

MINUTES
OF
THE MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL MONUMENTS COMMITTEE
OF
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY
ON THURSDAY, 27th APRIL, 1993.

In the Chair: Mr. James Joyce.

Also Present: Committee Members: Messrs J. Joyce,
T. Mc Loughlin, M. Breathnach, P.
Joyce, Rev. P.K. Egan, Mrs. N.
McDonagh.
Councillors J. McDonagh, P.
O'Sullivan, E. Varley, P. McHugh,
M. Finnerty and M. Cunningham.
Officials: Mr. D. Barrett, S.S.O.
General Purposes Section.

Item No. 1. - Congratulations.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated Senator McDonagh on his election to the Senate.

Senator McDonagh thanked the members for their good wishes and said that if there was any way in which he could assist the work of the Committee through his membership of the Senate, he would be most willing to do so.

On the proposition of Senator McDonagh, seconded by the Chairman, the Committee extended its congratulations to Mr. Paul Gosling and to his wife on the birth of their baby.

Item No. 2. - Minutes.

On the proposition of An t-Uasal Breathnach, seconded by Mr. McLoughlin, the Committee approved the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd February, 1993, copies of which had been circulated to each member.

Item No. 3. - Matters arising from the Minutes.

Reference was made to the difficulties which had arisen in relation to access to Dun Aonghus and to St. Ruth's Bush at Aughrim, and the possibility that the Government might introduce legislation exempting local landowners from public liability claims in such cases was referred to.

The survey of estate gates and follies was referred to and it was suggested that the list of such items for preservation should be submitted to the County Council's Planning Office, before September, 1993, in order to ensure that these were included in the Development Plan arising from the review which was currently underway.

The situation with regard to Tyrone House was discussed and it was stated that stones were being taken from the buildings on the site. It was proposed by An t-Uasal Breathnach, and seconded by Mrs. McDonagh, that a letter be written to the Office of Public Works, asking that Tyrone House be listed for preservation as a National Monument or that it be listed for protection.

Mr. McLoughlin referred to the Castle at River Street, Ballinasloe, which he stated was a listed monument, but is in a neglected state. The Chairman suggested that he should bring the matter to the notice of the Town Clerk of Ballinasloe Urban District Council.

Item No. 4. - Bellevue Gate, Laurencetown, Ballinasloe.

The Committee discussed the status of the gate which it is stated is of tremendous historical significance. It was agreed that the Office of Public Works should be written to and asked to take over the Gate as a National Monument.

Item No. 5. - Clonfert Cathedral.

The Chairman said that the Graveyard at this location is multi-denominational, but the land is owned by the Representative Church Body. He said that some headstones and tombs are in a precarious position and a number of trees in the graveyard are so located that they would cause considerable damage if they fell. He said there is also local concern over the Cathedral itself and it is believed that the unroofed transept is in danger of collapse. He suggested that Mr. Paul Gosling might carry out an inspection and prepare a report on the situation. He also asked if the County Council would pay Mr. Gosling's expenses in this respect.

Mrs. McDonagh stated that it would be necessary to obtain the permission of the Church of Ireland Authorities for the proposed examination of the situation and it was noted that the Rector of Clonfert Cathedral lives in Banagher.

It was agreed that the matter be put on the Agenda for the

next Meeting of the Committee.

Item No. 6. - Teampaillin at Ballinasloe.

Councillor Finnerty said that this matter had been discussed at a Meeting of Ballinasloe Urban District Council, and the Members said that it was a matter for the National Monuments Committee of the County Council. He said that the local Heritage Society wishes to have the Teampaillin preserved, and also St. Grellan's Church, which dates from the 5th or 6th Century.

After some discussion, it was agreed that this matter be left on the Agenda of the Committee's Meetings, with a view to obtaining Mr. Paul Gosling's views thereon.

Item No. 7. - Any Other Business.

The problem of access to Clontuskert Abbey was discussed and it was noted that legal difficulties have arisen in the matter. It was proposed by Mr. McLoughlin, seconded by An t-Uasal Breathnach, and agreed that the Chairman would discuss the matter with the landowner concerned.

The Chairman referred to a document which he had circulated to each of the members present, regarding Inchagoill. He outlined the history of the Island, which was purchased by the Irish Government in 1939 from the State of Sir Benjamin Lee Guinness. He said that the graveyard and churches on the Island are National Monuments and the oldest church dates from the 5th Century. He said that local people were concerned about possible damage to the monuments from lack of maintenance and supervision. He had brought the matter to the notice of the National Heritage Council, which had passed it on to their Archaeological Sub-Committee in order to have a report drafted. He said that a planned approach to the preservation and enhancement of the monuments is necessary.

It was agreed that the matter be placed on the Agenda for the next Meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Cunningham referred to renovation works, which had been carried out at Tullira Castle and said that the owners of the property, who had spent a lot of money on the renovations, were to be congratulated on the quality of the work carried out. He said that works on the main house had now been completed and the stables were currently being renovated.

On the proposition of Senator McDonagh, the Committee agreed that the County Council be asked to erect a sign indicating the location of a trampoline at Corrandrum, County Galway, which had been restored by the Corrandrum Community Group.

Item No. 8. - Next Meeting of the Committee.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Committee would be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on the 8th June, 1993.

Arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Committee were discussed and it was agreed that the Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht should be invited to attend that Meeting. It was agreed that arrangements with regard to the venue, etc., for the Annual Meeting would be made at the meeting to be held on the 8th June.

