The Rev. P. K. Egan took the Chair but indicated his intention to step down. Members expressed their regret at Rev. Egan's decision and were warm in their praise for his chairmanship.

Proposals were sought for the positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary.

Mr James Joyce was proposed as Chairman by Cllr Jarlath Mc Donagh and seconded by Cllr Evelyn Varley.

Cllr Jarlath Mc Donagh was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Cllr Micheal Finnerty and seconded by Cllr Michael Cunningham.

Mr Paul Gosling was proposed as Secretary by Rev. Egan and seconded by Cllr Paddy Mc Hugh.

All were returned unopposed. Mr Joyce took the Chair.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: These were proposed and adopted.

Correspondence:

FAS Liaison Sub-Committee: Regarding the establishment of this committee, Cllr Mc Donagh stated that the recent local government legislative reforms allowed for more flexibility in such matters, and suggested that the County Secretary be approached again on the matter. The Chairman asked the councillors present to take cognisance of the establishment of this sub-committee when discussing the forthcoming estimates.

150th Anniversary of the Great Famine: The members attention was drawn to a letter from Mr Leslie Dowley, of Teagasc, dated 20th

February, 1991, concerning plans to hold an international scientific meeting in Ireland in September 1995 to commemorate the Great Famine. Mr Dowley asked for a list of sites associated with the Famine in Co. Galway, and wondered if any special events were being planned in the county. After a discussion of possible sites and monuments suitable for commemoration, it was suggested that the Secretary write to Mr Dowley for more information.

St Mary's Church & Dominican Priory, Athenry: A report from the Area Engineer, dated 12th August, 1991, regarding the ownership of these monuments and their respective graveyards, was read to the meeting. In the case of St Mary's, the church is now maintained by the Office of Public Works, while the graveyard is owned and maintained by the Church of Ireland. In the case of the Priory, it appears to be owned by the State, but the ownership of the graveyard is uncertain. The Office of Public Works are, however, in negotiation with the County Council regarding this matter.

Eyrecourt Estate Gates: The Chairman reported that the local community was annoyed by the recent removal of the old iron gates to the estate. These appear to have been sold by the heirs of the estate, and had not been listed for preservation. Mr Kennedy suggested that members of the committee should compile a list of such architectural remains in their locality, for inclusion in the county development plan.

Abbeytown: Mrs Anna Mc Hugh queried the legal situation regarding the field between the main road and the Abbey. The Secretary explained that as it was listed in the Sites and Monuments Record for County Galway, consultations would have to take place with the Office of Public Works before any development could be undertaken.

Clontuskert Abbey: The Chairman asked what was the situation regarding the access road to the monument. Cllr Mullins explained that there were still legal difficulties regarding the right-of-way and ownership of the lane.

Next Meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting should take place on Tuesday, 5th November, 1991, starting at 4pm.

The meeting was then concluded.

SIGNED:-

James J. O'Connell  
(CHAIRMAN)

DATE

5/11/91

Agenda for NMAC meeting, Vocational School, Gort, at 4.30pm, on 11th December, 1991

As part of the commemorations for the 150th anniversary of Gort Workhouse, a Mass is being said in the Community Centre, Gort, at 3.30pm.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting
2. Matters arising from the Minutes
3. Correspondence
4. The 150th Commemoration of Gort Workhouse
5. AOB

The meeting will be followed by a visit to the remains of Gort Workhouse.

P. Gosling, Secretary

**Minutes of  
National Monuments Advisory Committee Meeting  
held in  
County Buildings, on 5th November, 1991**

**Attendance:**

Full Members: Cllrs M. Cunningham, P. O'Sullivan, J. Mc Donagh, M. Finnerty, M. Mullins, E. Varley, P. Joyce  
Hon. Members: M. Connelly, P. K. Egan, N. Morgan, O. Kennedy, P. Gosling, J. O'Connell, T. Mc Loughlin, A. Mc Hugh, M. Breathnach.  
Council Representatives: T. Murphy, C. Wallace.

**Apologies** were received from the Chairman, J. Joyce, and E. Gibbons

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Cllr J. Mc Donagh, took the chair.

**1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Having been previously circulated, these were Proposed by Cllr Cunningham and seconded by Mr Kennedy

**2. Matters Arising From the Minutes:** Mrs Mc Hugh informed the meeting of developments at Abbeytown. Work on the laying of a concrete fence from the road to the abbey had to be stopped because of the threat to archaeological remains. Mrs Mc Hugh proposed that local community councils, and community groups, be contacted regarding the importance of monuments. Proposed by Cllr Finnerty, seconded by Cllr Cunningham.

Mr Mc Loughlin outlined a similar situation regarding Bully's Acre at Ballinasloe, where Western Health Board proposals to construct a road would interfere with this graveyard.

He proposed that County Council write to Health Board on the matter. Seconded by Cllr Mullins.

