COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, ON MONDAY, 25th APRIL. 2005.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Mayor W. Burke

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. S. Canney, C. Cannon, S. Connaughton, Comh. S. O'Cuaig, Cllrs. J. Conneely, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, J. Cuddy, M. Fahy, P. Feeney, F. Healy Eames, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, J. Joyce, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, T. Mannion, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, M. Mullins, Comh. C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Tuairisg, Cllrs. M. Regan, T. Reilly, S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers.

Oifigigh: Mr. F. Dawson, Deputy County Manager, Messrs. J. Cullen, J. Morgan, P. Ridge, Directors of Service; L. Gavin, A/Director of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; T. Murphy, County Secretary; C. Wallace, Senior Executive Officer; M. Lavelle, Senior Engineer; T. Donoghue, Asst. Staff Officer; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

396

Cllr. McDonagh extended his sympathy to the wife and family of the late Pól Ó Foighil. Member of Galway County Council from 1979 to 1985 and from 1999 to 2004. He stated that an tUas Ó Foighil was an outstanding County Councillor, Member of Údarás na Gaeltachta and Senator during his terms of office and that he was a great worker for Conamara. He said that he was held in very high esteem, not only in Galway, but throughout the country and this was demonstrated by the huge number of people who attended his funeral. The Councillors joined with the Mayor in expressing their sympathy.

Mr. Dawson, Deputy County Manager also extended his sympathy to the wife and family of the late Pól Ó Foighil on behalf of the Management and staff of Galway County Council.

The Mayor proposed that the Meeting be adjourned for five minutes as a mark of respect and this was agreed.

A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

Bishop of Galway on death of Pope John Paul
The Noone family on the death of their baby
The McDonagh family, Ballygar on the death of Mattie McDonagh
The Nicholson family on the death of their baby
David Carr, 4 Toragh Park, Chapel Hill, Newry Co. Down.
Mr. Martin & Marie Nicholson, Lavally, Tuam, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Bridie Gavin, Laughgeorge, Claregalway, Co. Galway.
The Finnegan Family, Lisheenaheilte, Williamstown, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Agnes Hamilton, Frenchfort, Oranmore, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Kathleen McDonagh and Family, St. Brendans Ballygar, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Annie Golding, Killaan, Woodlawn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
John Nash, Abbey Street, Loughrea, Co. Galway.
The Larkin Family, Ardranny, Kiltormer, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Ms. Connie Ni Fhartarta, Cladhnach, An Cheathrú Rua, Co. na Gaillimhe.
The Kelly Family, Oghilmore, Laurencetown, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 14TH MARCH, 2005

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 14th March, 2005 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Cannon.

Arising from the Minutes, Cllr. T. Walsh asked that the Minutes be amended under the item regarding Milltown Group Water Co-Operative Society Ltd. where it was recorded that he had said that the officers of the Milltown Community Group Water Co-Operative Society Ltd. had refused to meet him. He wished to correct this by recording in the Minutes that the Milltown Community Group Water Co-Operative Society Ltd. put preconditions on Meetings with the result that no meeting took place despite numerous efforts by Cllr. Walsh at that time.

Cllr. T. Walsh also stated that he wished to put on record his absolute disagreement with the manner in which Galway County Council dealt with the difficulties which had arisen regarding the provision of water by the group scheme in the Milltown Area. He asked what efforts the Council had made to find a resolution to the problem and asked who would make up the shortfall of €1.3m in grant aid from the Department of the Environment if 200 householders refused to sign the forms of consent to allow the grant to be drawn down

Mr. Gavin stated that the Council was the facilitator in the process and he stated that the Council had a contractual agreement with the Milltown Group Water Co-Operative Society Ltd to facilitate the provision of water by the group scheme in Milltown. He stated that tenders had been received by the Council for the works and that these tenders were being assessed by Consultants.

Also arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Cannon asked that the National Roads Authority be required to fund improvement works on Main Street, Loughrea as part of the Loughrea Bypass Scheme. Mr. Morgan stated that it was the Councils intention to pursue this matter with the N.R.A.

Cllr. Reilly complimented the National Roads Authority and Galway County Council on the sanctioning of the underpass on the Kilcloghans Road, Tuam.

Cllr. Canney stated that he could not support the expenditure being incurred in the provision of temporary traffic lights at Ballyglunin Bridge and stated that the Council should complete the works on the Bridge as soon as possible.

Cllr. Healy Eames proposed that the Barcelona Declaration be adopted and this was seconded by Cllr. Mullins. Cllr. Healy Eames asked that the Barcelona Declaration be put on an Agenda for a Council meeting in the near future. Mr. Cullen stated that the Barcelona Declaration and the requirements of the Disability Bill were being examined and that it was intended that the Barcelona Declaration would be considered at the June or July Meeting of the Council.

Cllr. McDonagh proposed that the Annual Meeting of the Council be held on Thursday, 9th June, 2005 at 3 p.m. and this was seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

The Report of the Environment & Conservation Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 13th December 2004 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Mullins

398

The report of the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 19th January 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Comh. O'Cuaig, seconded by Cllr. Reilly.