The Meeting Then Ended

APPROVED OF AT MEETING OF
8TH JUNE, 1993.

James Joyce
CHAIRMAN.

DATE: 8-6-93

MINUTES
OF
THE MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL MONUMENTS COMMITTEE
OF
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY
ON TUESDAY, 8TH JUNE, 1993.

In the Chair: Mr. James Joyce.
Also Present: Committee Members: Messrs J. Joyce,
T. Mc Loughlin, Rev. P.K. Egan,
Mrs. A. McHugh.
Councillors J. McDonagh, P.
O'Sullivan, E. Varley, P. McHugh,
M. Finnerty, M. Mullins and M.
Cunningham.
Officials: Mr. D. Barrett, S.S.O.
General Purposes Section.

Apologies

The Chairman informed the Members that apologies had been received from Mr. Paul Gosling who was unable to attend the Meeting.

Item No. 1 - Minutes

On the proposition of Cllr. M. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Mac Lochlainn, the Committee adopted the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 27th April, 1993, subject to the following corrections:

- (a) It was noted that the heading on the Minutes as circulated should have read "Tuesday, 27th April, 1993", and not "Thursday".
- (b) It was noted that the trees referred to under Item No. 5 - Clonfert Cathedral, were located near the graveyard and not in the graveyard as stated in the Minutes.
- (c) It was noted that Senator McDonagh's proposition recorded under Item No. 7 of the

minutes refers to a Teampaillin at Currandrum County Galway.

Item No. 2 - Teampaillin at Ballinasloe

The Committee agreed that this matter be deferred to the next Meeting.

Item No. 3 - Clonfert Cathedral

The Chairman informed the Members that the Heritage Council had discussed this matter and had agreed to write to the Dean of Clonfert Cathedral and to Bishop Darling of Limerick, expressing concern about the possibility of damage to the doorway of the Cathedral due to weathering, and also expressing concern about the transept and the condition of the graveyard.

It was agreed that this matter would also be placed on the Agenda for the Committee's next Meeting.

Item No. 4 - Inchaquoill

The Chairman stated that he had raised this matter at a Meeting of the Heritage Council and they had decided to write to the Office of Public Works in the matter. He suggested that Councillors from the area might visit the Island to see the situation for themselves. He expressed the view that the Island should be declared a Heritage Island.

It was decided that this matter should also be put on the Agenda for the next Meeting of the Committee.

Item No. 5 - Annual Meeting of the Committee

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Committee would be held at Oughterard on Tuesday, 6th July, 1993, and that the Committee would visit the nearby Aughnanure Castle in conjunction with the Meeting. The Meeting room in Oughterard Golf Club was suggested as a possible venue for the Meeting and Mr. Barrett informed the Members that he would contact the Golf Club to see if they would make their Meeting Room available.

On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Mac Lochlainn, it was agreed that the Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht be invited to attend the Meeting on the 6th July and that the matter would be referred for the agreement of the County Council at the County Council meeting to be held on the 11th June, 1993.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the following matters, which the Committee wished to discuss with the Minister, would be put on the Agenda for the Meeting of the 6th July:

1. Problems of access to Heritage Sites and Monuments by

- way of privately owned lands.
2. Allocation of Structural Funds for heritage, preservation and enhancement.
 3. Provision of financial assistance for local heritage groups.
 4. Provision of public toilets at Ross Errily Abbey, Headford, Co. Galway, and the erection of a tourist information plaque on the site.
 5. That the Minister be asked to request the Minister for Finance to waive VAT if Eyrecourt Estate Gates are purchased by the local community heritage group.

Item No. 6 - Any other Business

On the proposition of the Chairman, the Committee extended its congratulations to the County Vocational Education Committee on the opening of the second stage of the Clonbur Outdoor Pursuits Centre. The Chairman said that the VEC hopes to restore the house as the next stage of development of the Centre.

Mr. Mac Lochlainn raised the matter of waste plastics, which he said were causing an extensive litter problem and were a hazard to animals in rural areas. He suggested that Central Government should legislate to restrict the use of plastic carrier bags and that the County Council, as part of its Waste Management Policy, should have these burned rather than dumped at landfill sites.

He also referred to the damage caused by ivy to trees and monuments in the Country and said that the problem of ivy should be tackled nationally.

The Chairman informed the Members that Mr. Maurice Craig and his son were carrying out a survey of mausoleums with a view to publishing a book on the subject. He asked that any Members who had, or could obtain, information in the matter would give such information at the next Meeting of the Committee. The following mausoleums were mentioned in the course of the discussion - Laurencetown, the McEgan Tomb and the Bermingham's Tomb at Clonberne/Kilkerrin, two mausoleums at Monivea (Daly's and O'Farrell's) and two mausoleums on the Ballinasloe road from Loughrea near Kilmeen Cross.

On the proposition of Councillor Varley, it was agreed that the Office of Public Works be asked to preserve Ballinduff Castle, Headford, Co. Galway. It was stated that the castle is located near Lough Corrib and some wooden floors in the castle are still intact.

On the proposition of Councillor Varley, it was agreed that Mayo County Council be asked to erect a signpost, giving directions to Ross Errily Abbey, at Moyne/Kilroe Crossroads.

Councillor Finnerty stated that the local heritage group were seeking a site for the erection of the Eyrecourt Estate Gates and the Chairman suggested that he should approach the County Council in the matter.