**3. Correspondence:** None.

**4. Famine Commemoration:** The Secretary reported that he had written to Mr Leslie Dowley of Teagasc, but having received no reply by 31st October, he rang him. Mr Dowley informed him that the conference on the potato was due to take place in Trinity College, Dublin, and Strokestown House, Co. Roscommon, from 10th to 15th September, 1995.

Mrs Mc Hugh circulated, and outlined, a proposal to FÁS for a project to commemorate the Great Famine in the county. A sponsoring body was required to bring the scheme into effect. The Chairman, Cllr Mc Donagh, proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Mc Hugh, seconded by Cllr Varley.

The Chairman proposed that Mrs Mc Hugh's proposal be adopted by the meeting and forwarded to County Council for consideration. Seconded by Mr Breathnach.

**5. FAS Sub-Committee:** The Chairman reported that he had a meeting with the County Secretary on 5th November, regarding this matter, and that the County Secretary was not in favour of the formation of such a sub-committee. Mr Wallace confirmed this, and outlined the County Council's policy regarding FAS liaison.

**6. County Council/OPW Liaison:** The Secretary, Mr Gosling, reported on the recent pipe/conduit laying schemes at Dunmore and Ardrahan, which had resulted in the excavation of long, deep trenches through both of these historic towns. In both cases no liaison had taken place between the Council and the OPW regarding the archaeological monitoring of these works, despite the Council's obligations to do so under the terms of the planning acts, and the existence of a Sites and Monuments Record for County Galway. The meeting expressed regret at this situation. Mr Wallace said that the situation at Ardrahan was now under review, and a meeting had been arranged with the Archaeological Services Unit, in UCG.

**7. Any Other Business:** Mr Morgan outlined a recent case involving the Gardai, where a medieval castle at Cahernamuck West, near Loughrea, was blown up by its owner, using legally held explosives. It appeared that the permit issued in respect of the explosives was for the demolition of "an old house", but that the actual permit was not in the possession of the Gardai who attended on the demolition work. Thus, they were unaware of the discrepancy between the licence and the actual character of the remains. The meeting expressed regret at the situation, and agreed to pass the matter on to the County Council for consideration.

Mr Breathnach invited the committee members to attend the festivities for the 150th commemoration of Gort Workhouse, to be held in Gort, on 11th December, 1991.

**8. Next Meeting:** It was agreed to hold the next meeting at the Vocational School, Gort, on 11th December, 1991, at 4.30pm.

Signed: - James Joyce  
(Chairman)

Date: 11/12/91.

MINUTES OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN GORT  
VOCATIONAL SCHOOL ON THE 11TH OF DECEMBER, 1991.

**Attendance**

Full Members: Cllr. Michael Cunningham, Pat O'Sullivan, Jarlath McDonagh,  
Michael Finnerty, Michael Mullins, Evelyn Varley.  
Messrs. James Joyce and Pierce Joyce.

Honorary Members: Messrs. Tadhg McLoughlin, Michael Breathnach and Owen  
Kennedy, Mrs. Anna McHugh.

Also Present: Sister Maura Crowe, Sisters of Mercy, Gort and  
Mr. Tony Murphy S.S.O. Galway County Council.

An apology for inability to attend was received from Mr. Paul Gosling,  
Secretary of the Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cunningham and agreed  
that Mr. Murphy be appointed as Secretary for the purpose of this meeting.

1. **GORT WORKHOUSE:** Mr. Breathnach welcomed the committee members to  
Gort and said that it was an honour, to have a meeting of the committee  
held in conjunction with the commemorations for the 150th anniversary  
of Gort Workhouse. He introduced Sister Maura Crowe of the Sisters  
of Mercy Gort to the meeting and said that with the permission of  
the meeting Sister Maura would give a brief outline of the history  
of Gort Workhouse. The Chairman welcomed sister Maura to the meeting  
and she then told the story of the workhouse from the date of its  
opening on the 11th of December, 1841, until it finally closed in  
1922. She gave an account of the dreadful conditions in the workhouse  
especially in the early years, and she also told of the important  
role played by the Sisters of Mercy in alleviating the suffering  
of the patients.

The Chairman, Mr. Joyce thanked Sister Maura for her presentation  
as did the other members of the committee. Cllr. McDonagh said that  
her presentation should be typed out and circulated to members and  
this was agreed. Cllr. Cunningham said that as the local public representative  
he invited the committee to Gort and he also thanked Sister Maura  
for her presentation and also complimented the Sisters of Mercy on  
their long and dedicated service to the town of Gort.