Arising from the Report, Cllr. Mannion stated that the Report should be amended to include the following sentence, which had been omitted: "It was proposed by Cllr. Mannion and seconded by Cllr. Cannon that a review of speed limits commence immediately". It was agreed that this amendment be made.

Comh. O'Cuaig stated that he wished to have a sentence contained under the heading Programme of Works corrected and that instead of "The Chairman stated that if the Galway City Outer Bypass is completed within the next five years proposals for a new Connemara route should be put in place" the following should be included "The Chairman stated that proposals for a new Connemara route should be put in place". It was agreed that this amendment be made.

The report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 16th February 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Walsh.

Cllr. McHugh asked had any progress been made regarding Mr. Dolly's undertaking to make representations to the Department of the Environment on E.U. Co-Financed Specific Improvement Grants. Mr. Morgan stated that he would get an update on this and revert to Cllr. McHugh.

The report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 8th March, 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

Arising from the Report, Cllr. McDonagh extended his good wishes to Mr. Tom Darcy, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation Unit, on his retirement and thanked him for his tremenduous service to the Council and he also thanked Mr. Gilmore, who was changing roles from Manager of the Oranmore Electoral Area to Manager of the Tuam Electoral Area, for his help and hard work during his time in the Oranmore Area. He also welcomed Mr. Ridge who was replacing Mr. Gilmore as Manager of the Oranmore Electoral Area.

The report of the Planning & Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on $10^{\rm th}$ March 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cannon, seconded by Cllr. Feeney.

Arising from the Report, and under the heading Economic Development, Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the protest in Tynagh on 5th April, 2005, by employees of GAMA,

and he stated that, if Galway County Council had any influence with GAMA, it should not condone the behaviour of the company towards its workers.

The Mayor stated that he had been in contact with the agencies involved and that the Health & Safety Authority had carried out an inspection of the site which they found to be satisfactory but were on alert to ensure that conditions remained safe. He also stated that the matter had been raised at the highest level in Government.

The report of the Corporate & Cultural Affairs Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 10th March 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Willers.

The report of the Traveller Consultative Committee Meeting held on 11th March 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Willers.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE-STOREY, TWO-BEDROOMED, SELF-CONTAINED DWELLING UNIT IN THE CURTILAGE OF THE DWELLING HOUSE AT NO. 50 DUBLIN ROAD, TUAM, CO. GALWAY 399

Report dated 11th March, 2005 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Reilly, the proposed construction of a single-storey, two-bedroomed, self-contained dwelling unit in the curtilage of the dwelling house at no. 50 Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CONSTRUCTION OF 10 NO. DWELLING HOUSES WITH ASSOCIATED SITEWORKS AT WOODVIEW, WOODFORD, CO. GALWAY 400

Report dated 11th March, 2005 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Regan, seconded by Cllr. Fahy, the proposed construction of 10 no. dwelling houses with associated siteworks at Woodview, Woodford, Co. Galway was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING DWELLING HOUSE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE RURAL HOUSE WITH SERVICES AT LISCOYLE, GURTYMADDEN, CO. GALWAY.

401

Report dated 8th March, 2005 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. Burke, the proposed demolition of the existing dwelling house and the construction of a single rural house with services at Liscoyle, Gurtymadden, Co. Galway.was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CONSTRUCTION OF 6 NO. DWELLING HOUSES WITH ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS ST. LAURENCESFIELDS, LOUGHREA, CO. GALWAY -

402

Report dated 11th March, 2005 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. Willers, the proposed Construction of 6 No. dwelling houses with associated site works St. Laurencesfield, Loughrea, Co. Galway was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A RESERVOIR AT INISHERE TO INCREASE THE STORAGE CAPACITY OF THE INISHERE WATER SUPPLY SCHEME, 403

Report dated 20th April, 2005 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Welby, seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh, the proposed construction of a reservoir at Inishere to increase the storage capacity of the Inishere Water Supply Scheme, was approved.

Arising from the Minutes, Comh. O'Tuairisg stated that he was disappointed that the reservoir at Inishere had not been built. He proposed that the Council provide a purifying system for the water supply for the island as an interim measure until the reservoir was constructed because the containers which were being provided were not safe from contamination and this was seconded Cllr. S. Walsh. He also asked what progress had been made on locating a new source of water for the island.

Mr. Gavin stated that the Council intended to proceed very quickly with the construction of the reservoir and that testing of alternative sources of water had been carried out by the Council. He stated that the Council would have to examine the cost of providing a purifying system before any decision could be made to provide the system.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.1288 HECTARES AT
DANGAN, TUAM, CO. GALWAY TO MR. PAUL LOUGHNANE.
404

Report dated 11th March, 2005 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. McHugh, it was agreed to defer this item to a future meeting of the Council.

TO APPROVE THE RAISING OF LOAN OF €10M FROM THE HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY PLC. 405

Report dated 14th April, 2005 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Comh. Ní Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly , the raising of a loan of &10m from the Housing Finance Agency plc. was approved.