Mrs. McHugh referred to the Dunmore Heritage Symposium, which was taking place at the Emerald, Dunmore, over the weekend from Friday, 13th July, to Sunday, 1st August, 1993, the theme of which is "from Bronze Age Warships to Medieval Warships". Mrs. McHugh said that the organisers of the Symposium hoped that as many people as possible would attend.

The Meeting Then Ended

APPROVED OF AT MEETING OF
6th JULY, 1993.

Jane Joyce

CHAIRMAN.

DATE: 6-7-'93

MINUTES
OF
THE MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL MONUMENTS COMMITTEE
OF
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT
OUGHTERARD GOLF CLUB
ON TUESDAY, 6th JULY, 1993.

In the Chair: Mr. James Joyce.

Also Present: Committee Members: Messrs M.C. Breathnach, P. Joyce, O.F. Kennedy, T. McLoughlin, J. Joyce, Mrs. M. McDonagh, Mrs. A. McHugh, Councillors M. Finnerty, P. O'Sullivan, E. Varley, Senator J. McDonagh, P. McHugh, and M. Cunningham.
Officials: Mr. D. Barrett, S.S.O. General Purposes Section.

SYMPATHY:

On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Senator McDonagh, the Committee adopted a resolution of sympathy with Mrs. Margaret O'Morain and the family of the late Micheal O'Morain, former Member of Galway County Council, on their bereavement.

On the proposition of Senator McDonagh, seconded by Mrs. Mary McDonagh, the Committee adopted a resolution of sympathy with Mr. Paul Gosling, and the family of the late Gerry Gosling, on their bereavement.

APOLOGIES:

The Chairman informed the Members that apologies had been received from Rev. Fr. Egan and from Councillor Michael Mullins who were unable to attend the Committee Meeting.

MINUTES:

On the proposition of the Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by An t-Uasal Breathnach, the Committee adopted the Minutes of the Meeting held in the County Buildings, Galway, on the 8th June, 1993.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Mr. McLoughlin referred to the discussion which had taken place at the previous meeting regarding problems caused by ivy. He said that this is a serious matter, and that when he had raised it at the previous meeting, he had hoped that the Committee might take some action relating to it. In the discussion which followed, a number of members made the point that the Committee could only concern itself with the affects of ivy on monuments and structures of that nature and that its affect on trees would not be strictly within the Committee's brief. The point was also made that ivy on trees and in hedge rows provided a habitat for birds and that large scale removal of ivy in such circumstances might have adverse environmental affects.

On the proposition of Senator McDonagh, seconded by Mrs. McHugh, it was agreed that the County Engineer should be asked to advise on the affects of ivy on monuments and structures and to consider the question of control of the spread of ivy.

The discussion at the previous meeting regarding mausoleums was also referred to, and in this context, Mrs. McHugh referred to the French mausoleum in Monivea. She said that the door of the mausoleum had been damaged and left open with the result that rainwater was penetrating the tomb and causing internal damage. A discussion followed as to where responsibility lies for securing the mausoleum which is one of the finest in the country. It was noted that the mausoleum is located in woodlands, and it was suggested that perhaps Coillte may have some responsibility in the matter.

On the proposition of the Chairman, it was agreed that the County Council's Solicitor be asked to advise if the County Council had any responsibility in the matter, and if not, who is likely to be responsible.

INVITATION TO THE MINISTER FOR ARTS, CULTURE AND THE GAELTACHT:

The Chairman informed that Members that a letter had been received from the Minister indicating that he would not be in a position to attend the meeting to which he had been invited. He read the letter received from the Minister's Private Secretary dated 30th June, 1993.

It was noted that items numbered 1-5 inclusive on the Agenda for the Meeting all related to matters which the Committee had wished to discuss with the Minister. The matter of access to heritage sites and monuments was discussed briefly and it was noted that the Government had received a report in the matter from a study group set up to consider the problem.

The provision of toilets at Ross Erilly Abbey was discussed, and it was noted that there had been correspondence between the County Council and the Office of Public Works in the matter. It was stated that the absence of a water scheme in the area was put forward as a reason why toilets could not be provided by the Office of Public Works. It was also stated that a site for the provision of the toilets could be made available by a local landowner. It was agreed that a letter be written to the Office of Public Works asking again that a public toilet be provided and also that an information plaque be erected on site and that a Guide be employed. *see reply*

It was agreed that consideration of the other matters, which the Committee wished to discuss with the Minister be deferred to a future date.

On the proposition of An t-Uasal Breathnach, it was agreed that the Minister be asked to attend a future meeting of the Committee.

CLONFERT CATHEDRAL:

The Chairman informed the Members that a local group had done some tidying up work in the graveyard and had found an interesting grave stone which had been carefully put aside in the Cathedral.

TEAMPAILLIN AT BALLINASLOE:

It was decided to defer discussion on this matter to the next Meeting of the Committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Chairman referred to the Dunmore Heritage Symposium "From Bronze Age Warships to Medieval Water Power" which was due to take place in The Emerald, Dunmore, from Friday, 30th July, 1993, until Sunday, 1st August, 1993. He congratulated the organisers on the programme which they had arranged and on the quality of the speakers listed in their programme.