2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** It was proposed by Cllr. O'Sullivan,  
seconded by Cllr. Cunningham and agreed that the minutes of the meeting  
held on 5th November, 1991, be adopted.
3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** In connection with the Family Commemoration,  
Mrs. McHugh said that she had been in contact with Fas in relation  
to the research project and as a result of these discussions, she  
was of the opinion that this proposal would more suitably be  
referred to Fas and accordingly, she wished to withdraw her proposal  
that it be sponsored by the County Council. It was proposed by  
Cllr. Cunningham, seconded by Cllr. Mullins and agreed that Mrs. McHugh's  
proposal be withdrawn. Cllr. McDonagh proposed that a member of the  
committee should be on the committee sponsoring this project.

4. **ROSS ERRILY ABBEY:** Cllr. Varley said that toilets were badly needed  
at Ross Errily Abbey, Headford. It was agreed to ask the Office of  
Public Works to provide them. It was suggested also to contact Mr.  
Paul Gosling in relation to this matter in order that he would take  
it up with the O.P.W.

Mr. McLoughlin said that there were three sites in Ballinasloe which  
in his opinion should be referred to the Office of Public Works for  
preservation.

1. The old castle at River Street, Ballinasloe.
2. Part of the old workhouse (Barrett's), Sarsfield Road, Ballinasloe.
3. Bully's Acre, Cleaghmore, Ballinasloe.
5. **ABBETOWN CEMETRY:** Mr. McHugh referred to the fact that Grave Markers  
had been removed from Abbetown Cemetery and she asked that the Council  
take the necessary action to have them returned. It was agreed that  
Mr. Murphy write to the area Engineer in relation to this matter and  
that he would be asked to contact Mrs. McHugh for further information.
6. **LIGHTHOUSE AT BALLYCURRAN:** Cllr. Varley said that the Lighthouse  
at Ballycurran, Headford was in bad condition, and it was agreed to  
contact the Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees in relation to this matter.
7. **NEXT MEETING:** It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Committee  
on Tuesday, 4th February, 1992, at 4.30 p.m.

Signed: James Joyce  
(CHAIRMAN)

Date: 4 Feb '92.

MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY, ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 1992

**Attendance**

Full Members: Cllrs M. Cunningham, P. Mc Hugh, P. O'Sullivan, J. Mc Donagh, M. Finnerty, M. Mullins, E. Varley, and Ms E. Gibbons, and Mr J. Joyce.

Honorary Members: Mr O. Kennedy, Mr M. Breathnach, Mr T. Mc Loughlin, Rev P. K. Egan, and Mr P. Gosling.

Apologies: Mr D. Barret, Galway County Council.

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Proposed by O. Kennedy, and seconded by M. Cunningham

**2. Matters Arising from Minutes**

- a) Ballinasloe Monuments: Mr Gosling explained that the matter was now in the hands of the Office of Public Works.
- b) Ballycurrin Lighthouse: Cllr Varley presented a letter which she had received from Mr O'Kelly, secretary of the Lough Corrib Branch of IWAI, regarding same. The Secretary pointed out that the lighthouse was, in fact, in Co. Mayo, and thus outside the jurisdiction of the committee. It was agreed that the Secretary write to the Mayo County Manager, to draw his attention to the matter.

**3. Correspondence**

- a) Letter Of thanks, dated 3/2/1992, received at meeting, from Sister Maura Crowe, Gort, regarding the last meeting, and also a copy of her address to same.
- b) Letter, undated, from Mr P. G. Horan, President, Lough Corrib Branch, IWAI, re Ballycurrin Lighthouse. The Secretary had replied, informing him that the lighthouse was in Co. Mayo.
- c) Letter, dated 14 January, 1992, from County Secretary re revision of County Development plans (see below, no 4).
- d) Copy of Letter, dated 14 January, 1992, from Prof. E. Rynne to Galway County Council, objecting to planning application by Mid-West Farmers Co-Op for extension to existing grain storage facilities at Knockaunglass, Athenry (ref. no. 65453).

The Secretary conveyed a message from Prof Rynne to the meeting, received that day, urging the committee to lodge an objection to above mentioned planning application. After some

discussion, the committee agreed to the following motion, proposed by Cllr Cunningham, seconded Mr Mc Loughlin:

That this committee views with concern any extension to the Mid-West Farmers Co-Op grain storage facility at Knockaunglass, Athenry, which will further impede, visually or archaeologically, on the historic walls of Athenry Town.

**4. Revision of Draft Development Plans for Co. Galway**

The Secretary reported that he had received copies of the Draft Development Plans for the towns of Athenry, Clifden, Gort and Tuam from the County Secretary. Any objections or representations to same had to be submitted to the County Council by 26th March, 1992. He circulated copies of the sections of the plans for Clifden and Athenry dealing with heritage preservation and protection. It was agreed that copies of the relevant sections of the plans for Gort and Tuam would be posted out to members before the next meeting, in order that any changes or additions could be discussed then. The Secretary asked that all submissions from members regarding these plans be written not oral.