<u>SUSTAINABLE RURAL HOUSING – GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING</u> <u>AUTHORITIES –</u> 406

Mr. Ridge circulated a summary report, dated 25th April, 2005, on the implications of Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and gave a brief account on the document. He stated that the County Development Plan is generally in line with the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines as both documents were drawn from the National Spatial Strategy. He said that the Development Plan is still in force regardless of the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines. Once the review of the Development Plan commences there will be few areas where changes will need to be made. Mr. Ridge referred to page 3 of his report and stated that there was a need for a review process to be carried out with regard to Prior Notices. He stated that Prior Notices have become a resource burden and are being mis-used. He stated that E.O.T's could legally only be granted by the planning authority requesting same from the applicant. The resources taken up with E.O.T's would be devoted to a pre-planning report process and to pre-planning meetings.

In reply to questions raised by the council members, Mr. Ridge stated that the present preplanning system is not adequate. He said that it would be made compulsory to submit a site map at preplanning stage so that the applicant would be informed of the planning constraints associated with that site. If the applicant didn't qualify, they could move on to an alternative site and incur minimum expenditure. If the applicant did qualify they would progress to the next stage and meet the planner to discuss the application further. It would be important to ensure that applications incorporate all the relevant information, thereby reducing the level of refusals.

Mr. Ridge stated that An Bord Pleanala had placed a 15 year language Enurement Clause on a recent planning application and that Galway County Council would have to take that into account.

With regard to an applicant seeking permission on health grounds, Mr. Ridge stated that the Planning Department was not qualified to adjudicate on what are termed 'exceptional circumstances'. He anticipated that this would cause problems.

Mr. Ridge stated that the review of the County Development Plan has commenced in the Planning Strategic Policy Committee. A progress report, required under the Planning Act, on the achievement of the objectives was being prepared and would be circulated to the members for their information.

Mr. Ridge stated that it was important to operate the preplanning process first before inviting Agents in for a seminar. He said that it was important that the applicant and agent were fully informed and the applicant has more control over the process.

Cllr. Mannion proposed that a special meeting be held on Monday 9th May 2005, and this was seconded by Comh. Ni Fhatharta. This was agreed by the Council.

TO APPROVE TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2005-2008

407

Report dated 4th March, 2005 was already circulated to each Member.

Cllr. Feeney welcomed the Traveller Accommodation Programme stating that it was an excellent document.

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney, the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005 – 2008 was approved.

SPIDDAL SEWERAGE SCHEME

408

Comh. O'Cuaig read out a statement of the views of the developers and An Coiste Pobail Spidéal regarding the proposals for Spiddal Sewerage Scheme.

Comh. O'Tuairisg stated that the proposal would help Spiddal to get back its blue flag beach status.

Cllr. Kyne stated that every facility should be offered to find an interim solution to the Spiddal Sewerage problem and that if a developer was willing to provide a treatment plant, the Council should consider this.

Mr. Gavin stated that the comments of the Members were noted and he stated that Spiddal had been identified as being in need of a sewerage scheme in the Assessment of Needs. He stated that the proposal would be assessed fully.

COUNTY BROADBAND INITIATIVE

409

Report entitled "Broadband Update" dated 25th April, 2005 was circulated to each Member.

The Deputy County Manager gave a brief summary of the report stating that it was an update in relation to the County & Group Broadband Schemes and on the activities that the Council were involved in regarding the expansion of broadband services in County Galway.

He outlined a number of initiatives which had taken place to date in this regard, one of which was a Registration of Interest in Receiving Broadband Services Facility which had been placed on the Council's website and which would enable the identification of the demand for broadband at a local level and could be used to encourage I.S.P providers to provide broadband to more communities throughout the county. He asked the Members to promote the Registration Facility among its constituents and encourage them to register their interest in Broadband. He also stated that an information evening was held in the Claregalway Hotel in February to promote the County & Group Broadband Scheme and was attended by staff from the Council, the Department of Communication, Marine and Natural Resources, the BMW and the West Regional Authority, to provide information and assistance on the night and that in excess of 250 interested parties attended.

He also stated that the Council had been invited by the Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources to make submissions for the next phase of the Regional Broadband Programme in respect of Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden, Furbo, Gort and Loughrea and the Council had made these submissions and had also included Tuam in the hope that it too would be formally included. He stated that the Department's response was awaited in this regard.

He also stated that the government had committed to providing broadband access to every primary and secondary school and that service providers had been selected and rollout of the programme was ongoing and that cognisance of the schools broadband access programme would be taken by the Council in the promotion of the County & Group Broadband Schemes.

Comh. O'Cuaig asked would it be possible to get an update on the level of demand for broadband on a parish by parish basis. He also asked could an information evening be held in Peacock's Hotel in Maam Cross in order to inform the people of west Galway regarding the C&GBS and this was endorsed by Comh. O'Tuairisg.

Cllr. Keaveney thanked the officials for including Tuam in the latest submission to the Department as he stated that the lack of a broadband service was hindering business in the Tuam area.

Mr. Dawson stated that a map would be produced in a few weeks time which would indicate the level of demand for broadband throughout the county and he also stated that

the Council would be in favour of holding information meetings regarding Broadband and to promote the Registration of Interest in Receiving Broadband Facility.

MANAGERS BUSINESS

410

Mr. Morgan stated that the Department of Transport had issued Guidelines regarding the application of special speedlimits and these Guidelines were being circulated to the Members at the Meeting. He stated that the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee had discussed the draft speedlimits at their last meeting and had agreed to draw up a plan of how to implement the new Guidelines when received. He stated that the plan would be put before the full Council in May and constraints of costs would be taken on board.