Mrs. McHugh said that the quality of the speakers at the Symposium is such that is of national conference standard. She said that the objective of the local heritage committee is to confirm Dunmore as a heritage town. She said that there would be no admission charge and that the organisers would like to have as many people as possible attend the symposium. The matter of grass cutting in cemeteries was raised by Senator McDonagh. He said that the County Council has no funds for this purpose and he suggested that the rules applying to FAS schemes should be amended to provide for the inclusion of such grass cutting. On the proposition of Senator McDonagh, seconded by Councillor Varley, it was agreed that a letter should be written to FAS

and to the Minister for Labour requesting that the rules for FAS schemes be amended to permit the inclusion of grass cutting in cemeteries.

On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Senator McDonagh, the Committee adopted a vote of thanks to Oughterard Golf Club for making their facilities available for the Committee's Meeting.

NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE:

On the proposition of Senator McDonagh, it was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held at Aughrim on the 7th September, 1993.

THE MEETING THEN ENDED

SIGNED: _____

James Joyce
CHAIRMAN

DATE: _____

7-9-93

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS COMMITTEE OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ST. CATHERINE'S HALL, AUGHRIM ON TUESDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 1993

IN THE CHAIR: Mr. James Joyce.

ALSO PRESENT:
Committee Members: Messrs. H. Bermingham, O.F. Kennedy, T. McLoughlin, M.C. Breathnach, Rev. P.K. Egan, Mrs. M. McDonagh, Councillors P. Hugh, M. Cunningham, P. O' Sullivan and M. Mullins.

Officials: Mr. T. Coughlan, Acting County Secretary.

APOLOGIES.

The Meeting was informed that apologies had been received from Senator J. McDonagh and Councillor M. Finnerty.

AUGHRIM INTERPRETATIVE CENTRE.

The Chairman thanked the staff of the Aughrim Interpretative Centre for the tour and presentation received by the Members prior to the Meeting.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Cunningham, seconded by Councillor P. O'Sullivan and unanimously agreed that Mr. James Joyce be re-appointed as Chairman of the National Monuments Advisory Committee. The Chairman of the Committee thanked the Members for his appointment and informed the Meeting that he looked forward to a productive year.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. E. Kennedy and agreed, that Senator Jarlath McDonagh be re-appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the National Monuments Advisory Committee.

DUNMORE HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM.

Mr. Bermingham informed the Meeting that the Dunmore Heritage Symposium had been very successful and enjoyed by a large number of people. Mr. Bermingham stated that the lectures and seminars were of the highest standard and most informative. It was unanimously agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to the Organisers of the Symposium and the Chairman of the Committee stated that he wished to be particularly associated with this Vote of Congratulations.

MINUTES.

On the proposition of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Cunningham, the Committee adopted the Minutes of the Meeting of the National Monuments Committee of Galway County Council held at Oughterard Golf Club on Tuesday, 6th July, 1993.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

The issues of Ivy was raised, and the Acting County Secretary informed the Meeting that Ivy can be a problem as it can break walls apart, but Archaeologists may not always agree with removing Ivy as this process may cause further damage. The situation can be improved by cutting the main growth low down, and this has been done on a number of Social Employment Schemes. The Meeting was also informed that any particular cases which are causing concern can be examined with a view to initiating Social Employment Schemes.

In relation to the French Mausoleum, the Committee was informed that the Mausoleum would not seem to be in the charge of the County Council, and as the French Family have not requested the Council to carry out works or given permission for the Council to enter and examine the mausoleum, it would not be appropriate for the Council to take action. The position regarding Bullies Acre, Ballinasloe was discussed and it was agreed that the area should be preserved.

The Meeting was informed that the O.P.W. had been requested to provide a public toilet at Ross Errily Abbey, Headford and a response is awaited.

SYMPATHY.

It was proposed by Mrs. McDonagh and agreed, that the Committee extend a vote of sympathy to the Wife and Daughters of the late Mr. Tom Fanning.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Meeting was informed that Minister Michael D. Higgins was unable to attend the Meeting, and it was agreed that the Minister be asked to attend a Meeting in November, the date to be set by the Minister.

Correspondence from the Georgian Society regarding Drumacoo Mausoleum was read and noted by the Meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Fr. Egan stated that he had been informed that permission had been granted by the County Council for the demolition of Dalysfort House near Leitrim, Woodford and he requested that

CLONTUSKERT ABBEY

The Chairman reported that work was going ahead, and that a car park was being provided on the main road.

COUNTY AND CITY ARCHAEOLOGIST

The Chairman said that there is a grave need for a City and County Archaeologist. While the city had had the services of an Archaeologist for a time, this was no longer the case, and they had to seek advice from U.C.G. when necessary. He said that a favourable view would be taken by the O.P.W. if proposals were submitted to them for funding towards the cost of an Archaeologist. He therefore proposed that the Council appoint a County and City Archaeologist. This was seconded by Mrs. McDonagh and agreed.

INCHAGOILL

The Chairman also referred to Inchagoill which he said was owned by Coillte, but the ruins on the island were the responsibility of the O.P.W. Trees on the island were now mature, and he expressed concern that damage may be caused to historic artifacts in felling the trees, and also that damage could be caused to the 12th century Church by a big overhanging tree. He said that he would send a report to the relevant Authorities.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman accepted with regret the resignation, owing to ill health of Fr. Martin Coen. A vote of thanks to Fr. Coen was proposed by Mr. Kennedy, and seconded by Mr. Breathnach. Mr. Kennedy said that Fr. Coen had been a stalwart member of the committee for over forty years and had rendered great service. Other members joined in paying tribute to Fr. Coen.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings on Tuesday 11th January, 1994 at 4 p.m.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

APPROVED OF AT MEETING OF 11TH JANUARY, 1994

Chairman: Jane Joyce

Date: 11-Jan-1994

Minutes of meeting of National Monuments Advisory Committee of Galway County Council held at the County Buildings, Prospect Hill, on Thursday, 3rd May, 1994.