**5. Any Other Business**

- a) Brackloon Castle: The Chairman drew the committee's attention to the dangerous condition of Brackloon Castle, on the Ardfert road, which now had a very bad crack in its side. It was agreed that Fr Egan would inspect the castle and report back to the committee.
- b) Renvyle Castle: Ms Gibbons outlined a similar situation regarding Renvyle Castle.
- c) Inchagoill Island: Ms Gibbons outlined details regarding a development of a "chalet, and a jetty", on Inchagoill Island, in Lough Corrib. After some discussion, it was agreed that Ms Gibbons would make a report on the situation to the next meeting.

**6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was fixed for 4.30pm on Tuesday, 10th March, 1992 in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway.

Signed : - James Joyce  
(Chairman)

Date : - 10/3/92.



**Minutes  
of  
the Proceedings of the National Monuments Advisory  
Committee held in  
the County Buildings, Galway, Tuesday, 5th March, 1992**

In Attendance: Tadhg Mc Loughlin      Jarlath Mc Donagh  
                  Micheal Cunningham      Micheal Finnerty  
                  Paddy Mc Hugh                      Micheal Breathnach  
                  Pat O'Sullivan                        James Joyce, Chairman  
                  Michael Mullins                      Paul Gosling, Secretary  
                  Evelyn Varley                        Micheal Conneely  
                  Erin Gibbons

Apologies: Very Rev. P. K. Egan

**1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:** These were proposed by Cllr Mc Donagh and seconded by Cllr O'Sullivan.

**2. Matters Arising from Minutes:** The secretary reported that he had written to the County Council on 5th February, 1992, regarding the Mid-West Farmers Coop planning application for an extension to their grain storage facilities at Knockaunglass, Athenry, and informed them of the motion passed by the Committee regarding same.

**3. Correspondence:** a) Reply received from County Council on 7th February, 1992, stating that Mid-west Farmers Coop Planning application had been refused.

b) Letter received from the Corrib Navigation Trustees regarding Ballycurran Lighthouse, on 11th February, 1992. The Committee requested that the Secretary write to the Mayo County Manager expressing the Committee's support for its preservation.

c) Letter from OPW received on 11th February, 1992 stating that they are considering the registration of Ballinasloe Castle under the terms of the National Monuments Acts, but did not consider the Bully's Acre or the Workhouse appropriate for inclusion.

**4. Revision of County Development Plans:** Mr Mc Loughlin and Mr Breathnach both praised the work of the people who drew up the revised draft development plans.

Ms Gibbons submitted a list of changes for the the Town of Clifden. The secretary outlined the proposed changes the the plans for Tuam And Gort prepared by the Department of Archaeology, UCG.

It was agreed that the secretary would circulate a full list of the proposed changes to all the Committee members well before the County Council's deadline for alterations of 26th March, 1992.

**5. Reports on Inchagoill Island and Brackloon Castle:**

a) Inchagoill Island: Ms Gibbons reported that she had been unable, as yet, to make An inspection of the island.

Cllr Varley presented a copy of a letter from Minister Mollay, dated 6th March, 1992, to the meeting. In it the Minister outlined the background to the current development work on the island. After a lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Mullins that the issue be raised at the next meeting of the County Council. This was agreed to by the Committee members.

b) Brackloon Castle: Cllr O' Sullivan reported that that the local area engineer did not appear to be perturbed by the condition of the castle. However, it was agreed that the secretary write to the OPW regarding condition of same.

**6 Any Other Business:**

a) Roxborough House: Mr Breathnach outlined the history of Roxborough House and its surviving remains. The Chairman congratulated Mr Breathnach on his submission. It was proposed that the secretary write to the OPW regarding the possibility of preserving the feature known as the 'bell tower'.

b) Noel Tracey, T.D.: The meeting congratulated Mr Noel Tracey, T.D., on his recent appointment as Junior Minister of State at the Department of Finance with responsibility for the Office of Public Works.

c) Clonkeenkerriil Abbey: Mr Conneely reported on the poor condition of Clonkeenkerriil Abbey. He proposed, seconded by Cllr Mullins, that the secretary write to the OPW regarding its future maintenance.

d) Clontuskert Abbey: The Chairman reported that negotiations for the purchase of land for an access road to the abbey were nearing completion.

**7. Date of Next Meeting:** This was arranged for 5th May, 1992, at 4pm.

Signed: Jane Joyce  
Date: 5 May 92

**Minutes  
of  
the Proceedings of the National Monuments Advisory  
Committee held in  
the County Buildings, Galway, Tuesday, 5th May, 1992**

In Attendance: Tadhg Mc Loughlin Jarlath Mc Donagh  
Micheal Cunningham Micheal Finnerty  
Paddy Mc Hugh Danny Barrett, Co. Co.  
Pat O'Sullivan James Joyce, Chairman  
Pierce Joyce Paul Gosling, Secretary  
Evelyn Varley

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** These were proposed by Cllr Cunningham and seconded by Mr Mac Loughlin.