MAYORS BUSINESS

411

Cllr. Cuddy proposed that three people who had recently given up of their time to go to Sri Lanka to aid tSunami victims; Mr. Noel Coughlan, Mr. Vincent Commons, and Mr. BKG Ariyadasa, should be invited to the next Meeting of the Council and that a presentation should be made to them by the Council in recognition of their good work and this was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly.

Cllr. Reilly thanked Mr. Ridge for his commitment to Tuam during his time as Manager of the Tuam Electoral Area and Tuam Town Council and wished him well in his new role as Manager of the Oranmore Electoral Area.

Cllr. Welby asked that the Council write to the Minister regarding the introduction of bye-laws to control the movement of boats in order to stop the spread of zebra mussels. This was seconded by Cllr. Cannon.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 16 - CLLR SEAN CANNEY

412

The following reply was given:-

"Palace Bridge Ballyglunin, (a) Weekly Hire Cost is €210. (b) Total Cost of Hired Lights is €5,250 i.e. for 25 weeks (Galway County Council lights were used for remaining period) © Temporary Traffic Lights were erected on 6th May 2004."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17 - CLLR SEAN CANNEY

413

The following reply was given:-

"Architects have been engaged by the Council with a view to drawing up an overall strategy for the development of the site."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 - CLLR SINEAD CONNAUGHTON

414

The following reply was given:-

"There is no funding available at this point in time to carry out the works associated with the under-grounding of the overhead ESB network."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 19 – CLLR JIM CUDDY

The following reply was given:-

"A new system is currently being developed which will provide a detailed analysis of development contributions. This information will be available once the system is in operation".

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 – CLLR JIM CUDDY

The following reply was given:-

"The Planning and Sustainable Development SPC has commenced the process of reviewing the County Development Plan in order to incorporate the New Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for planning authorities which were published this month."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 – CLLR JIM CUDDY

417

The following reply was given:-

"Consideration will be given to including this location in future roadworks programmes as funding permits"

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – CLLR MICHAEL FAHY 418

The following reply was given:-

"Repair of walls or fences is the responsibility of the land owners."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 23 - CLLR MICHAEL FAHY

419

The following reply was given:-

"A report on the feasibility and costs of provision of pedestrian facilities and carparking at this location will be available for the next meeting."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 24 - CLLR MICHAEL FAHY

420

The following reply was given:-

"(1) Repair of potholes will be carried out in the coming days. (2) As it is not causing an obstruction, removal of grass growth in the centre is not carried out under general maintenance, but should funding be provided in the future for surfacing or reconstruction, such removal would be part of the work."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 25 - CLLR JARLATH MCDONAGH

421

The following reply was given:-

"The total funding allocated to date in 2005 to Galway County Council by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the National Roads Authority is €61,562,684 representing an increase of approximately 18% on the 2004 initial allocations.

The final phase of the parallel benchmarking pay agreement will fall due on the 1st June 2005 representing 24% of the initial award. The initial award was 17.8%."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 26 - CLLR JARLATH MCDONAGH

422

The following reply was given:-

"I am to advise that the Irish Farm Films Producers Group (IFFPG) have declined to renew their contract with the Galway Farm Relief Service for the Farm Plastic Collection Service (Sheet and Wrap Plastic). A significant backlog in the collection service has arisen. The IFFPG has now signed a contract with a Mr. Felix Hoey, Brierfield, Abbeyknockmoy for the farm plastic collection service in County Galway – he already operates the service in Roscommon, Sligo and Leitrim. Advertisements have been placed in the press by the IFFPG in regard to the resumption of the service.

The Councils Environment Enforcement Unit are required to monitor the implementation of the Farm Plastics Regulations and to investigate all cases of non-compliance with the scheme."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 27 - CLLR JARLATH MCDONAGH

423

The following reply was given:-

"This matter will be discussed with the National Roads Authority at our next quarterly progress review meeting."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 28 - CLLR MICHAEL MULLINS

424

The following reply was given:-

"The appointment of an additional Teacher to Kilconnell National School is a matter for the Board of Management of the School in consultation with the Department of Education and Science."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 29 – CLLR CONNIE NI FHATHARTA

425

The following reply was given:-

"De réir an clár oibre gearrainn an Comhairle Chonate na Bóithre Náisunta agus na boithre Réigiúnacha ar dtús agus de réir agus atá foinse airgid ar fail beidh na gabhail idir na bóithre réigiúnacha agus bóithre aise glanta."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 30 - CLLR CONNIE NI FHATHARTA

426

The following reply was given:-

"Tá comhartha ordáithe don crosbhóthar i Ros a Mhíl. Breathnófar ar riachtanaisí Baile na hAbhann go luath."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 31 – CLLR CONNIE NI FHATHARTA

427

The following reply was given:-

"Is mian liom a chur in iúl duit go bhfuil suim airgid i gClár na Bóithre 2005 don ceantair seo. Áfach, tá fadhb talamh a fháil ó úinéire talún amháin ach tá an Comhairle dóchasach go mbhféidir linn roinnt feabhsiúchán a dheanamh."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 32 - CLLR SEÁN O TUAIRISG