In the Chair: Mr. James Joyce.
Also present: Messrs. M. Lynch, P. Joyce, Mrs. M. McDonagh.
Committee Members: Cllrs. Ml. Cunningham, J. McDonagh, Ml. Mullins,
Officials: Mrs. A. Hanley, A/S.S.O.

Apologies: The meeting was informed that apologies were received from Cllr. E. Varley who was unable to attend.

Minutes:

The chairman regretted that the minutes of the last meeting were not available as Paul Gosling, Secretary, was conducting an archaeological survey on Clare Island. He also proposed a vote of sympathy with Dr. Gosling on the death of his mother. This was seconded by Mr. Martin Lynch.

Invitation to Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht.

The Chairman read a letter from the Minister, Mr. Ml. D. Higgins in which he stated that he would be pleased to attend a meeting of the Committee, but that the only convenient time for him would be either a Saturday morning at 9.30 a.m. or a Monday morning at 10 a.m. Having discussed the matter, it was proposed by Sen. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cunningham and agreed that the matter be deferred to the next meeting.

Heritage Houses in Danger.

The Chairman read a copy of a letter from Mr. Noel Treacy to the Minister of State at the O.P.W., Mr. Noel Dempsey, concerning an approach made to him by the Loughrea Heritage Society regarding the preservation of Dalystown House. Mr. Ml. ^{McCormack} agreed on behalf of the committee to check out the position regarding Dalystown House, before the next meeting.

In relation to Heritage Houses in general, the chairman said that the Minister was preparing, for the government, a list of houses to be preserved. He would endeavour to obtain a copy of the list.

Sen. Jarlath McDonagh welcomed a grant of £100,000 to the V.E.C. for Peterburg House. He said that the chairman, Mr. Joyce, when chairman of the Council had been instrumental in the Council's decision to sell Peterburg House to the V.E.C. which was now the jewel in the crown. He proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman which was seconded by Mrs. McDonagh.

(2)

Rinville Park

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Rinville Park centre asking for the views of the members on the future development of the castle (16th century) and buildings (19th century).

It was proposed by Sen. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Ml. Cunningham that the Chairman of the Rinville Park Committee be invited to attend the next meeting of the National Monuments Committee.

Athenry Heritage Town.

The Chairman welcomed the designation of Athenry as a Heritage Town, which will result in extra funding. The town will receive a grant of £30,000 which will be matched by the townspeople. It was agreed that a letter of congratulation be sent to *H. Brody & Co. Cllr.*

Ross Errilly

It was decided that a copy of Cllr. Varley's letter, in which she stated that Mr. P. Conway would be willing to sell land for the provision of toilets, should be sent to the O.P.W. and they should also be asked to provide toilets without any further delay.

Other Business.

The chairman referred to letters he had received from the Minister, Mr. Ml. D. Higgins, and the Minister of State, Mr. Noel Dempsey, regarding Inchagoill. Both stated that the developments taking place are on land owned by Coillte, and are a matter for Coillte, but that the developments do not pose a threat to the National Monuments whose conservation and protection are a matter for the O.P.W. The large tree overhanging the 12th century church was a unique evergreen oak which has to be preserved by Coillte. The chairman also said that the Heritage Council will be meeting with Coillte to discuss afforestation and tree cutting and the potential danger to historic monuments. Mrs. McDonagh commented on the monuments on Inish Mor which were being very well kept and preserved.

Cllr. Mullins expressed grave concern over the demolition of the workhouse in Ballinasloe which should have been preserved. He suggested that members of the Committee be on the alert for historic buildings that may be designated as Derelict sites by the Council. Public notice should be given of any proposal to demolish a building.

(3)

The committee's concern should also be conveyed to the Council.

The chairman congratulated Sen Jarlath McDonagh, and the people of Lackagh, on the restoration of the thatched house in Turloughmore, which was now being used as the Lackagh Folk Museum and suggested that the next meeting of the committee be held there. He also sent the best wishes of the Committee to Mr. Tadhg McLoughlin for a speedy recovery.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7th at 4.30 p.m. in the Lackagh Folk Museum.

*Jane Joyce
7/6/94*

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS COMMITTEE HELD
AT LACKAGH FOLK MUSEUM ON TUESDAY 7TH JUNE, 1994

In the Chair: Mr. James Joyce

Members Present:- Mrs. A. McHugh, Mrs. M. McDonagh, Senator J. McDonagh, Councillor M. Mullins, Messrs. P. Joyce, O. Kennedy, M. Breathnach, M. Lynch and J. Rabbitte.

Officials:- Mrs. A. Hanley, A/S.S.O.

Prior to the meeting Mr. John Joe Duggan of Liscaninan, Claregalway (who was responsible for the beautiful thatching of the roof of the Museum) gave a most interesting and informative talk on the art and history of thatching; which was very much appreciated by the members. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Duggan which was seconded by Senator McDonagh.