2. **Matters Arising from Minutes:**

a) The secretary reported that the Committee's submission to the County Council regarding the revision of the County Development Plans for the towns of Athenry, Clifden, Gort and Tuam had been accepted.

b) As the matter of the development at Inchagoill had not yet been raised at a meeting of the County Council, the Secretary was requested to write to the County Secretary regarding placing the matter on that body's agenda.

3. **Correspondence:**

a) Copy of a letter dated 20/3/92 from Micheal Breathnach to OPW asking that the 'Bell Arch' and walled garden at Roxborough House, Co. Galway, be considered for preservation.

4. **Any Other Business:**

a) Gort: Cllr Cunningham reported that Gort Fever Hospital was now up for sale. The Secretary pointed out that as it was already a private dwelling, the Committee could do little in this regard.

b) Lime Park House, Peterswell: *Cllr M. Cunningham* *J.*  
The Chairman reported the existence of a plaque to Liam Mellows at the front of this house which is now in ruins, and wondered if anything could be done to have it cleaned up. Cllr Cunningham agreed to make a report on it for discussion at the next meeting.

c) High Cross, Tuam: The Secretary reported that work on the removal of the High Cross of Tuam to St Mary's Cathedral was now underway.

d) Clonfert Cathedral: The Chairman expressed frustration at the impasse over the care and maintenance of this internationally important monument. Under the present National Monuments Acts (1930-87), the OPW are prohibited from taking into care any building habitually used as a dwelling or for religious purposes.

e) St John the Baptist Church, Headford: Cllrs Varley, supported by Cllr Mc Hugh, raised the issue of the conservation and presentation of the church. The Secretary suggested that the best avenue of approach was to have the work done under a FAS sponsored scheme.

f) Ross Errily: Cllr Varley proposed that the Secretary write to Minister Tracy regarding the provision of toilets at this important and much visited site. Seconded by Cllrs Mc Hugh and Mc Donagh.

g) Knockdoe Battle Site: Cllr Mc Donagh wondered if any thing could be done to present and promote this important site. The secretary agreed to present a report on same for the next meeting.

5. **Date of Next Meeting:**

This was arranged for Tuesday, 7th July, 1992, at the VEC Outdoor Education Centre, at Petersburg, Clonbur, commencing at 3pm.

*James Joyce 7/7/92.*

MINUTES OF MEETING OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS COMMITTEE,  
OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY, ON THE 15th OF SEPTEMBER, 1992.

IN THE CHAIR, MR. JAMES JOYCE,

ALSO PRESENT, COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

MESSRS. M. BREATHNACH,  
T. McLOUGHLIN,  
& MRS. V. McDONAGH.

COUNCILLORS:- M. CUNNINGHAM  
P. McHUGH  
P. O'SULLIVAN  
J. McDONAGH  
N. FINNERTY  
MESSRS. P. JOYCE  
& J. JOYCE

OFFICIALS: MR. D. BARRETT, S.S.O., GENERAL PURPOSES SECTION

WELCOME.

The chairman welcomed Mrs. McDonagh on her return to the Committee after her absence abroad and the members of the Committee joined in the welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS.

On the proposition of Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor McDonagh, the Committee congratulated the Chairman Mr. Joyce on his appointment to the National Heritage Council and the National Wildlife Advisory Council.

The Chairman thanked the members and said that the Council has a specific and important advisory role and has a budget of £500,000. He said that he would give more information at the next Committee meeting as to the role and responsibility of the Council.

MINUTES.

On the proposition of Councillor M. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. M. Breathnach, the minutes of the Committee's last meeting were approved.

P.T.O.

SIGNPOSTING OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS.

Councillor McDonagh suggested that each member of the Committee should furnish a list of National Monuments in his/her area which require signposting.

Councillor Cunningham referred to a signpost near Gort which refers to Beagh church. He said the sign is misleading and should be changed to indicate that the church is in ruins. Many visitors come to this area expecting to find a church instead of merely ruins, and the local residents have complained about the inconvenience sometimes caused by this.

Mr. McLoughlin referred to unsightly advertising signs along the public road, and he referred in particular to signs on the approaches to Ballinasloe.

The Chairman replied that such signs require planning permission and that the County Council would take action in respect of any such sign erected without planning permission.

ROXBOROUGH HOUSE AND BELL-ARCH.

The Chairman said that Roxborough House was the birth place of Lady Gregory. The House has some magnificent stone work, but it is going into decay. There is a right-of-way beside the House and people are afraid that the adjoining wall will collapse. Some work has been done on the bridge leading to the House some time ago.