428

The following reply was given:-

"Is mian liom a chur in iúl duit gur chuir an Comhairle Chontae 8 solas nua i gCill Rónáin, le gairid. Caithfear Plean Soilse a dhéanamh le fail amach an bhfuil tuille soilse ag teastáil i gCill Rónán."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 33 - CLLR SEÁN O TUAIRISG

429

The following reply was given:-

"Tá an Comhairle Chontae ag scrúdú an fhadh seo."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 34 - CLLR SEÁN O TUAIRISG

430

The following reply was given:-

"Is mian liom a chur in iúl duit go bhfuil an Comhairle ag déanamh staidéar ar seo agus ar an mbogadh trácht chun a fháil amach cén oibreacha feabhsiúchan a theastaíonn ar an gabhal."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 35 – CLLR BRIDIE WILLERS

431

The following reply was given:-

"I am to advise that the Council currently purchases compost bins at €45 per unit and sells them to the public at cost price i.e. €45 per unit. The Council had a scheme in the past whereby compost bins were sold at a rate significantly below cost price. The Council will consider introducing a similar scheme in the future in regard to the promotion of home composting."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 36 - CLLR BRIDIE WILLERS

432

The following reply was given:-

"A number of potential sites are being examined with a view to providing a playground for Gort."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 37 – CLLR BRIDIE WILLERS

433

The following reply was given:-

"I am to advise that the Council intends to undertake an assessment of all the closed dump sites in the County this year and list them in order of priority for remediation/rehabilitation works. The Council will forward a technical report to the Department with a request for funding to undertake this project."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 38 - CLLR COLM KEAVENEY

434

The following reply was given:-

"There have been representations previously to extend the public sewer at this location but the works were not carried out as no funds were available.

The present public sewer terminates on the Tuam side of Hi-Way garage in the townland carrowpeter. The drawings for the proposed upgrade of the town sewer network show that the sewer network will be extended further outwards at this location. These drawings are an extract from the Tuam Main Drainage project which has been submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for funding."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 41 – CLLR COLM KEAVENEY

435

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council advertised for a Panel of Builders inviting Builders who are interested in carrying out work on behalf of the Council under the following schemes – Improvement Works in Lieu Loans; Disabled Persons Grants; Essential Repairs Grants; House Extensions. I attach herewith the current list of Builders interested in such work. Prior to awarding works, Tax Clearance Certificates and evidence of Public & Employers Insurances and letter confirming participation in a Pension Fund as a prerequisites to Contract must be furnished.

Galway County Council grants assistance to approved applicants in the case of Improvement Works in Lieu Loans; Disabled Persons Grants and Essential Repairs Grants. The Applicants may engage their builder independently. However, each applicant is advised to ensure that the builder is tax compliant and to confirm he has insurance to cover work involved.

In the case of Rural and Scheme Houses, Galway County Council seeks Tenders for Construction of Rural and Scheme Houses in accordance with the Procurement Guidelines. Each award of Contract is normally subject to GDLA regulations. There is a clause within each contract wherein the Local Authority approval is required for the subletting of the contract and/or the engagement of nominated sub-contractors. I attach herewith a list of the Contractors currently involved in the construction of Single Rural Houses and Scheme Houses for Galway County Council.

Galway County Council introduced a new computerised Tender Register System, thus ensuring that the Unions are notified upon opening of the Tenders for each project.

Galway County Council request a letter confirming that the Builder is a member of CIF Pension/Sick Pay Scheme in ensure to compliance with directives on pension, sick pay and rates of pay."

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN

Niko

23.05.05 Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, ON MONDAY, 14 MARCH, 2005

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. Willie Burke

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. S. Canney, C. Cannon, S. Connaughton, Comh. S. O'Cuaig, Cllrs. J. Conneely, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, J. Cuddy, M. Fahy, P. Feeney, F. Healy Eames, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, J. Joyce, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, T. Mannion, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, M. Mullins, Comh. S. O'Tuairisg, Cllrs. T. Reilly, J. Tierney, S. Walsh, T. Walsh, B. Willers.

Oifigigh: Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager, Messrs. J. Cullen, J. Morgan, F. Dawson, L. Gavin F. Gilmore, P. Ridge, Directors of Services, Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Messrs. T. Murphy, D. Barrett, Senior Executive Officers, Messrs. M. Dolly, M. Lavelle, Senior Engineers, Mr. P. O'Neachtain Oifigeach Gaeilge, Ms. B. Donnellan &. R. O'Boyle, Staff Officers.

Also:

Mr. Frank Conaty, G.A.P., Mr. John Concannon, C.E.O Ireland West Tourism.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY 374

A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

Mr. & Mrs Eamonn Burns, Caherlea, Belclare, Tuam, Co. Galway. Ms. Mary Kilgariff, Ballyconlought, Headford, Co. Galway. Mrs. Mary Hogan & Family, Shannongrove, Via Banagher, Co. Offaly.