Lackagh Folk Museum

Senator McDonagh, speaking on behalf of the Folk Museum Committee, welcomed the members and said that the Committee of the Folk Museum were very honoured as it was the first meeting of a statutory body to be held there. The Chairman thanked Senator McDonagh and said that the Folk Museum was a model for other communities. He also expressed appreciation of the hospitality extended to the Committee.

Sympathy

The Chairman proposed a vote of sympathy with the relatives of Mr. M. J. Molloy, a member of the Committee and noted playwright, who had died recently. This was seconded by Senator McDonagh. A vote of sympathy to Mr. Tadgh McLoughlin on the death of his brother was proposed by Councillor Mullins, seconded by Mr. Pierce Joyce, and a vote of sympathy to Councillor Evelyn Varley, on the death of her nephew was proposed by Senator McDonagh, seconded by Mrs. McHugh.

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Michael Cunningham, Evelyn Varley, Michael Finneerty and Rev. Dr. Egan.

Invitation to Minister

Following discussion, it was agreed to hold a meeting on a Saturday morning at 9.30 a.m. - a time which had been suggested by the Minister. The date to be agreed with the

-2-

Stella Clifford {16/6/93}
25/6/93

Minister. The venue for the meeting, chosen by the Committee in order of preference was (1) Athenry Castle, (2) Lackagh Folk Museum and (3) County Buildings - the final choice to be made by the Minister.

Dalystown House

Councillor Michael Cunningham, who was unavailable absent, will submit a report on Dalystown House to the next meeting. Mrs. McHugh said it was deplorable that planning permission was not required before demolishing Heritage Houses and suggested that this matter be included on the Agenda of the proposed meeting with the Minister. ✓

Rinville Park

It was agreed to again extend an invitation to the Chairman of the Rinville Park Committee to attend the next meeting of the Committee. Mrs. McDonagh will report back to the Committee on the Castle and Building, and also investigate the building of a house on what appears to be part of the estate. ✓

Athenry Heritage Town

Mr. Martin Lynch thanked the Chairman for his help and the efforts made by him on behalf of Athenry Castle.

The deplorable state of the Dominican graveyard was raised by the Chairman and it was agreed by the members that the matter be referred to the O.P.W. Reference was also made to the Ball Alley and nearby Silos which were visually intrusive, but it was felt that no action could be taken regarding either in the foreseeable future. ✓

Ross Errily Abbey

The Chairman said that the O.P.W. had drawn up a two-year Development plan for Ross Errily. Mrs. McHugh gave details of the involvement of Mr. William Burke Mayai (a descendent of the Burkes of Ower) in Ross Errily's future. ✓

Clontuskert Abbey

The County Manager and Mr. P. Heraty, O.P.W. are to meet to finalise arrangements regarding lines of demarcation.

The Chairman welcomed the appointment of Mr. Donal O'Donoghue as County Manager and proposed that an invitation be extended to him to attend the July meeting of the

Committee. This was seconded by Mr. Breathnach.

Senator McDonagh proposed that the £2,000 grant which is available for the thatching of owner occupied private dwellings be increased to £4,000 - this was seconded by Mr. Joyce and agreed. Senator McDonagh also proposed that the thatching grant be made available to local communities for the restoration of cottages. This was seconded by Mr. Rabbitt and agreed.

It was also agreed that the following be recommended for appointment to the Committee:-

Fidelma Mullane, Udaras na Gaeltachta - proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Senator McDonagh.

Michael Fahy, Gort Road, Loughrea, Secretary of the Loughrea Heritage Committee - proposed by Mr. Martin Lynch, seconded by Mr. Pierce Joyce.

Jackie Ui Cionna, a member of the Civic Trust - proposed by Mrs. McHugh, seconded by Mrs. McDonagh.

Mr. John Joe Duggan - proposed by Senator McDonagh, seconded by Mr. J. Rabbitt.

Brigid Morgan, Glenamaddy - proposed by Mrs. McHugh, seconded by Councillor Mullins.

Mrs. McHugh gave a brief outline of the events planned worldwide in connection with the Famine Commemoration which will be held from December 1995 to 1997. She also mentioned that Galway County Council failed to pay a contribution of £100 to the Famine Committee. It was agreed by members that the Council be asked to pay the appropriate contribution to the Secretary, Great Famine Commemoration Committee, 'Sheena', Clareville Road, Tullamore.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12th July at the County Buildings, Prospect Hill, at 3.30 p.m.

The meeting then concluded.

*James Joyce
12/7/94*

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER, 1994, AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY.

PRESENT

IN THE CHAIR

Mr. James Joyce

COMMITTEE

Sen. J. McDonagh,
Cllrs. M. Mullins, M. Finnerty, P. McHugh; Mrs. T. McMahon, Mrs. M. McDonagh, Ms. F. Mullane, Rev. Dr. Egan, Messrs. M. Lynch, J.J. Duggan, P.O'Hora, M. Fahy, P. Joyce, M. Conneely, H. Bermingham, Ms. Brid Morgan.

Apologies were received from Cllr. E. Varley, Mrs. A. McHugh & Mr. J. Rabbitt.

OFFICIAL

Mrs. A. Hanley A/S.S.O. - G.P.