Councillor Cunningham said that £2,000 could be provided under a local improvement scheme to have the road leading to the house surfaced, but the local land owner would have to put up the sum of £3,000 and could not afford to do so. He said the office of public works had been asked to take over the road and that he had been in correspondence with Minister Treacy with a view to having this done. He proposed that the Office of Public Works should take over the roadway leading to Roxborough House and should preserve the Bell-Arch and House. This proposal was seconded by Mr. Breathnach.

CORRESPONDENCE.

It was noted that there was no correspondence for discussion.

P.T.O.

PROPOSED BY-PASS ROADS.

Councillor Cunningham said that there is a proposal for a by-pass road for the town of Gort in the County Development plan. He said that there are local objections to such a by-pass and that people feel that the by-pass is unnecessary. He said that there were only two points at which traffic congestion sometimes occurred in the town, and that this only happened in Summer. He said that the people of Gort would like to have a public meeting to discuss the matter.

Mrs. McDonagh stated that Gort is principally a market town and should not be by-passed.

The Chairman said that this matter would not be relevant to a meeting of the National Monuments Committee, unless a National Monument was affected by the by-pass.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

The Chairman said he wished to raise the matter of old estate gates which exist in many parts of the County. He said that these are an important part of the Heritage of areas and a preservation order should be put on them as they are often sold and cannot be recovered. He suggested that each member of the Committee should submit details of any such gates known to them in their areas with a view to compiling a list for inclusion in the development plan for preservation.

Mr. Breathnach said that there were fine gates at Roxborough House and that these should be preserved.

Councillor Finnerty referred to the efforts of the Eyrecourt community group in attempting to restore one such gate in their area and said that additional expenses which they could illafford had been imposed on the group by way of Value Added Tax. He proposed that there should be an exemption from such tax in cases like this.

Councillor McDonagh suggested that the County Council should authorise FAS schemes to do the restoration work on such gates.

Mr. Barrett stated that there was likely to be difficulty for the County Council in this matter as these gates would be on private property.

The Chairman proposed that all the members of the Committee be circularised and asked to list such gates in their area, stating their location and the owners, if known.

P.T.O.

Mrs. McDonagh suggested that Follies, which also existed in a number of areas should be preserved and that members should also be asked to provide details of any such Follies known to them.

Mr. P. Joyce suggested that the Committee should enquire from the Western Health Board as to what its proposals are for those parts of the old work house at Portumna, which are leased to the County Council, Shannon Navigation and to the Office of Public Works. He said also that the Office of Public Works had removed a bell from the Oratory on the premises and that the Committee should enquire from the Office of Public Works as to where the bell is now.

NEXT MEETING.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday the 3rd of November, 1992, in the Council Chamber of County Buildings, Galway, commencing at 4.30 p.m..

THE MEETING THEN ENDED

Signed: James Joyce  
Date: 3-11-92

**Minutes  
of  
the Proceedings of  
the National Monuments Advisory Committee,  
held in  
the Council Chamber, Prospect Hill, Galway,  
on Tuesday, 3rd November, 1992**

In Attendance:

Tadhg Mc Loughlin	Jarlath Mc Donagh
Micheal Cunningham	Micheal Finnerty
Pat O'Sullivan	James Joyce, Chairman
Pierce Joyce	Paul Gosling, Secretary
Evelyn Varley	Paddy Mc Hugh
Michael Mullins	Eoin Kennedy
Michael Breathnach	John Rabbitte

Apologies were received from Mrs Mary Mc Donagh, and Mr Danny Barrett. At the outset, the chairman welcomed Mr John Rabbitte, new honorary member, to the committee. This was proposed by Mr Mc Loughlin and seconded by Cllr Mc Donagh.

**1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

On a point of detail, Mr Breathnach indicated that it was he who had raised the matter of Roxborough House at the last meeting. The minutes were accordingly amended. They were then proposed by Mr Mc Loughlin and seconded by Cllr Mc Donagh.

**2. Matters Arising from Minutes:**

- a) Roxborough House: Mr Breathnach asked that the Secretary write again to the OPW requesting them to take over the maintenance of the Bell Arch and access road to same.
- b) Cllr Varley drew attention to the theft of stones from the site of Headford Castle about one year ago.

**3. Correspondence:**

The Secretary reported that a reply had been received from Galway Borough Council on 14/9/1992 regarding the Prisoner's Grave at Cathedral Square, Galway. The Council intended to highlight the area in question and prevent cars parking over it.

An acknowledgement had also been received from Minister Treacy on 10/9/92 regarding the Committee's request for the installation of toilets at Ross Errilly.

**4. By-Pass Roads**

The Secretary drew the committee's attention to the fact that by-pass roads were to be built around a number of towns and villages in Galway in the near future. In order to provide for the protection of archaeological monuments and sites during their construction, the following motion was put before the meeting:

*As a matter of policy, Galway County Council and Galway Borough Council should carry out archaeological assessments of the impact of any future proposed by-pass roads and/or all major road works*

The motion was proposed Mr Kennedy and seconded by Mr Breathnach, and the Secretary was asked to convey the motion to both the County and Borough Councils.