Mrs. Ann Mitchell & Family, Marless, Moylough, Co. Galway.
Bernie & Tom Welby & Sweeney Family, Cloonoran, Moylough, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Brigid Hogan – O'Higgins, Kilrickle, Loughrea, Co. Galway.
Scully Family, Kinvara, Ardrahan, Co. Galway.
Geoghegan Family, Cregaclare, Ardrahan, Co. Galway.

MILLTOWN GROUP WATER CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.

375

The Mayor indicated that he proposed to allow Cllr. T. Walsh speak in relation to problems that had arisen regarding the provision of water by a group scheme in the Milltown area. Cllr. Walsh said that originally there were four group schemes in the area and they had amalgamated to form Milltown Community Group Water Co-operative Society Limited with a view to providing water for the entire area under the auspices of one group. He said that some members of the old Milltown north-east and Belmont schemes no longer wanted to be part of the amalgamated scheme as they were not getting satisfactory answers to questions they had raised.

In relation to the protest which was held outside Áras an Chontae, he said that 114 households were represented and this indicated the level of dissatisfaction amongst those who now wanted to withdraw from the scheme. He said that the officers of the Milltown Community Group Water Co-operative Society Ltd had refused to meet him and representatives of the other groups on a number of occasions and that no effort had been made by the committee to address the problems. He asked that those who wished to withdraw from the amalgamated scheme should be allowed do so, and asked that the County Manager ensure that no contract be signed until some efforts had been made to resolve the present situation.

A discussion on the matter took place and the following points were made by members:-

- The amalgamated scheme will not be a success, and those who want to withdraw from it should be allowed to do so.
- The County Manager and officials should ensure that a resolution is found to this problem.
- Those who want to withdraw feel disappointed, frustrated and feel that they are being bullied.
 - No contract should be signed until the matter has been resolved
- Those who want to withdraw feel they were hoodwinked into joining the amalgamated scheme.

The County Manager said that he and Council officials had been aware of the difficulties with the Milltown Scheme for quite some time, but that the difficulties were not of the Council's making. He said that Council officials were working every well with communities over the whole county, and that they try to address issues that arise in an evenhanded manner. He said that the Council is involved with a properly constituted legal entity in Milltown and that it is the Councils intention to proceed in accordance with its legal and tendering contractual obligations.

MINUTES 376

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on the 14th February, 2004 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 28th February, 2005 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Mannion.

REPORTS 377

The Report of the Oranmore Committee Meeting held on the 14th February, 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – A NEW WIDENED CONCRETE BRIDGE DECK IS PROPOSED TO REPLACE THE EXISTING DECK STRUCTURE ON THE N59 AT LURGAN BRIDGE. 378

A Report was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Conneely, seconded by Cllr. Kyne, it was agreed to construct a new widened concrete bridge deck to replace the existing deck structure on the N59 at Lurgan Bridge.

EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY – SECTION 73 OF THE ROADS ACT, 1993

Extinguishment of Public Right of Way on section of the LT53632 in the Townland of Cartoor extending from its junction with the LS5363 from Tullokyne to Portdarragh for a length of one hundred and sixty metres.

A Report was circulated to each Member.

On the proposition of Cllr. Kyne, seconded by Cllr. J. Conneely, it was agreed that Galway County Council, having complied with the requirement of Section 73(1) of the Roads Act, 1993 hereby order that the Public Right of Way on section of the LT53632 in the Townland of Cartoor extending from its junction with the LS 5363 from Tullokyne to Portdarragh for a length of one hundred and sixty metres be, and is hereby extinguished.

REVIEW OF THE RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES (SECTION 55 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED) 380

Mr. Ridge said that at the Council Meeting of the l4th February 2005 it was agreed that a two week period be allowed to enable the elected members make proposals to the Review of the Record of Protected Structures. He stated that the process of adding or deleting to the Record of Protected Structures would not take place at this Meeting. He said it was important to initiate the process so that owners and occupiers of Proposed Protected Structures could apply for conservation grants in the current year.

On the proposal of Cllr. Canney, seconded by Cllr. Feeney it was agreed to initiate this process.

ROADWORKS PROGRAMMES 2005

381

Report dated March, 2005 was circulated to each Member.

The Mayor and Members complimented Mr. Morgan and his team on the excellent Report presented.

Mr. Morgan said he would go briefly through the Main Headings. He said there had been some minor changes made to the Programme in the Ballinasloe Electoral Area, and these had not yet been approved by the Department..

He said the Council had been allocated €37,459,111 from the N.R.A. for 2005 and said a breakdown of this was on Pages 5 and 6. He referred specifically to the two major roads N6 Ballinasloe/Galway which got a €10m allocation for use on land purchase and other design, and N6 Loughrea By-Pass which got a €11m allocation. He said works on the N6 Ballinalsoe/Galway are going to be carried out by Public/Private Partnership and was being co-ordinated by the N.R.A. It is expected to have the Contractor on Site in Mid 2006. Loughrea By-Pass is under construction. Major Planning and Design for the N6 Galway to Athlone will be going to C.P.O., within the next month.

The N17 Tuam By-Pass would soon go to design stage, and the CPO in respect of the N18 Crusheen By-Pass has been made. He said the NRA had approved the allocation for six additional staff for the NRA Offices, as the workload had increased, specifically in relation to CPO's etc.