NEW MEMBERS

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the new members present and said that they would each contribute much to the work of the Committee.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Sen. McDonagh, seconded by Rev. Dr. Egan and unanimously agreed that Mr. James Joyce be re-appointed as Chairman. Mr. Joyce thanked the members for his appointment.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Mr. M. Conneely and agreed that Sen. McDonagh be appointed as Vice Chairman.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

The Chairman said that Dr. Paul Gosling had tendered with regret his resignation as Secretary of the Committee, but said that he would be willing to stay on as a member of the Committee. Members joined with Sen. McDonagh in paying tribute to Dr. Gosling for his immense contribution and welcomed the news that he would remain on as a member. It was proposed by Sen. McDonagh, seconded by Mr. Martin Lynch and agreed that Mrs. Mary McDonagh be appointed as Secretary.

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VISIT OF MINISTER

The meeting was informed that the Minister for the Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, Mr. Michael D. Higgins, would attend the next meeting of the Committee which would be held at Athenry Castle on Saturday, 24th instant at 2 p.m. It was agreed that the following matters be discussed with the Minister:-

1. Problems of access over private lands to heritage sites and monuments.
2. Allocation of Structural Funds for heritage preservation and enhancement.
3. Provision of visitor facilities at Ross Erilly Abbey, Headford, and erection of tourist information plaque on the site. What is the up to date position?
4. Provision of financial assistance for local heritage groups.
5. Grants for thatched cottages, other than those occupied as family houses.
6. Heritage Council Bill 1994.

Ms. Fidelma Mullane said she would make available a paper on Thatched Houses outlining the need for a range of grants.

The Chairman referred to the fact that grants were also available from the National Heritage Council on certain conditions being fulfilled.

Mr. M. Fahy stressed the need and importance of financial assistance being made available to local Heritage Groups.

RINVILLE PARK

Mrs. McDonagh gave a brief history of the Castle at Rinville Park, which she had visited recently and said she would write a brief resume for the benefit of members.

DOMINICAN GRAVEYARD AT ATHENRY

The meeting was informed that it had been established beyond doubt, by the Law Agent that the Graveyard was the property of Galway County Council but that no further funds were available this year to clean it up.

DENNIS MAUSOLEUM

Mr. Bermingham showed the members photographs of the Dennis Mausoleum, which he reported was in good condition and well maintained. He also said that the McEgan tomb had been improved.

R.E.P.s SCHEME FOR FARMERS

The Chairman gave a brief outline of the above Scheme (Rural Environment Protection Scheme) which, among other things, gave grants to landowners for maintaining and improving landscape features e.g. old barns, stonewalls etc.

HERITAGE TOWNS

In response to a query from Mr. Lynch regarding Athenry's position under the new Casual Trading Act, the Chairman said the matter would be investigated.

Mr. M. Conneely raised the matter of old pumps being destroyed by the County Council and said that every effort should be made to restore them as they were part of our heritage.

Sen. McDonagh said an example of what could be done was the restoration of the village pump at Lackaghmore the restoration of which was financed by monies raised through the efforts of school children.

The Chairman then gave a brief outline of the Heritage Bill.

THE MEETING THEN CONCLUDED.

Meeting with the Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, Mr. Michael D. Higgins, 24th September 1994 at Athenry Castle.

The Minister was warmly welcomed by Councillor James Joyce, Chairman of the County Council and Chairman of the National Monuments Advisory Committee, and by the Members of the Committee.

In his address to the Committee the Minister said that the preservation of our national heritage was primarily for our own people and, afterwards, for tourism. The Minister congratulated the Committee on widening its remit.

The Minister said that in the forthcoming legislation proposed by him the concept of treasure trove will be removed completely. There will be no "buying back" of articles not "owned" by any individual. He also intends to bring Wild Life Legislation up to date.

Mr. Owen Kennedy spoke on the matter of the acquisition of rights of access to National Monuments sites by the Office of Public Works or County Councils. The Minister replied that rights of access will form part of the legislation. Regarding the work of the Law Reform Commission, the IFA wants consultation but action is hopefully expected before the end of the year. Farmers liability for visitors safety will be gone. In some cases a compulsory Purchase Order may be required. The budget available for the years 1994 - 1999 is £26 million.

In reply to Senator Jarlath McDonagh's query regarding the availability of funds to allow access to Ross Errily be established and to provide facilities for visitors at this nationally important site, the Minister said that an on going scheme of conservation was being proceeded with there. The site will be "made safe" within one year. The Minister would welcome suggestions regarding visitor facilities at Ross Errily.

Mr. Michael Fahy requested the Minister to provide short-time financial assistance to help catalogue and conserve heritage material country-wide. Mr Fahy told the Minister that an important case in point was the preservation of the collection of treasures held in the small museum at Loughrea Cathedral. Mr Fahy pointed out the urgency of this particular matter.

In his reply the Minister said that with regard to financial assistance for Heritage Groups, the aim was "Autonomy with Responsibility". The Heritage Council had made a study of thatched cottages. The Minister suggested that the Chairman, Councillor James Joyce, should write to Noel Lynch regarding help to places as they come up. The Minister announced that

he had given heritage equal status to Planning.

The Heritage Council will be put in touch with the Dept. of the Environment regarding thatched cottages.

Senator Jarlath Mc Donagh brought up the matter of the refurbishment of thatched cottages which up to now have had to be allowed to become derelict when a family built a new house nearby. Senator McDonagh said grants to re-thatch would be welcome in these cases. In answer the Minister said that the Heritage Council Bill will become law early in 1995. He would like to see the Transition year in school used to point out the Vernacular architecture and Heritage matters.