**5. Historic Gateways in Co. Galway**

Prior to the meeting, members had been circulated with forms for the listing and protection of any historic gateways in their area. The Chairman explained that the background to this initiative arose from the sale and removal of the gates to Eyrecourt House. These gates were subsequently bought back by the Eyrecourt Heritage Group and are soon to be re-erected.

Completed submissions were received from Mrs Mc Donagh, Mr Breathnach and Mr Kennedy. Mr Mc Loughlin informed the meeting that he had photocopied the form and sent it to interested parties in north-east Galway. The Chairman stated that the completed list would be considered at a future meeting of the Committee. It would then be forwarded to the County Council for formal protection under the county development plan.

**6. Any Other Business**

a) *Preservation Orders*: At the request of Cllr Mullins, the secretary explained to the meeting the procedures and categories under which a monument can be listed for protection and/or preservation under the National Monuments Acts, 1930-87.

b) *Dún Aonghasa*: Mr Kennedy asked that the secretary write to the OPW requesting that they provide a suitably surfaced footpath from Cill Mhuirbhigh to Dún Aonghasa, on the Aran Islands. Proposed by Mr Kennedy and seconded by Mr Breathnach.

c) *Interpretative Centres*: Mr Kennedy raised the question of a policy regarding interpretative centres, and asked that the matter be discussed at a future meeting. This was supported by Cllr Mc Donagh.

d) *Top Quarries, Ballinasloe*: Cllr Finnerty drew the members' attention to Top Quarries, in Ballinasloe, which was due to close. This quarry has been in use since 1810 and should, perhaps, be considered for protection as a valuable source of good quality building stone. It was agreed the Mr Finnerty should submit further details on the site to a future meeting of the committee.

e) *Ross Errilly Toilets*: Cllr Varley again raised this matter, and stated that local people were prepared to donate land for the toilets free-of-charge. As several thousand people visit this monument annually, toilets must be provided. A proposal by Cllr Varley, seconded by Cllr Mc Donagh, was passed, asking the Secretary write again to the Minister on this matter.

**7. Date of Next Meeting:**

This was arranged for Tuesday, 8th December, 1992, in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Prospect Hill, Galway, commencing at 4.30pm.

Signed: Charles T. Kennedy  
Date: 8th Dec 1992

**Minutes  
of  
the Proceedings of  
the National Monuments Advisory Committee,  
held in  
Room 202, Prospect Hill, Galway,  
on Tuesday, 8th December, 1992**

In Attendance:	Tadhg Mc Loughlin	Jarlath Mc Donagh
	Micheal Cunningham	Micheal Finnerty
	Pat O'Sullivan	James Joyce, Chairman
	Pierce Joyce	Paul Gosling, Secretary
	Evelyn Varley	Paddy Mc Hugh
	Michael Mullins	Eoin Kennedy
	Michael Breathnach	John Rabbitte
	Larry Kilcummins	Anna Mc Hugh
	Mary Mc Donagh	Mr Danny Barrett.

Apologies were received from the Chairman, Mr Joyce, whose attendance was delayed. In his absence, Mr Kennedy, proposed by Mr Breathnach, seconded by Mr Gosling, took the chair.

**1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

These were proposed by Cllr O'Sullivan and seconded by Mr P. Joyce.

**2. Matters Arising from Minutes:**

- a) Mrs Mc Hugh informed the meeting that the stonework taken from Headford Castle comprised 19th century paving stones which had been removed from an old stable, about two years ago. To her knowledge, the OPW had been contacted about the matter.
- b) Mrs Mc Hugh also informed the meeting that funding has been received from the Mayor for the highlighting of the grave in Cathedral Square, Galway.

**3. Correspondence:**

The Secretary reported that two further submissions had been received for inclusion on the proposed list of estate gateways in Co. Galway. These were from Mr Kilcummins, and from a Mr Cronin listing examples in north-east Galway (no address given). Mrs Mc Hugh stated that a list of submissions was being compiled by Mr J. Higgins, and would be forwarded to the Secretary.

**4. Interpretative Centres**

Mr Kennedy reviewed for the members the issues he had raised at the previous meeting regarding the current state of interpretative centre construction and the particular issue of providing a pathway to Dún Aonghasa. In his view, many of the new centres had been hastily erected without proper thought, whereas the monies might have been better expended in improving access to a number of our more popular monuments. His views were mirrored by Mr Mc Loughlin, and by Cllr Varley. Mr Breathnach pointed out that this situation was not the making of the OPW, and he, and Mr J. Joyce, drew attention to the many worthy projects carried out by the OPW in Co. Galway, such as Coole, Portumna and Athenry. Mr Kennedy stated that he was not attacking the quality of the OPW's work but rather suggesting priorities that should be pursued. Mr Rabbitte pointed out that it was an oversight on the part of the OPW in not applying to the EC for funding to carry out works such as those suggested by Mr Kennedy. The useful discussion was concluded with an agreement that it be taken up again in the near future with direct relevance to Co. Galway.