He informed the Meeting that the N.R.A had allocated €2.075m for National Primary Pavement and Minor Improvements.

The Maintenance allocation of €3.28m for National Primary and National Secondary roads is distributed on a road mileage basis over the various engineering areas.

Non-National Roads Programme - The Council were allocated €24,103, 573 for Non National Roads, a breakdown of this amount is listed on Page 10 of the Programme.

The allocation for Improvement Grants of €10,9M is based on an Electoral Area basis. He said the Local Improvement Scheme Grant had not yet been notified by the Department.

In reply to various issues raised by Members, Mr. Morgan gave the following replies-:

- Early Starts The Department had been asked to amend the allocation to cover those early starts which were not included and he hoped they would agree to this.
- Lights/ESB He said the E.S.B. were being restructured as a result of De-Regulation and there will be separate companies dealing with Contract Works and Electricity Supply. This may result in increased costs for the provision and maintenance of public lighting.
- Five Year Programme The Department of the Environment had not yet invited submissions relating to a Five Year Programme. A Five Year Programme provides an opportunity for the Council to know where it stands in relation to roads funding in the County. A facility will exist to make minor changes to any programme adopted. As soon as confirmation is received from the Department of the Environment Councillors will be notified. Councillors are asked to put forward their own requirements as soon as possible so that the Area Engineers can assess the roads mentioned for inclusion in the Programme.
- Speed Limits Have to await guidelines to be produced by the Department of Transport. When received the Guidelines will be brought before the SPC where the relevant issues can be discussed. It is hoped to get the review started in 2005.
- Old Dump at Ballyfa This matter will be examined by the Environment Section.
- N66 The Council will continue to ask the NRA to provide funding for the link to the N6.
- Lack of signage The Council has got an allocation, for regional road signage as a pilot project. There is still no official confirmation from the Department regarding the changes needed as a result of the Official Languages Act..
- Loughrea/Tynagh Road —Much of the traffic on this road over the last 12 months are heavy vehicles transporting goods for the construction of a power station at Tynagh. The side of the road is breaking away and pot holes are forming off the road. The remedial works will have to be done out of County Road Maintenance money.
- Ballyglunin Bridge Efforts will be made to try to resolve the problems at this location.
- School Flashing Lights Funding is a fixed allocation, there is never enough allocated to cover all locations, but the programme is continued annually.
- N66 Gort/Loughrea Road –Kilchreest Bridge NRA have agreed that the Council can proceed to design appropriate improvements.
- Clydagh Bridge No funding allocated by NRA, but a design will be prepared this year and funding will be requested for next year.

- Spread of Funding The Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government allocate funding on the basis of need (i.e) roads in worst condition must get priority
- Community Involvement Schemes The Council can choose to increase funding for this but it will mean less funding being available for other works.
- Main Street, Loughrea NRA will fund improvement works on the Main Street in Loughrea as part of the Bypass Scheme. Area Staff have been asked to put together a list of works deemed necessary
- N63 Bridge at Turloughmore Approval from NRA to do design, should go ahead this year.
- N63 Horsleap Cross Major works involved in improving this junction
- Lights at Derreen Inn The NRA will not fund lighting in rural areas such as this
- Main Street Portumna The approach from the Galway road will be done in 2005 and it is hoped to continue along Main Street in 2006

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Healy-Eames it was agreed to adopt the Roads Programme for 2005.

DISABILITY BILL 2004

382

Mr. Conaty gave a presentation on the Disability Bill 2004, and highlighted a number of deficiencies in the proposed legislation. He outlined a number of concerns which he had with the Bill as follows:

- Not people centered or "Rights Based"
- Unnecessarily bureaucratic
- No serious enforcement measures to provide for progressive realization of required services, access and mainstreaming
- The complaints procedure is not favorable to the complainant.
- Not enough consultation had taken place with interested groups prior to the preparation of the Bill.

He referred to a meeting on the National Disability Strategy which was held in the RDS on February 8th 2005 and at which the following motion was passed:

"This meeting, representative of people with disabilities throughout Ireland, resolves that the Disability Bill 2004 is seriously inadequate and defective. As it stands, the Bill will do nothing to improve the lives of people with disabilities or their families; it will not meet the widespread demand for basic rights; and it will force people with disabilities into a bureaucratic nightmare in the search for essential services.

This meeting further resolves that at a minimum, the Bill must be amended to include a clear, unequivocal right to an independent assessment of need for every person with a disability. That assessment must be translated in law into a statement of entitlement to services within a reasonable time frame if the services are not immediately available.

The Bill must also provide for a genuine appeals and complaints procedure that is independent in every way, so that persons with a disability have the right of redress in any situation where essential services are being unfairly denied to them. Finally, the Bill must provide for meaningful progress and targets in relation to issues of employment and access to buildings and services.

This meeting finally resolves that we will continue to campaign vigorously, and lobby out public representatives, until the reasonable position in met".

It was proposed by Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Healy Eames and agreed that the Council support the above motion. It was proposed by Cllr. Healy Eeams that the Council adopt the Barcelona Declaration and it was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed.