The Minister said that copies of the Bill will be provided to all members of the Committee. The Heritage Council will consist of equal representation of men and women.

The Meeting concluded and the members joined the Minister in a tour of the castle and St. Mary's Church. The afternoon concluded with refreshments at The Thatch Cafe in Athenry at the invitation of the owner, Mr. Michael Melia.

MINUTES OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD AT COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY ON 8TH NOVEMBER 1994.

PRESENT

In the Chair: Mr James Joyce
Secretary Mrs M McDonagh
Members Rev Patrick K Egan, Evelyn Varley,
Cllr Michael Mullins, Michael Finnerty,
Pat O'Hara, Pierce Joyce,
Jackie Uí Chionna, John Joe Duggan,
John Rabbitte, Owen F Kennedy,
Brid Morgan, James Joyce,

Official Mrs Ann Hanley

Mr Owen Kennedy proposed the adoption of the Minutes of the last Meeting. Mr J Rabbitt seconded the motion.

An apology for non-attendance was received from Mr Hubert Bermingham, *a from Mrs. Teresa Bermingham*

Meeting with Mr Donal O'Donoghue, County Manager.

On the motion of the Chairman, it was decided unanimously to write to the County Manager, inviting him to attend the next Meeting of the Committee to be held on 13th January 1995. Mrs Hanley agreed to consult with the Manager in this regard.

Rinville Castle

Mr Martin Fitzpatrick MA will address the January Meeting regarding Rinville Castle and the Castles of South County Galway, the subject of his recent thesis.

Bellevue Gates, near Lawrence Town

This fine stone archway was erected to commemorate the founding of the Irish Volunteers of 1782. The office of public works says it is not a National Monument. The County Council say that they do not own it, although a road maintained by the Council runs through it. It would seem from the discussion that it belongs to a Mr Blehein, owner of the land through which the road runs.

Stones forming part of the structure were moved by a recent crash. The Chairman said that this damage was excellently remedied by the County Council. However, it would seem that large lorries passing through the "Gates" are a definite hazard. The feeling of the Meeting was that the possibility of restricting access through the "Gates" to vehicles of a

certain size might be appropriate. The policy regarding "Pollies" in general was discussed.

Toberjarlath

The matter of potential damage to a monument at Toberjarlath Tuam was discussed. It was decided that the proper authority be requested to have this monument declared a National Monument. In regard to Monuments of national interest generally, the question arose as to whether the County Council liaises on an on-going basis with the office of Public Works or other State or Semi - State bodies. Mr B Hynes, Bermingham Tuam has an interesting monument on his lands and it was agreed to ask him to furnish photographs of same.

County Development Plan

The Chairman, Mr James Joyce, informed the Meeting that a new Monuments Bill was in course of preparation. He promised that an extract regarding Heritage and Monuments would be provided to Members from the County Development Plan.

"Designated" Towns

The Meeting was informed that Ballinasloe is now a "designated" town and that a move to give Tuam the same status is afoot. The workhouse in Glenamaddy was also mentioned and it was suggested that the National Building Agency be queried about its plans with regard to these towns.

This concluded the business of the day.

MINUTES OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD AT COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY ON TUESDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 1995.

PRESENT:

In the Chair Mr James Joyce
Members Cllrs E Varley, J McDonagh, P O'Sullivan,
Mrs F Mullane, Mrs A McHugh,
Messrs Ml Fahy, E Kennedy.
Official Mrs A Hanley

Apologies for non-attendance owing to the inclement weather were received from Mrs M McDonagh, Mrs T McMahon, Rev P Egan, Messrs J J Duggan, H Bermingham and Cllr Ml Cunningham.

Minutes It was proposed by Mr Kennedy, seconded by Mrs Mullane that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted.

Bellevue Gates The Chairman reported that the Bellevue Gates had been inspected by Mr E O'Riordain, Executive Engineer, Portumna, who agreed to have signs erected advising heavy trucks to avoid the route through the gates.

Heritage Bill The members were informed by the Chairman that under the Heritage Bill, sites and monuments such as those listed by Paul Gosling would be protected. He asked that 20 copies of the Bill be obtained from the Department for the next meeting as promised by the Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht at the September meetings.

County Development Plan He reminded members that they had until June to make recommendations. He said that copies of chapter 11 would be made available to members at the next meeting.

Famine Commemoration It was agreed that the National Monuments Advisory Committee should be involved, on behalf of the Council, in events to commemorate the famine.

Meeting with the Manager The County Manager will attend the next meeting of the committee on Tuesday, March 14th. Items to be discussed with the Manager were agreed as follows:

1. Ruins of Ballynonagh Castle, Peterburg.
2. Erection of Signposts, including one for Teampall Cathal Naofa, Corrandrum, Claregalway.
3. Councils Policy on Workhouse and Famine sites, and on all protected sites within its area (including those on Paul Gosling's list). Potential damage to Bellevue Gates and other monuments in danger of destruction.
4. Liaison between Council and Committee.
5. Employment of Archaeologist during the course of major development works.

The chairman also congratulated Senator J. McDonagh on his appointment as A.E.O. for East Galway, and Bishop Neary on his appointment as Archbishop of Tuam.

As there were only eight members present it was decided to defer Mr Martin Fitzpatrick's talk on the Castles of South Galway until the May meeting which will take place on Tuesday, 9th May.

The meeting then concluded.

Galway County Council Archives