**5. Any Other Business**

- a) *Dolmen*: Mr Kilcummins reported the existence of a "dolmen" or megalithic tomb near the village of Trasna, in the parish of Kiltvna, barony of Dunmore. It was completely un-signposted. The Secretary agreed to look into the matter, and to forward a map of the area to Mr Kilcummins on which he could mark the position of the monument.
- b) *Eyre Court Gates*: Mr J. Joyce circulated to the members a photograph of a drawing of the gates which it was hoped would be re-erected in the near future.
- c) *Position of Secretary*: The secretary stated that, for personal reasons, he would not be able to attend meetings of the committee in the period March to May, 1993, and asked to be excused from his duties during that period.
- d) *St Nicholas's Church, Galway*: Mrs Mc Hugh circulated a pamphlet on the recently restored Henry Library, now housed in the church, to the members.
- e) *Ardrahan Village and Spanish Arch Developments*: A number of members expressed concern at the effects of the road and construction work in Ardrahan Village and at the Spanish Arch, in Galway. The Secretary explained that in both cases archaeological assessments and scientific excavation and recording have been undertaken in advance of the work.

**7. Date of Next Meeting:**

This was arranged for Tuesday, 2nd February, 1993, in the County Buildings, Prospect Hill, Galway, commencing at 4.30pm.

Signed: James Joyce

Date: 2 Feb. '93.

**Minutes  
of  
the Proceedings of  
the National Monuments Advisory Committee,  
held in  
County Buildings, Prospect Hill, Galway,  
on Tuesday, 2nd February, 1993**

In Attendance:      Tadhg Mc Loughlin      Micheal Finnerty  
                         Pat O'Sullivan          James Joyce, Chairman  
                         Fr Egan                   Paul Gosling, Secretary  
                         Evelyn Varley          Paddy Mc Hugh  
                         Eoin Kennedy          Michael Breathnach

Apologies were received from a number of councillors who were absent due to the count for Senate elections which was taking place that afternoon.

The Chairman, on behalf of the members, extended the Committee's congratulations to the three Galway TDs who had recently received portfolios in the new cabinet: Mrs Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, Mr Micheal D. Higgins, and Mr Noel Tracey.

**1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

These were proposed by Mr Kennedy and seconded by Mr Mc Loughlin.

**2. Matters Arising from Minutes:**

a) *Dún Aonghasa*: The Chairman reviewed the matter and pointed out that the same situation now also applied to St Ruth's Bush on the Battle of Aughrim site. The Secretary was asked to write to the three ministers mentioned to ask them to look into the situation.

**3. Estate Gates Survey:**

The Chairman reported on the progress with the Estate Gates Survey. To date a total of 18 gates, and a number of other items of landlord estate architecture, had been submitted for protection. It was agreed that the secretary would draw up a formal submission proposal regarding the gates, for circulation and discussion at a future meeting. Any amendments and/or additions could then be taken on board.

**4. Any Other Business**

a) *AGM for 1993*: The Chairman suggested that the possibility be investigated of holding the AGM/Summer meeting in a venue in west Galway. Both Aughnacore Castle and the Aran Islands were suggested as venues. He also suggested that the Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, Mr Micheal D. Higgins, be invited to address the meeting.

b) *Roxborough House*: Micheal Breathnach drew the attention of the meeting to an advertisement on page 53 of the *Farmer's Journal* of 16th January, 1993. In this, '3 CUT STONE ARCHES 2 towers and good building stone' were advertized for sale. Mr Gosling reported that he had investigated the matter and had learned from the OPW that a Preservation Order had just been issued in respect of the arch at Roxborough House under the National Monuments Acts 1930-1987.

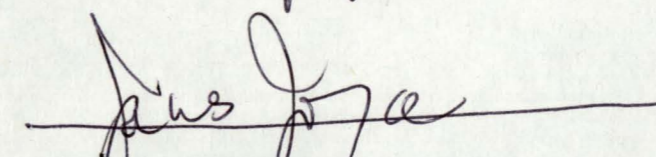
c) *Position of Secretary*: The secretary stated that, for personal reasons, he would not be able to attend meetings of the committee in the period March to May, 1993, and asked to be excused from his duties during that period.

d) The Chairman reported that the Heritage had recently appointed a Mr Micheal Keane to conduct a study for a city and county museum for Galway.

**7. Date of Next Meeting:**

This was arranged for Tuesday, 6th April, 1993, in the County Buildings, Prospect Hill, Galway, commencing at 4.30pm.

Approved at Meeting of 27th April 1993

  
Chairman

27/4/93.