The County Manager said he would bring the Barcelona Declaration forward to the Council for adoption within the next few months. Cllr. M. Connolly proposed that the Council set up an implementation team to deal with the Barcelona Declaration. This was seconded by Cllr. Reilly and agreed.

Clir. Joyce said that the Council's Disabled Persons Grant were of great assistance to the disabled. He said that he was of the impression that extensive consultation had taken place in the preparation of this Bill, and that the Oireachtas Committee on Equality had met over 30 groups in relation to it. The County Manager said that the Department of the Environment had written to the Council regarding the preparation of the Bill and Outline Sectoral Plans in accordance with the Bill had been forwarded to the Council. He said that an accessibility audit of all the Councils public buildings required by the Sectoral Plan had already been commenced by the Council.

PROPOSED COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME FOR THE IRELAND WEST REGION – PRESENTATION BY JOHN CONCANON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE IRELAND WEST TOURISM. 383

Mr. John Concannon, Chief Executive of Ireland West Tourism made a presentation in relation to a proposed Communications Programme for the Region and outlined trends in the tourism market and proposals to improve the tourism potential of the region. He announced that a new County Tourism officer for Galway would shortly be appointed by Ireland West Tourism and this was welcomed by the members.

The County Manager complimented Mr. Concannon on his presentation and approach to the challenges of re-invigorating the tourism industry in the West of Ireland. He stated that tourism plays a very important part of the economic development of the county, especially in rural areas.

He stated that the proposition from Ireland West today is that the four west local authorities contribute €300,000 collectively to a new €700,000 Home Holidays Marketing Initiative per annum for 3 years. The Galway County Council contribution will be €90,-100,000 p.a., and will come from the existing budget provision for Tourism and Economic Development. A report on the performance of the initiative will be presented to the Council by Ireland West at the end of each year. The Manager recommended that the Council adopt the proposal. It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr. Mullins and agreed to adopt this proposal.

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

384

Draft Annual Report 2004was circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Mullins, the Draft Annual Report was approved.

MANAGERS BUSINESS

385

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR CHAIRS OF SPCs

The County Manager said that the review of SPCs which was published in 2004 referred to the need to provide some form of specific training for Councillors who Chair SPCs. He said that is was intended to told a limited series of regional seminars in May 2005 for this purpose and that a Circular letter and brochure containing details of the programme content and the location of the seminar would issue shortly from the IPA.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 12 – CLLR MICHAEL FAHY 386

The following reply was given:-

"The provision of lights at this location will be considered for funding in the future having regard to available resources"

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 13 – CLLR MICHAEL FAHY.

The following reply was given:-

"The Council has submitted a Preliminary Report on the Kinvara Sewerage Scheme, to the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government, for their approval. Once approval is received, the Council can then proceed to the next stage of planning which is

the preparation of the Contract Documents. This scheme is included in the current Water Services Investment Programme as a scheme to commence in 2006".

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 14 - CLLR MICHAEL FAHY.

388

The following reply was given:-

"The matter will be considered on the availability of resources. No provision has been included in the 2005 estimates for this proposal".

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 15 - CLLR JARLATH MCDONAGH.

389

The following reply was given:-

"The history of reported Traffic accidents at Laghtgeorge are as follows:

- 1) N63 Roscommon Road Junction: three number accidents recorded with one in 1990 and two further accidents in 1996. No accidents have been recorded since 1996.
- 2) The Connolly Sports junction shows 11 accidents as follows: one number accident in 1990. Three number accident in 1991, one in 1993, one in 1999 and one in 2000. One accident has been recorded in 2002 where one vehicle drove into the rear of another.

The accident records do not justify the provision of Safety Measures at this location as previous safety measures have obviously controlled the higher accident levels of the early 1990's. We will submit this location as a proposal for the 2006 programme of measures."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 16 - CLLR JARLATH MCDONAGH.

390

The following reply was given:-

"The road was inspected on the 7/3/05. It was not found to be failing structurally. It shall be given consideration for future road works programmes."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17 -CLLR JARLATH MCDONAGH

391

The following reply was given:-

""Repair works shall take place on this footpath as soon as the available resources allow."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 CLLR SEAN KYNE

392

The following reply was given:-

"The National Road Authority have allocated almost 1/3 of Galway County Council Pavement Improvements for the N59. The schemes selected are on a priority basis. The above tow proposals would have a large cost and as such are not priorities at present. The accident records for the Clooniff Road junction shows no reported accidents since the N59 Improvement was completed

The accident records for the Barna Road junction shows no reported accident since the N59 Improvement was completed."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 19 - CLLR SEAN KYNE.

393

The following reply was given:-

"The Outer Bypass of Moycullen has been designed by the National Road Design Office. No priority exists for this scheme at present. The inner relief road will be surveyed in 2005. The preferred route is already indicated on the Moycullen development plan. No funding is available for this scheme".

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 – CLLR SEAN KYNE.

394

The following reply was given:-

"The section of road between Moycullen and the Co. Council has been surveyed and a submission for funding will be made to the National Road Authority. At this point in time no allocation in 2005 has been made for this proposal."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 33 – CLLR JARLATH MCDONAGH

395

The following reply was given:-

"Total number of signs erected or replaced

2,683.

Total cost to date: €203,290"

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN

25.04.05